



Bishop Antonio Thomas Memorial Scholarship Application

Spirit of Life Church International
Scholarships Office
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Roanoke, VA 24012
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www.spiritoflifeci.org

PURPOSE

The Bishop Antonio D. Thomas Memorial Scholarship is a scholarship program sponsored by Spirit of Life Church International. This scholarship is awarded each academic year to a qualifying Spirit of Life Member(s) who demonstrates the spiritual, academic, leadership and/or athletic excellence of Bishop Thomas. The recipients may use the scholarships to attend a post-secondary school, college, or university within the United States. The field of study is all inclusive but must fit the guidelines set forth by the Scholarship Award Committee.

BIOGRAPHY OF BISHOP ANTONIO D. THOMAS

Bishop Antonio D. Thomas was educated through the Martinsville City School System where he was blessed to receive a football scholarship to James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He received a B. B. A. degree (Bachelor of Business Administration) from James Madison University in February of 1986. In 1988, Bishop Thomas received the Graduate College Teaching Certificate from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Bishop Thomas received the Masters of Biblical Counseling and the Doctor of Ministry from the Friends International Christian University. On May 22, 1999, Bishop Thomas received the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the Faith Bible College and Seminary in Washington, D.C. He also received the Doctor of Divinity from the Bethlehem Bible College.

Ministerially, Bishop Thomas served as the Director for the Student Christian Outreach Ministries of James Madison University. He pastored the New Hope Baptist Church in Charlottesville, Virginia; the Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia and served as the Founder and Pastor of Spirit of Life Church International in Roanoke, Virginia from 1995-2004. Bishop Thomas was also an anointed author and in July of 2004, he released his first book entitled, The Power of One Thing. This book is laced with powerful Kingdom keys and principles to help you discover the "One Thing" God has instructed you to do, to unlock your everything!

Bishop Thomas served as the Southern Atlantic Regional Bishop, where he oversaw the states of VA, NC, SC, GA, and FL for the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, where Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr. is the International Presiding Bishop. Bishop Thomas was married to Barbara Coleman Thomas of Chesapeake, Virginia. They are blessed with two daughters, Sonya Judea and Kayla Victoria, and one son, Michael Antonio. On November 10, 2004, Bishop Thomas suddenly went home to be with the Lord, received his crown and is now with our Heavenly Father in Glory.

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CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

This scholarship will be awarded to a qualifying Spirit of Life Member(s) who successfully completes the application and interview process. The recipients may use the scholarships to attend a post-secondary school, college, or university within the United States. This scholarship is only available to those pursuing undergraduate studies. The field of study is all inclusive but must fit the guidelines set forth by the Scholarship Award Committee.

- Applicant must be a full, active member of Spirit of Life Church International -- for at least ONE year prior to applying.
- Applicant must be a high school graduate or a full-time college student (undergrad only).
- Applicant must be accepted or enrolled in a full-time post-secondary school degree or certificate program.
- Applicant must have a grade point average of **3.0 (B)** or higher in the most recent year of school.
- Applicant must have submitted a complete application and all requested documentation by the **deadline date of June 9, 2024**

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. **COMPLETE** – every question and section of application must be completed in full.
2. **TRANSCRIPT** – specific information is listed in Part V, 25 within the application.
3. **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION** – special instructions for each letter are listed Part V, 26 within the application.
4. **ESSAY** – on a separate piece of paper, write an essay as indicated in Part V, 27 of this application.
5. **VERIFICATION** – of enrollment from recipient's school registrar.
6. Applications **NOT** completed by the Deadline Date will **NOT** be taken to the Scholarship Award Committee.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications are screened and a final selection of recipients is made by the Scholarship Committee. Finalists are interviewed by the Scholarship Committee and are expected to participate in an oral essay presentation. Scholarship winners are selected on the basis of their application, essay presentation, interview and demonstrated character of Bishop Antonio D. Thomas. The scholarship winner will be announced on **July 21, 2024**.

SELECTION AND AWARD PROCESS

Applications are available on our website at www.spiritoflifeci.org or at Spirit of Life International Church office. Awards are made for one academic year. The amount of the award is determined by funds available and the decision of the Scholarship Committee based on its review of the application and all required documents. Please submit your finished application to the Spirit of Life Church Office in person or by mail.

PROVISIONS FOR RENEWAL

Past recipients may reapply by completing the full application process.

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PART I: Personal Information (Please PRINT)

1. NAME: _____
Last First MI
2. ADDRESS _____
Street _____
City State Zip
3. E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
4. TELEPHONE NUMBER: (____)____-____(Home) (____)____-____(Cell)
5. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.: _____ 6. DATE OF BIRTH: ____/____/____
7. GENDER: ____Male ____Female 8. MARITAL STATUS: __Single Married
9. RACE/ETHNICITY:
____Asian ____Black ____Hispanic
____Native American ____Pacific Islander ____White
____Other: _____

PART II: Attendance at Institutions of Higher Learning

10. Institutions of Higher Education Attended (List Most Recent First):

Institution	Dates (mm/yy- mm/yy)	Major	Degree Earned (Y/N)	G.P.A.
High School:				

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11. List any academic honors, awards, etc., you have received:

12. What factors, if any, should be taken into consideration in evaluating your academic record?

PART III: Upcoming School Year

13. POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL you plan to attend during this upcoming scholarship year:

Name of School

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

14. ACADEMIC CLASSIFICATION (during scholarship year):

Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

15. Hours required for FULL-TIME STATUS at your school: _____

Will you be enrolled full time? _____ If not enrolled full time, why? _____

16. Will you be enrolled in ONLINE COURSES? () Yes () No

17. Expected College Graduation Date (Month and Year) _____

18. Expected Degree/Certification (e.g., BS, BA, AS, AA, etc.) _____

19. What is your intended career field? _____

20. Will you be working during the scholarship year? () Yes () No

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PART IV: Church Involvement

21. Are you a full and active member of Spirit Of Life Church International? () YES () NO
22. What is the date (Month and Year) you became a full member of the SOLCI _____?
23. Have you received a previous scholarship award (s) administered by the Scholarship Committee? _ If so, what academic year(s)? _____

PART V: Required Documentation

25. TRANSCRIPT

Official transcript reflecting your most recent academics work must be submitted with your application (*original printed on school letterhead & in sealed envelope - no copies*).

26. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Enter the name and relationship of the persons writing your letters of recommendation in the blanks below. All the letters of recommendation should be SIGNED and enclosed in separate sealed envelopes with your application. A minimum of one letter from each of the three categories listed below is required.

1. **Active person in your church** who knows you well (e.g. Helps Ministry Coordinator/ Team Leader, Campus Minister, Leader, Church Council Chair, SS Teacher, etc.)

Name of Member of Church

2. **Academic Professional** who has instructed you in the most recent academic year (e.g. teacher, college professor, instructor, etc.).

Name of Teacher/Professor

3. **Athletic Coach** who has instructed you in the most recent academic year (e.g. coach, etc.).

Name of Coach

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27. ESSAY

GUIDELINES: Attach an **ESSAY in 500 words or more** describing your spiritual, academic, leadership and athletic excellence during the past three years, including your current activities and goals as follows:

- Leadership responsibilities and involvement in Spirit of Life Church International.
- Activities and/or responsibilities in your high school and community
- Your education goals and how achievement of these goals will provide leadership for the Body of Christ and society; and how it will improve the quality of life of others
- College students should show evidence of leadership in religious activities through their campus ministry/ chaplaincy.

Note: Past recipients should submit a new essay. See Scholarship Coordinator for details.

PART VI: Application Pledge

I understand that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is correct and complete. I understand it is *my responsibility* to ensure all requested documents (transcript, letters of recommendation, essay, etc.) are received by the Scholarship Office by the deadline date.

Signature of applicant in full:

_____ Date _____

PART VI: Application Pledge

TO THE APPLICANT: Incomplete applications will not be considered for review. Read questions carefully to eliminate delays and the possibility of your application not being reviewed. Before mailing your application papers, read and check off the following:

- Have you answered EVERY question and/or written a response in every blank on the application?
- Have you listed your Spirit of Life Church International membership date (month & year)?
- Is your official transcript enclosed?
- Are letters of recommendation signed and enclosed in separate, sealed envelopes?
- Have you enclosed your ESSAY?
- Are you aware of the Deadline date? (See Front of Application)
- Is application signed?