



Dr. Rev. James "Jim" Willis

September 8, 1943 - December 7, 2024

Dr. Rev. James "Jim" Willis, fondly known as "Butch," passed away peacefully on December 7, 2024, in Sharpsburg, GA, at the age of 81, after a courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease and Dementia surrounded by his loving family. Born on September 8, 1943, in Macon, GA, Jim grew up on a farm, with a steadfast heart and unwavering faith in Jesus Christ, which guided him through every chapter of his life.

At the tender age of 10, Jim accepted Christ into his heart, a pivotal moment that set him on a path toward a life of service and devotion. By 17, he had committed fully to a life of ministry, dedicating himself to serving God and his community. On May 27, 1967, he married his beloved wife, Teresa Cranford Willis, marking the beginning of a loving partnership that would last a lifetime.

Jim's ministerial journey first led him to Jefferson Ave. Baptist Church, where he served as an Youth Director and Assistant Pastor for 7 years. During this time he diligently pursued his Doctorate of Ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

For an astounding 42 years, Jim faithfully pastored North Fayette Baptist Church, touching the lives of immeasurable individuals with his compassionate guidance and heartfelt commitment to his congregation. A wonderful man of God, Jim's impact extended far beyond the walls of the

church, as he ministered with kindness and wisdom to all who crossed his path.

Preceded in death by his parents, Jack Raymond Willis, Sr. and Donie Rickerson Willis, his son Benjamin James Willis who passed on June 1, 2024, and his siblings Donald Willis, Jack Willis, Jr., and Lavada Broussard, Jim now joins them in eternal peace and the full glory of God.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Teresa; cherished daughters, Jennifer Willis and Alicia Kirby (Timothy); and beloved grandchildren, Andrew Kirby, Tyler Kirby, Aiden Kirby, and Jenna Kirby. His legacy of love and faith continues through his surviving sisters, Shirley Barlow, Beverly Cornelius, and June Sindy (Ron), as well as his brothers, John Clarence Willis (Debbie) and Jim Doyle Willis (Cathy).

A celebration of Jim's miraculous life will be held at North Fayette Baptist Church, now know as True Light Baptist Church, on Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 4 o'clock, with visitation beginning one hour prior. Family, friends, and all those whose lives were touched by Jim's inspiring presence are invited to gather in honor of this extraordinary man, who served God and others with boundless love and dedication. He was an exemplary husband, father, son, brother, uncle and pastor.

Jim's journey is a testament to the power of faith, the strength of community, and the enduring impact of a life lived in service to others. Though his physical presence will be deeply missed, his spirit will continue to inspire all who had the privilege to know him.

Cemetery Details

Macon Memorial Park

3969 Mercer University Drive
Macon, GA 31204

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 15. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

True Light Baptist Church / New Fayette Baptist
409 Kenwood Rd
Fayetteville, GA 30214-3454

Funeral Service

DEC 15. 4:00 PM (ET)

True Light Baptist Church / New Fayette Baptist
409 Kenwood Rd
Fayetteville, GA 30214-3454

Tribute Wall

FC

“ attended Cross Keys Baptist in Macon with Butch. Fine Fellow; so sorry to hear of his passing. Our sympathy to Terry and the family.

Frank & Evelyn Cannon - December 16, 2024 at 05:18 PM

JC

“ June C. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Rev. James "Jim" Willis.



June C. - December 15, 2024 at 11:05 AM

UF

“ Uncle Bruce, George, Dutch, Ken + families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Rev. James "Jim" Willis.



Uncle Bruce, George, Dutch, Ken + families - December 14, 2024 at 02:42 PM

DU

“ Uncle Butch is in heaven now but he will not be forgotten. He kept our family united by hosting family Christmas gathering for decades. Uncle Butch always made us feel taken care of and loved. He raised a beautiful family that will continue to spread joy and love to all they interact with. We will all miss Uncle Butch. I look forward to seeing him and Mom and, the rest of our dearly departed family again.

Dutch - December 14, 2024 at 02:29 PM