



Ernest R. Burnette

December 2, 2019

Ernest R. Burnette, a minister of the gospel of Christ, insurance agent and resident of Sugar Hill and Commerce, GA passed away at home surrounded by family on December 2, 2019 at the age of 85 after a brief but courageous battle with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

Ernest is survived by his wife of 61 years, Carolyn Petty Burnette and his children Stan Burnette (Connie), Kim Gibson (Ken) and John Burnette (Jenny), all of Buford, GA.

Ernest and Carolyn were blessed with 14 grandchildren Niki Ganick (Chandler), Chase Burnette (Caitlin), Jake Burnette (Jessica), Adaline Burnette, Kyle Gibson (Crystal), Kelly Romine (Greg), Kayne Gibson (Audrey), Keyton Gibson, Abby Gibson, Triston Gibson, Bailey Oakley (Austen), Ben Burnette, Betsy Burnette, and Josie (Jiang Xi, an honorary grandchild with full rights and privileges). Ernest lived to enjoy 10 great grandchildren.

Ernest was born September 4, 1934 in Boles, KY to C.E. and Blanche Burnette who preceded him in death along with brothers James Wilson and William (Corky) Burnette and sisters Ora Parsons and Mary Addie Hinson.

Ernest grew up in Celina, TN and made his mark in athletics as a quarterback on the football team, center on the basketball team and pitcher/infielder on the

baseball team for the Celina High School Bulldogs. He graduated from CHS in 1952. He considered his greatest achievement in those early years to be when he won the heart of Carolyn Petty who took him up on his proposal to marry him in 1958 after a stint serving in the Army in Korea. Ernest graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1959 and loved supporting the Big Orange as a football season ticket holder for many years.

The son of a preacher with the churches of Christ in Clay County, Ernest, along with his bride, made working for the Lord a priority as they worshipped with churches of Christ in Knoxville, TN, Roanoke, VA (where Stan was born), Lynchburg, VA, Johnson City, TN (where Kim was born), Louisville, Ky, again in Knoxville, TN (where John was born) before arriving in Norcross, GA in 1967. Together with Jim and Bonnie Montgomery, they planted the Commerce church of Christ in 1973. Commerce was their home base on and off for almost 50 years while living, at times, in Jasper, Cumming, Sugar Hill and Buford.

Ernest was the founder of Burnette Insurance Agency, Inc. in Norcross in 1971. An accomplished insurance consultant, Ernest grew the business and was joined by his oldest son Stan in 1981 and later Kim (1987) and John (1990). In 1996, the business was passed down to Stan, Kim and John who still actively operate the business in Suwanee, GA today.

In 1986, Ernest and Carolyn felt the need for spreading the gospel was so important that they moved to New Plymouth, New Zealand to work with the church for two years. While there, they made many shorter mission trips throughout the South Pacific to islands like Tonga, Fiji, American Samoa and Kiribati where the good news of Jesus Christ was shared to all who would hear. After returning from the south Pacific, Ernest and Carolyn turned their eyes toward Eastern Europe as it opened to western missionaries in the early 90's. Hands were put the plow in Cherkassy and Kiev in the Ukraine for many

years before beginning to work with a preacher training school in Narayangarh, Nepal in the 2000's. Ernest and Carolyn's mission work was split between the Ukraine and Nepal works where they served until Ernest was diagnosed with an aggressive strain of cancer in the summer of 2019.

Ernest, with Carolyn faithfully by his side and in relatively little pain, peacefully passed to his reward after spending his final days enjoying time and memories with his family and friends as they visited him at home. He was a blessed man in life and in death.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, December 5th at 2:00 pm with a memorial service beginning at 3:00 pm, in the Chapel of Flanigan Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Commerce Church of Christ, Foreign Missions Fund P.O. Box 753 Commerce, GA 30529.

Tribute Wall



“ Ernest R. Burnette

November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM



“ What I'll never forget about t BURNETTE's is there unpretentiousness; Carolyn, I've always wanted my girls 2 c your deportment: godly, cultured, classy, & pretty; Ernest, I'll never forget how you soberly counted \$20 notes - each bill was treated like a thousand \$ note! I appreciate your family giving 2 t Kyiv Bible Institute - it taught me how little I'd grown in t Lord since coming out of t H2Os of regeneration & 2 git' goin'! Eventually I saw Ernest using utube 2 give Bible studies in foreign lands. Bravo! Carolyn, when my youngest blessing from G-D, Benjamin, is more independent I'd v much like 2 return 2 missions & have u teach t females their supportive/noble role in G-D's economy. If Ernest had a work that is on-going & u need help, please give me a call, "tout de suite!" bec. t Death Angel's waitin' @ t end of t parking lot! Cell: (780) 783-0407; prokopneil@live.ca [Canon in D by Pachelbel - a moving Japanese commercial; 3:30] is on utube. T father portrays well t humble nature of your blessing from G-D, Ernest! That's of him will b your "Roses in t Winter!" Stan & Connie, what a rich pedigree u r. . . .P.T.L.! kneel

Neil PROKOP - November 24, 2020 at 10:51 PM



“ Thinking about all of you and praying for you.

Billy Burnette - December 07, 2019 at 12:00 AM

KI

“ *Mr. Earnest, you have left behind a beautiful legacy. Be at peace and rest with your Father.*

Kim Iannacone - December 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ *Dear Carolyn and family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May God give you the comfort and strength to help you now and in the days ahead. We have many wonderful memories; he will be missed by so many Christians the world over. We are so sorry for your loss. In Christian Love, Dave, Nancy and Katie*

David, Nancy & Katie Komisak - December 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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David, Nancy & Katie Komisak - December 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ *From the Jimenez family: We are very sad about the passing of Mr. Burnette. Our hearts goes out to the entire Burnette Family.*

Andres Jimenez - December 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ Ernest is one of the best people I've ever met. He taught me a lot and set some good examples. I will miss him a lot. Will keep Carolyn and the rest of the family in my prayers, so they can find comfort.

Lisa Bondarenko - December 05, 2019 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Carolyn and Family,
I was so sorry to hear of Ernest's passing but happy to know that he just crossed over to his heavenly home! Ernest was always one to be proud of as he conducted himself in a serious manner! I know from personal experience how much you will miss him but am glad you got to keep him for many years! May the Lord be especially close during this time as you honor his life this week! I will be praying for all of you!

Love,
Ann

Ann Burnette Bryant - December 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Friendship Corners has been Ernest's and Carolyn's new home for but a few weeks. All of their friends and neighbors here are saddened by his passing, and wish we had more time to get to know him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Carolyn and their families.

Jim Repp - President of Friendship Corners Condomi - December 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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Jim Repp - President of Friendship Corners Condomi - December 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RW

“*Such a wonderful leader, father, and example. He will be missed in so many ways and by so many people. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you all. ??*

Roger & Connie Winslett - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DS

“*Our thoughts and prayers of comfort go out to each of you. You were blessed to have good memories and to know his was a committed Christian and now out of pain.*

Dick and Bess Sumner - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

KS

“*Words fail to express the deepest gratitude that our family has for the influence that Ernest and Carolyn have had on our lives. We have stood along side of them through many battles and were greatly impressed with their love and stand for the truth. They both have touched so many lives for the cause of Christ and will continue to do so for generations to come. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13). Ernest has gone on to receive his reward, may we all follow his lead, as he followed Christ to the glory of the Father.*

Kerry Sword - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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Kerry Sword - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Carolyn and family. We are so sorry for the loss of your beloved Ernest. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and yours.

Jim R. And Carol Lynn - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ Burnette family, I am so sorry to see about your loss. I don't know what to say but i hope that this Xmas you enjoy your time together and don't forget the old memories but also, create new memories. Your loved ones that have crossed may they be with you forever I hope you have a happy new year. May you cherish the memories you have and I hope you all have a blessed holiday

Rainey E class of 2007 BHS

Rainey E - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ Dear Stan and Connie, Thoughts and prayers are with you. Stan I am sure your dad was a great man because he raised you to be a great man too. Take comfort in knowing he is with the Lord. Love to you all. Elaine

Elaine Milhorn - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ Dear Stan and Connie, Thoughts and prayers are with you. Stan I am sure your dad was a great man because he raised you to be a great man too. Take comfort in knowing he is with the Lord. Love to you all. Elaine

Elaine Milhorn - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Praying for comfort in the lost of Ernest. THIS was a true man of God.

mary Sebolt Haas - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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Rainey E - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ Dearest Carolyn and Family,
We are sorry that we cannot be with you all as you say goodbye to one of the most genuine, dedicated and loving men that we have ever known. His thoughts, along with yours, were on trying to bring all to Christ. We feel so very close to your family and have for many years. We both have reached a point where travel has become quite difficult due to recent health issues. So, how do we tell you in words how much you mean to us, there are no words. Ernest will be dearly missed here upon this earth but we cannot but feel happy that he is suffering no more and is on his way to his eternal home.

With all our love,
LA and Betty
Karen and Family
Paul and Family
Deborah and Family
James and Family

LA and Betty Hamilton - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ You all are in my thoughts and prayers. Uncle Ernest was a great Christian man and a kind and loving uncle. We were all blessed to have him in our lives. He is singing with the angels now. Love you all. Jane

Jane Miller - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JM

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Jane Miller - December 03, 2019 at 12:00 AM