



Rev. Jim Bishop

July 25, 1929 - May 11, 2020

Rev. Jim Bishop graduated to heaven peacefully on May 11, 2020 while at home with loving family and caregivers after struggling for several weeks following a fall, surgery and rehab. His spirit was willing however his body was too weak to continue to fight. Known for his quick wit and humor, he enjoyed telling people he entered the world in Mt. Pleasant, Texas on July 25, 1929. "Little did I know that I was the forerunner of the Great Depression. I was pretty young when I was born so I remember nothing about it!" That was indicative of how he learned to tell stories, jokes and evoke smiles. He believed that if he could help someone smile it would make that moment in their day better.

Immediately after high school, Jim enlisted in the USAF to help support his mother and younger brother. He would serve almost 7 years and be stationed at 7 different military bases including Japan and Korea. Through the years, he enjoyed sharing stories of his escapades while an enlisted man.

He hitchhiked to Decatur Alabama in 1953 so his grandmother, Granny Bishop, could meet the only grandchild she had never met at that time. While there, he would meet his future bride, Ila Jo Wallace, when he and his uncle went to visit her Daddy. It was part of God's plan for his life as Ila Jo introduced him to Jesus Christ. That was the beginning of a new life and new path. Jim answered the call to ministry and would serve his Lord faithfully in

ministry for over 60 years.

He had several distinctions throughout his life. Jim was the only sibling in his family to graduate high school. He would complete three academic degrees and serve in various denominational roles. He re-entered the Army in 1966 as an officer and Chaplain and was stationed in Georgia, Germany, New York and Maryland. He also served a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was awarded several medals and decorations during his military career. After retiring from the Army, he continued to serve as pastor, often alongside his minister of music wife. During his ministry as a civilian, he Pastored churches in Oklahoma, Texas, Alabama, New York, Tennessee, and Maryland. He also served on the Chaplaincy Evangelism Team of the North American Mission Board. It was during his "second retirement" in Tennessee that God used Jim and his wife Jo to restart a church plant, First Baptist Church Tellico Village. This husband and wife team was part of God's plan to lead a small group that began meeting in a room at the community Yacht Club, to a store front, to a sanctuary to reach the community for Jesus Christ. The foundation established continues today as the Gospel is shared and demonstrated through this thriving church. He was named Pastor Emeritus several years ago and continued to experience love and care from the church throughout the remainder of his life.

His greatest distinction that he loved was that of husband, Daddy, Dad, Granddaddy, Pawpaw and Uncle. He enjoyed spending time with family whether playing specific family games, bantering over football and other sports or sitting around telling stories. Jim is survived by his loving wife of over 64 years, Ila Jo Wallace Bishop, daughter, Reita Jane Bishop, son John David Bishop and wife Patrice, daughter-in-law Debby Reynolds-Bishop (wife of deceased son James L. Bishop); Grandchildren James (Jimmy) L. Bishop II, Jennifer Bishop Johnson and husband Jeff, and step-granddaughter Leah Winebrenner; Great-grandchildren Michael James, Justice Kane, Aaliya

Marie, Jaymes Lyric and step-grandchildren Clayton and Dalton; Great-great granddaughter Luna Celine-Grace and many nieces and nephews in his home state of Texas.

Jim has joined the great cloud of witnesses as written in Hebrews 12:1. He has reunited with family and friends who went before him including his parents, seven siblings, and son James L. Bishop. His physical presence on earth will be missed however his legacy and influence lives on through the many he impacted during his life. Those left behind will surely look forward to the day each will be reunited with him again.

Due to COVID-19, the service to celebrate his life will be at Flanigan Funeral Home 4400 S. Lee St., Buford, GA 30518, on June 22nd, 3:00 p.m. Family will visit with family and friends beginning at 1:30 p.m. His final earthly resting place will be at a later date in Alabama.

In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to the Building Fund at Ivy Creek Baptist Church, PO Box 2344, Buford, GA 30515, The Salvation Army or your local ministry.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **22**. 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Flanigan Funeral Home
4400 S. Lee St.
Buford, GA 30518
(770) 932-1133
<https://www.flaniganfuneralhome.com/>

Celebration of Life Service

JUN **22**. 3:00 PM (ET)

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Buford, GA 30518
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Tribute Wall



“ *Flanigan Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. Jim Bishop*

Rev. Jim Bishop



A Service to Celebrate His Life

Flanigan Funeral Home - June 18, 2020 at 09:41 AM



“ *Rev. Jim Bishop*

November 08, 2022 at 07:37 PM



“ *I just learned that Rev. Bishop passed away. I attended Glen Burnie Baptist Church when he was the pastor. I was Saved at GBBC, thanks to Rev. Bishop. I had enlisted in the Army and Rev. Bishop would write to me while in boot camp. He will always have a special place in my heart.*

Sheila - December 18, 2020 at 05:34 AM



“ *Brother Jim was an unforgettable part of our Duluth First Baptist Sunday School class, both as co-teacher and as a friend. He always knew just the right thing to say. We miss him greatly and I will never forget his kindness to my son, Dixon. Jerrie Jordan*

Jerrie Jordan - June 22, 2020 at 08:34 AM

DU

“ Rev. Bishop was a guiding hand and great comforter during the death of my father, Rev. Ted Boland. I will be forever grateful to him , Mrs. Bishop and Jane for their love and support through that terrible time. I'm so happy he is in heaven with Christ now, where he has peace and joy.

Donna Underwood - June 08, 2020 at 10:36 AM

RV

“ It saddens me to think of Uncle J.E. being gone in one sense, but to know that Heaven has gained an angel and all the rejoicing that must be going on brings a smile to my face. Prayers that God will give you peace and comfort during this difficult time. That was a beautiful tribute that was written for him. He always had a smile, loved people, and loved telling stories. Nothing but wonderful memories of him. Becky Vanhooose

Rebecca Vanhooose - May 27, 2020 at 08:09 PM

CT

“ Our thoughts and prayers have been with the Bishop family and we will continue to pray for Jo and Jane during this time of loss.
Junior & Carol Tunnell

Carol Tunnell - May 27, 2020 at 08:03 PM

JB

“ He was the world's greatest dad

John bishop - May 27, 2020 at 06:59 PM