



William Graham

December 25, 1936 - August 5, 2023

Elder William Gaston Graham, was born December 25th 1936. The eldest son of a sharecropper reigning from Raleigh North Carolina, often Elder Graham would testify saying he was born one step from slavery and look how far God had brought him from.” He was humbled that God took a little black boy from the tobacco fields and anointed him to preach the Gospel.

He joined the U.S. Force April 15, 1954. He was stationed in Austin Texas where he met the love of his life Billie Joyce Bonner at a skating rink. He called her “floor glider” because she could and loved to dance. His term of endearment for his wife remained “love of his life” and for 66 years they enjoyed the blessings of the covenant of marriage.

Pastor Graham gave his life to the Lord early in life. In Wichita Kansas a young Bishop J.C. Gilkey invited him and his wife to a revival at Elder Alberta’s church. Elder Graham would testify that at the altar that day God visited him and changed his inside and out and he left his cigarettes on the altar never picking them up again. Elder Graham was completely devoted to God and devoted himself to the work of the Lord with a joyful heart. In Korea 1960-61 he worked closely with missionaries assigned by religious organizations from the United States to serve in Korea. His assignment included attending various functions and met numerous religious and political leaders. He would often talk about how he would preach to the trees in Osan Korea as though there were hundreds of people listening.

He was licensed to the Gospel Ministry in 1961, in the Church of God in

Christ, North Carolina under the leadership of Bishop Wyoming Well. He was completely in love with the Word of God and would often instruct those he poured into, to “read the word as though it was life or death to anyone who hears it, because it is.”

In 1967 Elder W. G. Graham was stationed in Anchorage Alaska where 2 years later he and his wife would be blessed to adopt their only daughter Joyce L. Barner. In 1970, Tech Sergeant Graham received orders and was stationed in Spokane, WA, where he later retired receiving an honorable discharge.

Elder Grahams affiliations, community leadership and accomplishments are vast and many. Including but not limited to:

- Ordained, COGIC, Greensboro, NC
- Assigned by the Bishop Altheimer, Pastor of the Holy Temple COGIC, Spokane, WA
- Founding Pastor, Refreshing Springs COGIC, Spokane, WA
- WA State Drivers Education Instructor
- Founded first halfway house in Spokane County
- Secretary of Ordination Council, Washington State COGIC
- Pastor- Community COGIC, Moses Lake, WA
- President, Moses Lake Ministerial Alliance
- Moses Lake Police Department Chaplin and Chaplin service for Samaritan Hospital
- Member of the Martin Luther King Jr Day Committee
- Watchcare/Interim Pastor- Galilee Baptist Church, Moses Lake, WA

Elder W G Graham, was well sought after for pastoral care offering wise counsel, prayer, jail and prison ministry and countless visits to the sick and shut in. Marriage and Family counseling and services to the judicial court system.

In his spare time he loved spending time with his wife and family traveling, fishing and reading. Racquetball was his sport and physical activity of choice. He leaves to cherish his memory and continue his legacy, his wife of 66 years

Mother Billie Joyce Graham, one daughter Joyce Barner, one son Timothy Stiles, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and host of other relatives, spiritual family and friends.

“May the work I’ve done speak for me”

Cemetery Details

Washington State Veterans Cemetery

21702 W. Espanola Road
Medical Lake, WA

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **24.** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Galilee Baptist Church
1905 W. Basin St.
Moses Lake, WA

Service

AUG **24.** 11:00 AM (PT)

Galilee Baptist Church
1905 W. Basin St.
Moses Lake, WA

Tribute Wall

BM

“ *My parents and Elder and Sister Graham have known each other for over 40 years. I was a baby when my parents first attended their church in the late 70's. As a child growing up, I always remember Elder Graham smiling, laughing and having a gentle spirit. He and my dad always enjoyed the fish and chip from Dick's Hamburgers, and they laughed a lot together. He was well loved, and I'm so thankful and grateful that God brought him into the lives of my parents and family. With love from the McKinnon Family.*

Brianna McKinnon - September 14, 2023 at 07:46 PM

DS

“ *David and Vickie Speed in memory of our Pastor, William Graham.*

Our dear brother and Pastor in Christ. We served under Brother Graham in 1989 and 1990.

He was always a kind and concerned pastor. We saw many visitors while serving.

A special memory while serving.... One Sunday morning during the service; a male visitor was sitting in front of my wife Vickie and I. Vickie was impressed to ask the man if she could pray with him. He agreed. She prayed a prayer that seemed to especially touch him. Pastor Graham told us the following Monday morning the man returned to the church, went and kneeled at the altar and prayed for a time. Two days later the man was murdered. I believe, Pastor Graham's faithfulness to his calling and the church made all the difference to this man. The church was open on Monday morning at what was a critical time for this man.

David Speed - August 23, 2023 at 09:10 PM

SM

“ *The Merritt family sends sincere condolences and prayers to the Graham family. Elder Graham will always be remembered for preaching the Word of God and the love for God and His people. Much love to the family.*

Sherry A Merritt - August 21, 2023 at 06:35 PM

WS

“ *Wendy S. lit a candle in memory of William Graham*



Wendy S. - August 21, 2023 at 03:41 PM