



Bro. Bill Brown

May 20, 1933 - May 29, 2018

Dr. William Raymond (Bill) Brown of Morrilton, Arkansas left his earthly home on May 29, 2018. He was 85. He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Dorothy Brown of Morrilton, and his brother, James Brown of Little Rock. He is survived by his devoted wife of 43 years, Letha Deaver Jackson Brown, their children, Karen Brown Ratliff of Jacksonville, Eddie Jackson and his wife, Jennifer, of Nixa, MO, David Brown and his wife, Denise, of Elko, Nevada, Linnea Brown Udochi and her husband, Ben, of Conway, Tim Jackson of Morrilton, William "Ray" Brown of Bentonville, and Melissa Jackson Hayes and her husband, Roger, of Morrilton, twenty-two grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. He was born May 20, 1933 in Morrilton, Arkansas to Raymond and Dorothy Brown. He graduated from Morrilton High School and from Ouachita Baptist University. He continued his studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and later earned his Doctor of Divinity from Luther Rice Seminary.

Bill Brown's greatest achievement was his work to advance the cause of Christ. He knew Jesus intimately, studied the Bible diligently, and taught God's truth with conviction, wisdom, and love. Bill served as pastor all over the state of Arkansas throughout nearly seven decades, including churches in Bigelow, Plumerville, Crossett, Jacksonville, and Morrilton. He preached countless revivals all over the country, and tirelessly visited hospitals and the sick. He served as chaplain for the Arkansas State Legislature. For over thirty years he held weekly church services at Petit Jean State Park for campers. He wrote

weekly articles for the local paper, and in recent years developed a Facebook ministry through which he wrote and posted daily devotionals that were read and shared by countless thousands all over the globe. Bill gave his entire life to the service of the gospel and people.

Bill was a man of many interests and talents. He loved music, and was a talented singer. He was an excellent and lifelong athlete, and never met a sport he couldn't play. He enjoyed hunting and fishing on his property near Perryville. He and his wife, Letha, enjoyed yearly trips to Durango, CO and Navarre, FL to marvel at the beauty of God's creation. Nothing thrilled him more than spending time with his many children and grandchildren. He had a great sense of humor, and loved laughing and sharing stories with family and friends. His life was marked by the way he loved all people.

Funeral services will be held Friday, June 1, 2018 at 2:00 pm at Morrilton First Baptist Church, 200 East Church Street, Morrilton, Arkansas with Pastor David Brown officiating. Interment will be at Elmwood Cemetery in Morrilton. Visitation will be held at Harris Funeral Home, 1325 Oak Street in Morrilton on Thursday evening May 31, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Special thanks to the nursing staff in the CCICU of Baptist Hospital.

To Watch Funeral Live on Friday, June 1, click here: www.livestream.com/fbc-morrilton/brownmemorial

Tribute Wall



“ I just randomly thought of you, and decided to look you up and my heart both broke for your passing and rejoiced knowing you'd be with our Lord. Thank you for your time at West Side First Baptist, you taught me a lot during your time there.

D - August 06, 2023 at 03:26 AM



“ *Bro. Bill Brown*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ I have been missing Borthor Bill's Facebook commentary and just discovered that he was in Heaven. What a wonderful thought! He as been a friend since our childhood days. My prayers for all of you.

Sylvia Harris Hill - August 25, 2018 at 05:42 AM



“ Brother Bill baptized my husband and I on May 18, ,1988. He has stood beside me in many a storm. I worked with Mrs Leatha and Melissa at Bayou Meto Baptist Church. This whole family has been a tremendous ministry to so many. God bless you and your family. I've loved you all for such a long time. My prayers and blessings are with you. Amen.

Tammy Oaks Wilson - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM



“ We will miss you Bro. Bill. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone during this difficult time.

Annie Duvall - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

GF

“ Dear Letha & Family you are all in our thoughts and prayers, may GOD be with you in the days and weeks ahead, may you find comfort in knowing that you have friends that Love you and are lifting you up at this sad time. Bro. Bill was like family to us. He was my daddy's best friend, along with "Strawberry" Dixon, and Bradley Thomas we all LOVED him so very much. I baby sat for Karen and "Buddy" David when I was in High School and before I left home. GOD BLESS YOU ALL. In HIS Love and Grace, Grady and Maryanna(Gilmore) Foster Jasper, Alabama

Grady & Maryanna (Gilmore) Foster - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

WW

“ Dear Mrs. Letha and family, I am so sorry to hear of Brother Bill's illness and death. I am sure he is in God's presence worshiping our Lord and visiting with loved ones and friends. May God comfort and strengthen each of you during this time and call to your memory all of the special times you have shared together. Bless you all, Wanda Williams Wells

Wanda Wells - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

DW

“ Bro. Bill was and is loved by our family. He was Diane and my first pastor as a married couple and brought us closer to the Lord. Both of our children (Dorena and Donny) were led to Christ and baptized by Bro. Bill. I will never forget the many summer church camps together at Siloam Springs Baptist Encampment. Our time there together made me a better person and a better servant for Christ. His family will always be near and dear to our hearts. We are so sorry for the loss of a dear friend but he is now at rest in the Sweet Beulah Land. We know that we will see Bro. Bill and all his dear family again one day when we all cross over the Jordan and stand in the promised land, praise be to God!

Don Wise - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

BB

“ An ancient definition of an excellent speaker was "a good man speaking well." Bro. Bill fit that definition well. He practiced what he preached. His actions matched his words. He was an excellent preacher from the pulpit who preached with enthusiasm, conviction, compassion, and clarity. As a pastor, he cared for his flock and his community at large. Even in his last years, he continued his arduous schedule of personal visitation to church members and non-church members alike. He set the gold standard example of a shepherd caring for his flock. Even though Bro. Bill and his family had health problems of their own, Bro. Bill continued to serve as an encourager and mentor to others. Obviously, "he fought a good fight and he kept the faith." Upon his heavenly homecoming, it could be said, "Well done, good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Bro. Bill will be missed, but we will cherish our precious memories of him. May God's Word and His Holy Spirit (the "Comforter") provide strength, comfort, and assurance to the family and friends. Billy and Gail Booth family.

Billy Booth - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

CA

“ We have always love this family and will keep praying for you all.

Chris Abbott - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

PL

“ I always loved it when Bro. Bill would come to Casa many years ago to preach revival..Praying for Gods comfort for the family and knowing he is with his Lord and Savior Patty Long

Patty Long - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

MT

“ Brother Bill was the pastor at Bayou Baptist when we were first married. He taught us so much e an baptized both our girls. Love and prayers for the family.

Mark & Kim Taitt - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

PC

“ Dear Family, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Bro. Bill. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Pam Whitt Crim - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

VF

“ I know there are families all over Arkansas that think of Bro. Bill as their family pastor. My family is no exception. We all loved him as one of our own. From the time he was a "young preacher boy" attending Quachita and practicing his life's calling in rural churches like Lone Star, we always knew Bro. Bill was the one to call when one of us needed prayers, marrying or burying. After we moved to other states he still fed us with his newspaper column in the "Headlight" and remembered us by name when we came home for a family funeral. In the last few years his Facebook page still inspired us and comforted us. I told him once he'd have to live forever, because we couldn't have a Griswood funeral without him. Until we meet again, Bro. Bill, we love you and will miss you. Thank you so much for the life you lived.

Virginia (Ginny) and Jim Faulkner - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

SW

“ He was a great man . He and Bro Louie took 4 of us to sing at a revival . I think we might have sang awful but we did it . He introduced us to a place in Conway that had the best milk shakes . Great memories

Shawn Wren - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

AS

“ Brother Bill was a great man of God. We wish all family, & friends God's love in this time of loss. Love Autry & Lisa Sparkman

Autry & Lisa Sparkman - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

TG

“ He was a special friend and we did several revivals together. He did the preaching and I did the music. Tommie (Lovell) George

Tommie George - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

PC

“ I don't know of anyone more dedicated to the Lord's work than this wonderful man. You were loved by so many and will be missed.

Pam Coffman - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

DH

“ May God wrap his arm around you all and keep you. he was a very wonderful man and friend, Love Debbie

Debbie Huffman - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

MS

“ I have followed Brother Bill on Facebook for years. I will definitely miss his postings. I always hated I lived so far away and was unable to attend his church. We need more special ministers like Bro Bill in our world today. What a blessing it is that he has heard from his Lord-You have done-well thou good and faithful servant. Prayers for his family, friends, and congregation.

Michelle Shuffield - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

CP

“ I will never forget growing up and being at Papa and Mama Francis house in Bigelow. We always went to church and Bro Bill would usually come to the farm for lunch. All the 21 cousins thought he was another uncle. Bro Bill shared the story at each family members funeral he preached. " when I looked out the church window and saw a caravan of cars coming up the road I knew it was the Francis family and it was going to be a good Sunday because the church would be full". I've loved that man since I was a little girl. I am saddened deeply by his death but praise God that he is with Him.

Cindy Powell-Keedy - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

CS

“ Letha and Family, We are saddened to learn of Bill's death. We are thankful for memories of friendship and the brotherhood shared between Bill and Dad (Ed "Buster" Smith). Know we are praying that our loving and comforting Father will carry you through these days in His righteous right hand. Charlene Smith, Charles Smith, & Kathy (Smith) Johnson

Charles Smith - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

LH

“ Ray, sorry to read about your dad's passing. Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Your former classmate, Laura Hopper

Laura Hopper - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

KZ

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. He was a great man. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

Kathy Zimmerman - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

AH

“ I want send my condolence to the family of Bill Brown. I met him in 1970 when he was pastor of Bayou Meto Baptist Church. He was a Godly man and called to preach the Word. He was also an awesome father. I know he will be missed. God bless all of you through the days ahead.

Annette Haynes - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

FB

“ Thou we share same last name we were not related but Mom & Dad (Colon & Ernest Brown claimed him as one of their boys at Bigelow. Fished many times with him. I will miss him.

Fred Brown - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

LB

“ I grew up attending FBC every time I visited my Granny and Grandpa, Madine and Herman Moss. I have heard many of Brother Bill's sermons and respected him so much. I will never forget when my Granny was dying, Brother Bill heard how poorly she was doing and came to her bedside straight from preaching his Sunday morning sermon. He told her that she had fought the good fight and it was ok to go on home. Words I could not tell her. She responded to him, something she had not done for 24 hours prior. Granny went home to be with the Lord not 12 hours after Brother Bill's visit. I could never repay Brother Bill for his love for one of his church members, nor the peace he afforded her through his words and prayers. Our family will miss this wonderful man very much.

Leanne Moss Bradley - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

CC

“ Bro. Bill was such a blessing to me! He was conducting a revival for my husband's church, Brownsville Baptist Church. At the same time, my husband went in for open-heart surgery. Bro. Bill called me when we were driving home after my husband died, and he continued to call me weekly for over a month and asked how I was and prayed with me over the phone. What a blessing he was to me. I thank God for his ministry, love, and consideration.

Constance Cothren - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM

DM

“ *Letha and Family, We were so saddened to hear of our dear friend, Bill's passing. We are keeping you all in our daily prayers. Bill was such an inspiration to so many people, all across the country, because of his Facebook postings. He will be sorely missed, but we do know that he is now in the Sweet Arms of Jesus, whom he dearly loved...Bill was truly a wonderful man of God! He is probably preaching and singing in Heaven! Much Love to you all, Many Prayers, Mary Ann and George McCrary Fayetteville, Arkansas*

DR-MRS GEORGE McCrary - June 29, 2018 at 04:57 PM