

LARRY WILLIAMS

Celebrating the life of



APRIL 19, 1952 - JUNE 23, 2024

Saturday | June 29, 2024

Antioch Baptist Church | Whiteville, TN

THIS IS NOT GOODBYE...

God calls us to 'love one another.' These are not mere words for me but a call from my Heavenly Father to do what's right, treat people well, and use my gifts to glorify Him.

I hope I've done that in my 72 years on this earth—through my service at Antioch Baptist Church as a Trustee and Christian Education leader, the years I spent working in mental health counseling, serving on the Hardeman County School Board, and the countless times I've been asked for advice from loved ones and others, which I've gladly offered.

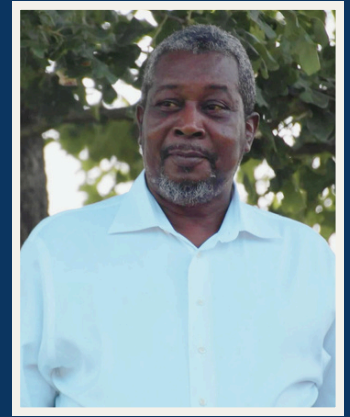
I have lived a blessed life and was fortunate to share most of it with my wife of 47 years, Teresa. Through our union, we raised two daughters, Erica and Amber. Prior to my daughters, I was blessed with a son, Dunstan.

I am grateful for my brothers—Mike, Greg, Terry, and William David, as well as my sisters, Joann and the two who preceded me, Jeanette and Delois. Through matrimony, I was blessed with cherished in-laws, including sisters, brothers, cousins, and beloved nieces and nephews.

To my family and friends, because you can no longer reach out to me for a listening ear or advice, I want to share with you a few principles that I've always tried to live by.

- Don't follow the crowd. Follow God.
- As simple as it sounds, it's also really powerful: if you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything at all.
- Be a person of your word: if you say you will do it, do it.
- Be of good courage. Do not be afraid to stand up for what is right.
- Be swift to hear and slow to speak. In other words, be a better listener than talker. To take from the same scripture: Be slow to anger.
- Whatever your gifts are, use them to add value to people's lives, and most importantly, to glorify God.
- Above all, remember what God calls us to do—love one another.

I've always said I don't mind when my time to transition comes because I not only know God, but have a very close relationship with Him. My only concern was how my family would cope once I was gone. But now, I am at peace knowing that my words, advice, and love will always carry them, and if it doesn't, I know God will.



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. - Psalms 23



*With Love,
Your Wife Teresa*

God blessed me with the most caring, loving, kind, honest, considerate, and compassionate husband and friend. It wouldn't be true if I said my heart isn't hurting because I miss you so much already, Larry D. Despite the pain, I must thank God for bringing us together. You taught me so much, both spiritually and mentally. You were patient and thoughtful. When I think about it, I realize I never heard you say anything negative about anyone.



In your later years, as you began to suffer from your illness, I think about all the pain you endured day and night. It hurt me deeply. For years, I couldn't bring myself to ask the Lord to take you because the thought of life without you was too painful to consider. But in the last few days of your life, I realized it would be selfish to ask God to keep you here, given all the pain you were going through. Larry D., I know you held on for me and the girls, but as we told you hours before you transitioned, we will be okay.

I can't find the words to express the pain I feel. All I know is that I miss and love you, but I will be alright. I promised you that I would be alright. I am so thankful to God that your teachings and those of others played a significant part in my spiritual growth. So, despite the pain, I know God is good and able.

Larry D., I am grateful that we had 47 years together. You were a great husband, father, friend, counselor, and a good man who loved his family and, most importantly, God.



I'll miss your 'good mornings' and you and Leo (our dog) standing at the door, seeing me off to work every morning.

While I won't be able to call you from your office to the front room to ask you the simplest questions or tell you a quick story, you will always be in my heart, and for that reason, you will always be with me.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.”

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-8



*With Love ,
Your Daughters
Erica and Amber*

Dear Daddy,

You were more than a father to me. You were a living example, a guide, and someone I could call to talk about anything, from basketball and our favorite TV shows to conversations about life's past, present, and future. You taught me to be self-sufficient by instilling in me the confidence, logic, and practicality needed to achieve my goals. You were there for me in my highest moments, sharing my joy, and in my lowest, providing strength and support. Your unwavering support and wise advice shaped who I am today.



I will always cherish the memories we shared and be grateful for having the best daddy I could ever think about asking for. As I continue my life without your physical presence, I will strive daily to do what I know you would want me to: Be grateful for what I had, instead of focusing on what I lost.

I love you always and forever — Your daughter, Amber

Instead of asking, “Why God?” I say, “Thank you, God.”

Daddy—Your health journey has been anything but easy. For years, you defied the odds, living past doctor's predictions—because ultimately, God has the final say.

It didn't take your transition for me to realize I have an amazing father; I've always known. From the times you selflessly put our wants before your own, listened to me for hours during both my good and not-so-good news, and offered thoughtful advice, challenging me to pray and trust God. Through you, I learned to be my own person and challenge the status quo.

I thank God for allowing you to be with us this long. Daddy, I haven't lived without you, and I still won't. It just looks different now. I won't hear your voice, but I'll still talk to you. Instead of coming to you—possibly way too much—asking, “Daddy, what do you think?” I'll rely on what you've taught me these 41 years of my life. And although I won't see your face, you will forever be in my heart.



I did everything I could to help ‘fix’ your health issues, and for years, it made a difference. I believed we could overcome them this time too—but again, God has the final say. And because I know we did all we could, I find comfort in the belief that God allowed you to come Home, knowing we would be okay.

I know it won't be easy. In fact, I'm sure there will be many challenging days ahead; but you taught us to have unwavering faith in God, and I am confident that it is this faith that will sustain us.

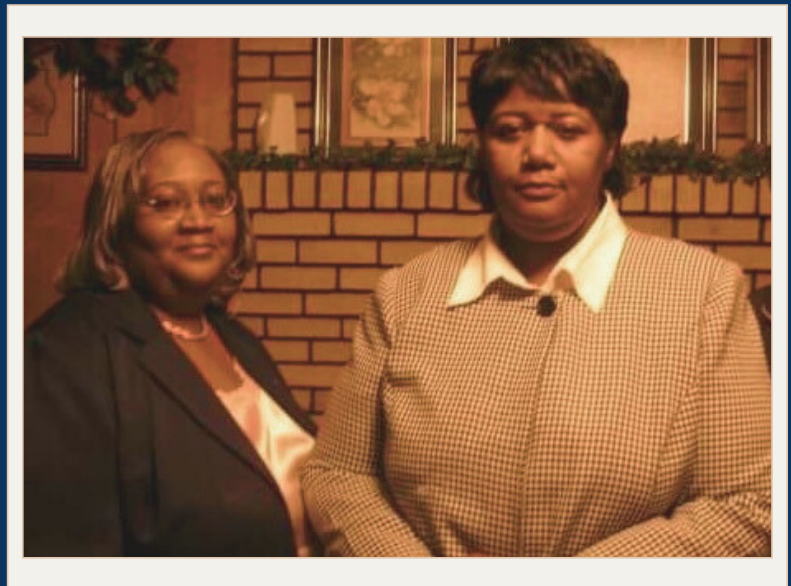
Thank you for always believing in me. I will continue making you proud. I love you forever and always — Your daughter, Erica

*With Love,
Your Son Dunstan*

Dad, you were always such a great listener. You also taught me how to play pool. I will always cherish those moments. Most importantly, you taught me that it's important to seek growth in all areas of life. Your wisdom has been a guiding light for me, and for that, I'll be forever grateful.



“And he said, Jesus, remember me when thou comest in thy kingdom. And He said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise.” - Luke 23:42-43



SISTER | Jeanette McClellan Fentress (September 13, 2018)
SISTER | Delois McClellan (October 7, 2016)

MOTHER | Estelle McClellan (December 4, 2004)



To live in the hearts of those we leave is never to die.



“Say not in grief 'he is no more' but in thankfulness that he was. As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of us; as we remember them.”



ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional

Scripture

Prayer

Song

Remarks

Poem

Remarks

Words of Comfort

Eulogy

Benediction

PALLBEARERS

John Fentress

Curtis Holmes

Gregory McClellan

Kevin McClellan

Mike McClellan

Terry McClellan

The family of Larry Williams extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported us throughout this journey. Your kindness and prayers have meant the world to us.

We also wish to express our sincere thanks to Dixie Funeral Home for their services during this time.