



Services Entrusted To
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Home Going Celebration of Willie Joe Anderson

Sunrise
 July 18, 1950



Sunset
 December 14, 2018



Saturday, December 22, 2018
 1:00 p.m.
 Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
 Elberton, GA
 Rev. Ronnie Young, Pastor

Interment ~ Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery
 Elberton, GA

OBITUARY

Willie Joe Anderson was a husband, father, son, brother, uncle, and friend to many, but, more than any other, he was a wonderful child of God. Willie Joe was born on July 18, 1950 and was the child of Sara Jo Tate and William Sherman Bell. He grew up in rural Elberton, Georgia with his mother, father, and five sisters. On December 14th, after many months of illness, the Lord called him home.

Although Willie Joe’s body became weak in the last months of his life, his spirit remained just as persevering, determined, and tenacious to meet the challenges and difficulties head on with his enduring and steadfast faith in God. As he had done throughout his life, he remained faithful and trusting in the goodness of God. He knew that God’s will for his life was much greater than the time of sickness.

Willie Joe lived a full life with his wife, Myra, until she too was called home this year. They are now together in heaven. They deeply loved each other and with God’s help created a long-lasting and solid marriage. They were married for 47 years and had two grown daughters and three grandchildren. Willie Joe and Myra worked and raised their two daughters in Detroit. His family had a good life. It was evident that he was a loyal and committed husband and father. Willie Joe gave his family top priority in his life and took care of them very well. This is a testament to who he was as a man of God.

Even though life in Detroit was good to Willie Joe and his family, he was still fond of country living which had taken a permanent hold of his heart and mind since he was a young boy. He longed to return to his rural roots in the hills of Georgia where the land is covered with “red clay” and tall pines; where people raise cattle; grow and eat their own crops; and where his family and friends still live. Willie Joe did return to his home town as he wanted.

More than 18 years ago, when Willie Joe took early retirement after 30 plus years at the Chrysler Automotive Plant, he and Myra moved to Elberton. Taking their younger daughter and grandchildren along with them, he rejoined the community and took an active and important role in all aspects of it.

However, being a part of the church was most important to Willie Joe’s family. They became members of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church where he had attended with his father, mother, and sisters as a young boy. Willie and Myra enjoyed being members at the church and served in many ways.

In 2006, Willie Joe received a high honor. The church ordained him as deacon and he became an official minister of the church. He became “Deacon Anderson.” This was a proud moment for his family and friends and a highpoint for Willie Joe because he

believed that he had been given a charge to serve, and the church was then recognizing God’s call upon his life in the ministry of Jesus Christ. Willie Joe “rolled up” his sleeves, along with Myra, and worked hard to become one of Jesus’ helping hands.

Willie Joe’s life is a strong testament to what it means to be a “good and loving person,” “a strong man,” and “a child of God.” He was a gentle man with a heart of love. He was committed to always being and showing his best self. He was a faithful man. Willie Joe lived life in a righteous way by trying to do the right things and take the right actions. He had a high sense of responsibility. He showed compassion, care, and love for others. He gave freely and willingly. He loved and appreciated his family and friends. Willie Joe was very close to his mother and father and honored them in every way. The values they instilled in him as a young boy was a guiding light for him as he walked his life’s journey.

Now with angels at his side, Willie Joe has his wings and has gone to be with Jesus and the other saints of God in heaven. We thank God for this beautiful life and look forward to a reunion with him in heaven.

Willie Joe is survived by his two daughters Kim (Cecil) and Stacy; three grandchildren, De’Andrea, Tysean (Bella), and Ma’Riya; five sisters, Ruby Fortsen (Henry), Marion (Victor) Wingate, Sharon Bell, Renee (Wayne) Rucker, Linda (Corey) Phelps; mother-in-law, Johnnie Mae Currington; two sisters-in-law, Sabrina (Clifton) Frith and Phyllis (Arthur Lee) Coleman; six brothers-in-law, Gregory Johnson, Ronnie (Faye) Witherspoon, Darnell Johnson, Andre (Kat) Johnson, and Dexter Dwayne Johnson; and a host of nieces, nephews, and other relatives.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Family of the late Mr. Willie Joe Anderson would like to thank you all for the love, support, prayers and kind acts shown to us in this time of bereavement. May God bless each of you.

The Family

ORDER OF SERVICE

Processional	Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Choir/ Bro. Brian Williams
Selection	Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Choir
Scriptures:	
Old Testament	Job 14:14-16 Rev. Ronnie Witherspoon
Old Testament	Lamentations 3:17-26Min. Bobbie Pope
New Testament	Philippians 3:20-21 Sis. Ma’Riya Eubanks
Prayer	Pastor Ronnie Young
Selection	Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Choir
Remarks	Dea. Jerry Turman
	Min. Bobbie Pope
	Dea. J.C. Jones
	Dea. Mac Mattox
	Open 1 - 2 minutes please
Selection	The Sisters’ Song Bro. Brian Williams
Acknowledgement.....	Sis. Ma’Riya Eubanks
Solo	Sis. Helen Fortson
Eulogy	Rev. Cecil J. Fitzgerald Thompson
Recessional	Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Choir
Interment	Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery



Honorary Flower Bearers

Marion Wingate	Doris Jones
Annie Barnes	Delores Hall

Flower Bearers

Nieces & First Cousins

Honorary Casket Bearers & Casket Bearers

Deacons
Nephews & First Cousins

Ushers

Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
Hargrove Baptist Church

Musician

Robert Mattox