



Pastor Jay Odell Williams

January 12, 1957 - October 4, 2021

Pastor Jaydean "Jay" Odell Williams (64) of Mt. Dora, FL passed away on October 4, 2021. He was born on January 12, 1957, in Memphis, TN.

Jay is survived by his beloved wife of 41 years, Kristy Gustin Williams and his children, JohnMark Williams and his wife Betsy of Kissimmee, FL, Anita Cason and her husband Sinclair of Palmetto, FL, and Ashley Williams and her fiancé Robert Bellew of Mt. Dora, FL. He was also blessed with 6 grandchildren, Jadon, Jace, and Jansen Cason, Emma Sofia Williams, and Christian and Oscar Rodriguez. He is also survived by his mother, Shirley Jeu Hong Williams and his brother, Ron Williams.

Jay dedicated his life to serving God and people. As a Christian educator at Liberty Christian School in Sanford, FL, he coached, taught, and mentored many young people giving them endless understanding and patience. After 19 years of teaching, he began dedicating his time as the music director at Liberty Baptist Church in Mount Dora where he spent 8 years ministering to people through songs. Finally on October 22, 2008, following his ever-growing desire to touch the lives of more people in new ways, Jay transitioned to lead pastor at Central Baptist Church in Leesburg, FL where he devoted 13 years to loving and caring for people both with and without a church to call their home. Through much of his life, Jay's true passion was finding opportunities to serve God in any role where he saw the need, as a lead pastor, a worship

leader, a choir director, a youth pastor, and a Sunday school teacher. Jay loved the Lord, and he cherished ministering to people and shepherding his flock.

While Jay enjoyed watching baseball or going on the occasional fishing trip, most often you would find him jumping at any opportunity to play with his grandchildren or taking a few quiet moments to crack open a book to read and study. He also spent a good portion of his time staying even more active by walking at least 5 miles each day on the church grounds or through the city of Leesburg. Although what could appear as a daily exercise to the outside observer, Jay utilized that time to pray for the people of his church and for anyone he knew who could use the extra support, encouragement, and comfort in their lives. He would spend time praying for Leesburg as he strolled through its downtown streets. He would walk two hours a day through the building of the church where he pastored and pray at each pew for the people who sat or would sit in each seat. He had the ear of God.

Jay's love for his Savior was evident in all he did. He was a skilled pastor and shepherd who was loving and helping to those who were experiencing the hardest of circumstances. He would help and comfort those in need around him by taking them from where they were and bringing them to a better place of faith. Jay has left a heritage of serving his family, his friends, the people of his church, and his community, and he will be deeply missed.

There is a memorial service for Jay at the Venetian Center at 1 Dozier Court in Leesburg, FL on Sunday, October 10 at 4:00 pm. The public is invited.

Online condolences may be left at www.beyersfuneralhome.com
Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Leesburg, FL.

Tribute Wall

TE

“ I saw a facebook page about what minister influenced you the most and I couldn't remember Pastor Jay's last name and so I googled the church and was shocked to find out he had passed away. I used to attend Church in Leesburg when I visited my dad, Carson Edward's and Jay got me to thinking about how far I had strayed from Jesus. The first time I heard him preach was on an Easter Sunday about Mary Magdalene who had always been one of my favorite women of the bible. I had never heard anyone ever do a sermon about her and that sermon really moved me. I had to hold back the tears of joy while listening.

Jay and his wife Kristi were so kind to my father, visiting him in the hospital and it was Jay that gave the eulogy for my dad that I had written.

I am so sorry for the loss that his family has experienced as well as the community he gave soo much too. ~Teresa Edwards, Luray Virginia.

Teresa Edwards - July 16, 2022 at 10:14 PM

TG

“ My heart broke when I saw this. Praying for family. I am just at a loss for words.

Tina Goddard - October 09, 2021 at 12:43 PM

DM

“ Krystal & family Our hearts love & prayers for u are unending. We loved Pastor Jay as everyone did. He touched our lives in a forever blessed way. We will continue 2 pray 4 u.

David & Valanna Mccurry - October 08, 2021 at 09:32 AM

DM

“ *Krystal & family Our hearts love & prayers for u are unending. We loved Pastor Jay as everyone did. He touched our lives in a forever blessed way. We will continue 2 pray 4 u.*

David & Valanna Mccurry - October 08, 2021 at 09:31 AM