



Reverend Robert Mullis

December 29, 1937 - November 27, 2017

Reverend Robert Mullis of Fruitland Park went home to be with the Lord on November 27, 2017 at the age of 79 following a brief struggle with the effects of a stroke and kidney failure.

"Buddy," as he was known to his family and friends, was born in Miami, FL on December 29, 1937 to Otis and Clara Mullis as their only child. After graduating from Coral Gables High School and attending the University of Florida for one year, Buddy was led to a saving knowledge of Christ by his lifelong friend and fellow pastor-to-be, Bruce Foss. He felt called of God to become a pastor, so he enrolled in Baptist Bible College in Springfield, MO. While there, he met Norma Faye West and they were married in 1960. "Fayo," as Buddy lovingly called her, remained by his side in family and ministry until she passed away in 2011 following a long battle with cancer.

Upon graduation from BBC in 1961, Buddy returned to his home church, New Testament Baptist Church in Miami. Under the direction of his pastor and mentor, Dr. Al Janney, he spent one year training to become a pastor. When he was ready to start his own church, he and Dr. Janney first looked at Gainesville. But while driving back to Miami, Buddy fell in love with a little town called Leesburg, which at the time, only had one traffic light. Buddy and Norma soon returned to Leesburg, and on April 14, 1962, Calvary Baptist Church held its first service. Buddy became the first pastor to start his own church as a direct result of being trained by Dr. Janney at New Testament Baptist Church. Calvary Baptist Church was incorporated on February 8, 1963

with 23 charter members.

Calvary Baptist Church was founded on the principles of a strong belief in the Bible as the true, infallible Word of God, soul winning and discipleship of believers, and a strong worldwide missions outreach. Buddy has seen countless numbers of men and women who grew up in the church go on to their own full-time service in various aspects of ministry. Through his leadership, the church has given millions of dollars to missionaries and missions organizations who are spreading the gospel of Christ, both in the United States and in many foreign countries.

Calvary Baptist Church has been at five different locations throughout the years, including its current location on Eagles Nest Road, where it has been since 1988. Buddy remained as pastor of the church from its inception in 1962 until December 31, 2013 (over 51 years). At that time, he turned the leadership of the church over to Ken Dembeck, who had served as his faithful assistant pastor for 25 years. Ken remains the senior pastor to this day.

Buddy was loved by his family and friends. He is survived by his loving wife, Gay of five years; a sister-in-law, Carole Raffaello of Benton, LA; two sons, Bob (Valerie) Mullis of Royal Palm Beach, FL and Scott (Cindy) Mullis of Ayden, NC; two stepsons, David (Stefanie) Woosley of Chattanooga, TN and Allan (Valerie) Woosley of Louisville, KY; one stepdaughter, Amy Woosley of Lady Lake, FL; ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be Saturday, December 2nd from 9-10:15am at Calvary Baptist Church. A funeral service will be held at 10:30am at the church, with Dr. Al Janney officiating. Burial will follow at Shiloh Cemetery, Fruitland Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, 3740 Eagles Nest Road, Fruitland Park, FL 34741.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory, Leesburg.

Tribute Wall

PF

“ *Pastor Mulli was a dear man of God. He helped me through one of the toughest times in my ministry. He was a wise counselor, a compassionate Pastor and an encouragement. Though the busy schedules of ministry didn't allow a lot of time together, He was always willing to meet, talk and help. I will miss his smile, his kind manner and his deep love for his Savior, Jesus Christ. My deepest sympathies to his dear wife and family. Praying for your comfort in these difficult days*

Pastor Randy Ford - December 04, 2017 at 11:34 AM

MM

“ *Rev. Mullis was not only a neighbor, but my former boss, when I worked at Jack and Jill Preschool, many years ago. He was a kind, gentle, fun and likeable man of God. His smile made you smile. His laughter was glorious. I am sorry you had to leave this earth, but you are walking with Jesus now, and there can be no better ending to a life. We will see you again one day, when God calls us home. To the family.....keep those memories alive. Hugs and prayers to each of you.*

Marjorie McKinley McDonald - December 02, 2017 at 09:31 AM

PJ

“ *Pastor Mullis and I both worked together for 10 years and I was blessed to have known this man of God. He was an example of what it meant to serve our Lord and Saviour. He was always there whenever you needed him and he was a special friend to me. He will be missed dearly.*

Peggy Jones - December 01, 2017 at 03:34 PM

TW

“ I met Buddy 59 years ago at at Baptist Bible College. We have been friends ever since. I had the privilege of preaching for him on several occasions, and considered him to be a man of God. His consistent stand for His Lord was beyond reproach. I shall miss him, but I delight in the fact that is is with his Lord and beyond the care and pain of this world. I will be praying for Gay and his children.

Ted & Verneta Wille - November 30, 2017 at 09:15 PM

GR

“ Pastor Mullis was instrumental in bringing my brother, Ken Still and Mother, Dixie Mills to Christ many years ago. He was a wonderful and supportive Pastor and friend to many. He will be sorely missed by my family but I know he will be in the hands of Christ and we will meet again.

Glynda Rogers - November 30, 2017 at 03:55 PM

SS

“ Reverend Mullis was a part of my life during my high school years at Lake Christian in Leesburg. I had a lot of respect for him. I will miss him!He will always be Reverend to me even though he is retired! He was a great man. I remember the school reunion we had a few years back. My sister (Caroline) went with me. Even after all these years he remembered us. He was so sweet to anyone he met and was SO happy to see us all. I am saddened by his passing but know he is free from pain! RIP Reverend Mullis!

Stephanie Zipperer Stowers - November 30, 2017 at 11:21 AM

PM

“ Bro. Mullis encouraged me to take the pastorate of Grace Bible Baptist Church back in 1990 when I considered coming to Leesburg. He was gracious to allow our daughter and son-in-law to be married at Calvary in 1993. He was a good friend and a man of integrity. I never personally heard him speak evil of any man, even if he disagreed with them. He had a huge heart for missions. His labors here may be finished, but what a reward he has in heaven! Well done, faithful servant of the Lord! Until the shout, Pastor George Mulford

Pastor George Mulford - November 29, 2017 at 06:13 PM

GH

“ Our friendship with Bud goes back 30 years when my sister married his son, Scott. Bud was a amazing friend throughout the years!!! He prayed for our family everyday and that was a comfort to us. He and Gay drove even drove down to NC when our mom passed away in September. He was always there for us with prayers, comfort, encouragement, and in person. We will miss him greatly. We want to honor him for his 50 years of faithful to his Lord!!! It was an honor to know him and to love him. Gay, may you find comfort and strength in the days ahead!!

Gordon & Tanya Hart - November 29, 2017 at 01:18 PM

CA

“ We loved you as a Pastor and a dear friend for many years. Thank you for your dedication in serving the Lord and preaching the true gospel. We will miss you.

Chuck and Sandy Alexander - November 29, 2017 at 10:22 AM

LW

“ *Pastor Mullis was a wonderful person and a great friend. We will greatly miss him and look forward to our reunion in heaven.*

Lewis & Andrea Woodard - November 28, 2017 at 11:10 PM

DA

“ *To the family of Pastor Mullis: We are so grateful for the past 3 years since we came to Calvary. We arrived after his retirement, but we were able to serve in many ways with him beside us, in choir, CBS and leading music.*

We are so thankful for his character in holding to sound doctrine in a time when churches are failing so often. We will miss him, yet we know we can look forward to serving with him again!

We will do all we can to hold the standard he set as high as he did. Thanks for being faithful, Pastor.

Doug and Carol

Doug and Carol Anderson - November 28, 2017 at 09:50 PM