



James William Beasley

October 13, 1948 - September 12, 2021

James William Beasley, 72, left this earth and stepped through the door of eternity just before the sun rose on Sunday, September 12, 2021. Visitation begins at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at Brandon Baptist Church, with the memorial service to follow at 11:00. Interment will take place at Crestview Memorial Gardens in Brandon, and Stringer Family Funeral Services in Crystal Springs is handling the arrangements.

James was born in Hinds County to the late L.W. Beasley and Juanita Pace Beasley on October 13, 1948. He was a graduate of Forrest Hill High School and earned his bachelor's degree from Mississippi College and master's from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

James began his career in music ministry at the age of seventeen and served briefly at Park Hill and Star Baptist Church before being called to First Baptist Church of Crystal Springs in 1973. He was privileged to remain with that same faith family for 41 years, serving primarily as their minister of music.

Affectionately referred to as Brother James, he was a constant and joyful presence in the life of its congregation, working with the children, youth, and senior adults. If you were involved in any of the following groups or events, Brother James is a fixture in your memories: Kids' Praise, Music Makers, Young Musicians, Proclaimers, Youth Cue trips, senior adult "mystery" trips, Golden Choir, Glory Bells, Bells of Inspiration, and countless orchestras and

quartets. After his retirement in 2013, he and his wife moved to Brandon, MS, to be nearer to his grandchildren. There, he and Loretta became active members of Brandon Baptist Church where he was able to enjoy being a choir member for a change. He continued using his gifts leading revivals and filling in as interim music minister in several churches, including Center Terrace in Canton at the time of his death.

He is survived by his wife Loretta Garrison Beasley as well as a son, Lane (Laura) Beasley of Jackson, MS, and two daughters, Sarah (Trey) Rein and Anna (Daniel) Mortimer, both of Brandon, MS. Other survivors include the nine grandchildren he delighted in: Isaac, Marcus, Vivian, Eliza, John Ready, Stuart, Charlotte, Lois, and Jack; and a sister, Anita Milner (Herman) of Anderson, S.C.

In addition to his public life of ministry, James had many other proud accomplishments and virtues.

- Founder and president of the “Baby Makes Three” chapter of The Andy Griffith Rerun Watchers Club
- Longtime sportswriter and weekly devotional columnist (“Springs of Living Water) for The Meteor
- Proud member of The Mississippi Singing Churchmen
- Lover of rainy weather, old cars, and all things sports-related
- Faithful attendee of the Beasley Family Reunion and family president several years
- Collector of jokes, book excerpts, YouTube clips, Dennis the Menace and Little Rascals episodes to be shared with willing family members
- Storyteller and book-reader extraordinaire
- Boppa to his nine beloved grandchildren

James aspired much of his adult life to be an author, beginning the first chapter of his novel many times. While he would have said he never

accomplished this goal, God used his life to write beautiful stories in the lives of hundreds if not thousands of people. But most all, God authored the story of a strong, loving family that continues this next chapter with sadness but great hope in the savior James taught them to love.

The family wishes to express appreciation to the ICU staff at Baptist Hospital for their care and kindness during his brief stay.

The family requests that any donations in James' memory be made to The Redeemer's School, 640 East Northside Drive, Jackson, MS 39206.

Watch service here: <https://livestream.com/brandonbc/events/9848513/videos/225899595>

Tribute Wall



“ *James William Beasley*

January 28, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ *I first met Brother James in 1976 as a young teenager who had just moved with my family from Jackson to Crystal Springs. James was such a loving and caring mentor to all of us young people who were members of the Youth Choir at FBC. I was fortunate to have gone on two mission trips during my time in Youth Choir, and both of these trips were wonderful experiences where we were able to minister through the music programs which James had selected as well as help with Vacation Bible School. It was through James gentle guiding that all of us were able to be at our best in service to the Lord. I know that he has touched the lives of so many young people during his over 40 years at FBC in Crystal Springs, and we are all the better for the Lord bringing him into our lives. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this time of loss!*



Dr. Robert Harris - September 24, 2021 at 02:09 AM



“ *Brother Beasley touched the heart of so many people. He will be missed by all. My love and prayers go out to the family. Cathy Bauer*

Cathy Bauer - September 21, 2021 at 11:55 AM

SH

“ I will always be thankful for the love of children's music and the gift of memorized lyrics from Kid's Praise that may still come to me as an adult. Bro. James always had a smile and was ready to sing. Prayers for comfort to your family--Stephanie Day Harris

Stephanie Day Harris - September 20, 2021 at 11:17 PM

MM

“ Played a lot of softball with him way back in the 70's. I remember him as a good Christian man that was fun to be around. RIP.

Michael McManus - September 17, 2021 at 11:00 PM

RM

“ James will be fondly remembered by all who knew him. We will never forget how he so diligently and faithfully led the Golden Age Choir at FBC Crystal Springs.

Robert Mack - September 17, 2021 at 11:14 AM

BH

“ Loretta
James was such a fine man and always a consistent witness of our Lord. I well remember what Charles mentioned about when y'all met. James came back from that revival and told me he had met someone in the choir! He got revived! I have another funny story about James but it's too long to post here. He will be missed greatly and we pray for you and the family as you take these difficult days one at a time.
Barry Hardy

Barry Hardy - September 16, 2021 at 01:56 PM

MW

“ Loretta and family, our sincerest sympathies to you, the children and grandchildren; we are so, so sorry for your loss. James was absolutely the most “joyful” person; he loved Jesus and he loved people, and it showed. He was always available to lend a helping hand when called upon by his fellow church members. I was so appreciative of his attention to our Mother during the loss of her brother while she was at Copiah Living. We were unable to be there today, but watched via BBC Livestream. His funeral was just like him...larger than life. Sincerely, Marilyn and Jim Woodard

Marilyn Woodard - September 15, 2021 at 03:48 PM

YR

“ Yvonne Rein lit a candle in memory of James William Beasley



Yvonne Rein - September 15, 2021 at 11:41 AM

SM

“ Sue Marx lit a candle in memory of James William Beasley



sue Marx - September 15, 2021 at 10:40 AM

RB

“ James was a perfect example of being a living and breathing Bible to everyone, perhaps the only Bible they may ever read. He left our family and yours such a legacy and modeled how to be a Christian, husband, father, Boppa, friend and mentor to others. I can't wait to hear the music he is now hearing and join the great family reunion in Heaven. Can't help but wonder if our Beasley family was getting a little out of hand in Heaven for God to call home our longest serving Beasley family President. James was the best of the best and I was so proud to call him family! Continued prayers for all of you for His peace and comfort until we see him again. We love you!

Renee Brumfield - September 14, 2021 at 11:39 PM

NR

James's life blessed so many lives, including mine. I remember visiting FBC, Crystal Springs, with my Sister, "Skeeter" Wesley, several times, and I remember how much she loved James and his precious family!!!

Norma Russell - September 15, 2021 at 01:19 PM



Brother James was such an influence and an encourager. He was an extraordinary ordinary man--shoed what a surrendered life is. Loretta, I was teaching kindergarten when you and he married. You became a seamless addition to his ministry. You told stories to our kindergarten kids in that sweet north Mississippi drawl. Such a legacy of love, it was good to share in memories through the livestream. May God continue to bless and comfort you in the days ahead.

Dorothy A. Day - September 16, 2021 at 05:54 PM

ST

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends. Bro. James had such a sweet spirit. He loved the Lord and expressed it many ways, including his passion to worship the Lord through music. He will be deeply missed.*



Sarah Tyler - September 14, 2021 at 10:32 PM

AS

“ *Bro James was a bright light for Jesus (Matthew 5:16) & a wonderful man of God who impacted many lives at every age because he ministered to all. We know James has heard “well done, good & faithful servant” ! Loretta & family are in our prayers as the Lord, our Shepherd comforts & guides each of you in the days, months & years ahead. Love from our hearts to yours, the Singletary Family (Crystal Springs, MS)*

Albert & Laurie Singletary - September 14, 2021 at 10:00 PM

TM

“ These memories are from Aunt Lena Maude’s Family in Ohio. Before that, we would like to say how shocked and sorry we are to hear of James’ passing. Simply put, James was a good guy and role model. He will be missed.

We remembered playing Pick-Up-Sticks with James & Nita Faye when visiting at Uncle LW and Aunt Juanita’s house. Seems to us that James won a lot of the time! Hmmm!

Then, there were the big dinners in Harperville and lots of “us kids”. We would go out in the front yard and play Red Rover, Red Rover. The 2 lines would almost fill up the front yard. Some (one) of us in particular would stumble and fall down into that red dirt (check with Carolyn). Wonder who got us to play that game? Do you think maybe James secretly wanted to see how uncoordinated we all were at that age?

We definitely won’t forget one of our family outings to Cedar Point Amusement Park. Mom didn’t like most of the rides, so she would wait on a bench while the rest of us rode the Ferris Wheel. When I saw this “stranger” walk up to Mom, sit down, and start talking to her, I asked Dad who it was. He looked and looked. Finally, he said that he thought it was James! Sure enough, James was at the park with a youth group, spotted Mom, and immediately went over to see her. We were all shocked to see him! James only had a few minutes to visit with us as his group was getting ready to leave. James was busy but he wasn’t leaving until he spoke to his Aunt Lena Maude and the rest of us. After he left, we talked about it for a long time and how good it was to see James, even for just a few minutes. He really made Mom’s day!

As we said before, simply put, James was a good guy and will be missed. Thinking of and praying for all of you - with love, Your Gonya Cousins - ❤️

Teresa McClure, Carolyn Yeager, Judy Zimmerman, and Bobby Gonya

Teresa Gonya McClure - September 14, 2021 at 09:18 PM

FK

“ Sending love and prayers from Anderson SC to my dear friends, Herman and Anita Milner.

frances king - September 14, 2021 at 10:42 AM

MS

“ My deepest condolences to Loretta, children and grand children. Brother James had such a massive influence on my life when he arrived at CSFBC. Thank you JB for nurturing my spiritual growth, the talks about life, encouraging my music interests, and by leading by example. Actions do speak louder than words. The way you lived your life is a testament to your devotion to the Kingdom. I have never, and will never, forget all of the youth mission trips, music, lessons and late night basketball games. My life is better for having been mentored by you. My life is better for His love than shined through you. Well done good and faithful servant. I love you JB, Mike Sanders

Mike Sanders - September 14, 2021 at 10:04 AM

BT

“ B J Taylor sent a virtual gift in memory of James William Beasley



B J Taylor - September 14, 2021 at 06:51 AM

HA

“ I can still remember James at Star Baptist Church. I introduced him to my Mrs. Beasley doll and was so impressed that he took an interest in a child's delight that they shared their last name. My prayers are with the family as you rejoice in James' life and rest assured of your meeting again.
Helen Plaster Andrews

Helen Plaster Andrews - September 13, 2021 at 11:32 PM

DW

“ I served a church in Hazlehurst in the mid 70's and remember James would always have that unmistakable smile when he led congregational singing. He was always an encourager. I have no doubt he heard "well done" when he entered Heaven Sunday morning. Our prayers and condolences remain with the family.

Doug Warren - September 13, 2021 at 09:21 PM

SB

“ Friend of all, at all times. God bless

steve burns - September 13, 2021 at 07:29 PM