



Rev. Willie D. Wanzo Sr.

October 13, 1926 - October 23, 2012

REVEREND WILLIE D. WANZO, SR.

OCTOBER 13, 1926 - OCTOBER 23, 2012

On October 13, 1926, Reverend Willie D. Wanzo, Sr. was born a sharecropper's son in Pike County, Mississippi. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior under the leadership of Reverend Ned Taylor of St. James Missionary Baptist Church during a church revival in the second week of August.

In order to make a better life for himself, he moved to Milwaukee in August of 1951. He united with Metropolitan Baptist Church under the leadership of the late Reverend A. W. Wise. Reverend Wanzo worked hard at Metropolitan.

He served as a deacon, assistant Sunday School teacher and supervisor. He accepted his call to the ministry in August of 1955, serving as an Assistant Pastor of Metropolitan from 1955 to 1972 under the leadership of the late Reverend E. M. Kelly, Sr. Reverend Wanzo was appointed Interim Pastor of Metropolitan in August of 1972 and installed as Pastor in August of 1973.

Reverend Wanzo has attended the Milwaukee School of Engineering and Milwaukee Area Technical College. He has taken correspondence courses from such notable institutions as the American Baptist Institute of Chicago, The Moody Bible Institute and the Christ Church.

Reverend Wanzo was a community leader and received numerous awards including the NAACP Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award and the Community Journal Black Excellence Award.

Reverend Wanzo was a devoted father, grandfather, and loving husband. He was a true man of God. He loved the Lord and it was demonstrated in all that he did. He loved the Metropolitan Church family and served faithfully for sixty years- forty years as Pastor and twenty years as Assistant Pastor. He led by example. He had a humble and giving spirit and was always ready to help those in need.

He loved education and was a voracious reader. In one year, he read a thousand books. His love for education was evident in his teaching preaching style.

For 54 years, Reverend Wanzo was married to Grand Lady Gladys Wanzo until her passing in 2004. Rev. Wanzo leaves to cherish his memory--five children, Dr. Cassandra Wanzo of Atlanta, GA, Cathy Wanzo and Regina Wanzo of Milwaukee, WI, Willie Jr. (Victoria L.) Wanzo of Gulfport, MS, and Marcus Wanzo Sr. (Victoria S.) of Milwaukee, WI; six grandchildren, Lisa Parson (Timothy), Taj Wanzo, Raymond Pirtle Jr., Jamal Wanzo, Marcus Wanzo Jr. and Sharron

Thomas; great grandchild, Brooklynn Wanzo; one sister, Bertha Bullock (Eugene); one brother, Melvin Wanzo Sr. (Warrine); two sisters-in-law, Annie McMorris and Dorothy Wanzo; adopted granddaughter, LaSalle Sellers; nieces, nephews, Godchildren and a host of other relatives and friends.

Reverend Wanzo was preceded in death by his parents, Elijah and Myra Wanzo; one sister, Ora Lee Magee; and brothers, Leroy Wanzo and Roosevelt Wanzo.

One of his favorite scriptures was: "I can do all things through Christ that

strengthens me."

Philippians 4: 13

Cemetery Details

Graceland Cemetery

6401 N. 43rd St.
Milwaukee, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 28. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Metropolitan Baptist Church
1345 W. Burleigh Street
Milwaukee, WI

Service

OCT 28. 5:00 PM (CT)

Metropolitan Baptist Church
1345 W. Burleigh Street
Milwaukee, WI

Tribute Wall

BW

“ *Brooklynn Wanzo lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willie D. Wanzo Sr.*



Brooklynn Wanzo - November 02, 2019 at 07:54 PM

BW

“ *Brooklynn Wanzo sent a virtual gift in memory of Rev. Willie D. Wanzo Sr.*



Brooklynn Wanzo - September 29, 2019 at 01:54 PM

WJ

“ *Willie Jr lit a candle in memory of Rev. Willie D. Wanzo Sr.*



Willie Jr - January 22, 2017 at 10:00 PM

JC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of transition. I loved Pastor Wanzo, He was always very encouraging to me. We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. 2 Cor.5:8. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Cor. 5:1. To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. Is 61:3.

From Jean Carson

Jean Carson - October 27, 2012 at 01:52 PM

RN

“ To the Wanzo family & Church Family from Rev.& Mrs. Bobby Nichols, 1528 Tammany Dr. Nashville TN.37206
We grieve with you at the home going of our friend and brother, Pastor Willie Wanzo. He gave me numerous opportunities to preach and teach at Metropolitan. He was also a wise counselor for me in my life. He and the church family was always a friend to the Nichols family. We will miss him. May God bless you all and give you the peace so much needed at this time. I remember the first time I was invited to preach at the church. I was so afraid. He said just preach God's Word. He always encouraged me. Even when I messed up. He had that smile and laugh that would make you feel good.

Rev. Dr. Bobby Nichols - October 26, 2012 at 09:39 AM