



James O. McLeod

December 7, 1928 - March 24, 2013

James O. McLeod

December 7, 1928 - March 24, 2013

Dr. James O. McLeod (Brother J.O. to most) was born on December 7, 1928, in the Roper Community just outside Hazlehurst, Georgia. He was one of seven children born to James Otho, Sr. and Mamie Currie McLeod. He was educated in the Jeff Davis County School System through the seventh grade when he left school to contribute significantly to the support of his family who were local farmers. After working on the family farm for many years, Brother J.O. operated a "Rolling Store" type of grocery where he perhaps learned his unique way of getting his message across to his fellow man. Later he went into business with the "Jazz Feed Store," and later joined his oldest brother at Hazlehurst Feed and Seed. He became proficient in the crop dusting business, was a distinguished salesperson for Purina Feeds, and later even did some land surveying to help provide for his family which now included sons Rick, Stann and Keith. On July 28, 1978, he married his current wife, the former Gwen S. Durham, his "Princess". At this time he also welcomed to his family a son, Tim. He was called to preach the gospel in 1956 and was ordained at Southside Baptist Church, Hazlehurst, GA, where his father and mother were charter members. In 1947, the McLeod family had held the church's first prayer meetings at their home. J.O. McLeod's first pastorate was to Philippi Baptist Church in Appling County, Georgia. He later served as pastor to Consolation Baptist Church, Pine Grove, Georgia, and Ritch Baptist

Church, Screven, Georgia. He later was pastor to Collins Road Baptist Church, Soutel Baptist Church, and Springfield Baptist Church, all of Jacksonville, Florida. After departing Jacksonville, he planted and pastored Deigo Baptist Church in Palm Valley, Florida, and finally Southside Baptist Church in Palatka, Florida. After full time pastorate services, Brother J.O. established the J.O.McLeod Evangelistic Ministries. His ministry opportunities to preach the gospel were not limited to the continental U.S.; he also conducted evangelistic crusades in South Korea as well as the West Ides. Perhaps his most memorable preaching, however, was done in Israel during two trips to the Holy Land. The many revivals and camp meetings he preached and conducted for fellow pastors was perhaps where he did his most effective Kingdom building. In total, Brother J.O. served 54 years of ministry. Brother J.O. was well loved by the congregations he served as pastor, as well as those with whom he preached revivals, evangelistic crusades and equipping events. He was known for his love for life, contagious enthusiasm, humor and playful pranks. He was also steadfast and unwavering in his laser focus on proclaiming/teaching the eternal truths of God's Word, calling persons to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a life of obedience to Him. Conceivably, his most influential impact on extending God's Kingdom is his investment into the lives of hundreds of pastors, staff pastors, and preacher boys' he taught, exhorted, encouraged, coached, mentored, and developed across his 54 year ministry - including his son, Keith, and nephews Jimmy and Jeff. He was known as a pastor's pastor, and daddy to many. Brother J.O. loved to fly, play golf, and, of course, saddle one of his many horses and take to the trails where he might make a visit or just enjoy God's beautiful creation. His way with all animals was yet another gift he used to share his love with everyone with whom he came in contact. He deeply loved his family - wife Gwen, his children, grandchildren, extended family and friends. Brother J.O. was preceded in death by his parents, James Otho, Sr. and Mamie Currie McLeod; brothers James D. and Glynn McLeod; sisters Lillian McLeod Simmons, Mildred McLeod Stout, Beth McLeod Lawhan and

Lawrence McLeod Beecher. Survivors include his wife, Gwen McLeod, of St. Augustine, Florida; four sons and their wives, Rick McLeod of Cataula, Georgia; Stann and Kathy McLeod of Thomasville, Georgia; Keith and Joan McLeod of Ringgold, Georgia, Tim McLeod and Brittany of Alligator Point, Florida; and a step-daughter Becky Boutieler of St. Augustine, Florida. He is survived by one remaining sibling Allean McLeod Mahady of Kennesaw, Georgia. Also surviving are ten grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm Wednesday March 27, 2013 at Crescent Beach Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Craig Memorial Park. A visitation will take place from 6-8 pm Tuesday March 26, 2013 at Crescent Beach Baptist Church. Flowers are gratefully declined and those wishing may make a contribution in his memory to the Crescent Beach Baptist Church Building Fund St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

YM

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. He is right at home, shining his light even brighter! He was a Wonderful man and will always be in my heart as you will. There was always a smile and an eagerness for an ear to listen, I loved his optimistic outlook, he could always brighten any situation. I Love You both

Yvette (McLeod) Morgan - April 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

YM

“ I'm truly sorry for your loss, I know he is right at home, Shining as he always has! He was a Wonderful man and shined his light on many of us. He will always be in my heart as you will! I Love You Both

Yvette (McLeod) Morgan - April 22, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GN

“ We were so honored to have ment JO. He was a very special gift to this world. God Bless Love George & Nancy

George & Nancy Ness - April 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

QM

“ It was with sadness that I learned about the passing of Bro. J.O. I will always remember when he became the Pastor of the Southside Baptist Church in Palatka and how that church exploded in attendance. As more and more families requested him to conduct funerals I had the pleasure to work with him through my funeral home. He was a compassionate man with a lot of love, not mention a good sense of humor. I look forward to seeing him again in Heaven. Miss Gwen, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Quincy

Quincy Masters - April 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ We give you our deepest condolences and are lifting your family up in our prayers. Rev. 14:13

Mr. and Mrs. Lance Farlow - March 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Dear Gwen, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Rev. McLeod. I have nothing but great memories of him. I remember the day he had a dental appt at the office and his car broke down many blocks from the office. In the heat of the day, he walked briskly and made his appointment. That was just the kind of person he was. On a lighter note, I still remember passing a young lady on Roscoe Blvd, standing in front of her home chewing gum !! Right in front of her dentist !! My wife and I wish you the best in this difficult time.

Dr. Thomas Merlo - March 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Dearly loved - Such a Godly man will be deeply missed. This world is a little darker because Bro. J O's light is gone.

Ralph and Brenda Woodard - March 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Bro. J.O. was one of the most committed, joyful, loving, and Christlike men and ministers I have ever known. There are thousands upon thousands of people who were influenced by his life, ministry, and example. He was a dear friend and fellow minister and I loved him deeply. Even though he will be missed, we all know he is now fully in the presence of the One Whom he loved, lived for, and proclaimed so faithfully. Know that I am praying for each one of you. May God comfort and bless you at this time.

Jakie Carmicle - March 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Gwen and Family, We so wish that we could be there but know that you are in our prayers. Brother J.O. was so special to us and will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved him.

Jack and Carla Smith - March 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Jim, Mary and Family loved Pastor McLeod. Our love and sympathy go out to the family and friends. He was definitely loved by all.M

Mary Davis - March 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ Gwen Remembering you and your family in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time and planning a visit with you. I love you and so thankful God brought you and Brother J.O. into my life and heart. He truly radiated His love for our Father and the memories are cherished from our cruise, not to mention Geraldine and Ricky, and how he instigated even more than they had even planned, and Gwen he was not alone, what he didn't think of you did! I love you and just know you are in many thoughts and prayers.
Love Sue

Sue Wetherington - March 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Bro. J.O. was a good friend to my Daddy. They were both ordained the same year. Daddy was ordained at O'Quinn Baptist Church right down the road from Ritch Baptist. They renewed their friendship later in Jacksonville. Daddy really thought the world of Bro. J.O. And it was my privilege to renew my friendship with Bro. J.O. just over the last few years. I pastor Pine Level Baptist Church in Starke, FL, and I preached in the Old Tyme Camp Meetings several times for him in this area, and in Georgia. It was special to me to get to know him as an adult, and fellow preacher, because I was just a boy when he and Daddy were close. He was thrilled to know that one of Daddy's sons was called to preach, and we had a good friendship. I loved and respected Bro. J.O. greatly.

Pastor Terry Williamson - March 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Family, I always enjoyed hearing Bro. J.O. preach when he came to Boynton Baptist for revivals. Besides loving him for who he was, we loved him because he was Bro. Keith's Dad. So sorry for your loss. Will continue to pray for all of you during the coming days. Bro. Keith and Joan, you are missed and in our thoughts and prayers.

Cherry P. Griffith - March 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Miss Gwen, I am truly sorry for the loss of your husband. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the entire family and friends. God made a wonderful promise in Revelation 21:3-5, that (in His Kingdom) there will be no more pain, death, tears, and mourning. May you find comfort in God's promise.

D Beckett - March 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MZ

“ Bro. Jo was such a wonderful and caring man. He was such a good man. He helped my family out alot. Love u and will miss you Bro. Jo. Love the Zemba family.

Melanie Zemba - March 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RI

“ I Love my Preacher.He was always caring & loving even when he was correcting me.He has been with me for the best times of my life ,thru the bad times and thru the worst and he love me thru it . I loved going to some of his Old Time Meetings and getting to visit with Preacher & Gwen. I will love & miss my Preacher forever. He will be missed by all that knew him.

Rita - March 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RI

“ I Love my Preacher.He was always caeing & loving even when he was correcting me.He has been with me for the best times of my life ,thru the bad times and thru the worst and he love me thru it . I loved going to some of his Old Time Meetings and getting to visit with Preacher & Gwen. I will love & miss my Preacher forever.

Rita - March 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ He was so loved by everyone he touched throughout his live and will definitely be missed by all. My prayers fo to the family to help you through this time.

Barbara Elliott Gonzalez - March 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ Thankful to have known Brother J.O. His life touched so many, including mine. My condolences to Ms Gwen and the family.

Mike Tucker - March 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ So thankful to know this wonderful man who showed me how to love others like Jesus does. Bro. J.O. thank you for being a part of helping me to grow spiritually and being a part of who I am today! Sis. Gwen, I love you and please let me know if you need anything! What a blessing you both have been!

Sandy Hurst - March 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FG

“ We Loved Bro.J.O. Very Much, he was So Very Special to All of Us!! We Will Remember All the Great Times Shared with Bro.J.O. and MS.Gwen. We Will Never Forget His Smile and The Jokes he use to tell. He Was A Wonderful Pastor and Friend!!!!

Frog ,Michelle, Melinda & Matthew (Little Man), GI - March 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GY

“ Family, Brother JO was an inspiration to us. He spoke the word of truth in the revivals we attended. Brother Keith,we are praying for you.

Gary and Suzanne Young - March 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Brother Jo u r going to be missed so much we loved u dearly rip brother Dennis Clark & family

Pam seebeck - March 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *Just one of his preacher boys. I will always treasure the lessons and advice J O shared in the times we spent together.* ”

Rev Darrell and Pamela Coley - March 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM