



Wilmer "Wil" Roy Watson

November 12, 1929 - March 16, 2017

Wilmer "Wil" Roy Watson, 87, of Bourbonnais, Illinois, passed away Thursday, March 16, 2017. He was born November 12, 1929, in Gladwin, Michigan, to Roy and Gladys (Wilson) Watson.

Wil graduated from Olivet Nazarene College in 1952 and from Nazarene Theological Seminary in 1955. He faithfully and humbly served as a Nazarene pastor for 40 years, pastoring Northside Church of the Nazarene, in Elkhart, Indiana, from 1955 to 1962, Decatur Church of the Nazarene, in Decatur, Indiana, from 1962 to 1969, Southside Church of the Nazarene, in Fort Wayne, Indiana, from 1969 to 1979, and Muncie First Church of the Nazarene, in Muncie, Indiana, from 1979 to 1995. Wil also served as the District Secretary for the Northeast Indiana District of the Church of the Nazarene for 28 years. In his "retirement", Wil also served as an assistant pastor for Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene, a supply pastor for churches in the Kankakee area, and an Enterprise Car Rental driver for 18 years. Wil also helped plant the Church of the Nazarene in the Congo, which now has over 300 Nazarene churches.

Wil was foremost a fully devoted follower of Jesus, genuinely cared about people, and had a passion for helping others come to know Jesus and grow in their faith. Wil also enjoyed spending time with his family, building things, fixing things, writing (authoring *The Principle Centered Life*, published in 2008,

along with numerous articles, devotionals, and letters to the editor), listening to Paul Harvey and Rush Limbaugh, boating, sports, driving, helping others, and generally staying busy.

Wil is survived by his second wife Carol (Foor) Watson (married July 22, 1995) of Bourbonnais, Illinois, his son David Watson (wife Margie) of Shawnee, Kansas, his daughter Karen Fosnaugh (husband Lane) of Hometown, Indiana, son Stephen Watson (wife Tracy) of Greenwood, Indiana, stepson Matt Foor (wife Beth) of Bourbonnais, Illinois, stepdaughter Marci Reynolds (husband Adam) of Bourbonnais, Illinois, nephew Mark Ruckert (wife Linda) of Mishawaka, Indiana, and niece Barbara Warren (husband Mark) of Winter Haven, Florida.

Also surviving are fourteen grandchildren, Kristen Shultis (husband Ron), Kerry Leamon, Ember Hacker (husband Jordan), Destiny Ogden (husband Brent), Tyler Watson, Austin Watson, Haley Watson, Nathan Foor, Noelle Foor, Trey Reynolds, Addison Reynolds, Joy Arnold (husband Ian), Laura Flemming (husband Taylor), and Sarah Fosnaugh; and three great-grandchildren, Ahnisty Lewis, Ezekiel Hacker, and Jaydan Hacker.

Preceding Wil in death was his first wife Donna (Hay) Watson (married June 20, 1953), as well as his sister Rena Ruckert, and his son-in-law Kevin Leamon.

Visitation is from 2:00 p.m. (CT) until 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 19, 2017, at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, 295 Main St., NW, Bourbonnais, Illinois 60914. The funeral service will follow the next day at 11:00 a.m. (CT) on Monday, March 20, 2017, at Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene, 1000 N. Entrance Ave., Kankakee, IL 60901. The funeral service will be preceded by visitation (also at the church) at 10:00 a.m. (CT). A graveside service officiated by Rev. David Watson will occur the following day on Tuesday, March 21,

2017, at 1:00 p.m. (EDT), at Roselawn Cemetery in Auburn, Indiana.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene Building Fund Debt, 1000 N. Entrance Ave., Kankakee, IL 60901.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to Hospice of Kankakee Valley for their support in Wil's final days.

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Cemetery

Auburn, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 19. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.
295 Main St., NW
Bourbonnais, IL 60914
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Visitation

MAR 20. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N. Entrance Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-1000
<http://www.k1naz.org>

Funeral Service

MAR **20**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Church of the Nazarene
1000 N. Entrance Ave.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-1000
<http://www.k1naz.org>

Tribute Wall

Ken
Yingling

“ *Carol, David, Karen, Steve and the family,
Please know that you all have been in my many thoughts and prayers the last few weeks. May our God continue to hold you precious to His heart. I do indeed realize that I am a much better Christian man because of the day my path crossed with Pastor Watson (Wil) and you fine folks.
Precious, Lasting, Impacting Memories: Wil's insightful sermons, those early Monday morning prayer meetings in Persinger Chapel. Concannons (only a few calories---Ha), the instant coffee jar episode in Mary's office, most of all Wil's living a Holy life before us, and many other memories I will always hold dear to my heart.*

Love&Prayers,

Ken Yingling

Ken Yingling - March 19, 2017 at 12:44 PM

MS

“ *We are sorry to hear of Wilmer's passing. We have many good memories of the days he pastored at Fort Wayne Southside COTN. He was such a man of principles who lived his faith in our Lord out--in his everyday life. To his family we want you to know that we have kept you in our prayers since hearing of his home going. May the Lord sustain you. From Mike and Julie Shalley*

Mike and Julie Shalley - March 17, 2017 at 02:57 PM

WC

Thank you - Carol

Wife, Carol - March 17, 2017 at 05:32 PM

RH

“ *Wilmer was my pastor for seven years at the Decatur, IN church. We enjoyed having he and Donna as pastors. He was a wonderful pastor, pleasant, mild mannered and fun. I was privileged to see Wilmer again at an NEI District function and purchased his book.*

Donna shared that on one occasion, when Stephen was very young, he had climbed up on the kitchen range and was sitting on a burner that he had turned on!

Further, she had long rods vertically in the kitchen drawer handles to prevent him from exploring them.

David, the eldest, was generally quiet and was a lot like his father.

Karen was very cute and a pleasant young girl.

Donna played the piano; I can still see Wilmer & Donna sitting in the camp meeting choir.

I am deeply sorry for your loss and heaven's gain.

David may remember my children, Clark, Joel, Lorri & Matt Christian.

Rev. Brenda Haddix

Rev. Brenda Haddix - March 17, 2017 at 02:26 PM

WC

Thanks so much. I think the stories of Stephen are classics! -Carol

Wife, Carol - March 17, 2017 at 05:33 PM

BP

“ Carol and family,
You have our deepest sympathy on the passing of Wil. He was a
vey special person and will be missed deeply. He is now out of pain
and rejoicing with the Lord. We will keep you all n our prayers.

Karl and Brenda Palmer

Brenda Palmer - March 17, 2017 at 10:50 AM

WC

Thanks, Karl and Brenda! - Carol

Wife, Carol - March 17, 2017 at 05:34 PM

DL

“ Will and i shared many fun times. In addition he impacted me the
most by his one week visit to see me in Arizona. This was following
a crisis in my life. He brought love, laughter, and a renewed
presents of Jesus to my home and personal life !

Thank you dear friend.

Sincerely,

Darrell Luther

Darrell Luther - March 16, 2017 at 09:35 PM

WC

*Thank Darrell. YOU have been a special friend of Wil's. He enjoyed the
many phone calls? - Carol*

Wife, Carol - March 17, 2017 at 05:35 PM

QM

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Upon learning of Pastor Watson's passing today...I took a quick glance...! I had sent a message to him just a few days ago on "messenger" and related my feelings for him as a fine Gentlemen and Pastor, and Prayed the Lord would walk with him and provide a bit of assistance to him when needed.

Now I'm sure the Lord will not need to assist....He will welcome Pastor Watson to His Kingdom where He will not need assistance. I'm sorry my kind thoughts arrived too late for him to see....

I would like to send my condolences to all his family members.....Lord Bless.

*Quentin Mong & Jean Mong {deceased, She would like to do the same}.....
Muncie, IN.*

Quentin Mong - March 16, 2017 at 07:21 PM

JT

“ One beautiful Sunday morning at Kankakee First Church of the Nazarene a gentleman came and set next to me as I outside the Sanctuary waiting for the services to began. Almost at one we began to talk and before long he asked me about the City News which surprised me as I did not think many members of the church were actually aware of the newspaper.
He introduced himself to me, Wil Watson. We began to discuss journalism, community events and just about anything to guys would discuss on a Sunday morning while at church. He also informed me that he had written a book and because he interested me, his conversation was so interesting and provoked my curiosity as to who was this man?
Soon, I requested that I get a copy of his book and upon reading it, I knew, he was a real Christian. A person who practiced the ideals of the Christ-centered life. He was a teacher and gave life lessons in the way he lived his life.
Getting to know Mr. Watson as I was blessed to know him, made it possible for me to relate to the concept of his book,(The Principle Centered Life - Paradox-orr Positive Living?)

james taylor - March 16, 2017 at 04:51 PM

WC

Thank you James for sharing that. It meant a lot to me. - Carol

Wife, Carol - March 17, 2017 at 05:31 PM

LH

“ *Thinking of the Watson and Foor families at this time....*

Lori Ann Hoekstra - March 16, 2017 at 02:26 PM

WC

Thank you, Lori. - Carol

Wife, Carol - March 17, 2017 at 05:36 PM