



Pastor Ray Thompson

October 9, 1946 - May 11, 2024

Pastor Jackie Ray Thompson passed peacefully into the presence of Jesus on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at the age of 77 years. Bro. Ray, as he was affectionately called, was a loving husband, father, grandfather, pastor, educator, and friend.

Ray was born on October 9, 1946, to Jack and Vera Mae Gray Thompson in Mineola, TX. He accepted Jesus as his Savior in Sand Springs Baptist Church at the age of 11, under the preaching of Bro. Jack Burgess.

Ray graduated from Quitman High School in 1965. In July that summer, he felt the Lord calling him into the ministry, and was ordained by Sand Springs Baptist Church.

Ray married Maeva Poole on March 25, 1972, and they were married for 52 years. Other dear family members left to cherish his memory are his daughter Melady Thompson of Gilmer, TX; his son, James Paul, and his wife Meagan of Gilmer, TX., and three granddaughters that he adored, Molly, Kara, and Anna Thompson. Other family members surviving Ray in death are his brother, Jimmy Thompson, and wife Mary of Golden, TX.; his sister, Rosa Davis, and husband Ronnie of Mineola, TX.; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Vera Mae Gray Thompson; and a dear nephew, Jamie Thompson.

For 59 years he served pastorates at Coldwater Baptist Church, Winnsboro, TX., Calvary Baptist Church, Gilmer TX., Enon Baptist Church, Gilmer, TX., and Forest Hill Baptist Church, Quitman, TX. Bro. Ray embraced servant leadership, sharing in special life moments with these church families for over five decades.

He served as President of the Baptist Missionary Association of Texas and in many other leadership roles, including the Board of Trustees of Jacksonville College. In 2021 he received a Certificate of Resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Texas honoring his service in ministry.

Ray also carried this servant's heart into his career and ministry within the field of education. As a student, he earned an Associated of Arts Degree from Jacksonville College, a Bachelor of Arts from East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, a Master of Divinity from Baptist Missionary Theological Seminary, Jacksonville, a Master of Education from East Texas State University, and earned a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Stephen F. Austin State University. He taught in and served as superintendent of public schools for 26 years and worked for the Texas Education Agency. He served as an instructor and administrator at LeTourneau University. At the time of his passing, he was a Professor of Education at Texas A&M University-Commerce, where he had led the Superintendent Certification Program, mentored doctoral students, and chaired their doctoral dissertations. He received the CLASS Award from the University in 2020 for excellence in the academic performance of his students. His servant's heart was most evident in his devotion to his students and their success.

The funeral service for Pastor Ray Thompson will be held at 10:00 am, Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at Enon Baptist Church. The ministers officiating will be Michael Pool, Fred Morrow, and Alan Metzel. Interment to follow at

Grice Cemetery. The family will receive friends 6:00 pm- 8:00 pm, Tuesday, at McWhorter Funeral Home.

Pallbearers will be Jeffrey Pool, Joe Pool, Eli Nivison, Levi Thompson, Jed Whittaker, Jim Cross, Dr. Bill Daniels, and Eddie Elms.

Honorary pallbearers will be the men of Forest Hill Baptist Church.

The Lord accomplished his plan and purpose for Bro. Ray's life on Saturday evening. "Faithfull is He that called you, who also will do it." I Thessalonians 5:24

The family wishes to thank the medical team of Longview Regional Medical Center for their compassionate care of our husband and father on Saturday evening.

Please visit Bro. Ray's online registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

Cemetery Details

Grice Cemetery

7578 Giraffe Road
Gilmer, TX 75644

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **14**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home
1074 St. Hwy 300
Gilmer, TX 75645
(903) 734-7070
info@mcwhorterfh.com
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

Service

MAY **15**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Enon Baptist Church
3063 FM 556
Gilmer, TX 75644

Tribute Wall

BR

“ I am very saddened to hear that Dr. Jackie Thompson has passed away. He was my professor during the Superintendent certification program all of last year and even into winter mini this year. Dr. Thompson was a patient, knowledgeable, and kind teacher who cared about his students and his work. His words of encouragement will live in me and continue to inspire me to reach my goals. Many blessings to his family. - TAMUC doctoral student, Blanca E. Rojo

Blanca Rojo - May 28, 2024 at 06:45 PM

DA

“ Dr. Lindsey Lloyd - Texas A&M University-Commerce graduate - 2022. I was saddened to hear of Dr. Thompson's transitioning. Dr. Thompson was on my dissertation committee and I enjoyed and appreciated his candor. I felt that I had done a very good job with my dissertation and the path that I had taken with my background. He and I connected (I have been married for 52 years as well). He related to me and I felt his aura of goodness and sincerity. I wish his family solice and a good life in knowing that he contributed to the education of diversity in everyone. Thanks, Dr. Thompson, job well-done.

Dr. Lindsey Lloyd, Ed.D., MS, BS, AGS - May 19, 2024 at 12:19 PM

JH

“ I remember Ray as a sincere and dedicated servant of our Lord. We were students together at Jacksonville College and BMA Seminary. Ray was an encouragement to me, especially when he asked me to fill in for him at Enon Baptist Church back in the 60's. May all his family and friends know God's presence at this time.

John Henderson - May 16, 2024 at 08:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Pastor Ray Thompson Funeral Service*



McWhorter Funeral Home - May 15, 2024 at 03:47 PM

EW

“ *Dr. Thompson taught several of my doctoral classes. He readily shared his patience, knowledge, and experience with all of his students. He made me feel seen and valued as a person and student. I am grateful for having had an opportunity to learn from one of God's children. Thank you, Dr. Thompson.*

Edwina Woods - May 15, 2024 at 11:40 AM

SR

“ *Bro Ray still leaves a lasting influence on all the Ray family members. We will never forget this influence. Everyone who knew him was changed for the better. He was my friend and I loved him so much. Maeva and the family made him proud and we love you all.*

scott Ray - May 15, 2024 at 09:40 AM

CT

“ *Bro. Ray was an outstanding man and a true warrior for our Lord. He will truly be missed. Our sincere condolences to Maeva and your children for your loss. Our prayers are with you. Cranston and Marilyn Thacker and Family*

Cranston Thacker - May 15, 2024 at 12:15 AM

LS

“ Dr Thompson was my Chair for my dissertation and I had him for three classes. He was full of love and joy for his students. My father just passed as well and he encouraged me to keep up the good fight to finish strong. I was so looking forward to sharing my research with him and have him Hood me in August. He has made a huge impact on my life and I will miss him. My prayers and hugs for his family! I know he loved you all deeply.

Lynn Smith- Doctoral Student

lynn smith - May 14, 2024 at 10:37 PM

RT

“ My family and I were so blessed to be members of Enon Baptist Church for several decades. During that time we knew that if we were at church there , we would be fed the Word of God. What a joy to hear the Truth! That made a tremendous difference in our lives and we saw God work in others lives. That is everlasting! We love you Maeva and Melady and James Paul. Praying for God's strength and comfort.

Richard Clark Tucker - May 14, 2024 at 06:02 PM

DP

“ Ray Thompson is as fine a man as they come. He was a very wise and gifted gentleman that led with common sense. I enjoyed his leadership while I was a part of the Baptist Missionary Association. Most of my experiences with him were related to that work. He held many roles and always carried them out exceptionally well. He will surely be missed by his wife and family, the community and the church. My sincere condolences to Ray's family. God bless you all.

David D Pittman - May 14, 2024 at 05:13 PM



“ 147 files added to the album LifeTributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - May 14, 2024 at 03:28 PM



“ *I became Dr. Thompson's student for doctoral candidacy this semester and was absolutely blown away at his gentle spirit and kind disposition. There was no question as to whether he was a child of God and the location of his heart. Dr. Thompson was solid. He was present in conversation, compassionate with matters of life, and always a reassuring presence in the face of great trials. I told him several times I wanted to be just like him one day. We shared the love of music and worship and discussed it at length. He was pure joy.*

God knew I needed him in my life and He allowed our paths to cross for a short time, but a beautiful one.

Heaven is definitely more precious now. I was hoping to hug his neck at graduation in August. I will just have to get that hug in heaven.

*Kalyn McAlester
Texas A&M University - Commerce*

Kalyn McAlester - May 14, 2024 at 03:16 PM

KU

“ *Kalyn McAlester - Texas A&M University purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.*



Kalyn McAlester - Texas A&M University - May 14, 2024 at 03:10 PM

KU

“ *Kalyn McAlester - Texas A&M University planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Ray Thompson.*

Kalyn McAlester - Texas A&M University - May 14, 2024 at 03:10 PM

JM

“ *Jeanne Moore purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.*



Jeanne Moore - May 14, 2024 at 02:58 PM

JM

“ *Pastor Ray & Mrs Maeva have been wonderful to me and my family ever since we arrived in Texas, we could not ask for better neighbors or friends. Pastor Ray has done so much for us, I am going to miss him. My prayers go out to his family. Love ya'll
Jeanne*

JEANNE MOORE - May 14, 2024 at 02:49 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.*



May 14, 2024 at 02:45 PM



“ *Jan L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Ray Thompson.*

Jan L. - May 14, 2024 at 01:25 PM



“ *My condolences to Pastor Thompson's family. We had shared a moment at my brothers service talking about riding his bus to school when I was young. He spoke of how proud he was of me. I will be forever grateful for him and his family.*

Scott Moore - May 14, 2024 at 12:47 PM



“ *George and Wendy Watts purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.*



George and Wendy Watts - May 14, 2024 at 12:39 PM

GW

“ George and Wendy Watts planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Ray Thompson.

George and Wendy Watts - May 14, 2024 at 12:39 PM

AP

“ Anita & Rick Pieper purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.



Anita & Rick Pieper - May 14, 2024 at 12:02 PM

AP

“ Anita & Rick Pieper planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Ray Thompson.

Anita & Rick Pieper - May 14, 2024 at 12:02 PM

MK

“ Marylee Hamberlin Klinkhammer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Ray Thompson.

Marylee Hamberlin Klinkhammer - May 14, 2024 at 11:04 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.*



May 14, 2024 at 11:04 AM



“ *We love you, Robert Chamberlain family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.*



We love you, Robert Chamberlain family - May 14, 2024 at 10:58 AM



“ *Dr. Thompson was a dedicated and delightful professor. I frequently assisted him with his online courses. He will be missed and his dedication to his students will be missed.*

Tina Freeman - May 14, 2024 at 10:33 AM



“ *Dr. Ray Thompson was a student of mine in the Stephen F. Austin State University doctoral program. Our paths met again as we taught together at Texas A&M University-Commerce. He was an excellent teacher and a friend to all. We will miss Ray. Dr. Julia Ballenger*

Dr. Julia Ballenger - May 14, 2024 at 10:22 AM

CM

“ Chase, Cathy, Elizabeth&Andrew Mullins purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.



Chase, Cathy, Elizabeth&Andrew Mullins - May 14, 2024 at 10:19 AM

PS

“ I worked with Dr. Thompson frequently at Texas A&M-Commerce. He was always kind, patient, and caring. He will be missed.

Petra Strassberg - May 14, 2024 at 10:01 AM

DM

“ Dr. Ray Thompson is as an inspiration to me, and he will be greatly missed. His demeanor and care towards others is something that should be emulated.



Dr. Sarah Morrison - May 13, 2024 at 10:32 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.



May 13, 2024 at 10:30 PM

DV

“ This great man was my chair for my doctorate. His compassion and continued support as I was going through cancer treatments while defending my dissertation were more than required of anyone except Dr. Thompson.

As he hooded me, and while I was weak, tired, and under pain medication, he whispered in my ear, “By the grace of God you stand here, thank him not me.” Thank you Dr. Ray Thompson

Dr. Ken Vaughn - May 13, 2024 at 10:29 PM

TC

“ I have always been thankful for Pastor Ray and his support to me as a missionary in TX and GA. Praying for the family.

Todd Cox - May 13, 2024 at 10:26 PM

SB

“ Sandy Bridges planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Ray Thompson.

Sandy Bridges - May 13, 2024 at 09:40 PM

SB

“ Sandy Bridges purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.



Sandy Bridges - May 13, 2024 at 09:40 PM

TF

“ *The Shankle Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.*



The Shankle Family - May 13, 2024 at 08:37 PM

LS

“ *Lynn Smith- Doctoral Student planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Ray Thompson.*

Lynn Smith- Doctoral Student - May 13, 2024 at 07:57 PM

LS

“ *Lynn Smith- Doctoral Student purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.*



Lynn Smith- Doctoral Student - May 13, 2024 at 07:57 PM

SR

“ *Dr. Thompson was a kind spirited colleague and I enjoyed working with him in the Department of Educational Leadership at TAMUC. May you find peace in knowing the Lord is your refuge, where you can always find comfort and sweet rest under His wings.*
Dr. Sharon Ross



Sharon Ross - May 13, 2024 at 07:54 PM

RF

“ Ray girls and families purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.



Ray girls and families - May 13, 2024 at 07:41 PM

JH

“ Jack and Shirley Hoffpaur purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.



Jack and Shirley Hoffpaur - May 13, 2024 at 06:21 PM

LH

“ In high school, I remember Ray as being a quiet person. Beneath that quietness was a man with a servant's heart and a deep soul. My kindest thoughts and deepest sympathy to Ray's family.

Linda Horton - May 13, 2024 at 05:47 PM

RM

“ Richard and Dee Tucker and Sandra McNair purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.



Richard and Dee Tucker and Sandra McNair - May 13, 2024 at 05:26 PM

MM

“ Ray and I began first grade together in Golden and graduated together from Quitman HS together. He was always the sweetest person even as a boy. My sympathies to his family.

Mary Anne Adrian McKenzie - May 13, 2024 at 05:15 PM

SR

“ Scott & Linda Ray purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.



Scott & Linda Ray - May 13, 2024 at 04:07 PM

AC

“ Alan and Dianne and children purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.



Alan and Dianne and children - May 13, 2024 at 03:50 PM

CT

“ Charles and Lana Turner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Ray Thompson.

Charles and Lana Turner - May 13, 2024 at 03:06 PM

CT

“ Charles and Lana Turner purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Pastor Ray Thompson.



Charles and Lana Turner - May 13, 2024 at 03:06 PM

LT

“ Maeva, Melody and JP,
Bro. Ray will always have a special place in my heart. He was an exemplary example of a strong Christian man. He was a great leader, pastor and teacher. Every memory I have of Enon Baptist Church has Bro. Ray in it. Most milestones in my life, he was a part of.
My prayers go out to you for comfort in the days ahead. I know you will all miss him.
Lana Montgomery Turner

Lana Turner - May 13, 2024 at 02:54 PM

CA

“ Charles A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Ray Thompson.

Charles A. - May 13, 2024 at 02:51 PM