



Apostle Charles J. Williamson

September 20, 1927 - June 21, 2025

Apostle Charles J. Williamson a devoted husband, loving father, decorated veteran, master tradesman and an uncompromising soldier in the army of the Lord transitioned peacefully into eternal rest on Saturday, June 21, 2025. Surrounded by his loving family and undergirded by a faith that never wavered, he answered the Master's call at the age of 97. A life well-lived, Apostle Williamson leaves behind a towering legacy of faith, sacrifice and spiritual impact that echoes from the steel mills of Indiana to sanctuaries across the nation.

Born September 20, 1927 in Somerville, Tennessee, Charles was the beloved son of Charlie Williamson, Sr. and Bettie Whitmore Williamson. In 1943, seeking better opportunities, the Williamson family relocated to Memphis, Tennessee. Shortly thereafter, Charles father was drafted in to World War II-a mantle of service that Charles would one day carry with honor.

He, too, was drafted and received a deferment-but duty called louder than comfort. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps and remained on active duty when it transitioned into the United States Air Force in 1947. He faithfully served through the Korean Conflict, completing his tour of duty in 1953. He embodied the definition of discipline and courage, principles he would later impart both in life and ministry.

After his military service, Charles moved to Gary, Indiana in 1954, where he lived with his brother Daniel. He took employment with U.S. Steel Corporation and later American Bridge Corporation, lending his strength and craftsmanship to the construction of American landmarks-including the famous Mackinaw Bridge. Though he helped build structures of steel, it would be souls he'd later dedicate his life to building.

On February 1, 1958 Charles married the love of his life, Claudette Thornton Williamson. Their union of over six decades was a living example of God-centered love and purpose. Together, they raised five sons, Ralph, Zachary, Charles, Joseph and Frederick with a commitment of faith, family and fortitude.

But the greatest transformation in Charles' life came in 1961, when he surrendered his heart to the Lord Jesus Christ. That decision launched a lifelong pursuit of holiness, soul winning, and kingdom-building. His thirst for truth and power in God led him from the pew to the pulpit, and from the pulpit to the nations.

From Basement to Breakthroughs

He began pastoring in the basement of his home at 1150 Williams Street in Gary. From those humble beginnings, the Church of Deliverance In Christ was birthed-where signs, miracles and wonders abounded. Families like the Stuckeys, Randles, Manyfields, Thorntons and Williamsons were among the first to gather. His pulpit extended far beyond church walls-into housing projects, street corners, and nursing homes. He preached with passion, cast out demons, and ushered in deliverance.

His church grew and transitioned from 15th and Broadway to a furniture store-turned-sanctuary on 2747 W. 11th Avenue, drawing faithful families like the Frison and the indelible Sister Sallie Carter and her children, whose evangelism helped ignite a revival that led many-including the late Dr. Lorenzo Bonds and Apostle Bennie Mabon-to Christ. Apostle Williamson later stepped down from the pastorate in May 1972, and the church was renamed Temple of Deliverance, now under the leadership of Pastor Brian Bonds.

A Fire Rekindled

In November 1972, Apostle Williamson, Claudette, and their family relocated to Saginaw, Michigan, where he became overseer of Full Gospel Deliverance Church under Pastor James Foster. What followed was a national evangelistic revival-holding crusades, revivals and services across the United States. Whether in Washington D.C., Alabama, Pennsylvania, Georgia and the Carolinas, Apostle's voice thundered with apostolic authority and compassion He planted churches, nurtured ministries, and mentored leaders from coast to coast.

Back to the Roots

Returning once more to pastoral work, he began holding services in the home with Prayer Meetings and Bible Studies, soon moving into the homes of Jeanette Vaughn and later Robert and Jenell Thomas. Out of those gatherings was born The House of the Lord Evangelistic Church at 2602 S. Washington Avenue, Saginaw-a house that became a Hub of Holy Ghost fire, when street revivals, conventions, and crusades shook the city.

Every May, an annual Holy Convocation drew crowds from far and near to experience healing, salvation, and deliverance. Through it all, he remained a humble man with a

servant's heart-never too great to repair a leaking pipe or lift a heavy load.

A Builder of Men

Skilled with his hands and anointed with the Word, Apostle Williamson was a true Renaissance man. Plumbing, carpentry, painting, electrical work, masonry-there was little he could not do. But his greatest building projects were people. He poured himself into others-spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

In his final years, his care was entrusted to a loyal circle who exemplified devotion whose sacrificial love provided and making every moment count. Apostle's sons-Frederick, Ralph, Charles, Joseph, Zachary and Tracy Fife-also stood as pillars of love and strength during this scared season.

Among his faithful supporters was Sis. Jeanette Vaughn who served Apostle and Mother Williamson for 49 years.

In 1987, his son Zachary was licensed and ordained into ministry-continuing the generational call. Today, Bishop Zachary D. Williamson and Lady Vina L. Williamson carry the torch as pastors of Saginaw Full Gospel Holy Temple under the leadership of Apostle Herman L. Murray, Jr. of Dallas, Texas.

A Legacy that Transcends Time

Apostle Charles J. Williamson's influence is incalculable. He was a soul-winner, a teacher, a prophet, and a father to many, not just by blood but by spiritual adoption. Dozens of churches trace their origins to his voice. Countless preachers cite his impact, and innumerable souls walk in the light because he said yes to God.

He now joins the great cloud of witnesses, his labor complete. His voice at rest, and his spirit forever alive in the Kingdom he so faithfully served. We celebrate not a death, but a promotion. Not a goodbye, but we shall see you again.

Left to cherish many memories of Apostle Williamson is his daughter, Janice Douglas; sons, Larry (Ann Toni) Williamson, Ralph Williamson, Bishop Zachary (Vina) Williamson, Charles Williamson, Joseph Williamson and Fredrick Williamson; sister, Emma Henderson; brothers, Daniel Williamson and Jerry Williamson (JoAnn); sister-in-law, Anita Williamson; grandchildren, Bryon Williamson, Brandon Williamson, Jacqueline Nelson, Christopher Douglas, Roberta Reeves Garten, Keshia (Brandon) Carter, Zachary (Brenica) Williamson II and Fredrick Williamson; 11 great-grandchildren and a host of

nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 65 years, Claudette Williamson; parents, Charlie and Bettie Williamson; three brothers, Leroy Williamson, Allen Williamson and Lloyd Williamson; five sisters, Margaret Levy, Claudetta Williamson, Sallie Stuckey, Geraldine Frison and Luria Jean Randle.

Apostle Charles J. Williamson will be greatly missed by his countless spiritual sons and daughters that he birthed into the Kingdom of God whose lives he touched with his warmth and generosity a legacy that time cannot erase.

Final Reflections

To know Apostle Williamson was to witness a man who believed “truly believed” that with God, nothing is impossible. He lived it. He preached it. He was it. The trail he blazed is lit with faith, the walls he built still stand, and the Kingdom he loved is richer because he lived.

He has fought a good fight.

He has finished his course.

He has kept the faith.

Rest well, Apostle. Your work speaks for you.

Funeral service will take place at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, July 5, 2025 at Saginaw Full Gospel Holy Temple, 1200 E. Genesee, Saginaw, MI 48601. Bishop Zachary D. Williamson will officiate. Interment will take place at Great Lakes National Cemetery, G-4200 Belford Rd., Holly, MI 48442. Visitation will take place 8:00 a.m. until the time of service.

Cemetery Details

Great Lakes National Cemetery

G-4200 Belford Rd.
Holly, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 5. 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Full Gospel Holy Temple
1200 East Genesee Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601

Funeral Service

JUL 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Full Gospel Holy Temple
1200 East Genesee Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48601

Tribute Wall

CD

“ *I always enjoyed Apostle Williamson when he came to Tabernacle of Prayer in Goldsboro, NC. What a great man of God, gone home to be with the Lord.* ”



Ciera Dixon - July 06, 2025 at 11:33 AM

BC

“ *Bobby And Debra Cork lit a candle in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson* ”



Bobby and Debra Cork - July 05, 2025 at 08:25 PM

SH

“ *With Deepest Sympathy and Prayers for the family. Remembering Apostle Williamson when he came to Tabernacle of Prayer, Goldsboro and always brought us Good News. Always will have fond memories of him and his family.* ”

Shirley Howard - July 05, 2025 at 07:08 PM

RA

Alays looked forward to his coming to Augusta Deliverence in Augusta GA to run the revival.

Richie Anthony - July 07, 2025 at 04:36 PM

RA

May God hold you all close to Him 🙏 in Jesus name

Richie Anthony - July 07, 2025 at 04:39 PM

TM

“ To: The Williamson Family,
I was truly sadden to hear about the passing of Apostle Williamson. Lord knows, I truly thank God for times that I was able to be in the many services, the preaching and teaching of Jesus. For looking back, growing up in The Tabernacle of Prayer in Goldsboro, N.C., under the leadership of Apostle Lawrence Bogier, we were blessed to be taught about The True Gospel of Jesus Christ. They were very anointed and powerful men of God!
May Jesus continue to comfort and give you all strength during this time of bereavement.
Sincerely praying 🙏
Rev. Ronnie and Tonya Johnson McNair & Family



Tonya Johnson McNair - July 05, 2025 at 06:09 PM

NJ

Great man of God. He will be greatly missed. Praying for the family. We the Tabernacle of prayer in Goldsboro has the family in prayer Sis Noreen Johnson.

Noreen Johnson - July 06, 2025 at 03:16 AM

AT

“ We worshipped with Apostle Williamson in Flint, Michigan on 2 different occasions in the early 90's when we were members of Tabernacle of Prayer for All People in Goldsboro North Carolina. Always remember him and his family as loving caring people of God. Surely this General of the faith will be missed.
Prophet Rodger and Aletta Taylor, Goldsboro North Carolina ❤️🙏

Aletta Taylor - July 05, 2025 at 03:20 PM

TB

“ BE ENCOURAGED AND UPLIFTED THINK OF ALL THE GREAT TIMES YOU ALL HAD WITH YOUR FATHER A VERY NICE MAN. WHEN YOU SEEN BISHOP ZACKERY APOSTLE CHARLES WAS ALWAYS BEHIND HIM AND HE ALWAYS SPOKE VERY WELL MANNERED NICE MAN . AND HE WILL BE MISSED.



teckner brown - July 04, 2025 at 06:56 AM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Apostle Charles J. Williamson.*



July 03, 2025 at 11:25 PM



“ *Nola Taylor lit a candle in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson*



Nola Taylor - July 03, 2025 at 07:41 PM



“ *Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Apostle Charles J. Williamson.*



July 03, 2025 at 01:54 PM



“ *Ms. Ann Ford sent a virtual gift in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson*



Ms. Ann Ford - July 03, 2025 at 11:38 AM

WF

“ To the family of Apostle Charles J. Williamson I send you my sincere condolences on the loss of your father. I know how much he meant to you. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Your father inspired so many to know Jesus and to cling to His unchanging hand. I remember the many revival meetings, retreats, early morning prayers at 6:00 a.m., his preaching under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, his laying hands on the sick according to the Bible, and they were healed, as well as his love for the people in God's Church. Apostle Williamson lived the life he loved and loved the life he lived. Remember, he made his calling and election certain and understood that the dead in Christ will rise first and that we who remain will be caught up together to meet Jesus in the air. Family, hold on to the legacy he left and allow the Lord to guide your steps in his direction.



Williams & Kelley Family

Williams & Kelley Family - July 03, 2025 at 11:13 AM



“ Phyllis Thorne sent a virtual gift in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson



Phyllis Thorne - July 02, 2025 at 10:25 AM

RW

“ The Walker Family-Bishop, sending our deepest condolences to you and the family.



Richard & Cheryl Walker - July 02, 2025 at 09:14 AM

MB

“ Apostle C. Williamson was more than a Pastor to us, he treated us as Family. He was a MAJOR tool of Salvation in our lives, he lead us to Christ. He was an anointed man of God. He believed in Jesus Christ and righteousness!! We will miss him and he is forever in our hearts!! Love Sallie Carter & Family

Melvia Bell - July 02, 2025 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Sallie Carter & Family purchased the Classic Sympathy Dish Garden for the family of Apostle Charles J. Williamson.



Sallie Carter & Family - July 01, 2025 at 11:39 PM

SF

“ Sallie Carter & Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Apostle Charles J. Williamson.

Sallie Carter & Family - July 01, 2025 at 11:39 PM

JA

“ Joyce Williams Anderson



joyce anderson - July 01, 2025 at 07:16 PM

TG

“ Tim & Lillie Grays sent a virtual gift in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson



Tim & Lillie Grays - July 01, 2025 at 01:52 PM

CC

“ Clarence Carter lit a candle in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson



Clarence Carter - July 01, 2025 at 08:15 AM

CP

“ Cheryl Kay Payton lit a candle in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson



Cheryl Kay Payton - July 01, 2025 at 07:45 AM

ST

“ Sheryl Thomas lit a candle in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson



Sheryl Thomas - June 28, 2025 at 10:38 PM

JK

“ Prayers for the entire Williamson family. May God comfort and keep each of you.



Janice Kemp-Anderson - June 26, 2025 at 05:14 PM

NT

“ Nola Taylor sent a virtual gift in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson



Nola Taylor - June 26, 2025 at 01:08 PM



“ I Remember Apostle When He First Came To Saginaw from Indiana and his wife and young Family...May he Continue to Rest In the Lord until that Great Morning ...Elder James Weston



James Weston - June 26, 2025 at 10:32 AM

OC

“ Odeania Carruth sent a virtual gift in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson



Odeania Carruth - June 25, 2025 at 11:21 PM

SC

“ SONA Carruth sent a virtual gift in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson



SONA Carruth - June 25, 2025 at 11:21 PM

JC

“ Jeanette B Champion sent a virtual gift in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson



Jeanette B Champion - June 25, 2025 at 01:51 PM

CA

“ Love you Bishop you and your family are in my prayers!

Charlean Atkins - June 25, 2025 at 01:34 PM

MB

“ Michelle Blair sent a virtual gift in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson



Michelle Blair - June 25, 2025 at 11:37 AM

MD

“ *Marlean Donald lit a candle in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson*



Marlean Donald - June 24, 2025 at 11:11 PM

CC

“ *Clifford Carter lit a candle in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson*



Clifford Carter - June 24, 2025 at 04:24 PM

RC

“ *Rose Coleman sent a virtual gift in memory of Apostle Charles J. Williamson*



Rose Coleman - June 24, 2025 at 11:56 AM