



## Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.

February 26, 1946 - October 29, 2023

Through the Eyes of a Beholder:

A Portrait of the Life of Marion Lee Barnes, Sr.

On one of the pages of the 1965 HB Suggs yearbook *The Lion*, a picture of a kneeling young man is prominently and forever displayed. He is a senior and a football player, and he wears the number 59. He smiles into the camera with an intensity reserved for the very young, the very hopeful, and the very confident, and the viewer can sense that he is no easy target, neither on the playing field nor in life, for he—Marion Lee Barnes, Sr.—is prepared.

Marion was born the sixth child to the late James Barnes, Sr. and Penny Gray-Barnes on February 26, 1946. His birth followed his siblings' James Barnes, Jr., Albert Barnes, Nathaniel Barnes, Jerry Barnes and Verna Becton, who all preceded him in death, and predated his sister Magdalene Pearson's, by whom he is survived.

On another page of the same yearbook is a photograph of Edith Gay, a sophomore, who—on the forgotten date these images were taken—was Marion's girlfriend, but who also—on August 29, 1967—would become his wife. No one pretends that young love—to say nothing of young marriage—is easy, yet the two built a life together that withstood the variabilities of time, the foundation of which was immeasurably strengthened once he dedicated himself to God and endeavored to live a life pleasing unto to the Lord.

As he matured in the faith, he gained a greater appreciation for the gift of Grace; however, that did not deter him from setting a personal standard in

accordance with Deuteronomy 6: 6-7:

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children, which he did faithfully to his daughters, Pamela Barnes Ellis (Tony), Chena Williams (Radrecra), and Gwendolyn Worthington, whom he claimed as his own, and to his son, Marion Barnes, Jr. (Cheryl). Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up, which he was known to do both throughout the community and within The Bible Church of God.

The leadership he exhibited in his church—from laying the physical bricks upon which it was built to planting the spiritual seeds upon which its parishioners relied—informed not only his home and civic life but also his professional one. During his more than thirty-year tenure with Burroughs Wellcome, his reputation grew in both popularity and prestige, culminating in his seat at the “Quality Circles” table. But because he was also motivated by Proverbs 16:3, Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will succeed, he pursued a different, more humble opportunity upon his departure, allowing him space to be a pillar of his community and time to grow his knowledge of the scriptures, ultimately winning him his Divinitis Doctor (Doctor of Divinity).

Some might find it strange that, as serious as he proved to be concerning spreading the Gospel, and as instructive as he might have been with his grandchildren—Latoria Hall (Samuel), Candice Streeter, Amber Streeter, India Streeter, Meyah Barnes, Christian Barnes, Lauryn Barnes, Michael Bowens, Justice Bowens and Tyra Spell —and his great-grandchildren—Landon Hall, Aiden Bryant, Lailah Hall, Aaliyah Ward, Jamal Ward, Jakobi Bowens and Jakori Bowens—he never took himself too seriously. He was warm and witty, jovial and jolly, fun and fantastic. This cordial, caring nature he shared with his extended family of uncles and aunts; brothers- and sisters-in-law; nieces and nephews; cousins and friends. And we will all miss him, dearly.

Whether we understood it or not when he said it, we eventually believed and now know his words to be true: “Before me there was none, when I came there was only one, after me there will be no other.”

And whether or not the boy in the picture, on the genesis of his manhood—forever young, forever strong, forever ready—in The Lion yearbook understood it or not, he came to believe and now has the full revelation, proving His Word to be true as he stands before God and . . . another book is opened, which is The Lamb's Book of Life. And we are so comforted to know that on a page somewhere among the forever Free and the forever Home is written . . .

# Cemetery Details

## Homestead Memorial Gardens

4251 E. 10th Street  
Greenville, NC 27858

# Previous Events

## Viewing

NOV 4. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Moriah Community Church  
4329 Anderson Avenue  
Farmville, NC 27828

## Celebration of Life Service

NOV 4. 1:00 PM (ET)

Mt. Moriah Community Church  
4329 Anderson Avenue  
Farmville, NC 27828

# Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program* ”

**Congleton Memorial Mortuary** - November 07, 2023 at 01:59 PM

EC

“ *Ernest B. Clemons lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.* ”



**Ernest B. Clemons** - November 20, 2023 at 08:22 PM

FS

“ *May Bishop Barnes Rest In Peace* ”



**Family of the late Mother Margaret Suggs** - November 05, 2023 at 12:19 PM

CB

“ *Cassandra Blue lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.* ”



**Cassandra Blue** - November 03, 2023 at 09:23 PM

JR

“ *Julian Cutler (ThermoFisher Retired) lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



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**Julian Cutler (ThermoFisher retired)** - November 03, 2023 at 06:16 PM

VH

“ *Edith, Pam & Family  
Our condolences & prayers are with you. May  
God give you strength & peace now and in  
the days to come.*



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**Valerie Hill-Spell & Kristin J. Hill** - November 03, 2023 at 02:55 PM

WP

“ *Our sympathy to the Barnes family and friends. I have known  
Bishop Barnes all my life. He will be greatly missed. You are in our  
thoughts and prayers. William & Dollie Prayer.*

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**William Prayer** - November 03, 2023 at 12:53 PM

FG

“ *Condolences to the Family*

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**Felicia Greene** - November 03, 2023 at 12:03 PM

FG

“ *Felicia Greene lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



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**Felicia Greene** - November 03, 2023 at 12:00 PM

KN

“ *Condolences to the family of Bishop Marion Barnes. God bless all of you*



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**Ka-Esbia Phillips. Farmville NC** - November 03, 2023 at 09:11 AM

JJ

“ *Johnny Johnson lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



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**Johnny Johnson** - November 03, 2023 at 09:02 AM

DS

“ *Edith. Pam & family  
So sorry to hear of your loss. Our sincere condolence and prayers for you during this most difficult time. Keeping you in our prayers.  
David & Evelyn Dupree & family*

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**David E. Dupree Sr** - November 02, 2023 at 11:27 PM

HR

“ *Helen Ruth Randolph lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



Helen Ruth Randolph - November 02, 2023 at 11:14 PM

RR

“ *Ruth Randolph lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



Ruth Randolph - November 02, 2023 at 11:11 PM

MB

“ *Michael And Katrina Baker lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



Michael and Katrina Baker - November 02, 2023 at 08:14 PM

JJ

“ *Johnny Jonson lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



Johnny Jonson - November 02, 2023 at 08:12 PM

EB

“ *Sending love and prayers to your family at this time. He's left behind an amazing legacy. Love you all*  
*Erica*

Erica Brown - November 02, 2023 at 07:38 PM

MS

“ *Michael Purvis Sr. lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



Michael Purvis Sr. - November 02, 2023 at 04:25 PM

WB

“ *WALTER BOLDEN lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



WALTER BOLDEN - November 02, 2023 at 12:56 PM

WM

“ *Truly Sending My Deepest Condolences To The Barnes Family In The Passing Of Bishop Barnes Truly A Humble Man Of God Praying That God Will Strength The Family During This Difficult Time Wilbur,Pat And Family* ❤️



Wilbur Moore - November 02, 2023 at 11:20 AM

JP

“ *Condolences to the Family of Bishop Marion L. Barnes Sr*



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**Juanita Payton** - November 02, 2023 at 11:09 AM

DO

“ *Deepest Condolences to the families during your time of grief. May Marion Rest in Peace.*



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**Douglas and Elouise Olds** - November 02, 2023 at 07:52 AM

BC

“ *Sorry to hear about the loss of your husband, family members, we have known each other's for many years and work at the plant. know him as a christian man and know how to respect everyone, he will be missed by many. Our condolences to his family, Bishop Williams and Co- Pastor Barbara Carmon.*

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**Barbara Carmon** - November 01, 2023 at 11:08 PM

EF

“ *Our heartfelt condolences to the Rev Barnes' family and friends. May he Rest In Eternal Love and Peace.*



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**Evangelist V S Moore & Family** - November 01, 2023 at 10:11 PM

AM

“ *Annette Moore lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



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**Annette Moore** - November 01, 2023 at 10:05 PM

GA

“ *Thoughts and prayers. BW Company.*



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**Gladys Atkinson** - November 01, 2023 at 08:27 PM

CD

“ *My deepest condolences to the family of Mr. Marion. May the Lord hear our prayers and ease your grief.*



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**Christina Dennison** - November 01, 2023 at 08:16 PM

WB

“ *Wanfa Bynum lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



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**Wanfa Bynum** - November 01, 2023 at 07:03 PM

FH

“ *Your deepest condolences and prayers are going out for the entire family...*



**Frederick & Hattie Hopkins** - November 01, 2023 at 06:13 PM

ME

“ *Mildred Ellioty lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



**Mildred Ellioty** - November 01, 2023 at 05:53 PM

PS

“ *Condolences to the family of Mr Marion Barnes. May God give you Edith and Pam the strength to get through this difficult time in your lives*



**Patricia Edwards Sutton** - November 01, 2023 at 05:46 PM

LD

“ *Linda Dupree lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



**Linda Dupree** - November 01, 2023 at 04:55 PM



“ *Janice Reid lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



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**Janice Reid** - November 01, 2023 at 01:52 PM



“ *Dianne Wilson lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



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**Dianne Wilson** - November 01, 2023 at 01:37 PM



“ *Betty Dupree lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



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**Betty Dupree** - November 01, 2023 at 01:08 PM



“ *Teresa Fleming lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



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**Teresa Fleming** - November 01, 2023 at 12:38 PM

LD

“ Marion always had an encouraging word whenever we spoke. Our prayers and thoughts are with you Edith and family. Love and Blessings, the Dupree family of Falkland.



Lois Dupree - November 01, 2023 at 12:20 PM

CB

“ Cathy Thorne Bynum lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.



Cathy Thorne Bynum - November 01, 2023 at 11:47 AM

CJ

“ Chantelle Johnson lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.



Chantelle Johnson - November 01, 2023 at 11:20 AM

AB

“ Aletha Britt lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.



Aletha Britt - November 01, 2023 at 10:20 AM

RH

“ *Ruth Hall lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



Ruth Hall - November 01, 2023 at 10:10 AM

LF

“ *A great man with a greater heart...Rest now!*



Lavette and Johnny Ford - November 01, 2023 at 07:47 AM

MN

“ *Mary Queen Newton lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



Mary Queen Newton - November 01, 2023 at 12:50 AM



“ *Joyce Purvis lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.*



Joyce Purvis - October 31, 2023 at 11:47 PM

RF

“ Rick Fleming lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.



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**Rick Fleming** - October 31, 2023 at 05:42 PM

MK

“ Margaret Knight lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.



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**Margaret Knight** - October 31, 2023 at 05:21 PM

WS

“ William Spell lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.



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**William Spell** - October 31, 2023 at 03:47 PM

ED

“ My sincere condolences to the Barnes Family

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**Eldress Carolyn Daniels-Ward** - October 31, 2023 at 11:25 AM

KT

“ Karen Turnage lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.



Karen Turnage - October 31, 2023 at 09:30 AM

VF

“ My family and I are deeply saddened by your loss. Be encouraged, sustained and comforted. May warm, sweet memories of your beloved be etched in your hearts forever. Gone but never forgotten.

Virginia Dildy Williams & Family - October 30, 2023 at 10:45 PM

RW

To my family our hearts goes out to you. Our Friend, brother and who Marion to you, He is in the hands of our Lord. So let us pray and think on happy times and be Bless. Bob and Dot

Robert Williams - October 31, 2023 at 08:48 PM



rip my friend

Janice Reid - November 01, 2023 at 01:54 PM

MN

“ Please find comfort in knowing that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Marion can now rest securely in his MASTER'S loving arms as he has ascended to heaven to receive his crown. Rest in heaven dear friend.

Margaret and Johnnie Ray Newton - October 30, 2023 at 10:40 PM

AL

“ To the family: May the peace of GOD abide in you. May GOD also continue to provide the strength and comfort to help you endure the pain of losing your love one. Much love to the family.

Alice Faye Langley - October 30, 2023 at 10:35 PM

BN

“ Betty Nurse lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.



Betty Nurse - October 30, 2023 at 04:58 PM

EC

“ I extend my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Bishop Marion L. Barnes. May his soul be at peace with God in heaven. May our Lord comfort and strengthen each of you during this difficult time of bereavement. I've known Marion for about 50 years. We worked together for many years at the Burroughs Wellcome Co. site in Greenville, NC. The company name changed several times while we worked there. Marion will be truly missed by many. He will still live on in our hearts as we share his legacy and loving memories. Rest in peace my friend.



Ernest B. Clemons - October 30, 2023 at 01:40 PM

DH

“ Debra Horton lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.



Debra Horton - October 30, 2023 at 12:38 PM

SE

“ Sondra Early sent a virtual gift in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.



Sondra Early - October 30, 2023 at 12:16 PM

BW

“ Ben Wooten- lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.



Ben Wooten- - October 30, 2023 at 11:15 AM

JS

“ Jeffrey Savage lit a candle in memory of Bishop Marion L. Barnes, Sr.



Jeffrey Savage - October 30, 2023 at 10:59 AM

EH

“ *My Thoughts And Prayers Are With The Family*



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**Evangelist Gwen Hudson** - October 30, 2023 at 10:42 AM

CS

“ *Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to express our sincere condolence on the passing of your love one. We light this candle in their memory.*



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**Congleton Funeral Home and Staff** - October 29, 2023 at 06:05 PM

NF

*To the family of my brother and friend. May God bless all of you, May He strengthen & comfort you as only He can*

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**Nat Farrow** - November 01, 2023 at 12:06 PM