



Rev. Earl Richard Bittle

June 7, 1937 - May 21, 2018

Early Monday morning, May 21st, 2018, the Reverend Earl Richard Bittle drew his final breaths and made the journey he'd been shouting about for decades. He passed peacefully while his wife gave him a backrub and he simply fell to sleep. He was born on June 7th, 1937 in Chesterfield, South Carolina. One of eight children, Reverend Bittle is preceded in death by his parents, Pearl Bittle and Fannie Jordan, two sisters Louise Killian and Margie Hodge, and brothers Grover Bittle and Rev. Charles Burris Bittle. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Dixie Lee Ervin Bittle, three brothers; Lloyd Bittle and wife Sheila of Landis, Ray Bittle and wife Maxine of Kannapolis, and Junior Bittle and wife Linda of Kannapolis, four children; Crystal Kelly and husband Wesley of Denver, North Carolina, Sharon Potter and husband Tom of Lowell, Bobby Ray Bittle and wife Megan of Lowell, and Fred R. Bittle of Stanley, seven grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends from 1pm to 2:45pm this Saturday, May 26th, at Lady's Funeral Home in Kannapolis, North Carolina. A funeral service to honor the life of Rev. Bittle will begin shortly after at 3pm and is to be led by Pastor Shannon Williams who will be assisted by Mr. Bruce Cantley.

Reverend Bittle began his work as a Freewill Baptist preacher after first holding a job as a humble millworker, and spending time with the United States Army National Guard. Upon becoming a Veteran, he began studying at Western Piedmont Bible College in Cramerton, North Carolina, from where he graduated June 29th, 1963. Through the course of his 50 plus years in the ministry, he pastored many churches throughout the Carolinas including Homer's Chapel, Boger City Freewill Baptist Church, and Happy Home Freewill Baptist Church. Often working odd jobs while pastoring to support his family and his churches, he still found time to make everyone he met feel welcome and like an old friend. A stranger was never met by Rev. Bittle and anyone who spent time with him would leave a richer person than before. Whether he'd shared a good word or gifted them vegetables grown from one of his several gardens, no one left his presence emptyhanded. He took as much pride in tinkering and fixing things as he did in his greatest accomplishments, which most would say was his ability to touch lives and bring people to a life with the Lord. He worked with passion in all that he did, whether it be delivering a Sunday morning sermon or selling

a Rainbow vacuum cleaner to a stranger and gave the glory to God all along the way. Throughout his nearly 81 years, Rev. Bittle found joy in everything, but mostly in auto mechanics, gardening, cheering on the Atlanta Braves, never passed up a fishing trip, and spending time with his family, especially over a good card game of Rook. His later years were spent still preaching to any and everyone who'd listen, growing lots of tomatoes and cucumbers and squash and corn and green beans for his family and many friends, and watching Hallmark Christmas movies with his wife. Rev. Bittle is leaving a great and lasting legacy in the hearts that he's brought to the Lord and the bellies he's fed from his gardens, sustaining so many physically and spiritually, and he will be greatly missed.

Events

MAY **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:45PM

26

Lady's Funeral Home

268 N. Cannon Blvd., Kannapolis, NC, US, 28083

MAY **Funeral Service** 03:00PM

26

Lady's Funeral Home Chapel

268 N. Cannon Blvd., Kannapolis, NC, US, 28083

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Lady's Funeral Home & Crematory - July 03, 2018 at 08:39 AM



“ Sarah Pendarvis lit a candle in memory of Rev. Earl Richard Bittle



Sarah Pendarvis - May 25, 2018 at 08:17 PM



“ Mueller Die Cut Solutions purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Rev. Earl Richard Bittle.



Mueller Die Cut Solutions - May 24, 2018 at 03:47 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. Earl Richard Bittle.



May 24, 2018 at 12:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Earl Richard Bittle.



May 24, 2018 at 12:49 PM



“ Kathy Hall lit a candle in memory of Rev. Earl Richard Bittle



Kathy Hall - May 23, 2018 at 06:08 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers for the family. Pa Earl I'm so glad I got to meet you. I love to come to y'all family get togethers with Tink. I love to sit and listen to y'all sing the gospel. Pa Earl talk about Heaven and our Jesus. Love you and the family. You will be miss



sandra weatherford - May 23, 2018 at 05:08 PM



“ Rev. Earl Bittle was such a great man that loved the Lord and his family very much! He was always sharing stories about leading people to Christ and his many years (decades) of preaching at several churches. He always said he was going to open another church and preach again. Well, now he has the biggest and best church ever, Heaven. I was so blessed to have been part of his life here on earth. We will miss him dearly, but wouldn't bring him back for a second. Heaven has truly gained an awesome Angel.

Love,
Kimberly Frisbee



Kimberly Frisbee - May 23, 2018 at 05:07 PM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Kathy Hall - May 23, 2018 at 05:03 PM



“ You & your family will forever be in our hearts. <3

Kathy Hall - May 23, 2018 at 06:07 PM