

Service of Celebration
for
BRO. THEODORE GILES
1919-1990



**Thursday, November 29, 1990
3:00 P.M.**

**Fredonia Baptist Church
2711 Fredonia Road
Stanton, Tennessee**

Pastor Robert L. Clarke, Officiating

.....Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparatest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

Tribute from The Family

It's so hard to say goodbye to you. I can't remember a time in my life when you weren't there. And right now it's hard to imagine coming home without finding you there. But you've been through so much pain that we take comfort in knowing your pain is gone and you are now at rest. Lately our visits with you have been shorter and quieter. But they have been no less joyous, because even in your sickness you made us laugh. Perhaps it was the way you could always ask a question--even embarrassing ones that no one else would dare ask. Or sometimes when we thought you were asleep, you would suddenly awaken and join in the conversation, without ever missing a word. And then there were the times when you would just break down and start crying. And when we'd ask what was wrong, you would just answer, "I don't know," or "I'm just so happy." And even though lately you did not always laugh with us, you always brought us joy. We remember and treasure all the happy times we spent with you.

We remember your laughter, your love of teaching, your passion for coon hunting, your hearty appetite, your zest for life, your insistence on having a sample taste of whatever anyone in the room was eating or drinking--even when you knew you weren't supposed to have it, and your unique art of asking questions. Aside from your mastery of asking questions, perhaps the one other thing everyone can agree on is your ability to "supervise"--telling someone else what to do and not being questioned (or "sassed") about it. Sure, we'd talk about it later or when your back was turned, remarking about how you could always find a job for someone to do. But I don't remember that anyone ever challenged you or refused to do just as you asked. After all, you said yourself, "I was a sergent in the army, and I'm used to giving orders."

We remember you fondly, and we remember all the little things about you: your red and white striped Kappa cane, your caps, your socks that you would split at the top to give your legs more room, your purple school jacket, and the way you would pull up your pants legs when you sat down. (We always laughed at your legs and hoped you never heard us.) We also remember how you always had an "extra" announcement to make at church after the clerk gave her report. And you always gave us names and phone numbers of "cousins" to call whenever we were out of town; it didn't matter that we didn't know them and that they probably weren't even related to us.

I guess we never realized how firmly these memories of you were being etched in our minds as we observed you over the years. How could we ever forget you?

We remember how you loved us, even though you occasionally fussed at us. We knew how proud you were of us and how you always talked about our accomplishments. You loved us--as wife, sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great granddaughter, sisters and brothers-in-law, aunts, and uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins, students, fellow church members--all of us. We remember you as Thea, Daddy, Uncle Thea, Bro. Giles, Professor Giles, neighbor, and friend. You have helped us, guided us, loved us, corrected us, chastised us, praised us, taught us. And now you have left us, but only in body for your spirit is yet and will forever be alive. And in time God will fill the void we feel now.

What need have I of baubles,
of silver or gold,
The riches esteemed
by a world growing cold
What need have I of satins
or silk, oh, so fine
When the splendor of Jesus
is already mine.

Obituary

"His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:23). How sweetly these comforting words beckoned Theodore Giles on Saturday morning, November 24, 1990.

Theodore Giles, known affectionately to all as "Thea", was born September 28, 1919 in Stanton, Tennessee to Jesse Cornelius Giles, Sr. and Frances Bonner Giles. He was the oldest of four children, all of whom preceded him in death: Clarence, Jesse Cornelius Jr. and Mildred Delores.

In 1942 Theodore was married to Rose Ola Williamson of Somerville, Tennessee. She has been a loyal, devoted, faithful and caring wife, one who toiled daily during the years of his declining health to make certain he was comfortable and well cared for. To this union one son, Richard Hugh, was born.

Theodore accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior in 1931 at Fredonia Baptist Church. He was a most devoted and faithful member throughout his life. He served as the first Chairman of the church's Annual Homecoming Day and held this position from 1955 to 1989 when his deteriorating health rendered him incapable of serving. He was the first Chairman of the church's Trustee Board and served as a Trustee until his death. He also served as a Deacon from 1963 until his death, serving as Chairman from 1974 to 1988 and as Chairman Emeritus at the time of his death. He worked faithfully with the Choir Union's Annual Christmas Basket program, helping to prepare and deliver food baskets to the sick and shut-in. He was always a frequent visitor to other churches in the surrounding communities.

Theodore completed his early education at Bernard Grammar School in Mason, Tennessee and graduated from Fayette County Training School in 1941. He completed his Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture from Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State University in Nashville, Tennessee in 1950 and his Master's Degree from that same institution in 1976. Theodore entered the United States Armed Forces in 1941 and received an Honorable Discharge in 1945, having earned the rank of Master Sergeant. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Fredonia Masonic Lodge, # 139, Brownsville American Legion Post, # 114, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and a charter member of the Dr. J.W. Evans Elks Lodge, #1559. For fifteen years of his career, Theodore was the vocational agriculture and shop teacher at Douglas Junior High School in Stanton, TN. In 1965 he began teaching at Carver High School where he taught for five years. He began teaching at Haywood County High School in 1970 and remained there until his retirement in 1978. He was known throughout the county, West Tennessee, the state and region as a competent and caring teacher, one who impacted positively on the lives of hundreds of students whom he taught formally and informally. He was known affectionately as "Professor Giles" by hundreds of boys and girls in Haywood County who attended his classes or were otherwise given tasks to perform. Indeed, Theodore was known as one who could quickly assign a task to almost anyone, step back, and supervise the process with the assurance that the job would be done with no questions asked. The task could range from weeding a flower garden, painting a shelf and addressing envelopes, to bringing him a glass of water. The tasks, though sometimes simple, taught obedience and stressed the importance of doing one's work well. He especially enjoyed watching things grow, took pride in his flowers and gardens, had a passion for hunting and enjoyed the successes of his students and family.

In his last years Theodore was confined to his home much of the time and for the last three months was a resident of Crestview Health Care Center in Brownsville, Tennessee. The entire community has missed his vitality and his conversation. He has endeared himself to thousands as a robust, lively and caring friend, neighbor and Christian.

In addition to his faithful wife of forty-eight years, Rose Ola, he leaves a son, Richard Hugh Giles and daughter-in-law, Bernice, their children, Tracie, Derrick and Shawn, and Tracie's daughter, Brandie, all of Nashville, Tennessee. He also leaves a son, Frank Giles and daughter-in-law, Hattie of Memphis, Tennessee and Frank's children, Ann and Frederick of St. Louis, Missouri. Other survivors include a sister, Thelma Maclin of Gallaway, Tennessee; two sisters-in-law, Geraldine Giles of Stanton, Tennessee and Maudeoree Campbell of Somerville, Tennessee; three brothers-in-law, Douglas Williamson of Memphis, Tennessee, Emanuel Williamson of Chicago, Illinois and Allen Williamson of Somerville, Tennessee; two maternal aunts, Sadie Williams and Salina Champion, both of Inkster, Michigan; a maternal uncle, William Barnes of Detroit, Michigan; several nieces and nephews; several great nieces and nephews and many, many cousins, friends and former students.

Order of Service

Musical Prelude Daniel W. Donaldson, II

Processional...

Selection Choir

Scripture Rev. Dwight Sanders, Pastor
Holy Deliverance Church
Brownsville, Tennessee

Prayer Rev. Daniel W. Donaldson, Pastor
Salem Baptist Church
Humboldt, Tennessee

Selection Choir

Reflections

Deacon Board and Sunday School Deacon Fred V. Whitmore
Trustee Board Deacon Logan Boyd, Sr.
Former Student Mr. Larry Cole
Teacher Mr. J.C. Turner
Friend Rev. Joseph Simmons
Family Dr. Francine Giles Madrey

Acknowledgements and Resolutions Sis. Lucy Bolden Mays

Solo Sis. Carstella Conners

Silent Reading of the Obituary Soft Music

Words of Comfort Rev. Noah A. Alexander, Jr., Pastor
Prince of Peace Baptist Church
Memphis, Tennessee

Eulogy Pastor Robert L. Clarke

Recessional...

Musical Postlude Daniel W. Donaldson, II

Casketbearers

Douglas Brewer
Charles Campbell
Houston Clark
Cecil M. Giles

Derrick T. Giles
Frederick Giles
Herschel D. Giles
William Madrey

Honorary Casketbearers

Deacons and Trustees of Fredonia Baptist Church
Haywood County Retired Teachers Association
Brownsville American Legion Post, # 114
Fredonia Masonic Lodge, #139
Wooddale Sportsman Club
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

Flowerbearers

Ushers

Acknowledgements

It is a masterpiece of God's Holy Universe that our friends, colleagues, relatives and fellow Christians can make us feel so strong and so loved at such a time as this. All of us who are a part of the family of Theodore Giles have been deeply blessed by your many thoughtful expressions and acts of caring concern. The warmth of your expressions and the evidences of your love and respect represent a part of the legacy of life. Thank you! May God return to you in full measure the comfort and care which you have given us.

The Family

Interment and Committal Service

Fredonia Memorial Gardens
Mason, Tennessee

Professional Services

Rawls Funeral Home
36 South Jackson Avenue
Brownsville, Tennessee 38012
(901) 772-1472

After Glow

*I'd like the memory of me
to be a happy one*

*I'd like to leave an afterglow
of smiles when life is done*

*I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways
Of happy times, of laughing times
and bright and sunny days.*

*I'd like the tears of those
who grieve to dry before the sun
Of happy memories that I leave
When life is done.*