



Rev. Donald B. Lovelace

March 5, 1945 - May 24, 2024

Rev. Donald B. Lovelace, 79, of Morganton, NC passed away, on Friday, May 24, 2024. He was born on March 5, 1945 in Rutherford County to the late Bonnie and Minnie Buff Lovelace. Donald was a graduate of Salem High School where he played football, basketball, and baseball. It is there that he met the love of his life and wife of 55 years, Patsy. He graduated from Appalachian State Teacher's College with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and Master's Degree in School Administration. Donald served the children of his community through his 28 years of employment with Burke County Public Schools including Mt. View, Chesterfield and Mull Elementary, Central Office, The Alternative School and Table Rock Middle School. However, his true calling was serving his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was ordained into ministry in 1977 and was the pastor of Missionary Ridge Baptist Church for 32 years. He also served the Cowboy Church and several interims after his retirement. Donald always enjoyed being with his family and especially watching his grandkids play sports and supporting their school activities. In his free time, he enjoyed traveling and watching his Carolina Tarheels. Donald was always sharing the love of Jesus Christ to all he met.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sisters, Joye L. Propst, Minnie

L. Poteat, and Frances L. Barnwell; brother, George Lovelace (Donna), brother-in-law, Sexton Dale.

He is survived by his wife, Patsy Saunders Lovelace; daughter, Joy L. Buff (Brad); grandchildren, Brayson, Brenlyn and Jolann Buff; sister, Edith Dale; brother, Louis Lovelace (LaUna); and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 1:30-3pm Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at Missionary Ridge Baptist Church. The funeral will begin at 3pm in the church with Rev. Darren Browning officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

The family would like for him to continue to share about his Jesus through memorial contributions made to Annie Armstrong Love Offering or Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall



Dear Patsy, I'm always late in finding out about things particularly since we don't get papers. I'm so sad to see this about Donald. He was a wonderful principal at Mull and I was glad to work there. Jim and I just watched the video he made of Jeremy Carswell telling the Christmas story.

Jeremy's rendition was adorable and Donald knew what to ask to get more info. I will always think of Donald highly both as a principal but as a pastor that shared his kindness with students. Once we had our first black child transfer to us. He was a kindergartener. Donald wanted to be sure the young man felt comfortable so he took one of Mrs. Bumgarner's boys and some toys and the guys played on the floor of the office for a bit before he came with his new friend to class. He is a gift that God needed to continue the faith. Love, Susan Williams

—Susan Williams

Oh, Patsy! I just now read of Donald's passing. My condolences to you and your family. Donald's was special (and so are you.) I am sure he is excited to reunite with all who entered God's Glory before him. Love you.

—Patricia Simmerer





Donald, Thanks for your friendship and kindness during the loss of our family needs. Your a great blessed man. Brenda

–Brenda Whisenant

Dear Patsy, Joy and family: I was saddened to hear about Donald's passing, but I know he is rejoicing in his heavenly home! I have so many fond memories of Donald as a child. From being my pastor to my principal at Mull Elementary. I never saw him without a smile on his face. He led me to Jesus at age 9, and although I strayed for many years, coming back to Jesus as an adult brought back memories of that day that Donald prayed with me. He was a dear man and mentor to many. I know you all are at peace that only Jesus can give because you know Donald is resting in his eternal home. Love you all! Holly (Tallent) Anderson

–Holly Tallent Anderson

Mr. Lovelace was my elementary principal at Mull. He was always smiling, a fair man and kind towards the students. Great man, that never wanted any special treatment for doing his job.

–Aimee Williams Marler



So, sorry to hear about Donald. It has taken a while for us to realise what has happened. We all send our love, thoughts and prayers and wish we could be there with you.

–May Prior, Selena, Neil and Christopher



–Eric C. Poteat



Patsy, we want you and your family to know how deeply saddened we are for you all. Please know we are keeping you in our prayers. Donald was such a an inspiration to the whole community and will be greatly missed. We love you and your family.



We absolutely loved Donald. Jim had him has a principal and he married us at Missionary Ridge. He was such a kind soul and will be missed very much.

—James and Misty Carpenter

Donald was my pastor, friend & family. He and Patsy We love because they are my sweet thought ful fun loving Christian family as well as my related family... I'm so thankful we are.....Patsy & Donald are not afraid to tell you they love you , they are praying for you .We are keeping Patsy Joy and family in our prayers and I know you will find peace and strength in the Memories and in Our Lord . Patsy & James Roger's

—Patsy & James Roger's

Donald was a fine person. My condolences to his family. May they find peace in God's Love. Mike and Thaxine McGhee

—Mike McGhee

Donald was a wonderful educator, pastor, and person. All who knew him loved him. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

—Ron and Annelle Mulwee



Mrs. Lovelace, We are so blessed that we got to meet & get to know both you & Pastor Lovelace when he came as our interim pastor at First Baptist in Glen Alpine. Both of you quickly became loved members of our church family. I'm sure that God led y'all to us because you were exactly what

we needed as we prepared to accept a new pastor. We loved Pastor Lovelace's messages & how you were such an active part of his ministry. We loved on both of you & you returned it tenfold! We know your loss is great & our hearts ache for you & your family. May God touch all of you with strength & comfort until the time when all of you are together again. Love, Sue & Hubert Howard

–Sue & Hubert Howard



May your light always shine bright Uncle Donald

–Kayla Wilson

Donald was a fine friend and a wonderful pastor. I never knew a better man. I am consoled only because I know where he is and that I will see him again soon.

–Clark Gardner

So sorry to read this. Just saw Don last week at Timberwoods and he seemed to be in better health and even better spirits. I worked with him at Mull and Table Rock schools and sincerely share that he was always a bright spot in my life whenever we met. Peace and Blessings.

–Bo Cash





Sending thoughts and prayers of solace to this loving family.

–Pattie Hollinger



I had the pleasure to meet Don when I went to work for BCPS in 1969. I never saw him without a smile. My deepest condolences to you and the family.

–Kathleen Curtis



To my dearest Patsy, My heart lays heavy. I am praying for you and your family! Donald was always an inspiration to me! He married my parents! He baptized me! He help me get through the death of both of my parents at the ages of 13 and 18! He was an amazing person! A true disciple of Christ the Righteous! I love you Patsy! May God surround you and guide you to brighter days as you walk together!

–Angie Scott

Such a great man . Loved you at Glen Alpine so happy to have enjoyed your message.

–Elaine shook



We wish you peace and comfort in this difficult time. With heartfelt sympathy, We send you love. -Glenn and Cathy

–Glenn & Cathy Slick



I am sorry for your loss. Your family will be in my prayers.

–Patricia A Berry



I remember when I was 5y/o in kindergarten at Mull Elementary, Mr. Lovelace came to talk to me. He had heard about me telling the Christmas story about Jesus to one of my teachers. He ended up wanting to get a video of me telling that story. I remember thinking that was the coolest thing...he set up that huge camcorder Mull had in the library and had me tell the story. I'll always remember how much it meant to me that he wanted to hear what I had to say.

–Jeremiah Carswell



We are so sorry for the family's loss. He will be missed. Sending prayers of comfort to the family. Rosemary and Ryann

–Rosemary and Ryann Gallegos

Prayers for Donald Lovelace, family He was a great, friend of Dad and Mom ,my Dad worked with him at Mull School and he married me and my husband Richard Brown, sending the family lots of prayers.

–Mary Brown

Love and prayers to a precious family , From all your Christian friends at Glen Alpine First Baptist Church. We loved the time he spent with us , he was a special , loving man of God .

–Charles & Debbie Patton



I remember Preacher Lovelace from being my principal at Mull Elementary. Then, later on I attended Missionary Ridge and was married there. He always brought peace to my soul with his inspirational messages. He was a pillar to the community who will be greatly missed. I pray the Lord will comfort his family and friends until we see him again. He has received his crown!

–Debra Clark

Patsy and Family Donald was so loved by me and all of the people at the Ridge. His was a life well lived and of service to the Lord. He has made an indelible mark on me and so many others throughout my life. God sure got a great one on Friday. I know you are heartbroken now but rejoicing at the same time as you know he has finally received the ultimate reward. Love you all. You are in my thoughts and prayers as you navigate life without him.

–Joan Williford

Was a good man. Our church was a small church and we didn't have a baptismal fount when I got baptized at 15 ; he graciously let the 5 of us use his church fount. He also was at Mull Elementary when my little sis was there. Sending our prayers for the family.

–Vickie Lutz

May Gods loving arms give you comfort during these times .. we will continue to pray for you and your family in the days ahead .. Donald was a friend and Pastor to a lot of people including Steve and I .. we loved him and know he's Happy rejoicing with Jesus and walking the streets of gold ! Big Hugs and lots of prayers.. we love you Steve Diane Rhodes

–Diane Rhodes

There are not sufficient words to express my sorrow @ the loss of such a wonderful man so devoted to God and his precious wife. He will be greatly missed.

–Pearson Russell

Pastor Donald was an Absolutely Wonderful Man of God!!!!!!Many Wonderful memories of 5th Sunday Night Singings shared with Missionary Ridge and the other community churches!!!Patsy,you and the family are in my prayers!!Love and hugs and prayers!Lonna

–Lonna Wilson

Prayers going up for everyone Donald Lovelace was such a wonderful person and a wonderful pastor. My mother and I both were baptized by Donald on the same day. He will always hold a special place in my heart.Godspeed

–Mary Clark Dawson



Heaven is rejoicing.

–Brenda Buchanan Bradley

Mr. Lovelace was at Chesterfield Elementary as my principal many years ago. I have fond memories of Mr. Lovelace. Please accept my sincere condolences .

–Bruce Carpenter





We love you Donald! We will meet again.

–Shirley McDaniels



Patsy and family, I was so sad to read of Donald's passing. He was always so special to me and I loved him and his enthusiasm for students and his Lord. I know you will miss him but you have great memories to help carry you through. I love you and will keep you in my prayers. Debbie

–Deborah P Britt

Such a wonderful person. He will be missed!! Until again Donald tell David Johnson hello for me!! Love always Josh

–Joshua Johnson

I just saw on facebook Donald passed. I can't believe Donald is gone. Though I know he is with Jesus, my heart is broken. He was a great pastor, person and friend. My love, thoughts and prayers are with you Patsy and family. RIP Donald.

–Pat Condrey



may you rest in peace. he was a good man and leader

–TIM NORMAN

Praying for Patsy and your family Don is a true friend who I respected very much

