

*Celebrating the Life...*



1945 - 2011

*William  
James Cleveland, Jr.*

**December 30, 2011 | 11:00 a.m.**

C.T. Richards Chapel - Moseley Complex  
*On the campus of*  
Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama

*Officiating Pulpit Host*

**Dr. Timothy McDonald**

*Eulogist*

**Dr. Delbert W. Baker**





**William James Cleveland** was born in Lexington, Kentucky, on June 12, 1945, to the late W.J. and Rita D. (Thompson) Cleveland. The family moved to Seattle, and from there returned to the South where Bill spent his formative years. He attended Oakwood Academy and earned his high school diploma in 1964. Bill later attended Oakwood College and graduated in August, 1969, with a B.S. in Theology.

Bill was the product of strong ministerial leadership. Following graduation from Oakwood, he followed the pattern of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church that was set before him by his father, Elder W.J. Cleveland, and his uncles E.E. and Harold J. Cleveland. Bill pastored churches in the Southwest Region and Allegheny East Conferences. He subsequently moved to Hagerstown, Maryland, to work in the Review and Herald Publishing Association. His years of devotion have been blessed of God and enriched by the many kind friends whom he had known through the years.

While Bill worked at the Review and Herald, his writing and editing skills were developed, preparing him for future employment in the field of publication editing. He was invited to Oakwood University by then president Dr. Delbert Baker, who was Bill's friend and mentor. The years he spent at his alma mater were his most prolific, and he took great pride in the various publications produced through his department. He also assisted in photography while at Oakwood, and captured many of Oakwood's historic events for posterity. He held the position of Publications Editor until his unexpected death on December 22, 2011.

We will certainly miss Bill's congenial, witty demeanor and his love of words "written to perfection." He held the family's Scrabble® championship, along with any other board game that required word construction or thoughtful strategic maneuvering. He maintained a passionate love of classical music and avidly collected hundreds of rich and diverse soundtracks. Bill was somewhat of a loner who went quietly about his life and work, but he always had a special place in his heart for young minds, and authored several articles in the *Junior Guide* and *Insight* periodicals. When the family was able to get together, he always brought money and gifts to pass around to his nephews and nieces, along with his interest in their lives and words of guidance where needed.

Bill is survived by his siblings: two sisters Celia Marie Cleveland-Waddell and Cynthia Elaine Slack, and one brother Paul Richard Cleveland. He was loved greatly by six nieces and nephews: Marcus Waddell, Paul Richard Cleveland II, Sherrie Marie Waddell, Stephanie Denise Allen, William Earl Cleveland, and Ryan Alexander Slack.

We trust God in all things, and, without question, commit the soul of our brother, uncle, and friend to God's keeping. Until then, let us live our lives, each day better than the day before, in anticipation of that wonderful moment when death will be no more and we shall see Bill, transformed and whole again. Our family looks forward to that blessed day when all tears will be wiped from our eyes, and we will gather together around the throne of God in the earth made new where our joy and happiness will have no end.

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## PROGRAM

Entrance of the Family	<i>"Soon and Very Soon"</i>
Congregational Hymn	<i>"Face to Face" #206</i>
Scripture	Dr. Al Booker - First SDA Church, Natchitoches, LA
Prayer	Dr. Sherwin Jack - Mountainside SDA Church, Atlanta, GA
Tribute in Music	Ms. Michele Cleveland (cousin) <i>"I Give You Jesus"</i>
Acknowledgements	Dr. Tim McDonald - Provost, Oakwood University
Tributes	Mr. Tim Allston - Oakwood University Dr. Jennifer Stone - Oakwood University Alumni Association Elder Helvius Thompson - Grace Temple SDA Church, Ft Worth, TX Dr. Al Booker Dr. Ted Smith - Retired Minister, Atlanta, GA Elder Steve Ruff - South Atlantic Conference of SDA Mr. Paul Richard Cleveland (brother) Mr. Harold Cleveland (cousin)
Tributes in Music	Ms. Michele Cleveland <i>"Total Praise"</i>
Eulogy	Dr. Delbert Baker - Vice President, General Conference of SDA
Congregational Hymn	<i>"When We All Get to Heaven" #633</i>
Benediction	Dr. Sherwin Jack

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## Thank You...

*The Cleveland family would like to thank the professional staff at Oakwood University and Royal Funeral Home for their compassionate support. We will always be grateful for those who stepped forward at this time to assist us, and hold us in prayer during this difficult part of our journey. We thank God for your kindness.*

Interment: ***Oakwood Memorial Gardens***  
**Dr. Al Booker**  
**Pastor Helvius Thompson**

Pallbearers: **Deacons of the Oakwood University Church of SDA**

Arrangements entrusted to:



**Royal Funeral Home**  
4215 Oakwood Ave NW  
Huntsville, AL 35810- 4051  
(256) 534-8481

Printed Program:

**Debbe Millet**, Content  
**Jerry B. Ross**, Designer