

Celebrating the Life  
of  
**Bro. Josephus D. West**  
Sunrise Sunset  
December 23, 1917 August 8, 2009



**Saturday, August 15, 2009**  
12:00 Noon

**St. James**  
**Disciple of Christ Church**  
US Highway 421  
Rose Hill, North Carolina

**Rev. Willie James, Jr.; Pastor**

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## LIFE IN RETROSPECT

*"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."* ~ II Timothy 4:7-8

Service is one of the most beautiful and rewarding principles of life. Truly this was a guiding principle for Josephus Daniel West, Sr. who served his generation exceptionally well and then left us all on Saturday afternoon, August 8, 2009, at his home in Rose Hill, North Carolina.

He was the only son born to Julius and Lula Herring West on December 23, 1917. He spent his entire life for the development of his family spiritually, economically, and socially.

Josephus was reared in a loving Christian home with four other siblings where he was taught Christian principles and work ethics. He helped support and nurture his family until his death.

At an early age he saw the necessity of giving his life to Christ and united with St. James Disciple of Christ Church in Rose Hill, North Carolina. From that point until death, he portrayed the characteristics of a Christian gentleman through his kindness, generosity, patience, and tolerance to all mankind. He served as Chairman of the Board of Deacons for many years. During his tenure, he saw many projects completed and much progress towards the general church. He was a strong pillar of the church and community. He gave fully of himself in whatever capacity he served.

In the Delway Highway Community, which he was a proud member, Josephus was instrumental in Sunday School and most activities in the area. He was founder of the Maggie L. Strong Order of Eastern Star, a member of the North Gate #576 Masonic Lodge, and a member of the Cape Fear Consistory #263. His vision of unity developed a strong, loving, and unified community.

In 1940, he was joined in holy matrimony to the late Katie McLaurin. This union was blessed with 38 years of love and happiness. It was also blessed with twelve children; one daughter, Deloris West and one grandson which he raised, Ray Anthony West, preceded him in death.

Josephus started his working career in the late 1920's. During the Depression, he worked various jobs to support his family during these rigid

times. His leadership ability led him into many enterprising facets. In 1947, Joe built the J.D. West Garage which in later years became West Service Station.

His love for mankind and his outreaching personality created many valuable and long-lasting relationships with all people. Josephus has overcome poverty and racism, has worked hard his entire life as a logger, ship builder, farmer, mechanic, land owner, businessman, and community leader. He was truly "one in a million".

Josephus D. West, Sr. leaves a legacy of five generations. He is survived by four sons: Josephus D. West, Jr. and wife Jonetta of Rose Hill, NC, Joseph Randolph West of Rose Hill, NC, Raymond Lloyd West of Rose Hill, NC and Johnnie Coleman West of Marietta, GA; seven daughters: Joan Faison and husband Alex of Rose Hill, NC, Annie Margaret West of Clinton, NC, Kay Sims and husband Wilbert of Raleigh, NC, Marcille Chavis and husband Arthur of Rose Hill, NC, Estella Neely and husband Thomas of Rose Hill, NC, Emma Williams of Rose Hill, NC and Coletha Coston of Virginia Beach, VA; two grandchildren that were raised as daughters: Jacqueline Robinson and husband Derrick of Kuwait, and Kecia West of Durham, NC; thirty-five grandchildren, sixty-six great-grandchildren; twelve great, great-grandchildren; five special foster children: William Murphy, Rev. Isaac Johnson, David Williams, Lula Jones and Gloria Henry; a host of nieces, nephews, many other relatives and friends.



LIFE IN RETROSPECT

MEMORIES