



## Bishop E.J. Reynolds

October 18, 1930 - November 15, 2021

Bishop Reynolds was born Oct. 18, 1930, in Gainesville, Georgia, to Bonnell and Maude Reynolds and was reared in the Gainesville Mill Village and the rural Springway Community.

He felt the call to preach at an early age and first read the Bible through at the age of 8. During his boyhood he frequently skipped school and spent the day in the woods preaching to the trees, which became a humorous anecdote in his sermons after he went into the ministry. In 1947, he married Violet Lee Appling, a preacher's daughter from Gainesville, and continued studying for the ministry by, among other things, memorizing vast amounts of scripture and practicing his own sermons alone in his father-in-law's church. In 1950, at the age of 19, he ran his first revival (at the Church of God in Canton, Georgia) and from then for the next 60 years he was never without a place to preach.

He became an ordained minister in the Church of God (Cleveland, TN) and pastored churches from 1953 through 1995 in Georgia, Louisiana, Alabama and Florida. Along the way, he served as State Overseer for Wisconsin and Northern New England; served on the Board of Directors for the Lee University School of Theology; was the pastor of the Alabama City Church of God, now known as Cathedral of Praise from 1970 to 1982; he conducted radio programs for many years, debated bible subjects with other denominations, authored two books ("Echoes of Evangelism and "Covenant

with God”), wrote many more articles of publication; and preached 47 Camp Meetings and hundreds of revivals in more than 30 states.

Bishop Reynolds was predeceased by his first wife Violet Appling, daughter Renda Abercrombie, son Fred Richard Reynolds, stepson, Lewis “Barney” Barnard and great-granddaughter Caitlyn LeeAnn.

He is survived by his wife of 19 years Mae Bellew Reynolds of Rainbow City, son Randall (Sherry) Reynolds of Lafayette, LA, daughter-in-law Laura Hinton Reynolds of Senoia, GA, daughters Ronda Reynolds of Atlanta, Ramonda Reynolds of Gadsden, Renee Reynolds of Covington, LA, and step-daughter Sandra Peterson of Rainbow City; plus 15 grandchildren, 2 step-grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, 2 step great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 12:30 to 2:00 PM on Thursday, November 18, 2021, at City Church, 4017 Rainbow Dr. Rainbow City, AL 35906. Funeral services will follow at 2 PM.

Pastor Doug Baker, Dr. Mark Williams & Bishop Don Glenn will officiate. Grandsons and Great-grandsons of Bishop Reynolds will serve as pallbearers.

Village Chapel Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Forrest Cemetery

Gadsden, AL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 18. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

City Church  
Rainbow City, AL

## Service

NOV 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

City Church  
4017 Rainbow Dr.  
Rainbow City , AL 35906

# Tribute Wall



“ Village Chapel Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Bishop E.J. Reynolds



Village Chapel Funeral Home - November 18, 2021 at 03:07 PM

CR

“ Bro. Reynolds was a wonderful pastor at Shepherd's Fold COG in Covington. He was very intelligent and highly respected. He would quote from memory entire chapters from the Bible while delivering his sermons. He was simply amazing. He loved all people, and he was loved. I truly miss him.



Cynthia Neighbors Ricks

Cynthia Neighbors Ricks - July 03, 2025 at 11:05 PM

JA

“ All my love and prayers. Bishop Reynolds made a lasting impact upon my life, as he believed in me as a young Servant of the Lord. I am forever grateful for the opportunities he gave me to serve his beautiful congregation and his heart to bring others to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior. And now, at last, he is looking upon THE ONE that he loved and served. "To be absent from the body is to be PRESENT WITH THE LORD."

Jana Alcorn - November 20, 2021 at 02:23 PM



“ He will forever be my Pastor. He became my Pastor in the first years of marriage. He was such a good Shepard in every way. I am blessed that my oldest was able to sit under his preaching. His knowledge of the word was astounding to say the least. He was a walking Bible and could quote hours of scripture. He has left his handprint on my life forever . I loved him. May you all be comforted in knowing how great his legacy and contribution to the Kingdom was. Rest high with your Violet, Renda and now Rick. Prayers for sweet Mae, love her so, prayers for all the family as well.

Katen Reed - November 17, 2021 at 03:12 PM



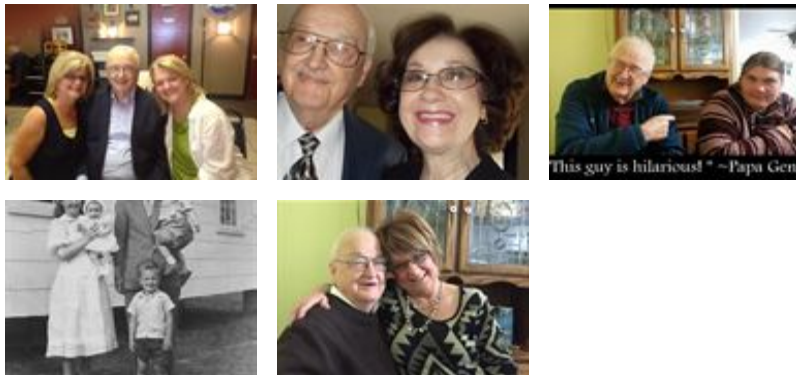
“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Bishop E.J. Reynolds.



November 17, 2021 at 02:23 PM



“ 63 files added to the album Life Tributes



Village Chapel Funeral Home - November 17, 2021 at 11:10 AM

RR

“ 41 files added to the album Memories Album



Randall Reynolds - November 16, 2021 at 07:31 PM

RS

“ Dear Reynolds kids and Mae, so sorry we won't be able to be with you to celebrate the life and homegoing of Papa Gene. We love you all and will be praying for peace and comfort for you all.

Rhonda Barker Smith - November 16, 2021 at 05:28 PM

KT

“ My prayers are with your sweet family. I loved Brother EJ as we called him in our church. He baptized me as a young teen and ministered to me in some of the most difficult times of my life. I loved him, Mrs Violet and all of his children. What a blessing and legacy he has left to you. May God comfort as only he can.

Kim Cornutt Thompson - November 16, 2021 at 02:38 PM

HG

What an awesome man of God. I am sure he is in Heaven, praising God and Quoting scripture. He was the best!

Harriet Barker Gaudet - November 16, 2021 at 05:22 PM



*My dad never met a stranger. <https://reynoldswriter.blogspot.com/>*

---

**Randall Reynolds** - November 17, 2021 at 10:20 AM