

Elder James Williams, Jr.

Pastor of High Springs COGBF

Superintendent Emeritus, Gainesville District COGBF



Elder James Williams was born in Monticello, Florida on October 21, 1929. At a very young age he moved to High Springs, Florida to live with his aunt and uncle, Mr. & Mrs. James Williams. In 1947 he married Miss Cora Lee Wilson from Tallahassee, Florida. To this union, eleven (11) children were born; two are deceased. Mother Cora Williams passed on March 11, 2015. Elder Williams married Elizabeth Law on August 15, 2015.

Elder Williams was educated in the Alachua County School system. After graduating he worked for Phifer Lumber Company in High Springs, Florida for approximately four years. When the company closed, he accepted a job with the Atlantic Coastline Railroad. After working with Atlantic Coastline for five years Elder Williams decided to start his own business as a carpenter, electrician and plumber. The Lord blessed the business and Elder Williams became a master of his craft. His work became well known among the county and city inspectors. Many would ask “*who did the work?*” And when his name was mentioned they would say, “*I know it’s done correctly.*” Elder Williams takes this same pride in his walk with Jesus Christ, preaching, teaching and sharing the gospel with others.

In 1948, during a revival meeting at Alachua Church of God by Faith (COGBF), Elder Williams accepted the Lord as his personal Savior. After receiving Christ, he became a member of High Springs COGBF under the leadership of Elder John Henry Reid until his death in 1950. He faithfully served as Deacon and Sunday School Superintendent. It was obvious even at this time that Elder and Mother Williams were chosen instruments of God. God wonderfully touched their lives as he prepared them for a greater work.

In 1954 the Lord called Elder Williams to preach the Gospel. He was appointed interim pastor of High Springs COGBF in 1955 after the passing of Elder E.T. Taylor. In December of 1955 Elder Williams was ordained by the General Counsel of the COGBF, Inc. Fairbanks COGBF was his first pastorate appointment; he served there faithfully for nine years. He has pastored eight churches on the Gainesville District (GD). No matter where Elder Williams was assigned to pastor, he always used his gift of carpentry to improve the appearance and condition of the churches, hardly ever receiving any pay for the work. He built new sanctuaries in Williston, Newberry and High Springs.

In December 1969 Elder Williams was appointed Superintendent of the Gainesville District by the General Council of the COGBF, Inc. At this time, the GD had a total of twenty-two (22) churches which he oversaw until 1989. In 1989, the Florida Districts were reorganized and five (5) churches were reassigned to the newly formed Palatka District. Elder Williams has served in this office for 44 years. Under his leadership two missions (*Lake City and Tallahassee*) and two churches (*Lake Butler and Starke*) were added to the GD. In addition, every church on the District has been renovated and/or new edifices constructed; this also includes the five churches transferred to the Palatka District.

In December 1990 Elder Williams was appointed pastor of High Springs COGBF. He continues to faithfully preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God has blessed Elder Williams with much wisdom and understanding of *HIS* Word. The year of 2014 marks 60 years of preaching and 58 years of pastoring. Elder and Mother Williams continue to be vessels fit for the Master's use as they complete the special work God called them to do more than ten years ago at High Springs COGBF.

In June 2001 at the Greater COGBF in Jacksonville, Florida District Elder James Williams along with several other COGBF Superintendents received a Doctorate Degree in Philosophy from Faith Bible College.