



Dr. David C. Blair

October 1, 1964 - March 21, 2021

David Blair Obituary

Dr. David Carlton Blair, International Director of Youth and Discipleship (previously Youth & Christian Education) for the Church of God, passed away on Sunday, March 21, 2021 in a Chattanooga, TN hospital at the age of 56. Born in Dothan, AL on October 1, 1964 to Charles and Jo-Ann Blair, David was raised in South Georgia. A true pastor's kid, David's early years were defined by serving with his parents in local church ministry. At a young age, David displayed extraordinary musical ability and took every opportunity to play his bass guitar.

After high school, David went to Lee College (now Lee University) on a music scholarship. He graduated from Lee in 1986, earning a Bachelor of Science in Bible & Christian Education. After completing his undergraduate studies at Lee University, David continued his formal education at the Pentecostal Theological Seminary, where he received a Master of Divinity degree, and then obtained a Doctorate of Ministry (D.Min) from Columbia International University in 2003.

After marrying his college sweetheart, Janet Knight Blair, on August 25, 1984, David and Janet formally began their ministry in March 1985, first serving as youth pastors at LaFollette (TN) Church of God. Their next stop on the road of youth ministry took the couple to North Cleveland Church of God in Cleveland, TN where David and Janet served as youth pastors for nine years. During this time, David was part of the early planning of Winterfest. Since then, he has been heavily involved in the growth and success of Winterfest which has become one of the Church of God's largest and most impactful annual events. In 1993, he became an Ordained Bishop in the Church of God.

Recognizing his giftedness as a leader, Church of God Youth & Christian Education appointed David to serve a dual role as State Director of Youth and Christian and Evangelism Director for the state of Arkansas in 1994. After four years, he left to serve the state of Kentucky in the same capacities from 1998-2000. In 2000, the Blair family

transitioned to the Delmarva-DC area where David served as Director of Youth & Christian Education. In late 2004, David and his family moved back to Cleveland where he began a four-year appointment in the Church of God Youth and Christian Education Department, serving as International

Youth Ministries Coordinator. David's final appointment as a State/Regional Youth Director came in 2008 when he returned to South Georgia for four years prior to his election to the Assistant International Director's position in 2012. David has been a resident of Cleveland, TN for the past nine years, having been elected to his current position at the Church of God General Assembly in 2016. Tenure limitations would have completed Blair's service as International Director in 2020, however, postponement of the Church of God General Assembly last summer due to the Covid-19 pandemic extended his leadership until 2022.

David was preceded in death by his mother, Jo-Ann Carlton Blair, who passed away in July 2020. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Janet Knight Blair, of Cleveland, TN; daughter, Brittani Blair, of Dothan, AL; son, Bruce (KaLea) Blair, and grandson, David Charles Blair, all of Cleveland, TN. He is also survived by his father, Rev. Charles Blair, of Adel, GA; sister, Mollie (Brett) Jarriel, of Valdosta, GA; nephew, Aaron (Caitlin) Jarriel and great-niece, Nova Grace of Concord, NC; niece, Blaire Ashley (Hunner) Ragan, of Valdosta, GA; and niece, Chloe Jarriel, of Valdosta, GA.

A Remembrance of Life celebration will take place on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the North Cleveland Church of God, 335 11th St., NE, Cleveland, TN. Friends will be welcomed to the sanctuary to pay tribute prior to the service, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Social distancing protocols will be followed and masks are required. A private graveside ceremony will follow the service with Allen Shephard, Jonathan Kerley, Phil Pearson, Shea Hughes, Josh Bowyer Sr., Jerry Rewis, Craig Mosgrove and Adam Baird serving as active casket bearers. Honorary casket bearers will be Dale and Louise Duke, Eddie, Shirley and Richie Richeson, Dave and Lynn Bowyer, Randy and Diane Lane, Rick and Steve Hyde, Ray Hopkins, Ed and Teresa Brown, Fred and Cindy Smith, Stephen and Janice Darnell, Mark and Kim Knight, Dana Swain, Danny Sweat, Alan and Kathy Hall, B. J. and Carrie Davis, Andy Hughes, Bill and Lisa Harrison, Art and Angie Rhodes, Hubert and Kathy Seals, Smoky Mountain Winterfest Steering Committee and Crew Members, 1985-Present, Lafollette Church of God Soul Patrol Youth Group, 1985-1987 and the North Cleveland Church of God Power Source Youth Group, 1987-1994.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made to the "Dr. David Carlton Blair Ministerial Scholarship Fund," ATTN: Church of God Youth and Discipleship, 2490 Keith Street, Cleveland, TN, 37311.

Jim Rush Funeral and Cremation Services North Ocoee Chapel has charge of the

arrangements. You may share your condolences and your memories with the Blair family at <http://www.jimrushfuneralhomes.com>.

Cemetery

Sunset Memorial Gardens

Cleveland, TN,

Events

MAR 25 **Remembrance of Life** 02:00PM

North Cleveland Church of God
335 11th St NE, Cleveland, TN, US, 37311

Comments



“ It is with a profound sense of loss that I come to say that David's untimely passing also provides hope for an eternal future through his relationship with the Lord, which was authentic and deeply personal. His legacy is more powerful than every sense of loss, which almost everyone throughout the Church of God globally shares in.

Carl and Beverly Richardson

Carl Richardson - March 31 at 11:38 AM



“ Even though we were "no bodies", David and Janet always treated us like we were "somebodies". Janet and family, know that we are grieving with you. Ken and I love you and we are praying for you.

Lynn DeLoach

Lynn DeLoach - March 26 at 08:05 AM



“ A true man of God that has left such a rich legacy. Prayers for the family...

Mark Watson - March 25 at 04:11 PM



“ Randy & Gina VanMetre purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dr. David C. Blair.



Randy & Gina VanMetre - March 24 at 11:33 PM



“ Treasure the great times in DelMarVa-DC! Our prayers are with you..

Carlton Cannon - March 24 at 11:22 PM



“ My condolences to the family of Brother Blair. Although I never meet him personally I have heard many great things said about his Ministry!
As a neighbor to Bruce, it is obvious he was a great Father to his Children and Grandson!
My prayers for comfort during this time.
Take comfort in knowing that you will have a homecoming with him in Heaven one glad day!

Kevin Cranfield

Kevin Cranfield - March 24 at 10:56 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. David C. Blair.



March 24 at 09:08 PM



“ Sis Janet, Brittani, Bruce & family:

We were truly saddened to hear of Brother David's passing. He has been a great Youth leader for the Church of God and will definitely be missed! We are praying for you; asking God to surround you with His love, comfort and peace.

Bobby & Carol Majors
Arkansas



Bobby & Carol Majors - March 24 at 08:38 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. David C. Blair.



March 24 at 08:03 PM



“ Our heartfelt prayers and thoughts are with the entire family! We are certainly sad here, but over there, hearts are forever glad!
Our memories are precious and many!
God bless each of you.

Joseph and Vicky Crumley

Joseph & Vicky Crumley - March 24 at 06:41 PM



“ My earliest memory of Bishop Blair was the survivor youth camp of Delmarva-DC. They needed counselors for the junior camp coming in behind the teen camp and Bishop Blair came to me and asked me if I would do it. I was hesitant but he had a way of making you grow past your barrier that you would put up and become something more.

Throughout the next several years not only did I attend camp but I also counseled for years to follow. The many hours that I spent with him learning many aspects of ministry still thrive within my ministry now and those memories I hold tight to. I can't express how I feel about his loss because him Sister Janet, Brittany and Bruce were like extended family to me, especially my freshman year at Lee University. No matter what he was approachable and he always would make time for everyone but most of all family.

As the years grew apart and I moved back home I would see him from time to time at OCMD Winterfest and it would always bring back memories. He was a spiritual uncle and the family an extended family.

To the family, my wife Amanda and I are praying for you all and know that our church is also praying. We can't imagine the feelings that you are going through but we know that our God is a God of comfort. He is there with you at this moment and He will continue to be with you all past this time as well. We love you all



Rob Groves - March 24 at 06:03 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. David C. Blair.



March 24 at 05:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. David C. Blair.



March 24 at 05:48 PM



“ Our hearts are broken. It is so hard to believe that David is no longer with us physically. He will always be with us in fond memories. He epitomized a great husband, father, grandfather, friend and spiritual leader. He will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with Janet and the family. Lamar and Vickie Vest

Lamar Vest - March 24 at 05:45 PM



“ There are way too many memories to share. I just know your David and the entire family has made such an Impact on mine. Your David & Janet were amazing Youth Directors and my fondest memories of KYC aren't when I was camper but rather when I worked camp with your David & Janet. They were the best years of KYC and the biggest Camps we ever have had. David & Janet always made everyone feel like they were important and made a difference. David Blair we be missed by everyone and it will be a challenge to continue on his work. However I know God always has a plan and will never let His people down. We are praying for Janet, Brittni and the entire family. May the Peace without understanding surround them during this difficult time.

Love,
Mark, Kim & Kaitlyn Knight

Mark Knight - March 24 at 05:27 PM



“ Tim, Tara, & Nadia Conner lit a candle in memory of Dr. David C. Blair



Tim, Tara, & Nadia Conner - March 24 at 05:17 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. David C. Blair.



March 24 at 03:53 PM



“ Nadine Conner lit a candle in memory of Dr. David C. Blair



Nadine Conner - March 24 at 02:37 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. David C. Blair.



March 24 at 11:32 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. David C. Blair.



March 24 at 06:53 AM



“ Janet and family,

You have been in our prayers since we learned David was sick and even more so for strength for you and your children after we learned that David had received his ultimate healing. Our hearts are broken for you as we were honored to meet you both during our time at Lee College.

We are praying for peace that passeth all understanding and that you will feel our Heavenly Father's loving arms encircling you throughout the coming days.

Jeff has reminisced about his and David's years serving as RA's in Medlin Hall and about them telling the RD at the same time that neither would be returning for the school year beginning in August of 1894, since you and David were getting married August 25th and Jeff and I were getting married September 1st. Although our paths rarely crossed after graduation it was always a pleasure to see David's smiling face when we would bring youth groups to Winterfest in Gatlinburg in the mid-late 80's after he began working on the Winterfest committee.

Janet, you will remain in our thoughts and prayers. What a reunion that awaits us all in Heaven with our family, loved ones and friends.

Jeff and Melanie Miller

Jeff and Melanie Miller - March 23 at 09:36 PM



“ Our love and prayers for you Janet and your family! Only God can give you the comfort you need in this great time of loss in your life! We do know we will see him again soon! David was a true servant of God taken way too soon but our God will sustain you and your family.

Ken & Faye Boyd - March 23 at 08:02 PM