



Rev. Billy Mack Shoffner

December 29, 1929 - December 9, 2020

On December 9, 2020, Bro. Billy Mack Shoffner won the race God set before him at his birth in a sharecropper cabin on December 29, 1929 in Rosalie, TX. Dad crossed the finish line of his endurance Run for Jesus with a finishing time of 90 years and 346 days. Cheering him on from the winner's circle were Papaw and Mamaw Shoffner (J. Horace and Florence Keith); Papaw and Mamaw Williams (Leonard C. and Agnes Eudy); and brothers, Uncle J.D. and Uncle Leon Shoffner, along with a winning host of other family and believers who had been introduced to Jesus during Dad's race.

Cheering him on from this side of the finish line are our Mom, Betty Shoffner; us kids, Mike, Becky Eubank and David and their spouses; Dad's sister JoAnn Pool; and more, still running, family and believers following Jesus and drawing strength from Dad's example of steadfast faith and relationship with our heavenly Father. Mom joined Dad in this race June 12, 1954 and they've celebrated over 66 years of marriage, life blessings and family. Dad's grandkids (Mark, Jason, Doug, Holley, Jonathan, Jessica, Crystal, Matthew, Daniel, and Teresa) and great-grandkids (Reese, George, Wynne, Ridley, Cooper, Aisley, Eden, Ivey, Branton, Dylan, Jaeda, Tarynn, Takoda, Harley, Jaxson, Shelby, Kevin, London, Kit, Devin, Jayden, and Alexandra) were his special jewels, and although he didn't get to see them as much as he preferred, he never tired of praying for their salvation, their protection or for their blessings.

Dad's race was blessed with many milestones, but his life-changing moment

was when he said, “Forgive me.” From that point, Dad’s focus in life was to personally draw closer to the Father and to share the redemptive love of our Savior Jesus with any with an ear to hear. Dad picked up the torch and ran for the next 66 years carrying the Light of the Gospel from that first sermon delivered in a small country church in Bogota, TX in 1954 to his last prayer where he never ceased to give voice to and “...praise to the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.” (Eph 1:6)

After early pastorships in Bogota, Wellington, Kilgore, and Beckville, Dad and Mom found their “flock” in Carthage, TX in 1961. With a handful of faithful families meeting initially in a home and the old Esquire theater, they launched “Northside Assembly” as the predecessor to today’s Northside Christian Center (NCC). Mike, Becky, and I had the privilege of growing up at Northside under the wings and watchful eyes of faithful saints who became our adopted and extended family.

In 1965, Dad started the KGAS radio broadcast that Pastor Aaron continues and in 1974 NCC started routine trips and sponsorship of El Rancho Del Rey Boy’s Ranch, which also continues. In 1985 Dad put his vision for Christian-supported education into action – with the support of the NCC believers, Northside Christian Academy launched. NCA has now provided a Christian environment and education for a multitude of students and first-generation students are now watching their children attend and benefit from this vision. Dad wasn’t simply committed to NCC over the years. He sincerely believed in the one-body of Christ and lived out that belief by serving the Carthage, Panola county, and East Texas communities and fellow pastors in organizations like the Panola County Ministerial Alliance, and as a founding member of the East Texas Pastors’ Fellowship and the East of the River Pastors’ Fellowship.

In 2001, Dad passed his pastoral mantle of Northside Christian Center to Pastor Aaron after 40 years of service to NCC family of believers as he stepped into “retirement”. With all the “free time” on his hands, Dad’s heart and attention shifted to the young pastors and people of Nicaragua where

between 1999 and 2014, he was instrumental in helping to build 35 churches and a medical clinic in under-served communities. Meanwhile, Panola Baptist Church needed a pastor. After a “temporary” support effort of 12 years, Dad “retired” again to write four books.

It was so cool growing up in this safe place while also watching and learning as my Dad grew spiritually along the route of his race. From late night knocks on the door, I learned that taking someone to the store for food and gas is a wiser choice than simply providing money. I learned as my Dad learned that although we are instantly redeemed and accepted as sons and daughters, we often need the lessons of the desert to teach us obedience and how to drop the chains of slavery formed during our years of captivity – hopefully not 40yrs of the desert!

My Dad taught me that just because I made a bad decision or acted poorly, he didn’t stop loving me and I was still his son. Likewise, the Father doesn’t cast us out of relationship because we had a bad day. As our own fear, guilt, and condemnation fades away, the Holy Spirit can then free us from applying these same judgements to our brothers and sisters, allowing us to apply patience and love as it has been granted to us. I watched him learn that the blood of the Lamb washes us all as pure as snow and makes us all brothers and sisters in Christ...and long before any specific “lives mattered”, I watched him learn that ALL lives matter to the Father, who gave His only Son – if they matter so much to Him, they had better matter to us too!

And so, speaking of lives that matter, Dad had one project that he had hoped to see completed before he passed – the NCA Billy and Betty Shoffner Christian Education Center. Just as Dad laid up heavenly treasures as his “investments” over the years, one of his last requests was that you invest in the eternal – the hearts and souls of the young people this activity center will support.

Finally, the Shoffner family would like to say a heartfelt “Thank You!” to the entire HeartsWay Hospice team, with a very special thanks to Ms. Tiff, Ms.

Alecia, Ms. Amy, Ms. Angela, Ms. Shelby, Ms. Bobbie, Ms. Carolyn, and Ms. Gale; and his sitter Ms. LaShaun for the loving care they provided to Dad during his final months and days.

Funeral services will be 3:00 p.m., Sunday, December 13, 2020 at Northside Christian Center with Rev. Aaron Bequette and Rev. Terry Holland officiating. Burial will follow in Antioch Cemetery under the direction of Hawthorn Funeral Home. The family will receive friends at 2:00 p.m., one hour prior to the service at Northside Christian Center. Those unable to attend the service are invited to view the live stream on the Northside Christian Center Youtube website.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Northside Christian Academy, Attn: Billy & Betty Shoffner Christian Education Center at <https://www.northside-online.org/give> and to HeartsWay Hospice at <http://www.heartswayhospice.org/about/donate/>.

In closing, one reminder of our guaranteed inheritance from one of Dad's favorite books: "11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

(Eph 1:11-14 NKJ)

See you soon Dad – it's only a little while!

Cemetery Details

Antioch Cemetery

345 CR 405
Carthage, TX 75633

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

Northside Christian Center
414 N. St, Mary
Carthage, TX

Service

DEC 13. 3:00 PM (CT)

Northside Christian Center
414 N. St, Mary
Carthage, TX

Tribute Wall



“ *Hawthorn Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. Billy Mack Shoffner*



Hawthorn Funeral Home - December 11, 2020 at 05:56 PM

DP

What a wonderful family -

Don Ransom & Paula - December 13, 2020 at 06:20 PM

GL

“ *Sending prayers and hugs to a very special family from Randy & Geneva LaGrone*



Geneva LaGrone - December 13, 2020 at 08:45 PM

LM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with each of you.*



Linda moore - December 13, 2020 at 07:41 PM

CG

“ *Bro. Billy will always have a space in our hearts one swell man Cecil and Tommie Griffith*

Cecil Griffith - December 13, 2020 at 06:33 PM

BH

“ *Bryan & Jessica Heim lit a candle in memory of Rev. Billy Mack Shoffner*



Bryan & Jessica Heim - December 12, 2020 at 12:34 PM



“ *Family and friends of Reverend Shoffner y'all are in my thoughts and prayers. I'm not absolutely positive, but almost that my Great Grandmother Ettie Blanch Hudson (Fowler - Dailey) was a member of Rev. Billy Mack Shoffner' s Church in Carthage. I remember the name Shoffner very well growing up. She died from smoke inhalation in a apartment house in Carthage in the late 70's or early 80's.*



Shellia Rayborn - December 11, 2020 at 11:25 PM

BE

Ma Dailey was like a second grandmother to Mike and I. I remember her funeral service and how hard it was for Dad, we loved her dearly!!

Becky Shoffner Eubank - December 13, 2020 at 12:22 AM

BK

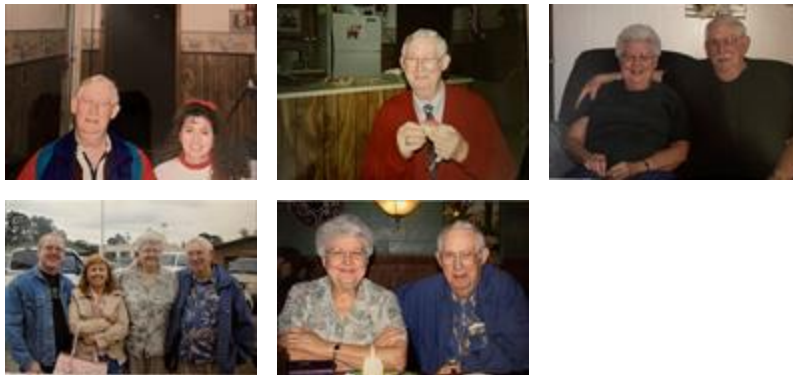
“ Prayers and love to a loving family for all the days to come. Thank you to each who played a role in this wonderful pastor’s year’s of bringing such an anointing to God’s Word. Our forever Pastor.



Barbara Kruebbe - December 11, 2020 at 10:53 PM

AD

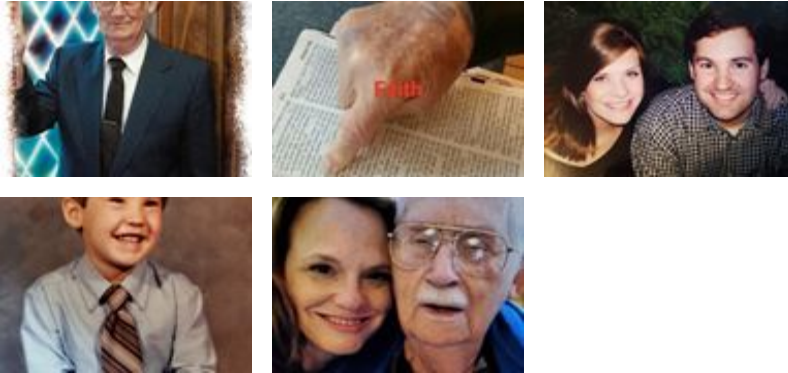
“ I love that brother Billy baptized my son, Nathan. Brother Billy showed us who God is in everything he did. (The way he worshiped, the way he spoke of others, the way he loved people, the way he lead, the way he preached, the way he carried himself) I am eternally grateful for the influence his life was and is on my family! Brother Billy always said that as soon as he gets to heaven he would be dancing a jig! Even though we are sad, this makes me smile.



Andrea Sonier Davis - December 11, 2020 at 06:48 PM



“ 84 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hawthorn Funeral Home - December 11, 2020 at 05:32 PM

DP

“ I shall always be grateful to Bro. Billy for the wisdom he shared and the example he showed. Just a while and we shall all be able to shout the Victory around the throne of God. Jesus's loving hand is holding the family - rejoice - for we are Loved.
Paula & Don Ransom

Don Ransom & Paula - December 11, 2020 at 02:28 PM

JM

James and Barbara McDaniel
Our condolences to Brother Billy's family! He fought a good fight, he kept the faith, now his reward is granted. Thank God for the "light" of Bro. Billy's everyday life.

James & Barbara McDaniel - December 13, 2020 at 08:43 PM

LB

“ Betty, Mike, Becky and David,

When I think of Brother Billy, I'm reminded of what a faithful servant is. He was an extraordinary example of what it means to let go and live your purpose. Not only was he humble, selfless and obedient to word of God, but also an immensely knowledgeable mentor for so many people. To be in his presence and receive his teachings was a privilege, and I feel honored to have been one of the chosen ones. If anyone deserves to enter heaven, Brother Billy you are there. I love you all so much!

Sis

laurel baraczek - December 11, 2020 at 12:55 PM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Billy Mack Shoffner.



December 11, 2020 at 09:57 AM

AB

“ Ali, Mike, Nick And Evan Bryan lit a candle in memory of Rev. Billy Mack Shoffner



Ali, Mike, Nick and Evan Bryan - December 11, 2020 at 08:45 AM

AB

We love Bro. Billy, Betty, Mike, Becky and David. I have great memories of us all through the years growing up together. Y'all were not just the Pastor and kids, but family. I know you will miss him, but knowing he is in our Heavenly Fathers arms will bring you great comfort and peace.

*Our hearts are saddened for your loss and we love you dearly.
Ali, Mike, Nick and Evan Bryan*

Ali, Mike, Nick and Evan Bryan - December 11, 2020 at 09:05 AM

FT

“*Mike, Becky, your Mom. I am sorry to hear of your Daddy passing. What a wonderful tribute to a great man. I have heard over the years lives that Bro. Billy has touched. My nephew went to North Side. I feel he is a better man and his love for our Lord is undending. May our loving Father comfort you at this time.*

Frances & Amon

Frances Turner - December 11, 2020 at 08:26 AM

HH

“*HeartsWay Hospice lit a candle in memory of
Rev. Billy Mack Shoffner*



HeartsWay Hospice - December 11, 2020 at 08:23 AM

VB

“*Praying for the family & all the many friends.
He will be missed by so many . He left a
lasting impression for all those who knew &
loved him* ❤️



Vicki Barker - December 11, 2020 at 08:09 AM

SG

“ *David, Thought very highly of your Dad. My condolences to you, your Mom and the rest of the family. God Bless you all.*

Steve Garrett - December 10, 2020 at 08:19 PM

KE

“ *Please accept my condolences to a great friend. Thank you for your time with all who you touched. RIP Bro Billy*



Keith - December 10, 2020 at 08:02 PM