

In Loving Memory of



David N. Willis

Sunrise
September 5, 1926

Sunset
April 5, 2022

Service:
Sunday, May 8, 2022 - 10:00 am

Victory S.D.A.

1271 Burke Avenue • Bronx, New York 10469

Pastor Jeff Jefferson, Officiating

Obituary

David Nathaniel Willis, known as Tailor, Daddy, Uncle D., and Brother D. was born on September 5, 1926, in the small rustic but tranquil district of Bryan Ridge nestled in rural Saint Andrew Jamaica West Indies. He was the first of eight children born to Clara Smith and Exalee Willis who were farmers. He attended the Halls Delight All-Age School for his early education. He attended school in Jamaica at a time when educational opportunities were limited in rural areas, and he was not from a family of means.

As a young man, David often helped his parents with farming but like many young men during that time, David eventually went to Kingston from the country to broaden his horizons and sought employment opportunities. He landed his first job in Kencot in St Andrew parish with a family member. From there he went on to work at a Dairy factory in Kingston. Always on the move, the industrious David decided to learn how to be a tailor as it was important to have skills when you did not have educational opportunities at that time. He didn't just learn the trade, but he also unselfishly taught his cousin and his younger brother how to be tailors too when they came to Kingston.

As he was the first person to come to Kingston in his family, David was instrumental in helping his mother when she moved to Kingston with his younger siblings. He helped his mother and siblings adjust to city life in Kingston and played a father figure role to his siblings and helped support them in many ways. Most of all he showed them love, kindness, and respect. David once said, "I'm the leader of the pack and I have to live a life of example for these children so they would not go astray..." and that he did very well. As his siblings got older, they were able to take care of themselves.

He eventually met a fine young lady named Miss Daisy and started a family. From that union, he had two children Oswald (Danny) and Hyacinth. Wanting to expand his horizons and seek new opportunities, David went to Bermuda for a few years to work and eventually returned to Jamaica and resided in Tower Hill in Kingston. He worked at the Agricultural Marketing Corporation (AMC) where he had a small store selling livestock feed while continuing to apply his trade as a tailor. He later had two more sons, Clifton and Dennis. Due to political unrest, he moved to Waterford, Portmore St Catherine in the 1980's.

His life in Waterford was an interesting one as he was active in his surrounding community where people came to him for advice on family matters or family conflicts. He was like a village lawyer. He was highly regarded by his neighbors because he was an ardent believer in justice and

the rights of the common man. People enjoyed talking with him because he was an entertaining talker, especially if it had to do with current events and politics. He was always well informed of the current affairs and the politics of the day and read the newspaper almost every day. He spoke as if he was a university graduate although he never attended one. He was also an ardent believer in everything Jamaican and versed in the early political history of Jamaica as he was born before Jamaica became independent in 1962.

In 1992 he migrated to the United States to start another exciting chapter of his life, where he joined his daughter and son. Even though others his age had retired, David remained active, working as a security guard earning a living. He continued to keep abreast of events happening in New York City, Jamaica, and wherever there was a world crisis. He kept the habit of being informed even up until his 90's. It was always a pleasure listening to him giving his opinions on current events in Jamaica and elsewhere and he would have robust discussions with anyone who would listen. He loved talking. His travels also took him to the United Kingdom in 1997 for his niece's wedding and to visit family.

In the twilight of his life, David continued to make return trips to Jamaica by himself even when he was 89 years old. He cherished visiting friends both young and old because he enjoyed their company. He continued to have vigorous discussions on current events. It delighted him.

He also understood the importance of Christ. In the later years of his life, David began studying as an Adventist and he took it very seriously. He had many religious discussions about the Adventist way, with his nephew Godfrey Willis—who later became an Adventist Minister. After a period of studying David was baptized in the Bronx at the Victory Seventh Day Adventist Church in 1994. David was a very faithful member, studying was in his nature. He did not just believe in Christ, he studied the Bible daily to better understand what it is to live a Christ-like life. To the very end, David embraced Christian principles even when age and health prevented him from attending church regularly. His life embodies the teaching of Christ, belief in family, and in things that are just.

David Nathaniel Willis went to meet his maker on April 5, 2022. He was 95 years old and 7 months.

He is survived by his four children; Oswald, Hyacinth, Clifton, and Dennis, sisters; Lilleth and Gwendolyn, nine grandchildren; Andrea, Oswald, Hillary, Sharon, Crystal, Jeremy, Jermaine, Javon, and Jaheem, and thirteen great grand grandchildren. Special thanks to his son-in-law Lloyd, a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, friends, and church members who made his life meaningful and wonderful.

David is loved and will be sadly missed by all.

Order of Service

Ministerial Procession.....	Pastor Jeff Jefferson
Opening Prayer.....	Pastor Godfrey Willis
Opening Hymn.....	“It Is Well With My Soul”
First Scripture.....	Psalm 90:1-10 Tiffany Rodney (Great Granddaughter)
Tributes.....	Oswald Willis (Grandson) Pastor Godfrey Willis (Nephew) Gem & Charmaine (Nieces)
Song.....	Leroy Willis (Nephew)
Tributes.....	Gwendolyn Scott (Sister) Lorraine Stewart (Niece) Sandra Willis (Niece)
Tribute from Victory SDA Church.....	Elder Franklin Julius
Second Scripture.....	1 Corinthians 15:51-58 Paulette Brown (Niece)
Open Tributes	
Obituary.....	Garfield Willis (Nephew)
Song.....	Sister Annette Smart
Sermon.....	Pastor Jeff Jefferson
Closing Hymn.....	”My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less”
Closing Prayer.....	Pastor Jeff Jefferson
Officiating Minister at Gravesite.....	Pastor Jeff Jefferson

Pallbearers

Oswald Willis (Grandson)	Clifton Willis (Son)
Marc Willis (Nephew)	Javon Willis (Grandson)
Humphrey Willis (Nephew)	Walford Black (Great Grandson)

Interment

Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla, New York



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Asleep

*I've closed my eyes and fallen asleep,
So there's no reason for you to weep;
This is a debt we all must pay,
You will see me again someday.
I've endured pain and sometimes sorrow,
Now I don't have to worry about tomorrow.
But life for you must go on,
You must not worry because I'm gone.
You stood beside me all the way,
When I was down, you knew what to say ...
You always told me, "get some rest,"
Let me sleep now, I've done my best.
So please let me rest in peace,
The tears you're shedding soon will cease.
You'll soon realize this was meant to be, I
thank God because He came for me.
-Emily Dickinson*

Acknowledgments

The family would like to express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks for all acts of kindness shown to them during their time of bereavement.

Professional Service Entrusted To:

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