



Pastor Jesse Benn, Jr.

May 7, 1941 - February 28, 2026

Pastor Jesse Benn, Jr. was born May 7, 1941, to Jesse and Lucinda “Cinda” Benn, Sr. in Epes, Alabama. He graduated from Livingstone High School in 1961. Shortly after graduation, Jesse began his life of service in the military. He answered the call to serve his country in the United States Army, which included a tour in Vietnam. He received an honorable discharge at the end of his service time. Upon returning to civilian life, Jesse worked at Mueller Company for many years.

Jesse dedicated himself to ministry, beginning as a youth minister. He rose to become a beloved Pastor, known for his unwavering dedication to faith and service. He established churches in Chattanooga and other areas in Alabama. He pastored and founded Christian Fellowship Bible Church in Anniston, Alabama, pastored 1st Baptist Church, Jones Creek Baptist, and Christian Fellowship Baptist in Epes, Alabama. Besides being a church founder, Pastor Benn was also a spiritual mentor, community servant, Sunday School workshop organizer, and a part of Contact Phone Ministry for Troubled Adults in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Pastor Benn was a prominent figure in our city and a steadfast servant of the community. He touched countless lives all along his path of life as he continued to be a devoted man of faith.

Among those who preceded Jesse in death include his parents, Jesse and Lucinda Benn, Sr., and his brothers, Scott Benn and Tom Brown.

On Saturday, February 28, 2026, in a Birmingham, Alabama hospital, surrounded by his family and friends, Jesse answered God's call at the age of 84 years old. Cherishing his memories include his loving wife of 62 years, Mary Jo Benn; sons, Melvin C. Benn, Jason L. Benn, and Michael L. Benn; brothers, Curtis (Brenda) Benn and Wilbert (Karla) Benn; sister-in-law, Cora Benn (Scott's wife); 4 grandchildren; nieces; nephews; cousins; other relatives; very dear friend, Commissioner Gregory (Patricia) Beck, along with a host of other friends.

Previous Events

Lie-In-State

MAR **13.** 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Funeral Service

MAR **14.** 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Taylor Funeral Home
3417 Wilcox Boulevard
Chattanooga, TN 37411-1076

Burial

MAR **16.** 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Chattanooga National Cemetery
1200 Bailey Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37404

Tribute Wall



“ *I miss you pops! Believe that! You was the realest in it and I'll never forget anything you taught me. You left a legacy and I'm gonna carry that burning torch til it burn my fingertips. Long Live Pastor Benn! #blessedinpeace.*
Michael Benn
"Famous"

Michael Benn - May 19 at 10:38 PM



“ *CONDOLENCES out to the BENN family, REALLY for your loss. HOWARD "COLD DUCK" AKINS' FAMILY....*

H AKINS - March 13 at 05:43 PM



“ *He was like an uncle, calling me nephew on the account he was cost to my family! Gonna miss you uncle jesse*

Eddie Woods. Jr - March 13 at 10:59 AM

MR

“ We always had a wonderful time when we visited Jesse and Mary Jo in Alabama. Mary Jo would prepare us a delicious meal and we all would talk and laugh throughout our stay While Ann and Mary Jo would spend time together, Jesse and Michael would sit around having meaningful conversations about church situations, family matters, and the conditions of our society. Jesse was a Christian brother who thoroughly enjoyed talking about the Lord. We will certainly miss those great times we spent together with him. We will continue to pray for and support Mary Jo (Ann's cousin) in any way we can.

Last year, we drove our sports car to visit with Jesse and Mary Jo, and we're sharing a picture of Jesse joyfully sitting behind the wheel.

*Michael and Ann Robinson
Coste del Este, Panama City, Panama*



Micheal Robinson - March 13 at 03:50 AM

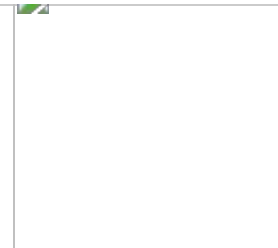


“ *One of my fondest memories of my Uncle Jesse was a small tradition I kept every year on Veterans Day. I would call him just to thank him for his service to our country. Even though I did it every year, it always seemed to surprise him. He never expected recognition, but he always received it with such humility and gratitude.*

Those calls meant so much to me because they reminded me of the sacrifices he made serving in the United States Army, including his time in Vietnam. But they also reminded me of the kind of man he was—humble, faithful, and always dedicated to serving others.

What may have seemed like a simple phone call was my way of honoring a man I deeply respected and loved. I will always cherish those conversations, and every Veterans Day from now on, I will think of him with pride, gratitude, and love.

Wendy Whatley - March 12 at 08:53 PM



LaQuinta Jackson - March 11 at 12:36 PM

“ My deepest condolences to you, your family and friends, and everyone who loved and cherished Pastor Benn. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with you all. We pray God continues to give you all strength, guidance, understanding, and comfort during and after this difficult time.

Sister Benn, remember God is with you forever and always, and you have us to lean on as well. We will truly miss Pastor Benn and those precious conversations, and him making sure he ask where his bay bay is(Ava). This absolutely came as a shock to us all, but we will keep his memories alive. We just talk with him early February about marrying us, and he was so excited. We love you both dearly and forever! He was truly a great person and Pastor.

PSALM 121:1-2

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.*

With love,

Ava, LaQuinta, and Dekendrick!



LaQuinta Jackson - March 11 at 12:35 PM



“ Expressions of sympathy to Mary and family. Homer and I have enjoyed our socializing with you and Pastor Jesse. So glad that we had the opportunity to fellowship with yall. Prayers be with yall. Homer & Linda Hatcher-Williams.

Linda Jones Williams - March 11 at 02:47 AM



“when I think of Rev. Jesse Benn, I don't just remember a preacher. I remember a man who walked beside me and helped shape who I became.

I watched him live his faith before I ever heard him speak about it. He had a way of making the Gospel feel close and personal not distant or complicated. Whether he was preaching, counseling, or simply talking one on one, you could tell his heart was always focused on people. He genuinely cared, and you felt that every time you were around him.

As a mentor, Rev. Benn took time with me. He didn't rush lessons or force answers. Instead, he asked questions that made me think, and he offered wisdom that stayed with me long after the conversation ended. When I doubted myself, he believed in me. When I struggled, he reminded me who I was called to be. I often think about how fitting it is to call him a fishman of men. He never tried to impress or overpower anyone. He simply cast his line with patience, love, and truth, trusting God to do the rest. I am one of many who was drawn closer to faith because of the way he lived it. I am grateful for his guidance, his example, and the quite strength of his devotion. Rev. Jesse Benn left an imprint on my life, and that's a gift I will always carry with me. His legacy lives on not just in sermons remembered, but in lives changed including mine.

Clinton Gamble - March 07 at 09:42 PM

DB

“Dirria Bell lit a candle in memory of Pastor Jesse Benn, Jr.



Dirria Bell - March 07 at 12:28 PM

PB

“ CURTIS BENN

PASTOR BRENDA BENN - March 06 at 08:40 PM

PB

“ PASTOR BRENDA BENN lit a candle in
memory of Pastor Jesse Benn, Jr.

PASTOR BRENDA BENN - March 06 at 08:32 PM

PB

“ JESSE WAS MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, AND I REALLY ENJOYED
BEING AROUND HIM. IT WAS ALWAYS FUN TALKING TO HIM,
AND LISTENING TO HIS STORIES. I ENJOYED TALKING TO HIM
ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD, AND HEARING HIM PREACH IT.
HE WAS ALWAYS GENEROUS TO ME WITH HIS FISH ,AND THE
VEGETABLES FROM HIS GARDEN!.. JESSE WAS A MOVER
ALWAYS DOING SOMETHING! I USED TO ASK HIM WHY HIS
BROTHER DID NOT GET HIS SKILLS, HE WOULD SAY HE WAS
ALWAYS OUTSIDE RIDING HIS BIKE. ALWAYS HOSPITABLE
WHENEVER WE SAID WE WERE COMING TO VISIT. NOV. AT
THE SENIORS GALA HE WAS SO ALIVE, AND FUNNY, IT IS
HARD TO BELIEVE HE IS GONE! I WILL MISS HIM. REV.
BRENDA BENN

PASTOR BRENDA BENN - March 06 at 08:29 PM