

*In Loving Memory*



**WILLIE**  
**CLYDE LAWSON**

JULY 30, 1942 - MAY 4, 2026

**MAY 9, 2026 • 11:00 AM**

BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH  
1220 CARMICHAEL STREET, MALVERN, AR 72104

# HONORING WILLIE

Willie Clyde Lawson graced this world with his presence on July 30, 1942, in Malvern, Arkansas. He peacefully departed this life on May 4, 2026.

Willie was the second-born child to the union of the late Ira Matthew Lawson and the late Mary Louise Reed Lawson.

He was a proud honor graduate of A.A. Wilson High School in Malvern, Arkansas, class of 1961, where he was also an outstanding athlete, serving as an All-state quarterback for the Wilson Dragons football team. He continued his education at the University of California, San Bernardino College where he studied Electronic Technology, before returning home to care for his ailing father. Later in life, he pursued and earned a diploma in Industrial Electronics/Electricity from Ouachita Vocational Technical School.

Willie was a man of strength, quiet wisdom, and unwavering love for his family. He believed in doing what was right, working hard, and showing up for the people he loved. His presence brought comfort, guidance, and a steady foundation to those around him.

Willie dedicated many years of his life to his work, retiring from Reynolds Metals Company in 1984 and later from Kimzey Water Company in 2004. He was a skilled and hardworking man who took great pride in his abilities and craftsmanship.

Known as a true “jack of all trades,” Willie often referred to himself as a “shade tree mechanic,” yet his knowledge and expertise extended far beyond that title. He completed coursework and developed skills in automotive mechanics, basic computer technology, welding, business, and income tax preparation. He was also a state-certified millwright, a testament to his dedication to learning and mastering his craft.

After retirement, Willie found great joy in restoring the land his parents owned, continuing to work with his hands and take pride in building and maintaining something beautiful.

Beyond his professional life, Willie was deeply committed to serving both his church and his community. He was a faithful and active member of Bethel A.M.E. Church, where he served as a steward, trustee, and treasurer for the Building and Mortgage Fund. He was also the founder of the Carrie Lee Can Ministry, a meaningful outreach that earned him the affectionate nickname, “The Can Man.” Willie was a devoted member of the choir and found great joy in praising the Lord through music.

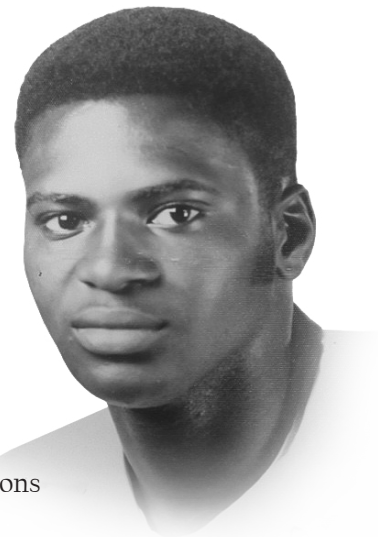
His commitment to service extended beyond the church walls. Willie was an active member of the Jaycees and served in Civil Service. He worked with the Hot Spring County Salvation Army R.O.S.E. program and served as the president and treasurer of the Malvern Band Booster Club, where he faithfully supported his children and their endeavors. He also served on the Malvern Housing Authority Board and contributed to the Literacy Council of Hot Spring County. His dedication to his community did not go unnoticed. He and his wife, Louise, were honored with the “Hometown Spirit” Award presented by Malvern National Bank in 1991.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ira Matthew Lawson and Mary Louise Reed Lawson, and his beloved siblings, Ella Mae Wilson, J.C. Shannon, Ruby C. LeGrande, Jimmie Louise Buffington, Ada Mae Hill, and R.W. Lawson.

Willie leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife of 60 years, Elsa Louise Lawson; his children, Shelton (Marissa), Shawn (Leo), and Stephanie; his grandchildren, Rachel, Reanna, Stanley, and Aria; six great-grandchildren; and his loving sister Charlene Haggerty. He is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends who will forever hold him in their hearts.

His legacy of love, strength and faith will forever live through all who knew and loved him.

*“Well done, thy good and faithful servant.”*



# ORDER OF SERVICE



MUSICAL INTERLUDE Musicians

PROCESSIONAL Family and Clergy

INVOCATION Rev. Daryell Howell

OLD TESTAMENT Rev. Henry Mitchell

NEW TESTAMENT Rev. John Hill

SONG Nicki Parrish

OBITUARY Yolanda Lawson

## REFLECTIONS

Family Angela Jennings

Influence and Impact Nikkie Davis and Kerby Primm

Faith & Community John Smith Jr.

OPEN REFLECTIONS (*2 minutes each*) Family and Friends

SONG Broderick Daniels

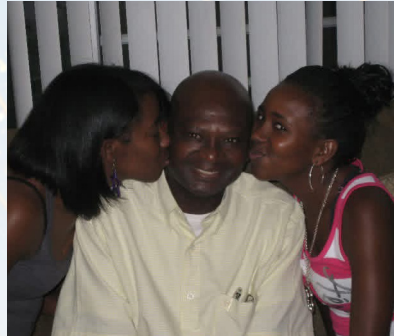
RESOLUTIONS &  
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Teresa Davis

SONG Bethel A.M.E. Male Chorus

EULOGY Rev. Dr. Bobbie Anderson

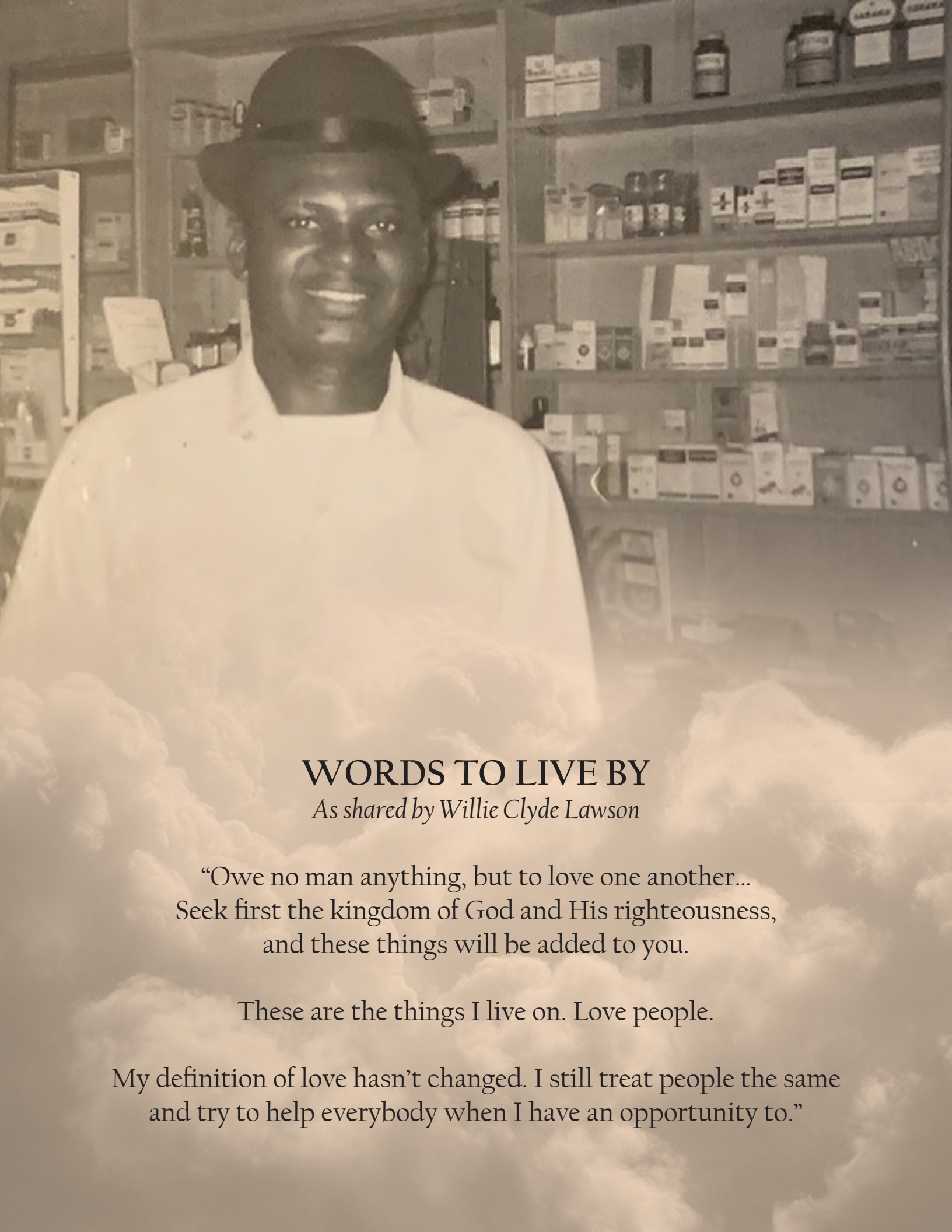
## VANCE FUNERAL HOME DIRECTORS

RECESSIONAL Musicians









## WORDS TO LIVE BY

*As shared by Willie Clyde Lawson*

“Owe no man anything, but to love one another...  
Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,  
and these things will be added to you.

These are the things I live on. Love people.

My definition of love hasn't changed. I still treat people the same  
and try to help everybody when I have an opportunity to.”

## FLOWER BEARERS

Nieces and Nephews

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Stewards and Trustees  
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church

## ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Levi Jones  
Cornelius Mitchell  
Keith Mitchell  
Kerby Primm  
Tony Richardson  
Eric Young



## THINE EARTHLY BED

Paradise Cemetery  
Malvern, Arkansas

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of Willie Clyde Lawson extends our deepest gratitude for the many expressions of love and support shown through your prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, flowers, and countless acts of kindness. Each gesture has been a source of comfort and strength to us throughout Willie's illness.

We would also like to extend a special and heartfelt thank you to the hospice team whose compassion, care, and support meant so much to our family during this time.

Our prayer is that God will bless and keep each of you, and that His light will continue to shine upon you in all that you do.

The Lawson Family