



**Funeral Service**  
 New Hope Evangelical Church  
 McPherson, Kansas  
 Saturday, November 8, 2025, at 10:00 AM

**Officiating Clergy**  
 Pastor George Bocox

**Congregational Hymns**  
 "Living For Jesus"  
 "Because He Lives"  
 Recessional: "I'll Fly Away"  
 Jill Reifschneider, pianist

**Casket Bearers**  
 Brian Billings ~ David Billings ~ Todd Billings  
 Anastasia Billings ~ Xavier Billings  
 Lowell Nelson ~ LaRue Nelson

**Ushers**  
 Tony Wedel ~ Jim Bowman

**Final Resting Place**  
 McPherson Cemetery

**Memorial Donations**  
 The family suggests memorials be given to New Hope Evangelical Church or Christian Aid Mission in care of Stockham Family Funeral Home, 205 North Chestnut, McPherson, KS 67460.

**Appreciation & Luncheon**  
 Tom's family wishes to express sincere appreciation for all your prayers and kindness, evidenced in thought and deed, and for your presence at this service.

*Following the graveside service, the family invites all to join them back at the church for food and fellowship.*

Stockham Family Funeral Home



*In Loving Memory*  
**Thomas M. Billings, M.D.**  
 December 31, 1939 - October 26, 2025



Isaiah 40:31 ~ "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

## Thomas M. Billings, M.D.

Thomas Michael Billings was born on December 31, 1939, at a hospital in Spearville, Kansas. His mother, Lillian Horning Billings, had worked at the hospital for a week prior, anticipating his arrival and worried that a storm might prevent her from getting to the hospital from their home on the farm. Waiting to greet them at home were his father, Wayne Gordon Billings, and his siblings, Phyllis and Bill.

Growing up on a farm outside of Jetmore, KS, Tom learned the value of hard work from an early age. His days were filled with chores, school, horseback riding, and church activities. He graduated from high school in a class of 19 students, where he played football and basketball. At the age of 12, Tom was baptized at their home church, the United Presbyterian Church in Jetmore, KS. During his youth, two missionary doctors spoke at his church, making a significant impression on Tom. Though he initially trained in agriculture during high school, Tom decided he was called to be a missionary doctor, leaving the farm to study science at Sterling College.

Tom met Nancy McCreery during his senior year at Sterling. A year after Tom graduated in 1962, Tom and Nancy married on August 2, 1963. Nancy supported them by teaching fourth grade for three years while Tom completed medical school, graduating in 1966. On October 23 of that same year, their first son, Brian Michael, was born, as Tom finished his residency at General Hospital in Kansas City.

The family moved to the Cheyenne River Sioux

tribe's headquarters in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. Tom worked as a physician there with the Public Health Service for two years, which was part of his military duty. Tom and Nancy's second son, David Allen was born on December 31, 1968, in Eagle Butte.

From his early teens, Tom felt led to serve as a medical missionary in Africa. He and Nancy applied to the Evangelical Covenant Church for mission service and were approved for a two-year term as short-term missionaries in Congo. Tom's role was to work at Karawa Hospital while two career missionaries were on furlough. Despite having no prior language training, Tom thrived in his medical work, learning Lingala and fixing a broken X-ray machine at the hospital despite limited medical supplies.

While in Congo, Tom wrote letters home seeking a position for a family practice physician, eventually choosing McPherson, Kansas. Over the next 54 years in McPherson, Tom remained busy as a physician, a family man, and a generous financial giver to international missions in Africa, and around the world.

Their third son, John Todd, was born on June 9, 1973. Tom was a devoted father, often reading to his boys from books like C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Space Trilogy*, and J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*.

While living in McPherson, Tom continued to participate in short-term missions as a physician, including trips to Ecuador, Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. A man of deep faith, Tom loved studying the Bible, focusing particularly on Genesis, Hebrews, and Revelation. He often taught

## Honor Loving Memory

Sunday school, served as an elder in his church, and expressed his beliefs through letters to the editor. He authored a book titled *Reality Living* and created several pamphlets for his office to help his patients make wise decisions in our complicated world.

Tom also valued physical fitness, participating in basketball, golf, swimming, and running in over 30 marathons. A highlight of his running career was qualifying for the Boston Marathon, where he proudly wore a shirt proclaiming "Jesus is Lord" on the front and "His Word is Truth" on the back.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Nancy Billings of McPherson; three children, Brian (Sheila) Billings of McPherson; David (Esther) Billings of Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Todd (Rachel) Billings of Holland, Michigan; six grandchildren, Catherine Billings, Naomi Billings, Anastasia Billings, Xavier Billings, Netsanet Billings, and Nathaniel Billings; sister, Phyllis Olsen; Nancy's niece and cherished friend of Tom and Nancy, Lisa (Mark) Sylvester, and her daughters Elizabeth (AJ) Hawkins, Rebecca (JD) Dalke, and Sara (Dennis) Frank.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wayne and Lillian Billings, and his brother, William (Bill) G. Billings.