

Owen Freeman

Owen Freeman, beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, preacher, teacher and spiritual mentor, passed away on Wednesday, August 4th, his 87th birthday. “Brother Owen” was an extraordinary Christian man, a member of the Buford Church of Christ where he was dearly loved. He had served there as an elder, adult Bible class teacher, and preacher. He lived at Huntington Court in Buford.

Mr. Freeman was born in Cloverdale, Alabama on August 4, 1923 to Vernon and Nola (Darby) Freeman. A few years later he moved with his family to Florence, Alabama and lived there until he graduated from high school.

He attended David Lipscomb College in Nashville, Tennessee and Freed-Hardeman College in Henderson, Tennessee and received his Bachelor’s degree from Abilene Christian College in Abilene, Texas. He received a Master’s degree from Harding Graduate School in Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. Freeman was a preacher for the Church of Christ for 68 years. He preached his first sermon as a freshman in college. He was the pulpit minister for churches in Texas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia.

From 1966 to 1969 he was Dean of Students and taught math and Bible at Georgia Christian School in Valdosta, Georgia. While he was there he helped establish Raintree Village, a children’s home, and he became their first Director. He then served on the board for eleven years.

In 1970 he began his long association with Greater Atlanta Christian School. He taught math and Bible to many students over the years and was a ninth grade adviser. When the school was starting out he drove a bus and continued to do so for his first several years there. He was a talented photographer and used that talent in his work at Greater Atlanta Christian. Not only did he take most of the school pictures, but he was the adviser for the school annual and taught a photography class.

Mr. Freeman loved to work with people, especially young people. As well as teaching them in school, he and his wife volunteered many summers at Camp Inagehi, a Christian camp near Douglasville.

After retiring from Greater Atlanta Christian School in 1990, Mr. Freeman continued preaching at small churches in the local area. He also taught at the Georgia School of Preaching and Biblical Studies. He and his wife bought an RV and did a lot of traveling. They joined Sojourners, a national evangelism group and participated in many of their activities and ministries.

Mr. Freeman married Reba Hart in 1944 and they had over 60 years together before she passed away in 2005. He is survived by his children Jane Cunningham (Dale) of Norcross, Georgia; Ann Bryan (Bert) of Rochester, Michigan; and Robert Freeman (Amy) of Lawrenceville,

Georgia; grandchildren Rob Eby (Lydia) of College Station, Texas; Jake Eby (Erica) of Norcross, Georgia; Hank Bryan (Betty) of Oxford, Michigan; Josh Bryan (Natalie) of Huntsville, Alabama; and Chris, Jon, and Kate Freeman of Lawrenceville, Georgia; 6 great grandchildren; and sister Betty Srygley of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Also surviving are beloved in-laws and many nieces and nephews.

The visitation will be from 7-9 p.m. on Friday, August 6, 2010 at the Flanigan Funeral Home, 4400 South Lee Street, Buford, Georgia 30518. The memorial service will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 7, 2010 at the Buford Church of Christ, 1135 Chatham Road, Buford, Georgia 30518. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to: Raintree Village, 3757 Johnston Road, Valdosta, Georgia 31601; or Atlanta Bible Camp (Camp Inagehi), 3162 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 260, P.M.B. # 408, Marietta, Georgia 30062; or Peachtree Christian Hospice, 3430 Duluth Park Lane, Duluth, Georgia 30096.