

The Tom Witten Endowed Scholarship

Tommie Lee Witten of Plainview, Texas, was born on December 23, 1909, at Sanger, Texas, the son of Ernest F. and Mattie Maddox Witten. The family moved to Grayson County when Tom was 18 months old, then moved to Running Water Community near Edmonson in 1929.

Tom was married August 16, 1940, in Crowell, Texas, to Lucille Smith. They have two children, Mrs. Harlan (Sue) Carson and Mrs. Charles T. (Tommy Claudene) Burrus.

Tom was converted and baptized in 1929 into the Running Water Baptist Church. He was ordained as a deacon in Valley View Church in the early 1950s where he served in every volunteer leadership position through the years.

He was faithful in attendance and service. He was an effective Christian witness, leading numerous friends to Jesus, both the young and not so young. He practiced Christian sympathy in caring for family, loved ones, neighbors, friends, and even the stranger in times of stress and sorrow. He was a help and encouragement to all his pastors.

In 1971, he and Lucille moved to Plainview, joined the First Baptist Church, and served actively.

On June 8, 1973, exploratory surgery revealed that a fatal illness faced him. He suffered great pain for four months. During that time, he was an amazing inspiration. His illness was accepted with patience, his spirit was beautiful, and his witness for the Lord was more pointed than ever.

Death came on September 29, and he was buried October 1, 1973. Three ministers who had been specially blessed by Tom's life presided at his service—Carlos McLeod, Robert White, and Kent Kellogg.

Reverend and Mrs. White, now of Miami, Florida, have been joined by the immediate and larger Witten family in establishing this fund that other ministers may be blessed in the name of Tom Witten.