



Dr. O. Eugene Tyre

October 10, 1940 - September 25, 2021

Dr. O. Eugene Tyre
1940-2021

The life of Dr. O. Eugene Tyre can best be described in the words of Psalm 37:23 "The steps of a man are established by the Lord, and He delights in his way. " The Lord delighted in Dr. Gene Tyre when he arrived in His presence on the morning of Sunday, September 26, 2021. Otis Eugene Tyre, Jr. was born in Jesup, GA on Thursday, October 10, 1940 to the late Otis Eugene Tyre and Sara Wilson Tyre. Gene grew up the small rural community of Odum in Wayne County, GA. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Joy Kinsey.

Gene was a fastidious student who believed in the value of education. In his teenage years, the Lord called Gene into ministry where he was ordained in January 1959 at the age of 18. After graduating from Odum High School in 1958, he enrolled and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Southern Baptist affiliated school, Mercer University in Macon. Gene obtained his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. His time at Mercer University left an imprint on him and he dedicated many hours to the benefit of the school by serving as a trustee. Realizing the importance of his educational experience, he taught and encouraged many students as an adjunct professor at New

Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and at Candler School of Theology.

Dr. Tyre began church ministry as a student pastor at Rodgers Baptist Church in Collins, GA and English Baptist Church in English, KY. He also served at Belmont Baptist Church in Calhoun, GA, Headland Heights Baptist Church in East Point, GA, and First Baptist Church of Cartersville. In 1972, he was called to be the Senior Pastor of Rainbow Park Baptist Church in Decatur, GA where he faithfully served for 10 years. In 1982, Dr. Tyre was called to be the Senior Pastor at the First Baptist Church of Newnan. After moving to Newnan, he and his family immersed themselves in the community and led the congregation through many years of growth and prosperity. He was incredibly humbled to be asked to serve as the Chaplain of the Newnan Cougars Football team where he was an integral part of the lives of many young men who he led to Christ. In 2005, at the age of 65, Dr. Tyre retired from First Baptist Newnan after 23 years of dedicated, faithful service. In 2004, his commitment to his community was recognized by one of the highest honors in Coweta County, being named Citizen of the Year. He later became the Senior Pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Rico, GA for several years and was currently serving as interim pastor for White Oak First Baptist Church in Newnan.

After several months of retirement, Dr. Tyre felt the call to continue his ministry outside the walls of a church. He continued his ministry by working for Georgia Bone and Joint counseling with their patients. He became involved in another Christian organization, The Summit Family YMCA in Newnan. He could be found most mornings working out at the YMCA and then staying to volunteer. Dr. Tyre was the Chairman of the board and was recognized for his service by having a meeting room at the YMCA named in his honor. In 1996, he was honored to be one of the local Olympic "torch bearers."

Dr. Tyre was not only committed to service in his community but also the Georgia Baptist Convention. He served as Vice-President of the Georgia Baptist Convention, Chairman of the Georgia Baptist Hospital Commission, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Georgia Baptist Convention. Dr. Tyre's work in the Georgia Baptist Convention was recognized when he received the James Westberry Award for service to the Georgia Baptist Convention and Mercer University.

The memorial service is 4:00 p.m. Sunday, October 3, 2021, at the First Baptist Church of Newnan with Dr. Jim Ellison officiating. Rather than flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to Coweta Fellowship of Christian Athletes, 90 Glenda Trace, Newnan, GA 30265 or www.cowetafca.org/donate

Condolences may be expressed online at www.mckoon.com

Survivors include wife of 61 years, Margaret Maddox Tyre; daughter, Jenny Tyre; grandson, Mihai Tyre; siblings, Jan Jackson (Richard) of Jesup, GA, Richard Tyre (Linda) of Franklin, TN; several nieces and nephews.

Acts 11:24 perfectly describes the work and ministry of Dr. Gene Tyre "for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and faith. And considerable numbers were brought to The Lord."

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 3. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Newnan
15 West Washington Street
Newnan, GA 30263

Tribute Wall

WS

“ Gene Tyre has left heavy tracks in Newnan and environs. I remember interviewing him and Rev. Willie Johnson for a newspaper story many year ago, as the two of them sought to bridge the chasm that too often separated Christians of different races in our town. I also remember the service at First Baptist after 9-11, when Gene made sure Rev. R. W. Sutton had a major role. Later I ran into Gene and Margaret and had a great discussion on Calvinism/Arminianism between the racks of clothes. Finally, I observed the sheer enjoyment he had as the pastor of a smaller church at Rico -- an experience that I treasure from my life as the country parson in Meriwether County. Lynn and I are praying for Margaret and all the family.

Winston Skinner - October 04, 2021 at 08:56 PM

SR

“ A bright light has dimmed. RIP, Doc!

Susan Roper

Susan Roper - October 03, 2021 at 04:37 PM

JH

“ Dear Margaret, Jenny and Mihai, I am so incredibly sorry for your loss!! Your beloved Dr, Tyre played such an integral role in the life of our family. The years I spent on staff with him at FBC will always be treasured memories. He officiated our wedding and baptized my husband and youngest daughter. Most recently, I would see him at the Summit gym lighting up the room with his his charisma! May God grant you strength and comfort for each new day! I can hear him singing with the heavenly host...Victory in Jesus!!!
Julia Baker Huster

Julia Huster - October 03, 2021 at 03:05 PM

JB

“ Dr. Tyre was our Minister for many years and was always there for our Family. His love for Newnan/Coweta County was always evident. He served as a Champlain for the Newnan High School Cougars and our Son had the privilege of not only having him for a Pastor but a Friend on the sidelines of Drake Stadium. Dr. Tyre is going to be missed by everyone's life that he has touched over the Years. Prayer's for the Family as the move forward without this special Man. Joy Brown Barnes

Joy Brown Barnes - October 03, 2021 at 02:08 PM

JT

“ I was fortunate to know Dr. Tyre for many years. He and Miss Margaret would come into the QuikTrip where I worked for a long time. He always had a kind word, we would talk about running as he and I saw one another at the 5K races in Newnan and both of us had run the Peachtree Road Race many times. I was never in his congregation, but one day I mentioned being a lifelong Catholic, he said he has many Catholic friends and they are good people too!

*Many Blessings,
James Todd*

James Todd - October 03, 2021 at 01:44 PM

JB

“ *My Sympathies to Margaret and Jenny. Dr. Tyre meant so much to the Custer family at Headland Heights Baptist. In 1971, he married Frank and me. Later as a young couple, Frank and I joined at Rainbow Park Baptist where he was the pastor. He baptized Frank there and we learned so much from his teachings and messages. Dr/Pastor Gene Tyre had a huge Christian influence in our lives. The Bible verse for the obituary is perfect for Pastor Tyre. Jackie Custer Brandon*

Jackie Custer Brandon - October 03, 2021 at 09:47 AM



“*Dr. Tyre has left a legacy of good works that are paying dividends for hundreds of people, like me and my household, on this side of eternity and on the other side. The words that immediately come to mind are, "well done good and faithful servant of the LORD!" He always had a word of encouragement and in Dr. Tyre's own words, I can hear him say to the Newnan Cougar football family and Fellowship of Christian Athletes as he told us the story of David and Goliath, "can you believe that, men!" He imparted on many of us through the scriptures in the book of Philipians, the belief that, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

Dr. Tyre was there for me and my family during the biggest tragedy of our lives--the loss of my 9-year-old sister in a tragic car accident, where I was the lone driver. Days after the accident, it was Dr. Tyre who accompanied my parents to the hospital to visit and break the news to then 16-year-old me, that my sister had died in that accident. It was Dr. Tyre who welcomed us to First Baptist Church to have the funeral service. And it was Dr. Tyre who did the eulogy in the most excellent and compassionate way--calling the children, friends, and classmates of my sister up front during the service and explaining powerfully how her transition was like when they fall asleep in the car on the way home and they wake up the next morning in bed, after daddy or mommy has carried them from the car and laid them there. He explained that my sister had fallen asleep and woke up safe in the arms of the LORD.

Since that time and each time I would see him, Dr. Tyre has continued to be a tremendous encourager for me throughout my life's journey and he has been a constant reminder to me that, all things are possible with God.

Dear family, on behalf of my family and myself, I thank you for sharing Dr. Tyre with us! And I know that he is now resting well and safe in the arms of the LORD.

Sincerely,

Vernon M. Strickland, Esq.

Vernon Strickland - October 03, 2021 at 08:51 AM

LP

“Margaret, so sad to learn of Gene’s death. We do rejoice in knowing he is in the arms of our savior. My prayer for you and Jenny and all who loved Gene is that God in his boundless grace will let good memories soften your sorrow as you learn to live without Gene’s earthly presence in your lives. We will always be grateful for his presence in our lives during our Rainbow Park days!

lynn w, brandon, Ph.D. - October 02, 2021 at 07:30 PM

LL

“My prayers are with Miss Margaret, Jenny and Mihai. I loved Doc and will miss him. Doc performed our wedding and later baptized my sons. He was so incredible comfort to me during a very difficult time in my life. He always had an encouraging word to share with anyone he met. He loved God and loved people. I feel honored and privileged to have known him.

LaVann Landrum - October 02, 2021 at 02:32 PM

KM

“I remember as a young child at Rainbow Park listening intently as Dr. Tyre taught and preached the Word of God so that even I could understand!! He was one of a kind and I’m forever grateful for his impact on my life! Praying for Margaret, Jenny and Mihai and all who loved and were inspired by this incredible man!! Rest high for you have found your Victory in Jesus!! 💜



Kristi Williams Masdon - October 02, 2021 at 02:00 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dr. O. Eugene Tyre.*



October 01, 2021 at 02:35 PM



“ *I worked under Dr Tyre’s leadership for twenty years. Not only did he live by example of God’s word, but he was an excellent business and financial leader. I never heard him say an unkind word even when burdened with unfortunate issues. He was a blessing to our community. Margaret, you are being loved by a very dear Angel.*

Ann Booth - October 01, 2021 at 02:06 PM

RD

“ Doc was such an amazing person to have come into our lives he touched our souls and filled our hearts with so much joy every time we saw him. He helped us to reconnect with our Lord and Savior. Doc will be missed greatly by so many. I don't believe Doc ever knew a stranger. I remember when I first met him at Providence. He made me feel so welcome, as if I had been there as a part of the Providence family for years. We will never forget you and will cherish the memories that were made forever. We send our condolences to Ms. Margaret, Jenny, Mihai and all the family. Doc would want us to all to keep our heads up and celebrate him. He is now with our Lord that he so loved and worked so hard for. Doc's time on earth seemed as if he was an Angel who walked among us. Our hearts go out to the family in this time of sorrow. Rest in paradise Doc! We will meet again in the Kingdom of Heaven. Thank you Doc for the Love you shared for our family!



From: The Driver Family (Robbie, Jennifer, Elizabeth, Crystal and Raymond)

-Written by Jennifer-

Robbie & Jennifer Driver - October 01, 2021 at 12:24 AM



“ Having not been in Dr. Tyre's congregation, I came to know him more through sports. I had great respect for him as a community leader in Newnan. I remember him riding with Coach Bass to away games and the great tribute he paid to Max when they honored Coach Bass at his retirement. I came to know him better at Lenten services and enjoyed hearing his sermons at those services. I'm glad God put us on the "same playing field!"

Jill McKnight - September 30, 2021 at 06:20 PM



This was written for my husband, Carl

Jill McKnight - September 30, 2021 at 06:22 PM

DB

“ *A blanket of sadness enfolds me since I learned of Gene's death moments ago. As ministerial students, we met at Mercer in H. Lewis Batts' religion class. He was seeking housing, so I recommended the two-story wooden house on Edgewood Avenue, across the street from the men's dormitory, replaced now by the University Center. The rent was \$51 per quarter. Five couples occupied the dwelling.*



While we attended different seminaries we later reconnected as we preached in each other's church during revival emphases. Gene was remarkable in that his focus was two- fold: The exercise of scholarship and service. He was always well prepared whether he taught or preached. Simultaneously, he reached out in compassion and yielded servant ministry to hurting persons. His goal was to achieve excellence in all that he performed.

Like prized pearls on a string, a plethora of precious memories fills my heart this moment as I grieve his death. To wife Margaret and the entire family, I offer my prayers for God's amazing grace to undergird you, guide you, and support you in this difficult hour.

It was a genuine joy to have known Gene (and Margaret) for my life has been enriched greatly through the exchange. Sincerely, Dr. Charles Wm. Brown, Maryville, TN.

Dr. Charles W. Brown - September 30, 2021 at 05:31 PM

BL

“ Praying for Margaret, Jenny, and Mihai. Asking God to give you strength and comfort.

The Ed Lewis family loves you and here to support you.

Becky Lewis - September 30, 2021 at 12:55 PM

JM

“ Dear sweet Miss Margaret, my family and I have loved you and Dr Tyre for over 30 years. Thank you for everything that you mean to us. Amanda was waiting to welcome him into Heaven. The joy that he is experiencing is full of glory. My prayers are with you.

Judy K. Miller - September 30, 2021 at 11:43 AM

CE

“ We were honored and privileged to call Gene our pastor and friend for over 25 years. He was a faithful, and in exhaustible Godly servant. There are not enough adjectives to describe the many people he has touched. We feel confident that within 60 seconds of stepping on the streets of gold he was running to find his place of service. Sending our love and sympathy to Margaret, Jenny and Miahi - God's spirit will see you through these difficult days.

Carol & Rick Eldred - September 30, 2021 at 09:41 AM

NW

“ It was a pleasure and honor to serve on staff with Doc at Providence! He was a powerful preacher and loved the congregation and community. I am praying for you, Margaret. I love you and thank you for supporting Doc throughout his ministry. He loved you, Jenny and Mihai with all his heart. I know he is rejoicing in heaven with the Lord he preached about all his life. May God give your family an extra portion of strength, love and comfort in the days ahead. Blessings and prayers, Nancy

Nancy Whittenburger - September 29, 2021 at 02:06 PM

RD

“ Gene Tyre was a wonderful colleague during the seven years that I served as pastor of Rico United Methodist Church. He was a true servant of God, with great foresight with regard to the ministry of the church in the community. It was during his time as pastor of Providence that the congregation erected the building that has since been used for many community activities within the city of Chatt. Hills.

Richard Davies - September 29, 2021 at 01:42 PM

BH

“ Betty Hammond lit a candle in memory of Dr. O. Eugene Tyre



Betty Hammond - September 28, 2021 at 11:14 PM

PD

“ Our prayers are with you Margaret, Jenny & Miahi! We loved Doc & will miss him so much! He was always here for our family and other families at Providence Baptist Church! He was a great pastor & mentor! Go Rest High on That Mountain Your Work On Earth Is Done!
RIP. Doc ❤️

Phil & Sandra Davis - September 28, 2021 at 07:45 PM

OE

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May you find comfort and peace in the love and support of your family and friends. Owen and Bobbie Edge*



Owen and Barbara EDGE - September 28, 2021 at 06:37 PM

TN

“ *Tammy Norton lit a candle in memory of Dr. O. Eugene Tyre*



Tammy Norton - September 28, 2021 at 03:19 PM

TN

So Sorry to hear of Dr. Tyre passing away.. He was a GREAT MAN and a wonderful inspiration to us all. Praying for you Mrs. Margaret and family. We at Georgia Bone and Joint and formerly Warm Springs Medical Center truly loved him and will miss him.

Tammy Norton - September 28, 2021 at 03:23 PM

MF

“ *Margaret, we are so sorry to hear about the passing of Gene and are praying for your family, as you go through this time of sorrow. He was our pastor at Headland Heights and the one who married Debi and me back in 1969. We will always have fond memories of him and your family and know that Gene is now rejoicing in the presence of the Lord Jesus in Heaven.*

Mike and Debi Freeman

Mike Freeman - September 28, 2021 at 01:25 PM

PR

Miss Margaret, I am so sorry to hear of Doc's passing. I will always remember how he stood by us when my sister, Linda Roberts was so ill. He will be missed by so many. May God be with you! Paulette Robinette

Paulette Robinette - September 28, 2021 at 07:21 PM

JB

Jackie Custer Brandon - My sympathy to the family of Dr. Gene Tyre. He was our wonderful pastor at Headland Heights Baptist. In 1971, he married Frank W. Brandon and me. Then a few years later he baptized Frank and he was our pastor at Rainbow Park. We were blessed by his sermons and thought so much of him and his family. Rejoice in your Heavenly home!

Jackie Custer Brandon - September 29, 2021 at 03:35 PM



“*Dr. Tyre was always very supportive and encouraging to me in my pastoral pursuits. He was a kind and giving friend. He will be missed.*

Gene Prince - September 28, 2021 at 12:34 PM

DB

“*Oh, HaleluJAH! Can you just imagine? If a high school football stadium is needed for this celebration of life, whoooweeeeeee (as dad would say)! Then, how much space will it require for all the hosts of heaven to celebrate Doc's arrival??? And, will they be hovering over Newnan this Sunday? What a difference this soul made in my life - and my family's lives, though some don't even know that - over the past four years or so. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gifts. We love you, Miss Margaret and family. Thank you for sharing your family with so many over so long....and we're praying for all of you.*

Deborah Belyeu - September 28, 2021 at 12:07 PM

FF

“ Our prayers are with all the family. Dr. Tyre was the preacher at our wedding and was such a wonderful man. He was a great asset to the entire community and especially Newnan. He accomplished so much and was loved by so many.

Frank and Melody Farmer - September 28, 2021 at 11:42 AM

NB

Brother Gene was our pastor at Belmont Baptist Church in Calhoun Georgia from 1965-1969. We loved serving during his time of ministry and were sad when he left. Our 3 boys and his daughter were near the same age. Our congregation grew in number and spiritually under his leadership. Our memories of him and his family are so precious. May the entire family have the peace our Heavenly Father can give.

Nan Barnette - September 28, 2021 at 05:02 PM

IJ

“ WE all loved this man of God - He gave to all of us God's love in his messages and life - He will be missed - Heaven gained a saint Sunday - God bless Margaret and the family as they go on without him. Our love and prayers to all. Iris Jordan-Pierce.

Iris Jordan-Pierce - September 28, 2021 at 08:00 AM

MD

“ We were so very sad to hear of Doc's passing - what a faithful friend for so many years. Y'all moved to Decatur and Rainbow Park and one of my first memories was that first Christmas morning you had breakfast at our home - and mom deciding to have a "fancy" breakfast! Lots of fun memories....and I will always remember him when I hear, "Victory in Jesus!" Sending our love to Margaret and Jenny.

Love, Margot (Morris) and Marvin Dawkins

Margot Morris Dawkins - September 28, 2021 at 02:02 AM

SY

“ Mrs Margaret, so sorry to hear of Dr T's passing. Spent a many Friday nights on the sideline with him. Had a blast driving Coach Bass to the out of town games and Dr T was always in the backseat giving coach a pregame pep talk. Will always treasure those wonderful memories. I truly enjoyed our many conversations and his and Mrs Margaret's support through the years. He will be missed. Rest In Peace my friend. With much love, Retired Sheriff Mike and Bev Yeager Family

Sheriff Mike/Bev Yeager - September 27, 2021 at 09:37 PM



“ Sue Caylor lit a candle in memory of Dr. O. Eugene Tyre



Sue Caylor - September 27, 2021 at 09:27 PM

BD

“ Dear Margaret and family,
We're so sorry to learn of Dr Tyre's passing. He was one in a million - a fine man who loved God, family, and community with all of his heart. He made an indelible mark on our lives and will be fondly remembered always.
Praying you feel the peace that passes all understanding during this very challenging time.
With our love and deepest sympathy,
Bruce and Merri

Bruce and Merri Douglas - September 27, 2021 at 09:07 PM

JB

“ Ms. Margaret and Dr Gene were great people for my family and Newnan

Jess Barron - September 27, 2021 at 09:04 PM

NR

“ I had the privilege of working with Dr. Tyre years ago. He was a good man and good pastor to his flock.

Nancy Rice - September 27, 2021 at 08:33 PM

JW

“ Margaret and family, I was so very sorry to hear about Gene. We can rest in the knowledge that heaven has received this wonderful man devoted to his God and his family and we will be reunited again someday. Love and prayers to all of you, Judi

Judi Worth - September 27, 2021 at 08:31 PM

AJ

“ I met Doc while visiting at Providence. Doc made me feel at home from the first day I met him. His smile was contagious, and I loved hearing him preach & talking with him... Rest In Peace 💜



Allison Janney - September 27, 2021 at 08:05 PM

NB

“ Doc was so instrumental in getting me back on track! I love him so much! I know he is now truly where he wanted to be. And I know he is definitely having some long conversations with God! I'm praying for Margaret Tyre, Jenny Tyre, Mihai and all of his family. Even though they're grieving, I know they believe that he's where he always wanted to be, with his Lord and Savior.

Nesha Bryant - September 27, 2021 at 07:57 PM

HC

“ Dr. Tyre was my first pastor. He and Margaret shepherded me so well. I was often confused, immature, and wandering during my youth, yet they lead our church, and specifically me, so well. Rest In Peace, Dr. Tyre.

Holly Capp - September 27, 2021 at 07:57 PM

LN

“ Words can never express how much this awesome man of God was loved by so many. To know him was to love him. Margaret, Jenny & Miahi - our hearts are with you & praying for comfort as you go thru this time of bereavement,



Lamar & Carol Nestlehutt - September 27, 2021 at 07:17 PM

MP

I loved this man! He was truly a man of God. Dedicated my daughter Kylee and Baptized her as well. He will never be forgotten and always in my memories. Love you Margaret and praying for your peace.

Melody petty - September 28, 2021 at 07:13 PM

KH

Praying for you Miss Margaret Jenny and Miahi

Karen Hubbard - September 29, 2021 at 04:58 PM