

William B. Paterson III (Bill), was born near the small town of Mize, Miss., in 1940, but moved to Florida while still a young boy. Although born to J. B. and Norma Anderson, he was adopted by his mother's sister, Ella Mae Paterson and her husband, William B. Paterson Jr. Bill grew up in and around Gulf Hammock and Yankeetown (Levy County), Fla., and attended local schools, then graduated from Dunnellon High School.

Following High School, Bill joined the United States Marine Corps, and served his country honorably for four years. While serving in the U.S.M.C. in the Panama Canal Zone, Bill made a number of lasting friendships which would eventually steer him in the direction of Christian missions. After his service with the Marines was completed, Bill earned a degree from Columbia Bible College, Columbia, S. C. During the late 1960s and the 1970s Bill would engage in a number of ministries, not the least of which was the Overseas Christian Servicemen's Centers. This ministry, along with other factors, would call Bill back to the Panama Canal Zone, where he would be committed for several years.

Where, when, and exactly how Bill became a true Christian is unclear, but there came a time when those who knew him could tell that he was a genuine believer. His conversation, deportment, and focal point were all centered on Christ and His Kingdom. It will become clear only in the hereafter all of those who were touched by Bill's influence and message for his Lord.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Ola Jean Counts Paterson; a daughter, Jean Michelle Paterson; a son, William Paterson IV; a brother, Bobby Anderson (Charlotte); a sister, Susan Paterson Lambert (Ronald); and several nephews and nieces.

He is preceded in death by both his biological parents, and his adoptive parents, and a brother, Walter E. Anderson.

A funeral service will be held for Bill on Monday, September 9, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel of Brown Funeral Home, 5430 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy, Lecanto, Florida 34461, with Rev. Bobby Anderson officiating.