

With deep sadness we announce the death of Dr. Oris Damon Shook on Saturday March 28, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Damon's life is a remarkable example of a life well lived. He was a beloved member of the community and has left a legacy that has eternal significance.

Damon was born on October 20, 1935 in England, Arkansas, the only child of Virgil Meece Shook and Mamie Horton Shook. He spent his formative years in small town Arkansas where his father owned the town's barbershop. At age 10, Damon placed his faith in Jesus Christ. After the death of his father, Damon and his mother moved to Birmingham, Alabama when Damon was 13. They returned to Arkansas the following year and at age 15 Damon knew God was calling him to Christian ministry. As a shy and introverted teenager, Damon preached his first sermon at age 16. After graduating from Little Rock Central High School at 18, Damon became pastor of Nalls Memorial Baptist Church while also attending and graduating from Ouachita Baptist University. While pastoring at Nalls Memorial, Damon met for the first time Jacqueline Sue Harrod, who would later become his wife. Damon and Jackie were married on December 22, 1957.

Damon completed his seminary training at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Many years later, Damon would serve as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Southwestern. He also received an honorary doctorate from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri. Damon's 66 years of pastoral ministry touched tens of thousands of people. He served churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas including Park Place Baptist Church in Hot Springs and Meadowood Baptist Church in Midwest City. His longest tenure as pastor was at Champion Forest Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, serving for 27 years. His humble leadership saw Champion Forest grow dramatically to one of the largest Baptist churches in America and many thousands of people placed their faith in Jesus Christ. After retiring at age 67, Damon served on staff with his son, Mark who pastors Community of Faith Church in Cypress, Texas; and served as a guest preacher at Woodlands Church, in The Woodlands, Texas where his son, Kerry, is the Pastor. From the pulpit, he had a way of explaining the most complicated Bible passages so that all listeners could understand. He often told family and friends that God calls the most ordinary people to do extraordinary things so that God alone gets the glory. Damon Shook practiced what he preached.

Damon has been reunited with his parents, Meece and Mamie and his great grandson Jude along with many thousands of brothers and sisters in Christ. Damon quoted one of his favorite verses Philippians 1:21 in his last few hours here on earth; "To live is Christ and to die is gain." Damon is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Jackie, his four children and their spouses: Mark and wife Laura, Kerry and wife Chris, Mona Sills and husband Gary, Brent and wife Audrey; as well as 31 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. There will be a Celebration of Life for Damon Shook at Champion Forest Baptist Church once it is safe to do so.