



Bishop Cornelius Williams

October 24, 1947 - March 8, 2026

Cornelius Williams was born on October 24, 1947, in Winter Garden, Florida, to Nelson and Anna Williams. He attended and graduated from Charles R. Drew High School in 1965. Shortly after graduation, Cornelius enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he faithfully served four years of active duty and two years in the reserves. During his time in the military, he returned home to marry his childhood sweetheart, Hazel Rodgers, after a brief but meaningful courtship and three-month engagement in 1969.

To this union, five beautiful children were born. In addition, one Island daughter was lovingly and strategically placed into the Williams home and

In December of 1971, Cornelius answered the call to ministry and began serving by teaching Sunday school. His dedication to the work of the Lord continued to grow, and in August 1976, he was ordained as a Deacon, faithfully serving the local church as both Business Treasurer and Church Clerk.

By July 1978, Deacon Williams accepted the call to preach the Gospel and was appointed Pastor of Orange Center Church of God of Prophecy (OC COGOP). His leadership and commitment to the ministry led to his ordination as a Bishop in the Church of God of Prophecy in 1994, where he continued to faithfully serve as not only Pastor, but counselor, mentor, confidant, and friend.

In 2004, Bishop Williams was appointed District Overseer of ten churches. In addition to this responsibility, he served in several key leadership roles, including State Presbyter, Administrative Assistant to the State Bishop, Camp SonShine Committee Chairman, member of the Ministerial Review Board, and member of the State Finance Committee.

While faithfully serving in the spiritual realm, Bishop Williams also maintained a dedicated secular career. After 37 years of service, he retired in 2011 as a Plant Manufacturing Manager at Foamex LP of Central Florida.

In 2013, Bishop Williams began experiencing health challenges; however, this in no way deterred his dedication to ministry. With the unwavering support of his loving family, he persevered through every step of the healing process while remaining committed to the work God had called him to do.

In 2015, Bishop Williams expanded his outreach by serving as Chaplain for the local church neighborhood and HOA. His presence and influence were widely felt throughout the community. He was well known in local schools, parks, and businesses, always offering encouragement, prayer, and spiritual guidance to those he encountered.

In 2018, as OC COGOP celebrated Bishop Williams' 40 plus years of pastoral leadership, he received several notable honors. He was inducted into the African American Christian Clergy Coalition (AACCC). The City Commissioner presented him with a key to the City and was further honored with the proclamation of September 9th as "Bishop Cornelius Williams Day" within the OC COGOP community.

In December 2022, Bishop Williams suffered a hemorrhagic stroke which led to his official retirement as Pastor of OC COGOP. Though his role as Pastor

concluded, his heart for ministry never wavered. He continued to serve in whatever capacity he could to advance the Kingdom of God.

On February 26, 2026, Bishop Williams experienced a massive hemorrhagic stroke that would ultimately claim his life ten days later. Surrounded by the love and prayers of his wife, children, and State sishop, he peacefully transitioned from labor to reward. Though his earthly Journey has ended, the legacy of Bishop Cornelius Williams will continue to live on through the countless lives he touched, the church he faithfully shepherded, I, and the family he loved so deeply. His life stands as a testament of unwavering faith, humble leadership, and steadfast devotion to God. Truly, he fought a good fight, he finished his course, and he kept the faith.

Throughout his life, Bishop Williams was known as a devoted husband, loving father, wise leader, and faithful servant of God. He carried a deep passion for the work of the ministry and for the people he was called to Serve in God. Was mer ped cy huntea, ded counseling an leadering Bishop Williams always sought to encourage others to trust in the promises of God and live a life pleasing to Him. Bishop Williams always sought to encourage others to trust in the promises of God and live a life pleasing to him.

At the heart of Bishop Williams' life was his love for his family. He children, taking great pride in their accomplishments and freteran-service to the Lord. His home was a place of love, wisdom, laughter, and spiritual guidance.

Bishop Williams leaves behind a legacy of faith, leadership, and service that will continue to impact generations to come. His life stands as a testimony of dedication to God, commitment to family, and faithful service to the church and community.

Though he has transitioned from this earthly life, his influence, teachings, and the love he shared will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

One of his favorite scriptures reminds us:

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." ~
Lamentations 3:22-23

He was preceded in death by: his daughter, Atasha D. Williams; oarents, Nelson and Anna Williams; brothers: Aurelius Williams, Nelsor . Williams, Robert Lewis Williams, and Norris Thompson; sisters, Cora Lee Brown and Dorothy Perry.

He leaves to cherish and honor his memory: his wite, Hazel R. Williams of Orlando, Florida; children: Aurelius D. Williams, Sr. (Stephanie) of Ocoee, Florida, Natasha V. W. Davis (W. Rick) of Sorrento, Florida, Sherron C. Williams (Tatiana) of Kissimmee, Florida, Roderick J. Williams (Elizabeth) of Orlando, Florida, and Monique D. Burnett of Coders mida ten anandia host or reaganes neen 5, Cousins, in-laws, and friends.

Cemetery Details

Orlando Memorial Gardens

5264 Ingram Road
Apopka, FL 32703

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 20. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

StoryLife Church
505 McCormick Road
Apopka, FL 32703

Service

MAR 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

StoryLife Church
505 McCormick Road
Apopka, FL 32703

Tribute Wall

IP

“ *Ida W Pierce lit a candle in memory of Bishop Cornelius Williams*



Ida W Pierce - March 21 at 05:26 AM

TC

“ *The members of Tampa Hyde Park COGOP planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bishop Cornelius Williams.*

The members of Tampa Hyde Park COGOP - March 20 at 04:47 PM

TC

“ *The members of Tampa Hyde Park COGOP purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bishop Cornelius Williams.*



The members of Tampa Hyde Park COGOP - March 20 at 04:47 PM

WT

“ *Wanda D, family & Orlando RPh Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bishop Cornelius Williams.*

Wanda D, family & Orlando RPh Team - March 19 at 08:52 PM

WT

“ Wanda D, family & Orlando RPh Team purchased the *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet* for the family of Bishop Cornelius Williams.



Wanda D, family & Orlando RPh Team - March 19 at 08:52 PM

KD

“ Kenson and Cassandra Dortelus planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bishop Cornelius Williams.

Kenson and Cassandra Dortelus - March 19 at 12:08 PM

KD

“ Kenson and Cassandra Dortelus purchased the *Lavender Reflections Spray* for the family of Bishop Cornelius Williams.



Kenson and Cassandra Dortelus - March 19 at 12:08 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bishop Cornelius Williams.

March 18 at 09:13 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Bishop Cornelius Williams.*



March 18 at 09:13 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Bishop Cornelius Williams.*



March 18 at 09:25 AM



“ *James and Kenyasha Ludd purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bishop Cornelius Williams.*



James and Kenyasha Ludd - March 16 at 09:04 PM



“ *The Brown Family lit a candle in memory of Bishop Cornelius Williams*



The Brown Family - March 15 at 03:02 PM



“ I am grateful for attending your services - thank you for the atmosphere sir. Rest well.

P - March 14 at 03:36 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Bishop Cornelius Williams.



March 12 at 07:54 PM



“ Thank you for all you've done for my family and I. We're forever grateful for your love, caring nature and leadership. Job well done, Good Sir. Rest peacefully.

Joe Brown - March 11 at 04:46 PM



“ Lit a candle in memory of Bishop Cornelius Williams



Terric Durden - March 11 at 12:51 PM