



## Dr. Jimmy D. Pritchard

August 30, 1955 - February 24, 2021

Dr. Jimmy D. Pritchard, of Forney, stepped into glory and laid his crown at the feet of Jesus on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. He was born August 30, 1955 in Fairfield, Texas to John Henry and Mary Cordelia (Brown) Pritchard, both of whom preceded him in death along with his sister-in-law, Nancie Pritchard.

Brother Jim graduated from Fairfield High School in 1973, where he earned nine varsity letters in four sports and was elected class president all four years. He pursued his education at Navarro Junior College and then Sam Houston State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in 1977.

While attending a Sunday evening service of Fairfield's First Baptist Church, he came under conviction from a sermon on Jonah preached by Pastor James E. Bishop and responded to Christ's invitation for salvation. After a private visit with his pastor, he made his public profession of faith in Christ and was baptized on September 8, 1963. Soon thereafter, he began to sense a call to vocational ministry, but fought until surrendering to this call at age 19 because of a medical emergency and miracle. FBC Fairfield licensed him to preach in 1978.

While working for an electrician before leaving for seminary, Bro. Jim met Jeannette Ann Gilbreath, who was working for the electrician's wife's ceramic

shop. They dated while he was at seminary and were married on December 29, 1979. Two years later, he graduated from Southwestern Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree and a three-month old son named James.

Upon graduation, he was called to serve as pastor at First Baptist Church, Gould, Oklahoma, where he served from 1982-1984. While at Gould, his home church ordained him to the gospel ministry in 1982, and Jeannette gave birth to their second son: John. From Gould, the Lord called him to Elliott Baptist Church outside of Camden, AR, where he pastored from 1984-1987 and had a daughter: Julie. In 1988, the Lord called him to Austin, Texas to shepherd Congress Avenue Baptist Church, where he was until 1994. While in Austin, he earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Southwestern.

He began his ministry as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Forney on April 1, 1994. During his 27 year tenure, he led the church to relocate from downtown to a \$36 million facility. During this time, the church added 6,596 new members, 2921 of those by baptism. The church collected over \$90 million in offerings, of which over \$10 million was sent to mission work. His ministry staff has expanded from 3 ministers to 15. Over the years, 38 men and women have surrendered to vocational ministry.

Beyond his service in the local church, Bro. Jim served as Trustee and Chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board (2006-2014), Trustee and Chairman of the Criswell College (2002-2007, 2010-2015), and Trustee of East Texas Baptist University (2002-2006). In 2014-2015, he served as the President of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. He has been a keynote speaker for the SBTC Empower Conference (2009) and the SBTC Annual Meeting (2010).

Bro. Jim is survived by his beloved wife of 41 years, Jeanette Ann (Gilbreath) Pritchard, of Forney; children: James Craig Pritchard and wife, Kim, of Lafayette, LA, John Daniel Pritchard of College Station, TX, and Julie Nicole Franks and husband, Taylor, of New Braunfels, TX; grandchildren: Judah, Jolie, Josiah, John, Jordan, Hayden, Ty, and Cole; brothers: Randall Pritchard of College Station, Wayne Pritchard and wife, Annette, of Scurry, TX, and Dan Pritchard and wife, Brenda, of Broken Arrow, OK as well as other extended family.

Calling Hours/Public Visitation for the community he served so faithfully to be able to pay their respects will be 11:00 a.m.to 6:00 p.m. Friday, March 5, 2021 in the Forum at First Baptist Church of Forney with family receiving friends 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

Funeral service will be at 2:00pm, Saturday, March 6, 2021 in First Baptist's Worship Center with family also receiving friends beginning at 1:00pm to service time. Interment will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery.

\*Funeral will be available for live streaming on FBC Forney's website [www.fbcforney.org/livestream/](http://www.fbcforney.org/livestream/) \*

The family is asking that in lieu of any flowers, that donations be made to the Higher Ground 2.0, PO Box 97, Forney, TX, 75126 to fulfill the vision Bro. Jim had for FBC Forney and the community he loved so much.

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours for Paying Respects

MAR 5. 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Forney  
1003 College St.  
Forney, TX 75126

## Visitation

MAR 5. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Forney  
1003 College St.  
Forney, TX 75126

## Public Visitation

MAR 6. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Forney  
1003 College St.  
Forney, TX 75126

## Funeral Service

MAR 6. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Forney  
1003 College St.  
Forney, TX 75126

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Jimmy D. Pritchard*

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October 08, 2023 at 07:43 PM



“ *I learned of Dr. Pritchard's homegoing from a friend who sent me his obituary in the mail. I am the daughter of Pastor James E. Bishop whom God used in Dr. Pritchard becoming a Christian at FBC Fairfield, TX. My Dad, Pastor Bishop, "graduated" in May of 2020. To learn of one of the many people he influenced in his years of ministry and service to the Lord warmed my heart. To read how Dr. Pritchard went on to live a life of serving God and influencing others and knowing the connection with my Dad is certainly a God thing. I know you are all grieving the gap that has been left by his homegoing. Whatever mark he left on you, carry that forward in your life in his honor. Prayers for the family as you learn how to life live without him physically present.*

*Jane Bishop*

*Daughter of Pastor James Bishop*

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**Jane Bishop** - March 19, 2021 at 06:26 PM

JG

“ I have the fondest memories of serving the Lord with Bro. Jimmy while I was on staff at Kauf-Van Baptist Association many years ago. He had a wonderful sense of humor that would make the duller of meetings a pure delight. Although he was the pastor of the largest church in the association and already serving Southern Baptists through various national roles, he always remained approachable and was one of the most humble and down-to-earth ministers I have ever known. He was a natural mentor to a generation of Baptist ministers who knew him. Bro. Jimmy had a remarkable gift for getting to the heart of a matter in just a sentence or two. His godly words of wisdom helped steer Baptists toward God's agenda countless times throughout his many years of faithful ministry. When he stepped into the pulpit, it was always evident that he was a Holy Spirit empowered messenger with a clear word from the Lord. We will greatly miss this faithful Warrior of the Cross.

*Jim Gatliff  
Associational Missionary  
Hunt Baptist Association  
Greenville, Texas*

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**Jim Gatliff** - March 09, 2021 at 01:45 PM

GD

“ We were so sorry to hear of the passing of Brother Jim. We mourn with each of you. We were blessed to have him as our pastor at Congress Avenue Baptist Church. We loved his sermons and also his sense of humor! His love for the Lord was evident and we are thankful that God allowed him to be our pastor. How wonderful to know he is home with his Savior and Lord and waiting for you all to join him one day! What a day of rejoicing that will be!!!

*Keeping you all in our prayers,  
Gwen and Michael Daniels*

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**Gwen and Michael Daniels** - March 07, 2021 at 08:42 PM

IL

“ So sorry for your loss. Praying for peace, joy, and comfort during this time. The scripture verse that comes to mind as I think of Bro. Jim is Matthew 25:21 "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!". I am one of many that came to Christ at Congress Avenue Baptist Church during your time there and that was just for a small stint in his ministry. I still remember that night he came knocking at my door asking "If I were to die that night would I know where I would go?" I kept thinking...how can anyone know? Only God knows those things. Bro. Jim showed me how the Bible is God's word, totally true, and that God does want us to know such mysteries and have total peace and assurance of our eternity. Bro. Jim's obedience to God changed my life forever and for that I am eternally grateful. I have even had the privilege of traveling all over the world sharing the Gospel and asking others that same question. What an amazing God we serve! Thank you all for your sacrifices and obedience to God's will.

*In His love,  
Irma De Leon*

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**Irma De Leon** - March 05, 2021 at 09:46 PM

CS

“ We are praying for you guys. Bro. Jim was one of the greats! Although it was for a short period of time, I count it as an honor and privilege to have had the opportunity to serve under his leadership.

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**Courtney Schmidt** - March 05, 2021 at 06:20 PM

DW

“ Dan and Sherry Wilson purchased the Beautiful i  
n Blue for the family of Dr. Jimmy D. Pritchard.



Dan and Sherry Wilson - March 05, 2021 at 03:03 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Dr. Jimmy D. Pritchard.



March 05, 2021 at 10:43 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for  
the family of Dr. Jimmy D. Pritchard.



March 04, 2021 at 06:24 PM



“ I just want to share that Bro. Jimmy has always been so kind to our  
family over the many years we have known him as our pastor. I  
know God has welcomed into Heaven saying “well done, good and  
faithful servant” Praying for the family & prayers for comfort and  
peace. Love, Ryan, Cara Cates Taylor, Jocelyn and Vivian.

RyanCara Taylor - March 04, 2021 at 07:36 AM

LD

“ We didn’t know Jimmy Pritchard well, but we truly admired and respected him as a person and a minister. We only lived in Forney for two years. During those two years, we attended FBC regularly until Covid 19 hit. After that, we listened online to his amazing sermons. He always “hit the nail on the head” with his Biblical messages. They were simple, yet profound. In short, we loved his sermons and will miss them so much. He did so much for the city of Forney - a town with serious growing pains. FBC is a shining example of Jimmy Pritchard’s vision and love for the Lord. Well done, good and faithful servant.  
Thanks Jimmy,  
Linda and Dave DeHoff

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**Linda and Dave DeHoff** - March 03, 2021 at 10:41 PM

FM

“ From Your Family at Texas Baptist Men purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Jimmy D. Pritchard.



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**From Your Family at Texas Baptist Men** - March 03, 2021 at 03:51 PM

KJ

“ Bro. Jimmy was one of the last few (my opinion) pastors who really preached the word and didn’t soften the blow. He wanted to get the word out and didn’t want you to misunderstand the meaning of the word. He made a difference and God used him in a mighty way. Bless his family as they mourn him no longer present but rejoice with them as they know where he is and where they will see him again.

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**Karen Jackson** - March 03, 2021 at 02:11 PM

BU

“ I really miss him in so many ways. He was a wonderful person in so many ways. I love him forever.

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**Buster** - March 03, 2021 at 01:33 PM

AB

“ Our hearts were so broken to hear the news of Bro. Jim passing away! As he mentioned in several sermons, "Don't know when Jesus is coming, but I'm ready." As Christians, we understood what he meant; however, it is always hard to let go of someone we hold dear and with high regard. Yes, he is in Heaven with his Savior, Jesus, and I'm sure he is enjoying every second in his new home!! With time and God's help we will get past the moments of hurt from grief, but we will always have a special spot in our hearts for him. Our church will continue forward with our faithful and capable church staff to continue Bro. Jim's mission, vision, and work as God leads. To Bro. Jim's family we want to say each one is in our hearts and prayers - especially Jeannette - as she is recovering from COVID. If we can do any thing, please do not hesitate to let us know. We care and are here for her and each family member. God bless you all with peace in the days ahead.

*Our love wrapped with prayers and hugs,  
Alaina and Darwin Bell*

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**Alaina A Bell** - March 03, 2021 at 01:05 PM

JT

“ Bro Jimmy was an awesome preacher of God's word..He will be sorely missed..We love his beloved wife Jeanette and are praying for her recovery from Covid.



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**Jean Taylor** - March 03, 2021 at 11:47 AM

 Lindy  
Kinney

“ *Brother Jim will always hold such a special place in my heart and our family. When we built our home in 2000, I asked him to come and pray with us to bless our new home when it completed in August 2000. He didn't hesitate for a second to say yes, what time do you want me there. Brother Jim also was the one who said the prayers and delivered the message at my beautiful sister-in-law's funeral in May 2001. Brother Jim is also who accepted my husband and I by transfer of our membership to the FBC. I loved hearing his sermons and just visiting with him. He had a special way of lifting you up and making you feel that everything was going to be just great when you had self doubt or angst about something. It's like the message of his sermons arrived just when I needed them most. I am praying for the entire Pritchard family, the First Baptist Church family and for our family as we say goodbye to someone who holds a special place in our heart. May he be jubilant and rejoice in his new Hoke with the Lord. AMEN!! 🙏*

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**Lindy Kinney** - March 03, 2021 at 11:42 AM

“ My fondest memory is of Brother Jim is the love and attention he showed to my granddaughter, Harley Drummond. (by birth she is my great niece). Her mother was on drugs and she would have been put up for adoption. My daughter, who cannot have children, and took her at the age of 12 weeks as the mom was back on drugs. Bro. Jim knew this story. She was dedicated at the age of almost 3. We were in a court battle from the age of 3-7. She is a beautiful mixed child . The mother had no idea who the birth father was. Harley has been raised in church from the time she was a bed-baby. When she was 8 Bro Jim held a service for her AWANAS group. At the end he asked if anyone had prayer requests, and it was the usual trivial things for a child at that age, however, when he came to Harley ,her request was to have a daddy. The workers all in tears. told me that he stopped the service , asked kids to quiten down,and they all had prayer for Harely and her request. That meant so much to me and to her. She could not wait for him to preach again the next year, and was so excited when the time came. That night she gave her heart to the Lord at the tender age of nine. And also was baptised. She was a very devout little Christian girl until the age of about 13. At that time she asked her mom, Dana, if she could quit going to church. Dana who is not a Christian ,said I will not force her to go to church. She is 17 now. When she learned of Bro Jims death she said " oh , no not Pastor Jimmy", and then said I feel like I need to go to the funeral. That was a shock to me ...tho I just said I know he would be pleased. Harley told her Uncle Jimbo, that she was so sad, and that she was saved with Pastor Jimmy and would always remember. She said he is the only "real preacher" that she has ever known. She has visited other churches . and they did not impress her at all.

*I am so sorry for your loss, but I try to remember that " our loss is his gain!" He has seen the face of our Lord Jesus, he has no more pain. He left a wonderful legacy....I am sure his crown is filled with jewels , and that he will be there to welcome us all home! Made me wonder if DD McGee grabbed him and gave him a big ole kiss on the lips.....as he told the congregation....that was his only fear! lol*

*He was a wonderful man and pastor! I love you all and appreciate you so very much ! Carolyn Marett*

**Carolyn Marett** - March 03, 2021 at 11:36 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Jimmy D. Pritchard.*



March 02, 2021 at 11:13 PM



“ *My goodness we all loved Brother Jim, he loved his church, and he loved his Lord Jesus Christ.  
God has taken home a treasure* ❤️

**Carol Martin** - March 02, 2021 at 09:38 PM



“ *When my husband Ray Bedard died, Brother Jim called & asked what I needed. We were not teachers nor Ray a Deacon but this Pastor loved his flock & taught biblically. A life well lived.*

**Nancy Bedard** - March 02, 2021 at 07:40 AM



“ *I was the first girl cousin born to the Pritchard clan. I remember Jim helping us light those colorful smoke bombs during the summer when we visited in Fairfield. He was very into sports, so always off playing sports with the older boys while Dan and I stayed back with Granny, who made us butter and syrup sandwiches. Sweet memories...*

**Jennifer Ritchey Bowes** - March 01, 2021 at 09:40 PM

JB

“ The greatest memory I have of my beloved pastor, Jimmy Pritchard, is the trip to Israel that Ken and I had the privilege to enjoy, traveling with Bro. Jimmy and Jeanette. It's a memory I'll cherish always. Boarding the bus, to head to the airport, Bro. Jimmy posed with me, with his hand behind his head, doing a Jazzercise pose! It's a picture in my mind that I'll never forget. I always enjoyed the fact that he had such a great humor. He will be greatly missed by all and I am praying for Jeanette and the Pritchard family. Love always, Jill Beam.

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**Jill Beam** - March 01, 2021 at 08:51 AM

LB

“ Pastor Jim was my “Pastor from Texas” and I tuned in online every Sunday to hear his Godly preaching. We had considered moving to Forney a couple of years ago. The first Sunday in Texas, we attended First Baptist Church Forney and I found a new church family. The move didn't work out, so we are still here in Redding, California, but Pastor Jim had a far reach! I am so saddened that his great ministry was cut short, but God's word will never return void (Isaiah 55:11). ). Pastor Jim accomplished exactly what God called him to do and is a man deserving of that wonderful “Wall of Great Pastors” of your church. Our prayers go out to both the family and congregation of FBC Forney.  
Kevin and Leisa Brown

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**Leisa Brown** - February 28, 2021 at 01:53 PM

AK

“ I did know Dr Pritchard but I commit to upholding his church & Family with daily prayers. God honors those who honor... " Thou wilt keep him in perfect Peace whose mind is set on Tgee." ( Isaiah 26:3)

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**Albert Kelly** - February 28, 2021 at 09:44 AM

SN

“ *Pastor Jimmy was my pastor for 11 years. During that time I grew tremendously in my spiritual life. I grew because of the vision he had and the wonderful ministries the church had. He is surrounded by excellent leaders that have the same love for unbelievers and the body of Christ. I remember when he came to visit us after we visited the church for the first time. This was a ministry that he loved; to visit those who visited the church for the 1st time. He was very warm and approachable. Years later he dedicated our son and we started a new journey as parents. Again I can only say that FBC ministry for children is outstanding. We have many good memories of our time at FBC Forney under the leadership of pastor Jim. I know he will be missed tremendously. We love pastor Jim! Thank you for all you did for us. Alain, Sandra and Nathaniel Nassar.*

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**Sandra Nassar** - February 27, 2021 at 12:23 PM

SC

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. I was blessed tremendously by his messages.*

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**Stephanie Coker** - February 27, 2021 at 10:42 AM

SD

“ *Prayers for your family*

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**Shelbi Durmis** - February 26, 2021 at 10:32 PM