



## James Rickenbacker

October 7, 1953 - May 19, 2014

James Rickenbacker, affectionately known as Rick, was born in East Meadow, New York to the late Harry Rickenbacker and Gertrude Estelle Holland. He was reared by his beloved grandmother, Justine Rickenbacker, and educated in the Westbury Public School System. After graduating from high school, he relocated to North Carolina and attended Kittrell College where he studied music. Upon his return to New York, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior and joined Refuge Church of Christ in Freeport, where he met his “sweetheart,” Delores Horton. James and Delores married on June 14, 1980, and he became the stepfather to Delores’ two children, Jeanette Delores and David Isaac. They worked tirelessly in the ministry together and were inseparable. James attended the Refuge Bible College and, under the tutelage of Bishop Ronald H. Carter, earned his ministerial certification. During his many years at Refuge, he played the drums and keyboard, started the youth step team and was always one of the ministers that could be counted on whenever the church doors opened. He and his family relocated to Lithonia, Georgia in 1989, and became an integral part of Faith Community Apostolic Church, under the pastorate of Weymon Stroud. After faithfully serving under this ministry for many years, he left to start his own ministry. Agape Evangelistic Church was his passion and his mission was to serve the total man, according to Matthew 25:35-36. He and his wife and best friends, Michael and Cristal Jones, were faithful in serving in the prison ministry. James was also a vital part of bringing several ministries together in the

Conyers area for the annual praise in the park back-to-school supply drive. The ministry also sponsored health fairs for the community and the infamous Memorial Day softball challenge and cookout. He worked as a substitute teacher and paraprofessional for DeKalb County Schools for more than 20 years and also started the Pine Ridge Step Team and taught tennis at several of the schools. He loved the children and students he worked with and they became a part of his extended family. Rick loved people, prison ministry, witnessing, serving in the church, singing, playing drums, eating, laughing, playing and teaching tennis, and attending the Briggs Family Reunion! Above all, he loved God and he loved and cherished his wife. He always had an encouraging word for everyone and did the best he could in spite of life's challenges. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Delores Rickenbacker; mother, Gertrude Holland; daughter, Jeanette Holloway (Michael); son, David Horton (Tameeka); grandchildren; Julian Holloway, Jazzarae Zachary, Daquan Zachary, Brandon Horton, Fari Holloway, Alexis Zachary, Ashley Zachary; great grandson, Kennedy Holloway; sisters-in-law, Elaine Holmes (Joseph Sr.); Neltje Horton; Patricia Horton; brother-in-law, David Horton (Verbet); brothers and sisters: Wanda Jones, Glen Rickenbacker, Brian Washington, Deana Coy, Cedric Washington, John Washington, Dennis Washington, Debra Pinkney and Donna Shelborne, and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

# Tribute Wall

DM

“ Dear family of James, My condolences on your loss. The pain of losing a loved one can be overwhelming. Our heavenly Father promises us that very soon he will 'swallow up death forever, and wipe the tears from all faces' Isaiah 25:8. What a wonderful future hope that is. There is much Bible based comfort to be found on the website [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org) sincerely dianne mullins

---

**d mullins** - May 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Grief can be so hard, but our special memories help us cope during this most difficult time. May the God of all comfort and the love of your family give you the strength you need to endure. ( 2 Corinth. 1:3,4)

---

**janet** - May 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ Lit a candle in memory of James Rickenbacker

---

**Alexis Juliano** - May 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ May Gods light guide you home Uncle Rick.

---

**Alexis Juliano** - May 22, 2014 at 12:00 AM