

Resolution for Mr. Willie T. Summerville
From
Dr. L. A. Kesse—Senior Pastor
Bethany Baptist Church of West Los Angeles

To the Family of Willie T. Summerville,

Because of the long-time friendship Summerville and I enjoyed having with each other please allow me to fore-go all of the formal “whereases” and so forth that normally go along with a resolution of this nature. I want to simply say some of the things I would say if I had been able to be there today for this Home-going celebration.

It was my good pleasure to meet Willie Summerville and Dr. Kenneth C. Ulmer in June of 1975 in Wiesbaden, West Germany. Summerville and Dr. Ulmer were conducting a workshop for the United States Air Force in Europe. I was there to conduct a revival for the same. When we met, it was like we had known each other all of our lives; and we hit it off right away. And...of course when I saw the talents and gifts of these two gifted men, I had to have them come to the church I was blessed to be Senior Pastor of at that time in Port Arthur, Texas. They began conducting workshops for me in 1976 which became an annual event on into the early 1980’s. Those workshops were such a hit with our church that the people of that city looked forward to the arrival of Summerville and Ulmer every year...it was great!

Being friends with Summerville there were several things one could not help but notice about him...

- He was crazy about his wife—Val
- He was thankful for, and hopelessly in love with his children

- He was proud to be from Crossett, Arkansas (hope I spelled it correctly)
- He loved Pastor and Mrs. B. J. Tatum
- He loved Canaan Baptist Church
- He was going to be Willie T. Summerville regardless of where he was or who was with. He did not **“put on”** or be pretentious for anybody.
- With Summerville...what you saw...was what you got.

Of course I could go on and on about him; but suffice it to say, Willie T. Summerville was my friend and brother in Christ. I loved him in the Lord as he did me. His presence will be sorely missed and his absence felt in numerous places.

To all of the children of Summerville and Val, and the family from Crossett the apostle Paul says in 1Corinthians 10:13, **“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”** Please know that I am praying for you. I think I may have met only one of you his children...i.e. “Bam Bam”...but I am praying for you all. God bless you is my prayer.

Sincerely,

Dr. L.A. Kessee—Senior Pastor
Bethany Baptist Church of West Los Angeles