



# Chaplain Philip "Tony" Symonds

NOV 11, 1942 - MAR 15, 2014



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Hamlin & Hilbish  
Funeral Directors

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## **Chaplain Philip "Tony" Symonds**

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**T**ony was born Philip Anthony Wilfred Symonds, November 11, 1942, in Reading, England. The son of Philip and Marjorie Symonds, he and his younger sister Margaret grew up in a Christian home, and Tony gave his life to Jesus Christ at the age of twelve.

At age 17, Tony heard God's call to ministry. Finishing a degree in engineering, he then pursued studies at Birmingham Bible Institute. Near the end of that course, the Lord led him into missionary work in Jamaica, where he taught school and ministered in many ways for eleven years. Tony met and married Carol Lynn Brown in Buff Bay, Jamaica, September 26, 1971.

As the Lord closed doors on further ministry in Jamaica, He opened doors for Tony and Lynn to move to St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1974. Tony taught at St. Petersburg Christian School for two years, and then served a year as associate pastor at Suncoast Cathedral, working specifically with the youth.

In 1977, the Lord called Tony to pastor Tavares Assembly of God church. While pastoring, he also founded Tavares Christian School. A close family connection characterized TCS, and that love still lingers among former TCS-ers to this day.

Tony earned his master's degree from the Assemblies of God Graduate School in 1982 and later his license as a Christian marriage and family therapist. He loved both pastoring and counseling. In 1999 Tony became chaplain and program director at the Lake County Jail, a position he also loved until the Lord called him home, March 15, 2014.

Surviving Tony are his wife Lynn, their oldest son Philip, and Philip's wife Gabriela; middle child Andrew; and daughter Christina, whose children Alexis and Elijah are the delights of Tony's and Lynn's lives. He is also survived by his niece Sarah Morrison and nephew Joshua Pineo.



## Obituary

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Through his years as a teacher, pastor, counselor, and chaplain, Tony also leaves behind a legacy in spiritual children. People of many ages could echo the words of one friend who said, "I knew I could call Tony at any time of day or night, and he would listen to me and give me wise counsel. I didn't always like the advice, but I always took it, because I knew he was right!"

Tony possessed a natural gift for music. He played guitar and bass guitar well, and could figure out how to play almost any other instrument. After his years in Jamaica, reggae always remained his favorite music.; a little Bob Marley would get his toes tapping even when his body weakened.

He also enjoyed playing and coaching soccer. The World Cup games were always taped, watched, and rewatched with much enthusiasm. Another special interest of Tony's was using his telescope to observe the night sky. He could get up at any time of night to watch a launch or the space station pass by. He had a sense of respect and wonder of God's amazing creation. He had a quick, unique sense of humor, and knew at least a little about almost everything; he could come up with a plausible answer to any question about life, science, why something worked the way it did, or the mysteries of God's word. As a trained engineer, he could fix or improvise almost anything that needed attention. He enjoyed planting pumpkins, peppers—the hotter, the better—and pineapples. He was a creative cook, and his sweet and sour pork is the stuff of family legend.

Above all, Tony loved Jesus, the living Word of God. He loved preaching and teaching, planting the seed of God's Word, and watching new life of understanding spring forth in his listeners.

The last entry in Tony's notebook celebrated the dawn of the new year 2014 with the highlighted, prophetic words, "The best is yet to come!"



## Events


## Chaplain Philip "Tony" Symonds

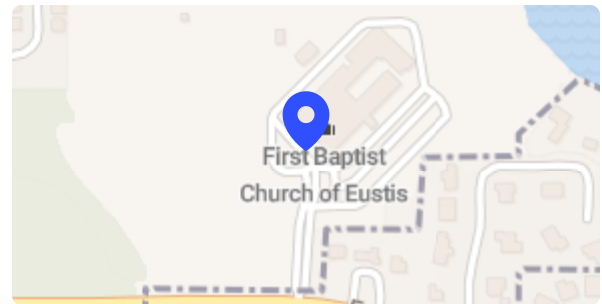
NOV 11, 1942 - MAR 15, 2014

### Visitation

 **Tuesday**, March 18, 2014


 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

 **First Baptist Church of Eustis**  
3551 East Orange Ave., Eustis FL 32726

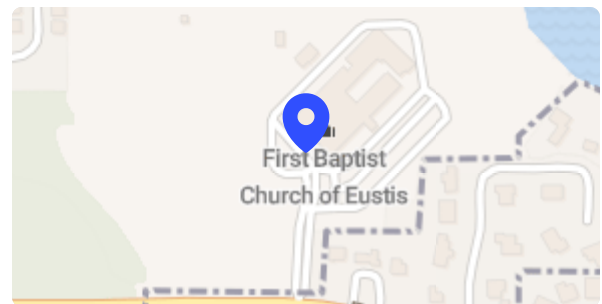


### Funeral Service


 **Tuesday**, March 18, 2014

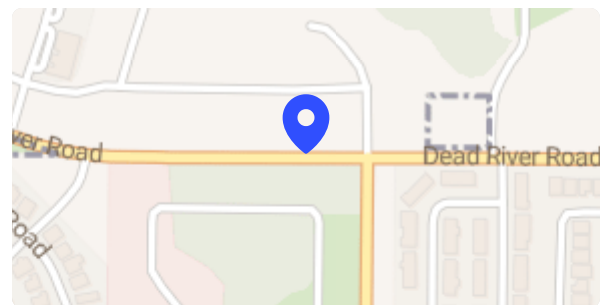
 7:00 PM ET

 **First Baptist Church of Eustis**  
3551 East Orange Ave., Eustis FL 32726



### Cemetery Details

 **Tavares Cemetery**  
Dead River Rd., Tavares FL 32778





## Tribute Wall

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HE

**Heather** posted:

Sorry this is a very late note. I just learned of Pastor Tony's passing. As I do offer my condolences to the family who lost a loving Father, husband, Grandfather, ect. I am not especially sad because I have no doubt he is celebrating with Jesus personally now. I just wanted to say a special thank you for all the work he and the family did at TCS. I was only there for my middle school years, but what an amazing impact that place and people had on my life. Especially spiritually, and I feel like my love for the Lord was not only started there, but deeply embedded. Thank you so much to Pastor Tony for the wonderful legacy you were able to leave behind. -Heather (Wolfe) Parisoe

December 13 at 4:52 PM

JE

**Joy Ellis** posted:

Precious Lynn, Philip, Andrew and Christina we send our love to you. Pastor Tony was the man the LORD used to bring us to salvation. He was the man that prayed me through the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and taught us steadfastness in Christ. We had many a Bible study fellowship at our home which created wonderful memories. A man of GOD who touched all the lives that crossed his path. We love you, and pray the Prince of Peace will be with you all in a very special way. Alex and Joy Ellis

March 20 at 5:47 AM

RR

**Rich Rommerome** posted:

No matter who embodies the white steeple church over looking Lake Idamere it will always be Gods gift of Pastor Tony's vision for Tavares. It is a testament to his service every time I drive by and remember the promise of that vision long time ago.

March 20 at 12:13 AM

JA

**Jackie** posted:

I can not put into words what our hearts are feeling. We will miss our friend!!! Steve & Jackie

March 19 at 5:04 PM



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Jl

**Jim** posted:

Pastor Tony had a tremendous influence on my wife's Christian walk which then helped to shape mine. He is a wonderful representation of Jesus in the flesh. It was also very nice to see a reunion of sorts of Tavares Assembly of God, like Tony had one more meeting for the church to worship together.

March 19 at 6:03 AM

VM

**Viola Kay Moss** posted:

Even with his great scholarship, he ministered to the simple and intelligent alike. He was humble and sought to seek to serve and enable others to have a better life. His legacy with his wife Lynn will forever have accolades in the halls of the GREAT KINGDOM! We will miss the likes of such a man on this earth until the GREAT RESURRECTION DAY!

March 18 at 9:11 PM

DR

**Don Rushing** posted:

Lynn, I have great memories of ministry with Tony. God bless you and your children. Don Rushing

March 18 at 6:00 PM

SL

**Sarah Lockwood** posted:

He taught us to love Jesus. What a treasure of memories my family and I have from knowing Pastor Tony! Lynn, you and your family sowed so much into our lives. You all hold a very special place in our heritage. Loving and praying for you during this trying time. Richard & Sarah Lockwood

March 18 at 11:56 AM

HD

**Howard Durden** posted:

It was an honor to have served on the Church board when Tony was pastor in Tavares. He will be missed by many in the community. Howard and Melba Durden

March 18 at 10:29 AM



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ME

**Mary Evans** posted:

Dear Lynn, Phil, Andrew, Christina and Children,I just cannot believe I am writing a condolence for Tony. We just saw him in December at Aunt Joyce's funeral and a few months prior to that at your home in Tavares. It will not be the same without him. Dad will be having a mass for the repose of Tony's soul.Mary Evans

March 18 at 9:17 AM

CS

**Connie S.** sent a sympathy card to the Symonds family.



March 18 at 9:02 AM

PA

**Penny Adams** posted:

My family has had the privilege of being friends with Pastor Tony, Lynn and their son Philip since the late 70's. I remember the day Andrew and Christina were each brought home from the hospital, I was privileged to hold them both. Pastor Tony was a loving, kind and forgiving man. He was full of love for his family, people in general and of course his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We spent many years together as our children grew and as we grew as members of the body of Christ. He changed our lives. Tony, you were loved and we will meet again. Lynn , Philip, Andrew, Christina and family, we will continue loving you. We are continuing prayers for all of you. May God continue to give you peace during this transition. Love,Larry and Penny AdamsPS. Lynn I remember Tony came to visit Larry a long time ago, he and Larry were outside gazing at the stars and talking. He told of the day he met you and how your love had changed his life. He preferred gazing at you. You had replaced his star gazing.

March 18 at 7:08 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Symonds family.



March 18 at 6:53 AM



# Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a sympathy card to the Symonds family.

March 18 at 6:47 AM



**Howard And Melba Durden** lit a candle in honor of Philip.

March 18 at 5:50 AM



**Carolyn Cox** posted:

What a beautiful tribute to Tony. The total influence of Tony's life is immeasurable.

March 18 at 5:37 AM



**Rachel Gonzales Ulrich** March 18 at 7:23 AM

Will miss him, born to serve, what a testimony. Praying for you and the family, Lynn



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Symonds family.

March 17 at 7:50 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Philip by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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