

# I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

## Verse 1

I have decided to follow Jesus.  
I have decided to follow Jesus.  
I have decided to follow Jesus.  
I have decided to follow Jesus.  
No turning back—No turning back

## Verse 2

No one to join me—Still I will follow.  
No one to join me—Still I will follow.  
No one to join me—Still I will follow.  
No one to join me—Still I will follow.  
No turning back—No turning back

## Verse 3

The world behind me—The cross before me  
The world behind me—The cross before me  
The world behind me—The cross before me  
The world behind me—The cross before me  
No turning back—No turning back

I have decided to follow Jesus.  
I have decided to follow Jesus.  
I have decided to follow Jesus.  
I have decided to follow Jesus.  
No turning back—No turning back

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*With grateful hearts, we wish to express profound appreciation to each of you who remembered us in your prayers, who called or visited, who sent flowers, cards or who in any way extended a loving heart to us during this time of sorrow. May God bless each of you. ~ The Briggs Family*

Professional Service Entrusted to:

Unity Funeral Chapels, Inc., 2352 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10027  
&  
Samuels Funeral Home, 114 N. Church Street, Manning, SC 29102



## CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



**WILLIAM BRIGGS, JR.**  
**“BROTHER”**

**SUNRISE: July 11, 1952**  
**SUNSET: December 2, 2023**

**Tuesday, December 12, 2023 - 4pm**  
**Unity Funeral Chapels, Inc.,**  
**2352 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10027**

**Saturday, December 16, 2023**  
**Taw Caw Missionary Baptist Church**  
**1130 Granby Lane, Summerton, SC 29148**

**NEW YORK, NY**

## Final Viewing



# PRECIOUS MEMORIES



## EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE

If tear could build a stairway and memories a lane. I will walk right up to heaven and bring you home again, I feel so grateful to have had as much time with my dad as I did. I miss you so much already and I will forever remember having the most incredible father. Thank you for everything you have done for me and always loving me and my family the way that you did.

I love you Dad. ~ **Deon & Family**

Sending my heartfelt condolences to The Briggs Family in the passing of their beloved Williams Briggs who also was loved by his AMKC Family in the NYC Correction Department. A gentleman of a gentleman who will be missed but never forgotten. I extend on behalf of many retirees their heartfelt condolences to The Briggs Family. ~ **Regenia Trevathan**

My deepest condolences for you and your family... My Friend, Partner, and My Brother in Blue. One of the GREATEST. You will always live in my heart. SIP Briggs ~ **Janice Floyd**

My prayers go out to your family. Your dad was the best. We worked together in New York and remained friends to the end. He would give anyone the shirt off his back. Stay strong because he always talked about his children and grandchildren. ~ **Jerline Robinson Bruin**

My sincere prayers of love with condolences to the family. Trust that God's grace and mercy endures forever. ~ **Mosetta Lawson**

William your life was blessed, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and will be missed beyond measure. Love you Uncle Brother ~ **Beverly Lawson**

Dear Briggs, thank you for the life we shared together. Rain, sleet or snow, any storm we could weather! Love is an understatement of what I had for you. And the love you had for me I know it was certainly true. My heart is broken now that you aren't here. Yet I smile and feel joy of the memories we shared, the places we've seen and skies that we've soared. The seas we have charted and yet we planned so much more. The years that we spent, the secrets we kept. The bond that we built since the day we first met. Some moments I wonder while I sit in my pain, devastated by your absence, but in my heart you remain. I pray one day we will meet again, this isn't the end... Thank you for everything my dear lover and best friend. ~ **Soraya Chapelle**

## SUMMERTON, SC

### Processional

### Officiant

### Selection

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

### Scripture Reading:

Old Testament - Rev. Dr. Novice S. Briggs

New Testament - Rev. Dr. Novice S. Briggs

### Prayer of Comfort

### Solo

### Kindly Reflections

(Three minutes please)

Family

Friends

### Selection

### Acknowledgements of Cards

### Word of Comfort

Rev. Dr. William Johnson, Pastor  
Taw Caw Missionary Baptist Church

### Selection

### Funeral Director

### Recessional

### Committal & Benediction

### INTERMENT

*Taw Caw Baptist Church Cemetery  
1139 Granny Lane  
Summerton, South Carolina*

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*“And Jesus said unto him, I say unto thee, today shalt thou be  
with me in paradise.” - Luke 23:43*

**William Briggs, Jr.** affectionately known as “Brother”, was born on July 11, 1952, to his parents, William Briggs, Sr. and Clara Bell Briggs in Summerton, South Carolina. William Briggs was called to eternal rest on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at his home. He was preceded in death by his parents and his three sisters, Annette Guess, Willene Briggs and Lucille Briggs of New York.

William attended Scotts Branch High School in Clarendon County, SC. In 1972, William moved to New York. On September 8, 1973, William was united in matrimony to Eva Mellerson. To this union they had two sons and one adopted daughter, Kevin Briggs, William D. Briggs and Diane Briggs/Walker.

William was known as a hard worker. He pursued a career with the New York City Police Department as an auxiliary for Model City for many years. In March 2, 1981, he was transferred to

the New York City Correction Department at Rikers Island where he worked for more than 20 years. William retired from the NYC Correction Department on September 29, 2001. After a year of being bored at home, he applied for a job as a security guard for Woodland Cemetery, Bronx, NY. In his spare time, William enjoyed fishing, going to the casino, cruises and just enjoying life.

He leaves to cherish his memories: his friend, Eva Briggs; his sons, Kevin Briggs of New York, NY and William (Arhalyz) Briggs of Orlando, FL; daughter, Diane (Keith) Walker of Kissimmee, FL; one brother, Harry (Novice) Briggs of Orangeburg SC; sisters, Thomasine Briggs of Summerton SC, Billie A. Briggs, and Catherine Briggs of Manning, SC; common-law-wife, Soraya Chappelle and children of New York, NY; ten grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

Although our hearts are heavy, for every pain that we must bear, for every burden every care. There is a reason. But if we trust God as we should it will all turn out for our good. God knows the reason.

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