

## Remembering Wesley Samuel (1938-2016)

Hugh Spurgin  
October 13, 2016



Wesley is one of those students who came to UTS later in life. He graduated with an MRE degree in 2005 at the age of 67!!!

Born in Quitman, Georgia, Wesley was raised on the farm in a Christian home with 5 brothers and 7 sisters. The family worked hard as sharecroppers, growing watermelon, cotton, and tobacco. His father was the most religious one in his family. He spent many nights doing prayer meetings with the family and teaching the Bible before bedtime and told stories about his life.

Wesley was very smart at a young age, many times his teacher would call on him to help others to count or recite their ABCs. He helped his older siblings in their studies. He was also stubborn and determined to do just the right things. It was the tradition for everyone to join the church when they were 11 years old but Wesley did not join his family's church until 13. He said, "I had no intention to join the church when I didn't feel like I should, or under pressure."

Wesley's intelligence and determination helped him pass through many challenges as the first African American member of the Unification Church. He developed great patience and a sensitive heart to show grace to others.

Wesley came to know about Sun Myung Moon in 1966 and with great love, endurance and loyalty followed in his footsteps for more than 50 years. His diligence to study the Bible, the Divine Principle and [Sun Myung Moon's speeches](#) developed in him a deep insight and understanding. His patience and kindness made him a most beloved husband, father, and brother to brothers and sisters of all races throughout the world. Wesley has served in various capacities in the New York Unification Church and participated in many missionary activities over the years: in Thailand, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Albania and Liechtenstein.

In 1961 Wesley married his beloved wife Gladys, and in 1969 they received the marriage blessing within the Unification tradition. They have six children, eighteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren.