William Douglas "Bill" Bloodworth Sr.

LIVINGSTON -- William Douglas "Bill" Bloodworth Sr., husband, father, grandfather, uncle, brother, and friend, died on Friday, Dec. 28, 2007, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Left behind to cherish his memory are his wife of 48 years, Rita Patterson Bloodworth of Livingston; son, William Bloodworth II and wife Deanna of Huntsville; daughters, Angela Gaston and husband John of Huntsville and Melinda New and husband Butch of Livingston; grandchildren, Rachel, Scarlett and Victoria Bloodworth, Susanna, John Wesley and Joel Gaston, Christina Gaston Vimont and husband Burton, Julianna Bloodworth and Jack New; great-grandson, Gage Gaston; sisters, Rachel Bloodworth, Ruth Thomason, Cherry Sinclair and Judy Hever and special nieces and nephews Jamie Thomas, Nena Thomas, James Jackson and Jonathan Yarbrough.

He was preceded in death by daughter, Regina Fay Bloodworth; parents, Gladie Rae and John Thomas Bloodworth; brothers, Ray Jackson and Woody Bloodworth and sisters, Lavon Thomas and Dorothy Davis.

He was born to Gladie Rae and John Thomas Bloodworth in Rison, Ark. on Feb. 8, 1940. He was an ordained Assemblies of God minister and pastored churches in Homer, La.; Rosepine, La. and Ace, Texas, and pioneered Gethsemane Chapel in Livingston which later merged with First Assembly of God in Livingston. He was a well-known home builder in Polk County for 37 years. He served his community as a Kiwanis officer, president of the Home Builders Association, and president of the Ministerial Alliance.

He was known as someone who left to his family a godly heritage, a strong work ethic, and many happy memories and who was a generous man who loved to give his time, money and wise counsel to many in need, often behind the scenes.

He felt strongly about spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ through missions giving and prison ministry, and supported them with both time and finances. He loved the wisdom of Proverbs and enjoyed all types of gospel music.

He was known for his humor, and sometimes his delivery was funnier than the joke. He loved good food and had been known to drive 150 miles for fried catfish and delighted his family with huge pancake breakfasts.

Services were held Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008, in the Cochran Funeral Home Chapel, with the Rev. Robert Smith, the Rev. Dennis Land, the Rev. R.C. Tillery and the Rev. John Gaston officiating. Interment followed on Wednesday afternoon in Woodbury Cemetery in Hillsboro.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Gideons International, P.O. Box 14800, Nashville, Tennessee 37214.