

Celebration of Life Service

Pastor Jimmy Lee Vinita

Friday, January 20, 2023 at 11:00AM

Main Sanctuary

Abundant Grace Community Church

2110 S McColl Rd. Edinburg, TX 78539

Nov. 11, 1945-Jan.17, 2023

Jimmy Lee Vinita was born to Edward and Louise Vinita in Nowata, Oklahoma on November 7, 1945. He went to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 while surrounded by his wife and loving family. He attended Midwest City High School in Midwest City, Oklahoma where he graduated undefeated in wrestling in 1964. There he met and married the love of his life Joyce E Cardwell and soon they started their journey together. After several years of being a traveling salesman, his love of nature and fishing would bring them to the resort town of Grove, Oklahoma, where he purchased a local sporting goods store. It was there that he felt the call of God on his life to preach. He commuted back and forth to Tulsa, Oklahoma where he attended Trinity Bible College. He graduated Trinity Bible College in 1973. His very first preaching engagement was a weekly Sunrise Sunday Service on the lake in the old boathouse where people came to listen to the word in their fishing clothes and bathing suits.

In 1975, he and his family moved to Stilwell, Oklahoma where he pastored his first church. It was during this time

that he felt led to missions. He started taking missionary trips into Mexico and fell in love with the culture and missions work. After a time, He was called by the Lord to move here to the Valley to be close to the border to continue his missions work.

Jim and Joyce Vinita, along with their four children, travelled to the Rio Grande Valley in 1978 to live. They were committed to following God's leading, to serve as missionaries in Mexico. Pastors Jim & Joyce attended Kingsway Missionary Institute to learn and master the Spanish language, which prepared them to work and collaborate with Brother and Sister Stone in Victoria Bible Institute in Reynosa. In 1979, after prayerful consideration, Pastors Jim and Joyce, were led to start a Bible study in their home, in McAllen. Pastor Jim preached to the adults in the living room, while Sister Joyce taught the children in one of the bedrooms. The piano was played in the kitchen, while worship was led in the family room. Pastor Jim even learned to play the guitar! Every Sunday was a family affair. Their four children, James, Joanna, Jacquie, and Jennifer

participated and served those attending their home church. There was a great hunger for the Word, worship, and fellowship and they quickly outgrew their living room.

A member of their home church owned a trailer park that had a rec room. They had church there for about six months. While having church at the trailer park, they used the park pool to baptize new believers. After they outgrew the rec room, they were given an opportunity to rent the banquet hall of the Quality Inn, in Pharr, and a hotel room was used for children's church. Because the banquet hall was upstairs, it was endearingly called, "The Upper Room". They held church in the Upper Room for about a year.

A Groundbreaking Ceremony took place in April 1982, at 2110 S McColl Road in Edinburg, where a piece of property was purchased to build the first building, the chapel. Hence, the commencement of Abundant Grace Community Church. The church just recently celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a special night of worship and time of fellowship.

Jim Vinita was preceded in death by his parents and by his

granddaughter, Saylor Joyce Skaggs.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joyce Elaine Vinita, his sister Letha Cole, his son James L Vinita (Phyllis Vinita), and daughters, Joanna L Walker (Jeffrey Walker), Jacquie E Marcelino (Roger Marcelino), and Jennifer L Skaggs (Lyle Skaggs).

Grandchildren: Michael Walker, Annessa Noblejas, James F Vinita, Casey Litton, Jessica Salinas, Amanda Skaggs, Dylan Vinita, Brittany Sanchez, Joseph Marcelino, Abigail Guzman, Spencer Skaggs.

Great Grandchildren: Caden, Eli, Benjamin, Nathan, Jace, Haydin, Addison, Cole, Matthew, Samuel, Liam, Noah.

