

*- Pallbearers -*

Bernard Joseph Dowdell  
Carlton Henderson  
Daryl Slatton

David Lindsey Dowdell  
Roger Henderson  
DeVontae Payne  
Joseph Lockhart

*- Honorary Pallbearers -*

Cedrick Henderson

Victor Harris

*- Floral Attendants -*

Jennifer Lockhart

Sheila Hairston Reeves  
Ben Hill Family

*- Interment -*

Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery

*- Acknowledgment -*

We are thankful for the outpouring of love and sympathy shown by so many. Our lives have been forever changed but your love, kindness, caring and support make it easier to bear. Thank you to each one of you.

The Dowdell Family

*- Repast -*

Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

IN MEMORIAM

May we take this opportunity to express sincere and deep appreciation for allowing us to serve you during this most difficult period. It is our constant aim to afford to the people of this community a service completed in all details and faultlessly executed with sympathy and understanding.



Final Arrangements Entrusted to:

*Harris Funeral Home*  
Sympathy • Courtesy • Professional Service

515 South Sixth Street  
Opelika, Alabama 36801  
(334) 749-6583 Fax (334) 759-7018  
www.harrisfuneralhomeinc.com

HOMEGOING SERVICE FOR

*Willie B.*  
DOWDELL

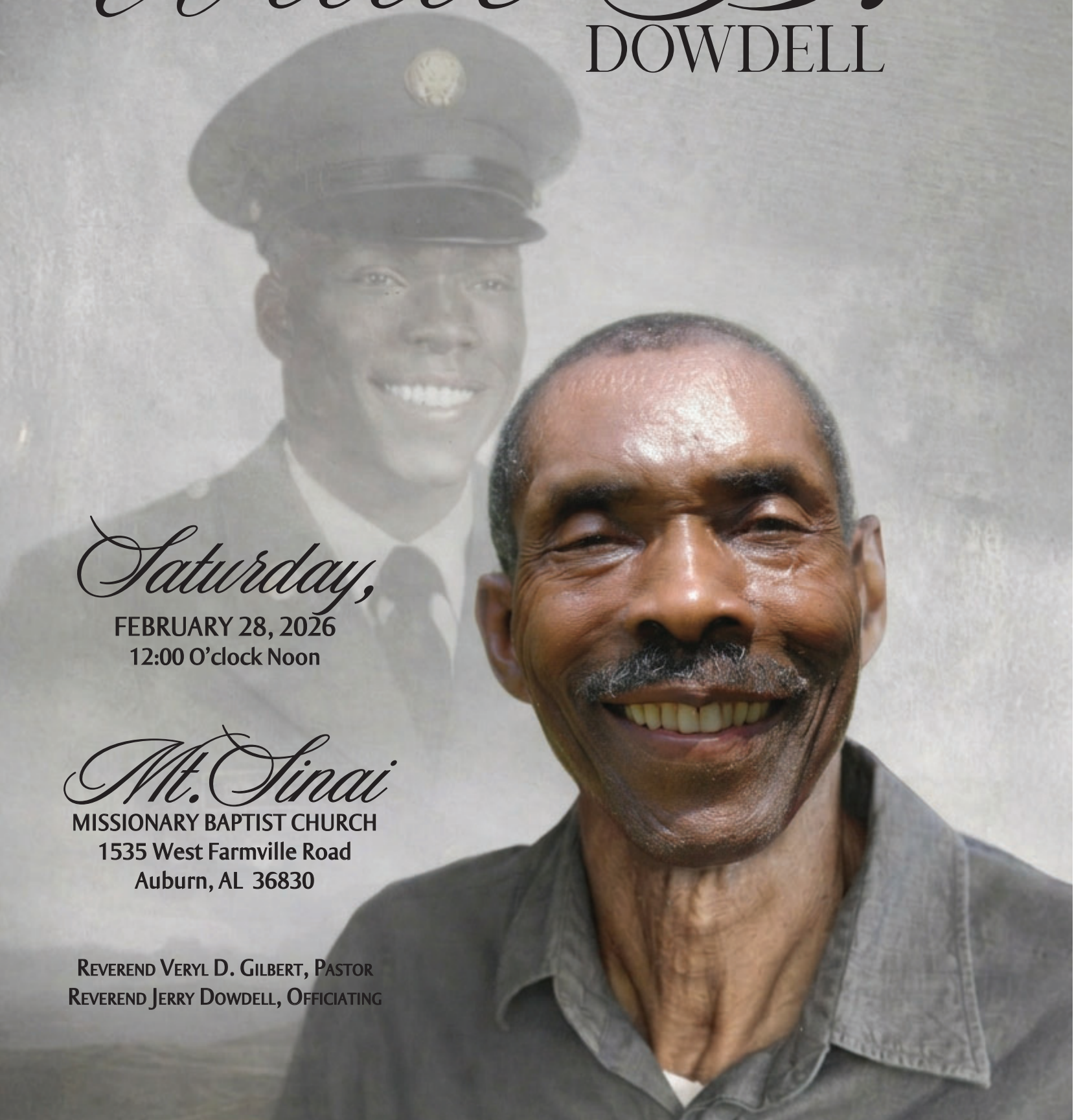
*Saturday,*

FEBRUARY 28, 2026  
12:00 O'clock Noon

*Mt. Sinai*

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
1535 West Farmville Road  
Auburn, AL 36830

REVEREND VERYL D. GILBERT, PASTOR  
REVEREND JERRY DOWDELL, OFFICIATING



## *- The Obituary -*

The late Mr. Lindsey and Mrs. Ruth Mae Davis Dowdell welcomed their eleventh and youngest child, Willie B. Dowdell, on August 25, 1942, in Lee County, Alabama. As the baby-of-the-family, he brought great joy to his siblings and was dearly loved from the very beginning.

At an early age, he confessed his faith in Christ and later reaffirmed his commitment through baptism as an adult. A devoted Christian, he loved the Lord and faithfully raised his family in the church.

Affectionately known as “B,” “Uncle B,” “Dad,” “Bernard,” and “Baby,” he embraced many roles throughout his life as a husband, father, grandfather, uncle, cousin, and friend. He cared deeply for his family and believed it was important to “know your people,” often bringing relatives together through reunions and gatherings that strengthened family bonds.

An educator, coach, counselor, farmer, carpenter, and visionary, he had a lifelong love of learning and of nature. He faithfully served the youth at Greenforest Community Baptist Church, mentoring and coaching countless children, including his own, in baseball and basketball.

Whether as a professor attending his students’ graduations or as a coach guiding young athletes, he was passionate about inspiring growth, character, and excellence in every life he touched. His legacy is one of faith, unity, mentorship, and unwavering devotion to family.

On Friday, February 13, 2026, our intelligent, talented, and gifted “B” peacefully departed his earthly home to be with his Heavenly Father. Kind, patient, and thoughtful, he touched countless lives with his gentle spirit and will be deeply and dearly missed.

He leaves to mourn his passing: wife, Cynthia Dowdell of Decatur, GA; two sons, Bernard Dowdell of Decatur, GA and David (Tyrica) Dowdell of Stone Mountain, GA; bonus daughter, Jamie Swift of St. Louis, MO; three grandchildren, Camden Dowdell, Camille Dowdell and Cairo Dowdell all of Stone Mountain, GA; one sister, Marilyn Jean Harris of Opelika, AL; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

## *- Remember Me -*

Remember me when summer fields begin to bloom,  
And Lee County sunlight warms the afternoon.  
Remember me in laughter shared at family reunions,  
In stories told that bind our generations.

Remember me when you gather hand in hand,  
To “know your people” and together stand.  
Remember me in faith that does not bend,  
In quiet prayers you softly send.

Remember me in every lesson learned,  
In dreams you chase and goals you’ve earned.  
Remember me beside the ballfield’s cheer,  
In courage that outlives every fear.

Remember me not only in tears that fall,  
But in unity, love, and strength for all.  
For if you walk in faith and family too,  
Then I am living on in each of you.

Remember me when young hearts rise,  
With purpose shining in their eyes.  
Remember me when you choose what’s right,  
And stand for truth with steady might.

Remember me in patience, calm and wise,  
In gentle words and sacrifice.  
And when you look toward Heaven above,  
Remember me through faith and love.

# The Order of Service -

Processional.....Clergy and Family

Scripture Readings:  
Old Testament  
New Testament

Prayer of Comfort ..... Reverend Jerry Dowdell

Musical Selection ..... “Amazing Grace”  
Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church Choir

Expressions of Love.....One Minute Each

Remarks ..... Bernard Joseph Dowdell

A Tribute.....Quentin Lynch

Musical Selection ..... Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church Choir

Eulogy..... Reverend Jerry Dowdell

Recessional ..... “I Will Fly Away”



