



## Hermel I. Del Rosario

September 16, 1958 - February 25, 2022

### Obituary for Hermel “Hil” De Rosario

On February 25, 2022, Hermel Del Rosario, a great and extraordinary man, went to be with His beloved Jesus at the age of 63. Hermel was born in the Republic of Panama, son of Hilda Camargo and Jose E. Del Rosario, he is survived by his wife of 33 years, Leslie, two sisters, Cira de Nunez and Neka Del Rosario, a brother, Everardo Del Rosario, and many nieces and nephews. He was a loving and caring husband, and his wife Leslie says of him, “He was my friend and the love of my life. I will dearly miss him until we see each other again!”

Wherever he went, Hermel’s captivating smile made people ask, “What is it that you have?” and he would reply, “Jesus!” Because of his smile, Hermel brought comfort and encouragement, and often led people to Jesus. In fact, on three separate occasions, he was followed by three major league baseball players, and led them to the Lord.

Hermel, also known as Hil, Pastor Hil, and Uncle Hil, impacted many people’s lives, including Leslie’s family, his own family, and countless friends.

As a young Christian, at the age of 20, he made it his life’s purpose to touch as many lives as possible with the message of the cross. A month or so after his conversion, with his innate leadership quality, Hil went to the church’s prayer room, gathered those who received Christ around the same time he did, and prayed and encouraged them to go on buses to share the Gospel and not to be ashamed. The efforts of himself and the others brought great

growth to the church. They were called “Tropa Buses,” or, “Those who Go on Buses.”

Prior to coming to the United States, Hil traveled as an evangelist, where he preached and held evangelistic crusades in churches, stadiums, and youth and children outreaches in several Latin American countries.

With a big smile, and, at times with teary eyes, he often would share how radically the Lord Jesus Christ delivered him from gangs, alcohol, and drugs. Hil dedicated his life to “spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ,” starting in Panama, then Costa Rica, and many other countries around the world. In 1987, as a result of an invitation to preach in Chicago at Pastor Cruz’s church, Hermel began reaching out to drug addicts and gang members and leading them to the Lord. The Lord also led him to California, where he worked in Lynwood Teen Challenge, and his ministry continued to the inner city of Lakeland, Florida.

With his passion to help those who were hurting, Hil joined Larry Mitchell at New Life Outreach, a drug regeneration program in Lakeland, and there he served as the director of the program for over ten years. Many men and families’ lives were touched, and changed, for the glory of God.

Hermel, an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God, while serving in New Life Outreach, also was involved in the community, prison ministry, and, during the Assemblies of God Decade of Harvest, along with his wife, Leslie, they planted a Hispanic church in the City of Lakeland.

In 1999, Hermel, with his wife Leslie, accepted the call of God to become missionaries with the Assemblies of God, and served in Cape Town, South Africa, Mexico, and Panama, where thousands of people prayed to receive Christ as their Savior. His ministry extended to helping plant churches, build and remodel three churches in Mexico, rebuild a church close to the Darien jungle in Panama, and work with children and youth outreaches, gangs, and prison ministry. With the help of Mike Tedder, former Senior Pastor of Bartow First Assembly, and Wayne Blackburn, Senior Pastor of Victory Church, Hermel was able to purchase a strip mall in South Africa, with two acres of

land for a Teen Challenge ministry, which is currently self-sustained. In conjunction with former missionary David Betzer, they were able to launch the Book of Hope for the continent of Africa. Other works that Hermel was instrumental in were organizing leadership training, marriage seminars, medical clinics, and more, using all available tools to reach the lost for Christ's sake. Hil always looked for opportunities to share the gospel. One of his favorite verses in the Bible was Joshua 1:9: "All that I have done and accomplished is for the glory of God."

Hil, we will miss your encouragement, care, and your beautiful smile! A memorial service honoring missionary Hermel "Hil" Del Rosario will be on Thursday, March 17, 10:30 AM, at Victory Church, 1401 Griffin Road, Lakeland, Florida, 33810.

A live video stream of the service will be available. For details, call (863) 859-6000.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAR 17. 10:30 AM (ET)

Victory Church  
1401 Griffin Road  
Lakeland, FL 33810  
<http://victorylakeland.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Hermel I. Del Rosario*

November 17, 2022 at 10:14 AM



“ *It was a beautiful service honoring Christ and honoring Hil. We wish we were in FL and could have been there in person to love on you, Leslie. We're so grateful to Victory church for broadcasting online. Leslie, know that we love you and are praying for you. We'll see you here, there, or in the air, Chris and Patty Smith*

**Chris and Patty Smith** - March 17, 2022 at 12:22 PM



*Thank you Chris and Patty, for your friendship and for caring. Love you both. Leslie.*

**Leslie Del Rosario** - March 19, 2022 at 03:46 PM



*Thank you my Dear Dorothy. Love you Leslie*

**Leslie Del Rosario** - March 19, 2022 at 03:48 PM



*Sorry to hear of your loss Leslie. only heard about the passing of Hill here now in Atlanta attending the global teen challenge conference*

**Erica Nomdoe** - August 31, 2023 at 03:34 PM

DO

“ Dorothy lit a candle in memory of Hermel I.  
Del Rosario



Dorothy - March 16, 2022 at 01:39 PM

DO

“ Hill's infectious smile and laughter will be greatly missed by all. Our brother-in-law and "amigo" you've fought the good fight; now rest in peace. 2nd Timothy 4:7-8.  
"Te volveremos a ver en el cielo". Peace and Blessings we love you Leslie, you will be in are prayers. Your brother Gary sis-in-law Dorothy, and family.

Dorothy - March 16, 2022 at 01:37 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Hermel I. Del Rosario.



March 15, 2022 at 04:36 PM

LS

“ Grateful to have had Hil as my brother-in-law and the husband of my sister Leslie. Both Hil and Leslie have provided love, prayers and support over the years for my family. I can't wait to see him again in heaven! Blessings my brother - Peace (Shalom). <><  
Lorraine Slater and Family.

Lorraine Slater - March 13, 2022 at 11:20 AM

LR

*My Dearest Sister Lorraine  
thank you and Robert for all your love prayers and support. We will see  
Hil and Dad soon.. Blessings.*

Leslie Del Rosario - March 19, 2022 at 03:51 PM

CS

“ *We fell in love with you both the first time we saw you at Bartow  
First Assembly. You both are so full of the love of Christ that it can't  
help but spill over to those around you. Leslie, you are in our  
prayers. Please let us know if there's anything we can do for you.*

Chris and Patty Smith - March 13, 2022 at 08:54 AM

VM

“ *Hola Leslie te saluda Verna Murrell, Nuestro Dios es increíble, me  
llamo una hermana a mi casa desde el Canadá que había  
mantenido amistad con una de mis cuñada, porque estaba  
buscando una pista de Jaime, al hablar con ella me entero que es  
familia tuya y me habla de la muerte de tu esposo, y hemos tratado  
de localizarte pero me ha sido imposible, para darte mis  
condolencias, se como te has de sentir pero desde lejos te envío un  
gran abrazo y eres parte de nuestras oraciones. Me gustaría  
comunicarme contigo mis teléfonos son 305-364-0004 y 787-495-  
2146 ojalá podamos hablar muy pronto. Un abrazo fraternal y ojalá  
el Señor nos permita saludarnos.*

Verna Murrell - March 13, 2022 at 12:03 AM

VM

786 495 2146

Verna Murrell - March 13, 2022 at 12:05 AM

MF

*Hola Leslie, soy Miriam Fuentes, me incluyo aquí en el comentario de Verna, para Darte mis Condolencias por la pérdida física de tu esposo, . Han pasado tantos años pero los recuerdos de los tiempos que pasamos juntas, nunca se olvidan compartiendo con Jaime y Verna que aprovecho para expresar a Verna también la pérdida de nuestro Amado Jaime. Dios es nuestra Fortaleza y Refugio. Yo no estoy en redes porque no soy muy amante a esto, aunque es necesario como en ocasiones cómo estás.*

*Recibe un fuerte abrazo y ojalá nos podamos encontrar en un futuro próximo.*

*Saluditos*

*Mi móvil es (507)63500726*

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**Miriam Fuentes** - March 13, 2022 at 08:57 AM

RC

*We did invite Evangelist Del Rosario in 1987. He was a great blessing to our church and to my life personally. He loved Jesus and lost souls in a great way. We have been in contact by phone and last saw him and Leslie in Orlando in 1987. He never gave up and we will never forget his friendship and encouragement. He always believed that God was going to use my life greatly. We honor his great life and we thanks Leslie for sharing Hill with the body of Christ. So long my friend and we will see you in resurrection morning.*

*Rafael L Cruz*

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**Rev. Rafael L Cruz** - March 14, 2022 at 11:42 AM

LR

*Thank you Rafi and Gloria love you both. Let"s keep in touch.*

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**Leslie Del Rosario** - March 19, 2022 at 03:53 PM

DB

*“ What an honor it was to have served alongside Hil and Leslie. Working with them was one of the highlights of my missions work in South Africa. Hil was a powerful, hard working brother in the Lord with an incredible passion for souls. Leslie, please contact Janis and I if there is any way we can serve you. David and Janis Betzer*

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**David Betzer** - March 10, 2022 at 04:17 PM

BG

“ We love Hil! His joy is now full, his race completed. Praying for you, Leslie, may the Lord's richest be with you. Billy and Debbie Green

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**Billy Green** - March 10, 2022 at 03:54 PM

LR

Thank you Pastor Billy and Debbie. May the Lord continue to use you in a mighty way is my prayers. Love you both. Leslie

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**Leslie Del Rosario** - March 19, 2022 at 03:56 PM