



Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson

June 6, 1969 - January 31, 2026

After a lifetime devoted to advancing the Gospel, Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson, of Bedford, Indiana, heard the words, ‘Well done,’ and entered into eternal rest with his Lord on Saturday evening, January 31, 2026. He passed away at his cabin—his beloved “Peaceful Retreat”—surrounded by the love and care of his family, following a courageous two-month battle with cancer. He was 56 years old.

Steve was born on June 6, 1969, in Champaign, Illinois, a son of Rev. Keith and Neoma (Palmer) Gibson.

A lifelong and voracious learner, Steve graduated from high school at the age of 14. By age 18, he had earned a Bachelor of Theology degree from Union Bible College in Westfield, Indiana. One week following graduation, he married the love of his life and faithful partner in ministry, Stephanie Spencer, on June 4, 1988—a union that would anchor and strengthen every season of his life and calling.

Steve continued his academic pursuits with unwavering passion, earning a Master of Arts in Theology from Wesley Biblical Seminary and a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies from Louisiana Baptist Seminary. He later earned a Doctor of Ministry from Grace Theological Seminary in Winona Lake, Indiana. His love for learning never waned; at the time of his death, he was actively

pursuing a Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies at Columbia International University.

Dr. Gibson was widely regarded as a true missionary statesman. Everything he did was directed toward the furthering of the Kingdom of God. He was serving as Director of Holiness Pilgrim Mission, where his primary focus was developing training materials and establishing sustainable ministry training networks led by national leaders in Belarus, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Haiti, Ivory Coast, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Moldova, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Tanzania, and Ukraine.

Steve previously led Evangelistic Faith Missions in Bedford, Indiana, for nine years, serving as both Vice President and President, overseeing their work in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Thailand, and the United States. He and his family also lived in Ukraine for five years, during which he served at Kiev Wesley Bible College as a professor, academic dean, and president. During that time, he taught at additional colleges and preached extensively throughout Ukraine and Russia.

He was a founding member of the Shepherd's Global Classroom Board of Directors and authored many of its courses. Steve launched pastoral training initiatives and compassion ministries across the globe and traveled in mission work to more than 30 countries.

Sacrificial and generous in spirit, Steve's ministry also included pastoral service. Ordained in 1992 with the Pilgrim Holiness Church, he served on both the Educational and Examining Board and the Missions Board. For five years, he pastored Victory Chapel, a diverse inner-city church in Indianapolis. He taught classes and held administrative roles at several Bible colleges and Christian schools, and authored multiple books that continue to equip and encourage Christian leaders worldwide.

Dr. Gibson's leadership left an enduring mark on countless lives. He led with humility, courage, and vision, and possessed a rare gift for recognizing those who had been overlooked—calling out their God-given potential and placing them in positions where they could flourish.

On a personal level, Steve loved to sing and was blessed with a rich bass voice. He sang in the Union Bible College Choir and sang for several years with the Reconciled Quartet, satisfying his love of gospel quartet music. He loved reading, studying, and working with new languages that would benefit mission work. Steve was also a seasoned practitioner of Hapkido, a comprehensive Korean martial art focused on self-defense, achieving a second-degree black belt (Ee Dan).

Steve also cherished time spent hunting on his property and retreating to the woods, where he found renewal in a small, humble hut—a place where he read, wrote, prayed, and occasionally harvested a deer. He enjoyed collecting items from his travels around the world, but the most treasured items in his office were the photographs and memorabilia of his children.

Above all, Steve loved the Lord, loved his family, and deeply enjoyed the work God had called him to do.

Steve's spiritual legacy will continue through the lives he touched and mentored, as well as those who will receive and learn from his writings in years to come.

In addition to his parents of Shoals, Indiana, those left to cherish Steve's memory include his wife of 37 years, Stephanie Gibson; six children, Stephen (Jade) Gibson of McCordsville, Brittany (Adrian) Hood of Brookville, Jonathan Gibson, Zachary (Magui) Gibson, and Joshua Gibson, all of Greenwood, and

Caleb Gibson of Bedford; ten grandchildren, Shalynn, Spencer, Emily, Mackenzie, Veronica, Juliette, Liam, Juniper, Stephen Lee, and Elizabeth; a sister, Karen (Jeff) Tyler of Shelbyville; a sister-in-law, Michelle Gibson of Shoals; and several nieces and nephews.

Waiting to welcome Steve into Heaven was his younger brother, James Gibson, who also passed away from cancer just hours earlier on the same evening.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Southport Church of the Nazarene, 920 E. Southport Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, with Rev. Tim Keep officiating. Burial will follow at Washington Park East Cemetery.

Friends may call at the church from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, and for one hour prior to the service on Saturday.

Dr. Gibson's funeral service will be livestreamed and may be viewed at 11:00 am Saturday by Clicking Here (<https://www.youtube.com/@southportchurchofthenazarene4831/streams>).

Memorial contributions may be made to Holiness Pilgrim Mission by Clicking Here (<https://www.holinesspilgrim.com/>) or to the funeral home to assist the family with funeral expenses by Clicking Here (<https://www.sprolesfamilycare.com/online-payments-and-donations/>).

Arrangements have been entrusted to Sproles Family Funeral Home in New Castle. Condolences may be shared with the family at www.sprolesfamilycare.com.

The Sproles family and staff are deeply honored to serve the family of Dr.

Stephen Keith Gibson.

Cemetery Details

Washington Park East

10612 East Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46229

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 6. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Southport Church of the Nazarene
920 E. Southport Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46227

Visitation

FEB 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Southport Church of the Nazarene
920 E. Southport Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46227

Funeral

FEB 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

Southport Church of the Nazarene
920 E. Southport Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46227

Tribute Wall



“ I always looked forward to seeing Steve in our Martial Arts classes. Hearing the stories of his mission trips was inspiring. He will be greatly missed. Prayers and thoughts to his family.



Dawn Saal- Lofland - February 07 at 10:12 AM

AL

“ Our thoughts and prayers have been with you all and will continue! We pray for the Lord's double grace as you face two losses at once! We are grateful you are livestreaming the service, for we and others in our extended family plan to watch. My earliest memories regarding Steve are of attending a missionary service at the church his parents pastored in Franklin, PA, when I was a small girl. He would probably have been only about two years old. The missionaries were Leroy and Myrtle Adams, and Leroy played the trumpet with one hand, the accordion with the other, and the pedals of the pipe organ with his feet! I was absolutely fascinated and never forgot that service! Surely because of such services, the need of missions got through to both Steve and myself at young ages. I have always admired the excellent editorials Steve would write in the EFM papers. They were always well written and of good quality. My sister Kezia Jackman mentioned to me today that her children loved Steve Gibson when he'd have services in their area. He had their high respect. He was highly intellectual yet down to earth. I was thinking of the Scripture where Paul writes about elders who have served well, and how they are deserving of double honor. As I look at the tributes, it is obvious that Steven served well. He is therefore worthy of double honor. These few poor words are just a small way to express and share that honor--and all because of what Jesus did for us on Calvary. --Jonathan and Anna Lucas

Anna Lucas - February 06 at 07:11 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



February 06 at 03:56 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



February 06 at 02:59 PM



“ *Coweta Church Of God (Holiness) purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Coweta Church Of God (Holiness) - February 06 at 12:02 PM



“ *Greenup pilgrim holiness church purchased the Psalm 23 Tribute Blanket for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Greenup pilgrim holiness church - February 05 at 07:01 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



February 05 at 06:27 PM



“ *Mitchell Fields purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Mitchell Fields - February 05 at 05:38 PM



“ *Rick & Doris Beatty purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Rick & Doris Beatty - February 05 at 04:41 PM



“ *Union Bible College & Academy purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Union Bible College & Academy - February 05 at 09:16 AM

YG

“ *Your Son: Jonathan Keith Gibson purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Your Son: Jonathan Keith Gibson - February 04 at 03:45 PM

EF

“ *Entire Shepherd Institute Liberia family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Entire Shepherd Institute Liberia family - February 04 at 02:53 PM

EC

“ *Evangelical Methodist Church Conference purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Evangelical Methodist Church Conference - February 04 at 02:31 PM

DY

“ *So sorry to hear of Steve's passing. You and the family are in our prayers.*

Delmar & Betty Young - February 04 at 01:11 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



February 04 at 08:16 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



February 03 at 09:25 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, in particular his wife and children and grandchildren, his parents, and his sister. May the God of all comforts be near!*
Don and Devona Moore

Don and Devona Moore - February 03 at 08:22 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



February 03 at 04:56 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



February 03 at 04:36 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



February 03 at 01:43 PM



“ *Evangelistic Faith Missions purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Evangelistic Faith Missions - February 03 at 01:19 PM



“ *Jim and Terri Sungur purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Jim and Terri Sungur - February 03 at 01:16 PM

FB

“ *Forever your little girl, Brittany purchased the Rose Garden Heart for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Forever your little girl, Brittany - February 03 at 10:54 AM

JF

“ *Joel&Haleigh Gibson family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Joel&Haleigh Gibson family - February 03 at 09:47 AM

PI

“ *Penn View Bible Institute purchased the Treasure of Lilies Spray for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Penn View Bible Institute - February 03 at 09:13 AM

PC

“ *Pilgrim Holiness Church Conference purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.*



Pilgrim Holiness Church Conference - February 03 at 08:12 AM

SG

“ Stephen Gibson purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.



Stephen Gibson - February 02 at 11:04 PM

CT

“ Cindy Thomas purchased the Light Remains Tribute Blanket for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.



Cindy Thomas - February 02 at 07:57 PM

MF

“ Mark & Renée Fiskeaux purchased the My Soul Lives On Blanket for the family of Dr. Stephen Keith Gibson.



Mark & Renée Fiskeaux - February 01 at 03:03 PM