

## THE CAROUSEL

**QUESTION:** In the 50th Anniversary photo on the leaflet for Virginia Ruth's Celebration of Life, the couple is holding a miniature Carousel. Why a Carousel?

**ANSWER:** Flashback to 1963. Virginia's sister, Yvonne Karl, was teaching at Nitro High School and James Wright was a kind and quiet student in her class. He also attended her Sunday School class at Nitro Church of God. One summer weekend Yvonne took the Sunday School class to Camden Park for a Saturday of fun. There was no need for additional chaperones. Those who could drive filled their cars, and at least one young man drove by himself: James Wright. He was a star athlete at Nitro High School, lettered in five sports, and had the eye of all the girls—but HIS eye was on one particular young gal in his Sunday School class: Virginia Ruth. During that day at Camden Park, James chose to ride the rides with his teacher, Yvonne. At the end of the day, as clean-up was taking place and departure was at hand, he asked Yvonne if Virginia Ruth could ride home with him. She said "yes." That was the beginning--but far from the end--of their courtship that led to marriage on 27 December 1968. The miniature carousel was reminiscent of that Saturday outing that led to 50+ years of marriage and ministry – to the glory of God! 🙌🙌



\*Dr. James Wright shared this story in his comments at Virginia Ruth's Celebration of Life, 26 June 2019, at Nitro Church of God in WV.