By JASON PATTERSON
Editor & Publisher

Larry Echols, former police chief and pastor of Yazoo City's Church of Christ, died Friday at the age of 65.

Echols retired as chief after 25 years with the Yazoo City Police Department. After retiring from law enforcement Echols traded his gun for a Bible by becoming the pastor of the Church of Christ in Yazoo City. Echols was filling in for Rev. John Dial, and he said he felt called to accept the position after Dial retired.

"You never know what God is doing behind the scenes," Echols said in a 2010 interview with The Yazoo Herald. "This is something that I had thought about, and in the end it turned out to be an answered prayer."

Echols told The Herald in 2010 that he had always viewed police work as an opportunity to help others, but the ministry offered the greatest chance to touch people's lives.

"In law enforcement you get the opportunity to help a lot of people, but a lot of times you have to be the bad guy," Echols said.

Pat Brock, a member of the Church of Christ, said Echols held the church together for the last two years.

"He was a great friend, and he was a great person," Brock said. "He truly cared about helping others."

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