

# REGGIE WHITE REMEMBERED

Exclusive special features an insightful interview with the late NFL notable



Photo courtesy of Green Bay Packers

## By Nancy Christopher

Reggie White was considered a *great* man in many ways.

The two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year and NFL all-time sack leader at the time of his retirement in 2000 was considered *great* by athletic standards. Standing 6 feet, 5 inches, 300 pounds, anyone who stood in White's towering presence would agree that this so-called gentle giant was undoubtedly *great* by physical description as well.

But *great* isn't a word that can only be used to describe White's stature and athletic prowess, as those who knew White and what he stood for have been attesting since the legendary lineman died suddenly on December 26 due to an apparent respiratory disease combined with other health problems. In the weeks following his passing, White has been eulogized for being *great* in character, *great* in integrity, and last but not most certainly not least, *great* in his faith in Jesus Christ.

Sky Angel viewers will gain fresh insight into the faith of this man, an ordained minister

nicknamed the "Minister of Defense," during an exclusive interview-special scheduled to air on Sky Angel this month: *Reggie White: Great in the Kingdom of Heaven* airs February 4, 9 to 9:30 p.m. ET, and again on February 6, 4 to 4:30 p.m. ET, on Sky Angel's special events channel, Angel Two/9702.

Following White's untimely death one week after his 43rd birthday, former fellow players, coaches, team managers and the NFL's commissioner have been quoted in the news speaking highly of White, a 15-season pro player for the Philadelphia Eagles, Green Bay Packers and Carolina Panthers, not merely as a committed and talented athlete but as a positive role model and a man of deep faith.

"Reggie White was a gentle warrior who will be remembered as one of the greatest defensive players in NFL history," NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said in a statement. "Equally as impressive as his achievements on the field was the positive impact he made off the field and the way he served as a positive influence on so many young people."

White might have been pleased by the legacy that he left. In one of two promotional television spots that White taped for Sky Angel in 2003 because he believed in the Sky Angel mission the following statement by White reveals how the NFL stand-out desired to be remembered:

"Football comes and goes; that kind of success is fleeting," stated White, surrounded by his football memorabilia. "If I'm going to be remembered at all, I want to be remembered as a good father, a good husband, a good man. That's what I'm working on. That's why we have the Sky Angel Family of Networks in our home. It's

television that helps keep life in perspective."

Indeed, White strived to keep life in perspective. He was known for his work with inner-city youth and the underprivileged and other "at-risk" groups such as homeless and battered mothers. He was also once quoted as saying that he believed professional football was a platform for him to be a witness for Christ and was reported as often being spotted after a game praying with players from either team or encouraging them in their Christian faith.



Photo courtesy of Green Bay Packers

In the weeks following his death, much has been said about White's faith on and off the field; however, Sky Angel viewers will get the unique opportunity to hear from White himself about how God had been moving in his life more recently during *Reggie White: Great in the Kingdom of Heaven*. The special features a one-on-one interview with White by messianic teacher, Michael Rood. Rood teaches about the Messiah from a Hebrew perspective and hosts the Angel One TV show, *A Rood Awakening*. The interview was taped at the end of White's 10-day trip to Israel in October 2003 during the Jewish Feast of Sukkot and was originally

taped as part of a series of interviews called "Rood Friends" that was distributed to supporters of Rood's ministry "as a way for them to meet people in Israel who are important in Michael's life," says

Chaim Goldman, senior producer for Rood's program.

Goldman says that the ministry received permission from White a couple of months ago to turn the interview into a special program for broadcast.

### When to Watch

**What:** *Reggie White: Great in the Kingdom of Heaven*

**When:** February 4, 9 to 9:30pm ET (Re-airs February 6, 4pm ET)

**Where:** Angel Two/Ch. 9702