



Rev. John S. Marvin

July 15, 1935 - September 13, 2016

John S. Marvin, age 81, went to meet his Savior on September 13, 2016, in Arlington TX, peacefully at home with his devoted wife Betty by his side. He was born on a farm in Shickshinny, PA on July 15, 1935 to Eugene Marvin and Sylvan Belles Marvin. He attended a one-room school house through the 8th grade. He graduated from Shickshinny High School in 1953. He loved riding his horse and enjoyed playing basketball. He went on to graduate from Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC in 1957 with a double major in Bible and Speech. He met his wife Betty Mishler at Bob Jones and they were married on July 7, 1957 in Shipshewana, IN. They enjoyed 59 beautiful years of marriage together. They had four children, Dan, Joy, Ted, and Tod and 6 beautiful grandchildren who they loved dearly.

He was the pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Waukarusa, IN for 6 years. In April, 1964 he became the pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Kankakee, IL. John was the founder and superintendent of Grace Baptist Academy in 1973 until he retired in 2008. He was active in the school as a coach, chapel speaker, and consummate Crusader fan. John loved preaching in his church 3 times a week, spoke weekly on the "Miracles of Grace" radio program, and traveled to the Pacific Garden Mission in downtown Chicago to regularly preach to hundreds of people staying at the homeless shelter. His greatest joy in life was seeing people come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. As a world-wide visionary, he led the church to sponsor and send numerous

missionaries to all corners of the globe. As a result, he made multiple international trips to visit, preach for, and assist the missionaries sent abroad. As an example of a Christian leader with a heart for ministry, he encouraged, mentored, and sent scores of young men and women from the church congregation and the school into various full-time ministries. John retired from Grace Baptist Church in 2008 after nearly 45 years of ministry there. He is known for his huge heart for ministry, his tireless investment into the lives of so many young people, his wisdom, his wit and humor, his devotion to Betty, his love for family, and his dedication to Jesus.

John is survived by his wife Betty. His children are Dan Marvin of Reston, VA; Joy and Jim Szymanski of Gulf Shores, AL; Ted and Kim Marvin of Arlington, TX; Tod and Corinne Marvin of Austin, TX. Grandchildren Eric and Amanda Marvin of Piedmont, SC; Alyssa and Stephen Hobbs of Shelbyville, KY; Abigail Marvin and fiance Michael Ord of Arlington, TX; and Alan Marvin of Arlington, TX; Sutton and Payton Marvin of Austin, TX. Surviving are three sisters Mary and Paul Hartt of Stuarts Draft, VA; Ruth and Walter Johnson of Mobile, AL; Ann and Richard Parker of Warrington, PA. He was preceded in death by his parents Eugene and Sylvan Marvin of Shickshinny, PA and brother and sister-in-law Tom and Lois Marvin of Shickshinny, PA.

Service will be held Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 11:00 am at Grace Baptist Church located at 2499 Waldron Rd, Kankakee, IL. Visitation will be Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 3-7 pm and Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 9:30-11 am at Grace Baptist Church. Private burial will be held at Kankakee Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to: Roseland Community Good News Daycare in Roseland, IL and the Ron & Ann Washer Africa Project - Village of Light Blind Center in Togo, Africa.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S. 3000 E. Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 17. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church
2499 Waldon Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Visitation

SEP 18. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church
2499 Waldon Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Funeral Service

SEP 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church
2499 Waldon Road
Kankakee, IL 60901

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Marvin Family: My deepest condolences to you for the loss of one of the great ones in this world, "Pastor Marvin". I am so very thankful that he founded GBA where I graduated from in 1984. With out GBA I would have never grew up with a christian based education. I know I have lost touch with you all over the years, But I thnk of all of you often. I still remember giving ya'll "Mandy" (the red Irish setter) LOL, and have so many great memories of the facility that he founded. I pray you'll find comfort in the days ahead.

Mike Potchebski ,
Barnwell, SC

Mike Potchebski - September 18, 2016 at 07:42 PM

LO

“ God called one of HIs Shepherd's home who has been tending sheep for years. It's time to accept his awards in heaven. Today he is with Jesus and those who have gone on before him. Many he has taught will continue in the ministry of leading people to the Lord. Prayers especially to the Marvin family and Grace Baptist church family. A link is missing the ministry lives on forever!

God's Blessings,

Leila Owen

Leila Owen - September 17, 2016 at 10:26 PM



“ So sorry to hear of the loss of pastor Marvin. I thought he was a very kind man.
My heart goes out to his family and all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Please accept my deepest sympathy! May God bless you during these difficult times.

Rosalyn Conrad-Nottke

Rosalyn Nottke - September 17, 2016 at 06:27 PM

PS

“ Dear Betty and Family,
Our friendship began over the backyard fence between your house and ours. We had many encounters during the first few years with "the Baptist corner". Through many conversations I accepted Jesus Christ with spiritual guidance from you and John, leading to the salvation of my family.
Please know I will always cherish those years as neighbors, our trips to church in your "bug", VBS, and our kids playing together. I can't be there with you during this service for John, but I am thinking of you and your family and praying for all of you!
With deepest sympathy,
Pat St. John

Pat St. John - September 17, 2016 at 04:58 PM



“ I remember Pastor Marvin when I was a child at Grace Baptist. He was active throughout the church and the softball team.
Condolences to the Marvin family.

William Hardesty - September 17, 2016 at 01:45 PM

ML

“ *Pastor Marvin never gave up trying to help people. This is a lesson I've carried into adulthood. My love goes out to his family, but all can take comfort knowing he is with Jesus.*

Matt Love - September 16, 2016 at 11:38 PM

JJ

“ *So very sorry to hear of this. May my prayers be of great comfort to all of the family.*
joel and jane jones

joel & jane jones - September 16, 2016 at 07:53 PM

PC

“ *Pastor Marvin was instrumental in our lives. He married us in 1971 & helped us through some rough spots along the way. Truly a man of God. He will be missed. Our condolences to Betty & the rest of the family. You will be in our thoughts & prayers.*

Pat & Harold Carstens - September 16, 2016 at 01:45 PM

MB

“ *Went to Grace thru the 80'S. Pastor Marvin was a fantastic person and a great influence on me. I really enjoyed when he would come into HS varsity basketball practice and assist us when we weren't doing to well. He knew his basketball for sure. He will be greatly missed and our prayers go out to the entire Marvin family.*

Mike Berns - September 16, 2016 at 12:00 PM

JG

“ We were saddened to hear of Pastor Marvin's passing. He and his ministry impacted our family for eternity. Jim was saved under Pastor's ministry, Nancy began growing as a Christian, Jim excelled in his Christian walk as challenged under Pastor's ministry. He spoke of Nancy's faith with prayer as the Lord gave us our first son through adoption. Pastor used to tease that he even taught Michael to walk. Betty, you, affirmed Michael's salvation security when he shared he had accepted Christ as his savior.

We purposed to raise our children in church, Biblically grounded church, Christian school and direct them to surrender to the Lord. Both sons graduated from Bob Jones Univ. due to the impact from the Marvin's. Both are serving the Lord. We are so thankful for Pastor Marvin's ministry to our family. As we consider that ministry, many families come to mind who were guided toward the Christian walk.

Our prayers as well as our sons' families are praying for Betty and the family at this time. We rejoice too that heaven is now even sweeter.

Jim and Nancy Gay
Hutchinson, Ks.

Jim and Nancy Gay - September 16, 2016 at 09:54 AM

GA

“ Our condolences to you all.
Greg & Patti

greg amstutz - September 16, 2016 at 09:12 AM

 Crystal
Gatlin

“ To Mrs. Marvin & family I'm sending you my thoughts and prayers to you. Mrs. Marvin u and Mr. Marvin whom I appreciate when I attended Grace Baptist Academy the year and a half of my high school year. Never had the experience attending a private school. It was a very positive experience for me and a blessing. Thank so much 💕💕

Crystal Gatlin - September 15, 2016 at 10:47 PM

 Dawn
Hunter

“ Dear Betty, Dan, Joy, Ted, and Tod,

I wanted to write and let you know that I'm thinking of and praying for you and your families during this time. From experience, I know this time is difficult, but God is faithful to carry His children through times of sadness and loss. Your husband/dad was my pastor for so many years, and I learned much about my Lord from him. He was good to my family after my dad's death, and he will be missed by many. I know this will be especially difficult for you, Betty, and that especially makes me sad - you are dearly loved! I grieve with you all, but we who are resting in God's grace through Christ have a hope and underlying joy of a future where we will be in God's presence and be reunited with those who have gone before us! To GOD be the GLORY for that! While I won't be in Kankakee this weekend, please know that my thoughts are with you.

Much love and many memories,

Dawn Pelletier Hunter

Dawn Hunter - September 15, 2016 at 08:27 PM

ET

“ Dear Betty, Our love and prayers go with you and your family. Our family remembers John as a young pastor in Wakarusa, full of fun and strong in faith. Each Sunday the alter call was given and Just As I Am was sung. It was during that song I went forward to find Christ as my Savior. We remember when my dad became so ill during bean harvest from the dust and was sent to Ann Arbor Hospital for his lungs. John drove my mama to the hospital. She was in awe at how well he maneuvered the busy roads. It was something she knew she could not do and was so thankful for John being her chauffeur.

Camp, sermons, laughter, love, all those things gave us opportunity to grow as a church family. We missed him when he left for Kankakee but also were delighted God prospered his time there. We can smile today knowing God's first words to John may well have been, "Well Done Faithful Servant". Elaine Weldy Truex - Wakarusa IN

Elaine Truex - September 15, 2016 at 07:49 PM

CD

“ Pastor Marvin would sit and talk with me every Sunday just to make sure that I was alright. He was my inspiration I don't think I would have become the person I am today if it wasn't for pastor Marvin being my shoulder to lean on thru a lot of tough times. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten

Charlotte Purnell Delarosa - September 15, 2016 at 07:33 PM



Amanda
Meyer-
Reilly

“ I will never forget John, He was not only a great neighbor and practically family, but also an amazing pastor and person. I won't ever forget the memories of walking across my yard to his to knock on the back patio door and come hangout with the grandkids and go inside to ride with Betty to bible school. He will never be forgotten.

Love, Amanda and the Meyer Family

Amanda Meyer-Reilly - September 15, 2016 at 06:46 PM



“ We grew up in Grace Baptist Church. The Marvin family was so inspirational to us. We loved being a part of that wonderful congregation. The loved ones he left behind are in sorrow, but GOD will provide comfort and guide them through this transition. Thank you Marvin family for sharing your life with us! You will never be forgotten.

The Pickering Family

Teresa, Brenda & Richard

Teresa Earley - September 15, 2016 at 04:38 PM

DH

“ How does one put into words a family that they have known for over 52 years! Mom, Dennis, and I started attending GBC while Walter Beebe was the pastor. My first memory of Pastor Marvin, as an almost 10 yr. old was seeing him standing in his front yard as I rode my bike by their house. He was tall, with a flattop, and dark glasses. I was excited to realize that he was going to be our new pastor and he was our neighbor too as our backyards joined. For a few years we were the Baptist corner with us, Pat St. John, David Cox and family and the Marvins. I remember when Betty was expecting Tod! I am so very thankful for their love, servant's hearts, patience, and nurturing of Dennis and I through the years. In those early years he, with the Lord's help and guidance, did it all. He was youth pastor, choir director, bus driver, camp director, and everything in between. We as youth had so much fun at camp, Millard Filmore gym parties, quizzing, graduation overnight party, fall hayrides, etc. Thank you Pastor and Betty for your hard work, your love for each other and your family, and for the youth and church family. You gave of yourself and poured your life and love for the Lord into everyone. I really wanted to be there, but distance and expense has kept me Mexico bound, but my thoughts and prayers are with you all as you bid Pastor Marvin, not a goodbye, but a see you soon. Love you all so much.

Denise Corriveau Hornor - September 15, 2016 at 04:19 PM

TH

“ Pastor Marvin was a great friend and spiritual encouragement to Mary and I. We were only members of Grace for two years, 1969 and 70 but John, Betty and the family have always been on our hearts and in our prayers. We will miss his sharp wit and ready smile, his keen Biblical insight and wonderful scriptural advice and counsel. Our prayers and condolences are with the family, heaven is sweeter knowing John is waiting for that glad reunion.
Tom and Mary Hansen

Tom Hansen - September 15, 2016 at 03:41 PM

GW

“ We know Heaven is rejoicing as a great man was called home, however we also know, Betty and the children and grandchildren are in sorrow, we pray for their comfort and take assurance that God will provide them the comfort and strength to see this time through John you will be missed until we meet again
Gregg, Karen, Zachary, Williams

Gregg Williams - September 15, 2016 at 01:58 PM

Dezy
Velazquez

“ I am deeply saddened to hear of Pastor Marvins passing. The Marvin family are loved, especially by my own. We have had the pleasure of knowing them for years and years, and John will forever hold a special place in my heart. Thank you so much for your generosity and service over the years. You will never be forgotten.

Dezy Velazquez - September 15, 2016 at 01:43 PM

William
Van

"Well Done, My Good and Faithful Servant!" I Love You John, Betty, Dan, Ted, Todd and Joy!!! May Our Lord And Savior, Christ Jesus, Comfort Your Hearts!!!

William Van Horn - September 15, 2016 at 07:01 PM

JW

I offer my deepest sympathy to Betty ,Dan, Joy, Ted & Todd. December 1st 1975 Pastor Marvin & Jim Gay lead My husband and myself to the Lord. In the year of 1976 all 5 of our married children and their mates accepted the Lord with Pastor Marvin and Betty guidance. Every day I thank the Lord for the wonderful blessing. When my husband passed away, what comfort to know he is with the Lord. Betty, you helped each one of my children, as they had sickness or problems. Again, thank you ,thank you. I am not in good health, unable to attend. Just know I will ask the Lord for extra Grace and Comfort for all John's loved ones.
Much Love To You Betty.
Jean Warburton

Jean Warburton - September 18, 2016 at 12:15 PM