



Jerry Wayne Worsham

December 15, 1946 - August 17, 2020

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Jerry Wayne Worsham was born on December 15, 1946 to Virgil and Alicia (Monge) Worsham in Ancón, Panama. He was the eldest of four siblings.

Jerry grew up in a Christian home and was led to faith in Jesus Christ at a young age by his father. In God's kindness, he met the love of his life, Jane (Hesters) Worsham, in middle school youth group, and felt a clear call to ministry during high school.

Jerry graduated from Balboa High School in 1965. He married his high school sweetheart, Jane, on December 20, 1968, and soon after, completed undergraduate studies at Asbury University (Kentucky) in 1969. Combined with Jane's love for the Lord, the two set out together to serve the Lord through the local church.

Jerry's first call to ministry came at age 23. He was privileged to serve as youth pastor at the Curundu Protestant Church, the same church he and Jane grew up in. Eighteen months later, Jerry received a call to the First Baptist Church of Elmhurst (1971-1976), where he served as youth pastor and associate pastor. By this time, Jerry and Jane already had a daughter, Janna, who was born in Panama, and shortly after they arrived in Elmhurst, a second daughter, Jennifer, was born. The Lord continued to equip Jerry for ministry, as he completed a master's degree in biblical studies from Wheaton Grad School (Illinois) in 1972, and in family counseling from Loyola University

(Chicago) in 1975.

Then God called Jerry to Grace Church in Racine, WI, where he served as the senior pastor for the next 35 years (1976-2011). Jerry and Jane invested the best years of their lives in people—building into families, building up the church, mentoring hundreds of young ministry leaders who are scattered all over the world today, and sharing the gospel with anyone who would listen. God also gave them a heart for missions, especially in South America, where Jerry served on the board of South America Mission (S.A.M.) for 30 years. Behind Jerry's godly life, high energy leadership, tireless efforts to advance the gospel, love for people, and his delight in his own family and grandkids stood the faithfulness and grace of God. Jerry's love for the Lord burned brightly until his last day, and the mission of his life was simple – to live “to the praise of his [Jesus'] glory” (Ephesians 1:12).

Jerry died peacefully at St. Luke's Hospital in Milwaukee, WI on August 17, 2020, and he immediately entered heaven's joy. His family looks forward to joining him: wife Jane Worsham (Racine, WI); daughter Janna (Tim) Augustyn (Arlington Heights, IL); daughter Jennifer (John) Binkley (Huntersville, NC). Jerry's siblings are sister Lorain (Terry) Evans (Matthews, NC); brother Ralph (Sue) Worsham (Elizabeth, CO); sister-in-law Tammy Worsham (Center, TX). Jerry's grandchildren are Karis, Caleb, Clay, and Kaya Augustyn; Luke and Levi Binkley; and Carter Stafford. Jerry has 10 nieces and nephews, and he was preceded in death by his parents, and his brother Arvin.

You are invited to attend a memorial service for Jerry which will be held on Saturday, September 12 at 10 am at Grace Church, 3626 Hwy 31, Racine, WI. If you are unable to attend in person, the memorial service will also be live-streamed: https://www.facebook.com/graceinracine/live_videos

Memorial gifts in honor of Jerry may be sent to Grace Church: www.graceinracine.com or South America Mission: www.southamericamission.org, www.southamericamission.org/worshamlegacyfund

Due to COVID-19, you will need to arrive by 9:30 am, and be seated prior to the service in order to adhere to social distancing restrictions. You will also be

required to wear a mask during the service.

There will be no visitation or receiving line but after the service the family will be outside to greet you. A private burial will take place at Graceland Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Graceland Cemetery

Racine, WI

Previous Events

Funeral Service

SEP 12. 10:00 AM (CT)

Grace Church
3626 Hwy 31 (Green Bay Road)
Racine, WI 53405

Tribute Wall



“ *Sturino Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Jerry Wayne Worsham*



Sturino Funeral Home - September 08, 2020 at 01:24 PM

JL

Jane, Janna, Jen and family -

I don't even know where to start when it comes to the memories. One that I will never forget is when you first came to Grace Baptist Church in Racine. Jerry took our church directory and memorized every name in that book. When he came to the Wilzewske name, he had no clue how to pronounce it. He tried. We all laughed WITH him when we heard him try to say it.

He continued throughout the years to remember the names of people. I heard from numerous friends who were amazed with his memory.

Jerry's smile warmed hearts; his compassion for people far exceeded most and his passion to share God's Word went far beyond Racine, Wisconsin, and the United States.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

*Jane Leonhardt
Northville, MI*

Jane Leonhardt - September 10, 2020 at 12:58 PM

DM

“ My husband and I were fairly new to Grace Church when my mother was diagnosed with cancer. I was 8 mos. pregnant with our 1st child and was told that my mother was not expected to live through the day, I was devastated to say the least she was so looking forward to her 1st grandchild and I was looking forward to sharing that bond with her over my child. I was at the hospital crying in pain outside of her hospital room when I felt a hand on my shoulder, it was Pastor Jerry, he had been making rounds at the hospital and little did I know he had been stopping in to see my mother even though she attended a different church. He asked me what was wrong, I told him she wasn't expected to live through the day and that I really needed her to share this first child with me which wasn't due for another month. Pastor Jerry just said lets pray and ask God to intervene here, and he prayed with me right there outside her room that God would either extend her life so we could share this time of celebration over this child or plan B he asked God to have my child come early and to protect this precious life. I felt so much better and was so grateful for Pastor Jerry's faith, he prayed believing our God was still in the business of doing miracles and at that we left it in God's hands. That night at 2 am my water broke, this was a miracle in that I had just been to the doctor that day before and asked him if he could induce me and he said no you have no signs of labor and it would be dangerous for the baby. Long story short, I delivered a healthy premature baby boy on September 12th 1986, and my mother who was expected to die all of a sudden started improving. She was moved to a nursing home where I would visit her every day with our son Jordan . The pure joy we experienced together over my son healed my heart. I was able to do this for a little more then 3 months before my dear mother went home to be with the Lord on Christmas Eve. Pastor Jerry was even part of her home going service which I so appreciated. Pastor Jerry taught me to live by faith and trust in the Lord with all of my heart and lean on him even when we don't understand what is happening or why. He taught me to stand on the promises of God, that God is for us and if God is for us then nothing in this universe can come against his plans that he has for me. Pastor Jerry was a man who walked the walk, he was a

man of integrity who truly had the heart of God and I feel truly blessed to have been a part of his flock for so many years. Not to many others could measure up or take his place in my book. He was a beloved servant of Christ and that's how he lived his life in complete service to all he ministered too! God Bless you Jerry and Jane for your commitment to Christ and your loving service to our church family, the community and your service and work with missions around the world! Jerry's candle will always shine through all who were privileged enough to call him Pastor!

*Dianne Matson
Sturtevant, WI*

Dianne Matson - September 12, 2020 at 08:08 AM

BA

“*No words can express the impact that Jerry and Jane have made in our family. When we first came to Grace Church in 1994, you both immediately welcomed us to become part of the Grace family. Erinn became friends with Jen during her teen years, we become involved in ministry during the years at Grace, and Jerry performed a private child dedication at our home for our triplet grand boys in 2009. As we were still walking the journey with leukemia with our son, Jane and Jerry were a support that we so much needed at the time. His Godly ministry was a testimony to not just us but to many in our community. Jerry was Jesus in the flesh in our lives. Thanks, Jane and family for enriching his life and supporting him in ministry so he could enrich ours. Prayers to your family at this time. Nothing can separate us from His Loving Presence, as we are His.*”

Bonny and David Andersen - September 09, 2020 at 07:53 PM

DK

“ Well done good and faithful servant! We are sure this will be a heavenly greeting for our beloved pastor. We would be remiss to not add our memories of the impact this man of God made on our family.

It started on Easter Sunday 1982 and continued through his last hospitalization in 2020.

In July 82 we were listening to the preaching of Pastor Jerry and knew that the Holy Spirit was convicting us of our need to trust in the Lord for forgiveness. In the quietness of our hearts we accepted the free gift of salvation. This was followed by baptism in August. He and Jane started us on a discipleship process by meeting in their dining room of their home going through a series by the Navigators entitled operation Timothy. This series kick started us in growing in Christ followed by guidance to being involved in Sunday School, small groups, mission team, deaconess and elder board. He and Jane were our spiritual parents and they knew of our two son's pregnancy and births as soon as our natural parents did. Jerry was the one who dedicated these boys to the Lord and we might add this was one of his special gifts as he prayed for each child at dedication with a personal and Godly perspective.

He was also the one who helped discern God's calling on our lives to serve full-time as missionaries - again during a Sunday service after his preaching. It was Jerry's suggestion that we check out this mission group that he was familiar with from his days growing up in Panama. HCJB was a "top notch" organization he said and we dutifully checked out this connection which led to a perfect match. Jerry was a mission minded pastor both locally and world wide and he demonstrated that by making personal visits to us while serving in Ecuador not to mention leading a mission organization so active in South America (SAM). While home on ministry assignment in 1996 it was Jerry that baptized our sons. When leaving the mission field in 2002 he and Pastor Cole sat down once again and helped to guide re-entry to life in the USA by saying "We would be zealous to have you serve as mission's pastor at Grace". That position allowed us to serve on staff under the leadership of this man who continued to disciple and live out a Paul/Timothy relationship with Dave. It was

during that time on staff that Dave went through the ordination process and at the commissioning service led a surprise renewal of 25th anniversary wedding vows. How special to share these major events in our adult lives.

Leaving Grace in 2007 was difficult but according the way Jerry and Jane taught us to live as we prayed for God to lead and he guided us to helping a small church in Racine for ten years. Always keeping in contact over these years this special couple was always encouraging and interested in our lives. One special provision during this time was to participate in a short-term project to Cuba with Jerry as Dave's roommate for two weeks. Jane had entrusted Jerry to our care but the blessing was ours to have this pastor and mentor in close proximity for that amount of time.

*Upon returning to Grace Church in 2017 - Jerry wrote a glowing letter of recommendation that included details we barely remembered. The amazing thing is that he had this kind of involvement with so many that he shepherded. To God be the glory!
Dave and Mary Kehrli*

david kehrl - September 09, 2020 at 01:45 PM

JN

“*Jerry was so instrumental in the restart of Youth for Christ. Without his support and encouragement I don't think I would have had the courage to take on the assignment. He served as one of my most important mentors. His ministry and legacy will live on in this community for decades. What a blessing he was to thousands!*

Jon Nelson - September 07, 2020 at 08:56 AM

JG

“ *John & Janie Ruhl Goodrich lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Worsham*



John & Janie Ruhl Goodrich - September 07, 2020 at 05:25 AM

JA

“ *Dear Jane, Janna & Jennifer,
My deepest sympathy to you. I have fond memories of RCS
parent/teacher conferences with Jerry and you, Jane. Your
daughters were such a joy to teach.*

May God continue to walk with you through this time. John 14:1-3

-Janice Pezoldt

Janice - August 28, 2020 at 09:36 PM

BW

“ *Oldie but goodie. Pastor Jerry was our pastor at Grace since we
were kids. Very fond memories of him while growing up.*



Betty Wynstra - August 27, 2020 at 01:28 PM

RW

“ 7 files added to the album Family Love



Ralph Easy Worsham - August 26, 2020 at 10:56 AM

SK

“ The first time we went to Grace Jerry came and introduced himself , 2 weeks later he said goonmorning Sheri and Alex, right there we knew we found our new home how he remembered our name I dont know but very impressive. One of his services he was talking about the names in the bible. Then he said everyone believes the Pastor so if he didnt say the name correctly no one will no the difference. He loved showing off his grandchildren any time he had the chance. He loved and was so proud of all of them. Thankyou Jerry for all the kindness you have spread. Now you have gotten the promotion and can sit by Jesus and of course Pastor Sam.

Sheri kostic - August 25, 2020 at 10:39 PM

BD

“ Jerry and Jane were my youth leaders in Elmhurst. They opened their home to a sad and troubled girl With such kindness and love. My heart grieves for you, Jane and family. Though the separation is temporary the pain of this is hard. Praying His sweet comfort.
With great affection,
Dave and Barb Dietz

barbara dietz - August 25, 2020 at 07:34 PM

CM

“ *Dear Jane and Family,
We are overjoyed that Pastor Jerry is in his heavenly home and he is in the presence of our Savior. On the other hand we all feel the loss of this remarkable man that has fought the good fight for the gospel of Jesus Christ...what a life well lived!!!! So many souls including Nick's, mine and our sons will forever be impacted by this wonderful man. God Bless Jerry's memory and may your thoughts of him always be sweet. We are sending our heartfelt love and prayers. Cindy and Nick Maragos and Family*

Cindy Maragos - August 25, 2020 at 06:36 AM

 Caleb
Adams

“ My father and mother, Phil and Laurie Adams, had the distinct pleasure of learning from and being led by Pastor Jerry for many years. I grew up running through the halls of Grace with my brother and friends in my early years, the ones for which the memories are mostly faded. I have several clear memories from that first Grace building, but one in particular that stands out as integral in my walk with Christ. In a world where just one negative interaction with a pastor can sometimes stunt the growth of a young person’s walk with Christ or cut it immediately at the root entirely, my few interactions with Pastor Jerry at ages not exceeding 6 or 7 years old did the opposite. They formed in me, at an early age, the image of what a shepherd of God’s people looks like. One memory in particular stands out, because I believe it was a microcosm of what Jerry embodied to all of us: Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the one that said “Let the children come to me”. And so, when I would sneak into his office to steal the Tootsie Pops that were in the jar on his desk, several times, the only thing he would meet me with was a smile and “Hey Caleb, go ahead”. This was a regular occurrence. Sometimes, we would walk in during prayer meetings (probably right before service) and still, he would meet me (us) with a smile - even during prayer before service was about to begin. He was a tender, loving and caring shepherd that embodied the humility and love Christ showed when he said “Let the children come to me”, and this legacy no doubt is what taught my father and brother and myself to show the same love for “the least of these”. I’m thankful for Pastor Jerry and the warmth he showed both me and my family.

Caleb Adams - August 24, 2020 at 09:00 PM

DP

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you Jane, and family. Pastor Jerry was such a faithful servant of Our Lord. He certainly lived his life serving our Savior and many people through his ministry. From the first time we met at Grace Church in 1999, and always thereafter Jerry always called my husband and me by our first names. He was a wonderful pastor and we were so encouraged by many of his sermons! I loved when he would share pictures of his grandchildren with Grace Church. May he rest in peace, and I look forward to the day when we will meet again in heaven! I'm sure our Savior met Jerry when he reached heaven and said, "Well done by good and faithful servant !"

Deb and Charlie Pearson

Debra M Pearson - August 24, 2020 at 08:17 PM

RW

“ WOW so many memories growing up being his brother. I believe Arvin and I helped Jerry chose the ministry. Jerry was a brother who listened he cared gave his advice loving. I didnt want to listen or care. Growing up with Jerry being his brother was not easy oh no his love for the Lord always kicked in well....Jerry was the brother who helped me keep the FAITH. God love him. as Tammy would say the GOLDEN boy is in heaven.I will miss Jerry to all of you that were lucky to know and to be touched by his present. You know why God Loves Him AMEN...

Ralph Easy Worsham - August 24, 2020 at 06:50 PM

HS

*From Harry Stinson who knew both Jerry and Jane from Balboa High School.....loved them both.....can't wait until I stroll through HEAVENS GATES to look for them and embrace them !!!!!
Flyboy Stinson*

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Harry Stinson - August 26, 2020 at 08:12 PM