



Rev. Bob Baxter

October 26, 2008

Rev. Bob A. Baxter, a great Baptist statesman, died Sunday October 26th after a battle with cancer. Serving as pastor of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church in Mableton, Georgia for almost 50 years from April 1959 - August 2008, he was a light that burned brightly in the community and was deeply loved and respected by all who knew him.

He gave his life to the Lord as a young farm boy in Haralson County. His dad wanted him to stay and work in the dairy business but God called him to the ministry as he was praying one day in a hay loft.

He left for Mercer University and graduated with honors. While at Mercer, he met the love of his life Gloria Ann Twitty. Beyond the Lord, his greatest source of strength and encouragement was his wife of 52 years. They gave their life together to the Lord and to their family. Children and grandchildren include: Son - Dr. David Baxter, wife Ann, children - Andrew, Matthew, and Lauren; Daughter - Carol Kirby, husband Ronald, children - Paul, (wife Brandy) and Sarah.

During his years at Mercer, Brother Bob pastored several country churches. While attending Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina and earning his Master of Divinity degree, he pastored the City Lake Baptist Church in Burlington. Upon graduating from seminary, he received the call to pastor Mt. Harmony Baptist Church in Mableton.

Through the difficult sixties, Brother Bob led Mount Harmony to love all of God's children and the church grew into a strong suburban church. Firmly believing the Bible, his message was always based on love. When celebrating their 40th anniversary at the church he was quoted as saying "Love is the most powerful force in the world. The only answer to problems is to get people to love Jesus enough that they want to do right."

Brother Bob had a heart for missions and service. He led Mt. Harmony to purchase a home for missionaries so they could rest and rejuvenate while in the United States. Many new buildings, and facilities were added during his time of service, and from Mt. Harmony many young men and women have gone out into full time service of our Lord Jesus Christ. Much beloved by all who knew him, he was known for his humor and compassion. He was especially well known for asking the men he would see if their wives had fixed them biscuits. Fittingly his last meal was a biscuit. Always with a smile, and speaking to

everyone as he went, he shared the love of Jesus with his life and ministry.

He was involved in the local needs of the community and also was very involved in Baptist life serving in numerous capacities. He loved fellow pastors and was a mentor to many, and an encourager to all. Bob Baxter exemplified the secret to longevity as a pastor because he was a great giver of grace. He was quick to forgive and had heart full of patience, humor, humility and love. His ministry was never about himself, but always about Jesus.

Brother Bob counted it among his greatest blessings to have his children and grandchildren as part of his church family for the length of his ministry. He was a generous husband, father and grandfather who was exceedingly thankful his children and grandchildren loved the Lord.

A few days before his death he told his family and others, "I have hit the bottom and the bottom is rock solid". Even to the end, he continued to teach and encourage.

Comments



“ Gloria,David&Carol,
Sorry for your lost,I know your heart is breaking. Gloria, you and Bro.Bob was apart
of the Allen family for 49 yrs.
THANK YOU!!
GOD BLESS YOU ALL,
IN CHRIST,
Sandy Allen Bell & Family

Sandy (Allen)Bell - November 01, 2008 at 02:36 PM



“ My dear Gloria ~ ~ I jut learned of Bob's homegoing today from Margie @ Central
Baptist - - My heart goes out to you and the family and my prayer is that God's peace
will surround you all as you adjust to this loss ~ ~ Even in our sadness Heaven must
be rejoicing as Bob, God's faithful servant, is home with
Our Father ~ ~ I send my love to you,
Diane DeLong Wells

Diane DeLong Wells - October 31, 2008 at 03:48 PM



“ Gloria, I am sorry about Bob. My prayers are with you.

Linda Callahan - October 30, 2008 at 09:24 PM



“ Gloria, Our prayers, and love from our hearts, go out to you, David & Family and
Carol & Family. The Norman Family came to Mt. Harmony in 1965, and were
associated the Bob Baxters, the James Pughs and numerous other Christians who
were the backbone of Mt. Harmony. We remember Bro. Bob as a God-fearing and
loving man. Always there to help any and all the community. May God be with your
family as you go on doing the Lord's work. We love you, Lillie & Family & Emmet
(deceased 3-13-06).

Lillie Norman & Family - October 29, 2008 at 11:14 PM



“ Gloria, David, Carol and family: My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. Bro Bob was a very caring and loving man and he will be greatly missed. He is now with our Savior, he so loved so much. For the short time that he got to be my pastor, I learned quite a bit from him. Let strength and prayer help you all during this time.
Love you, Licha

Licha Guzman - October 29, 2008 at 08:39 PM



“ Our condolence to the Baxter family. The write up of Rev. Bob Baxter explains the concern and compassion his son Dr. David Baxter has for his patients. What a wonderful life to live.

Robert, Barbara, and Michael Chaney - October 29, 2008 at 07:01 PM



“ Mrs. Gloria my thoughts and prayers are with your and your family. Brother Bob will be greatly missed and I can not have thanked you or him for helping me through a very trying time. May the Lord bless you and your family.
-GRHJ

Gregory Hanthorn, Jr. - October 29, 2008 at 03:27 PM



“ Gloria, David, Carol and family, Heaven has gained another “VIP” – (VERY IMPORTANT PASTOR). Brother Bob was one of the most precious people God put on this earth. He came to “my church” - Mt. Harmony when I was almost 6 yrs old in 1959, and has blessed, loved, and been there for four generations of my family in every way. He came to the hospital when both my children (Julie & Billy) were born, performed weddings for my sister-Linda and my daughter-Julie Hobby. He also performed the funeral services for my dad-Dan Partain, mother-Mary Partain, brother-Paul Partain, and probably would have for my son-Billy Henderson if the service had not been in Blue Ridge, GA. There are not enough words to express what an “Angel on Earth” he was to so many people. Now he is among the Angels in Heaven, and I do hope at least one of them can make a good biscuit! He will be truly missed. I would like to share with you a poem someone gave to me:

MISS ME, BUT LET ME GO.

When I come to the end of the road,
And the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom filled room ...
Why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little, but not too long,
And not with your head bowed low;
Remember the love that we once shared ...
Miss me - but let me go!

For this is a journey we must all take,
And each must go along;
It's all part of the "Master's" plan ...
A step on the road to home.
When you are lonely and sick of heart,
Go to the friends we know,
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds ...
Miss me - but let me go.
~ Author Unknown ~

Barbara (Partain) Lovin - October 29, 2008 at 02:12 PM



“ Dear Gloria and Family,
My thoughts and prayers are with you. I was saddened to learn of Brother Bob's passing but I know he is home with the Lord and heaven is rejoicing. We attended Mt. Harmony until we moved to California. Brother Bob was always there for our family and he was such a wonderful pastor. He always went above and beyond and he did it for Jesus. I pray for God to give you strength, comfort and peace today and in the coming months. Today is the day that we CELEBRATE Brother Bob's life and he will sorely be missed.

June Fowler James - October 29, 2008 at 12:01 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time, but I know the Lord will give you the strenght needed and sustain you all during this time. I know you don't know me, I am a very very good friend of Bonnie Headrick.
God Bless - Luanne Foster

Luanne Foster - October 29, 2008 at 08:05 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you say goodnight here to Bob. We know where he is, and one day we will see him there. Gloria, may God Bless You and your family. May God Comfort You. I thank God for the 19 years that I was able to share in the ministry of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church with Bob. I learned much from him and the compassion he had for everyone.
Love In Christ, Jim & Joan

Jim & Joan Nash - October 29, 2008 at 12:44 AM



“ Gloria, Carol, David & families- Words can not describe the loss that you must feel. Brother Bob was such an amazing man of God and so vital in so many lives. He was so caring, compassionate, understanding, and willing to share God's word and plan with everyone. He showed me the way to Salvation (and a good breakfast) at Camp Antioch and then baptised me into the Family of God. Our hearts are saddened and our lives are dimmed by the earthly loss. Heaven's gates are open and there is one more saint at home. Please know that you and your family are so special and in my prayers. I love you all! Annissa

Annissa (Bledsoe) Hackney - October 28, 2008 at 10:45 PM



“ Thank God for His servant and my friend, Bob Baxter. The example and influence of Bob's life will live on in the hearts and lives of those who have been touched and blessed by him. His spirit will continue in the church which he served for almost half a century. His many friends will forever be challenged by the simple commitment to follow Jesus which he made as a boy and continued throughout his life.
God bless you, Bob. We'll see you in the morning, "just inside the eastern gate."

Dr. and Mrs. Bradley D. Brown, Sr. - October 28, 2008 at 07:21 PM



“ We send our condolences to you and your family in your time of sorrow. We all loved Bob.

Irene Buice - October 28, 2008 at 06:59 PM



“ How many times during a sermon did we hear Bro. Bob say "when I get to heaven, I'm gonna"? Today, he is working on his list, even as we mourn his earthly passing. What a happy day in Glory! Bro. Bob was embraced with open arms and a loud 'welcome home' from the countless number who greeted him Sunday evening. How appropriate that he went home on the Lord's Day. I imagine Bro. Bob leading a heavenly choir in "The Little Brown Church" and the "Hallelujah Chorus", singing in perfect pitch. To Gloria, David, and Carol, and your families: my heartfelt thank you for sharing Bob with my family since 1962. I recognize the great personal sacrifice in allowing your husband and Daddy to be so much to so many. Love, Elaine Bentley; Ray, Levi, and Tyler Stollar

Elaine Bentley - October 28, 2008 at 04:58 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear of Bro. Bob's death but we know that he is in a much better place - praising his Lord and seeing all those who have gone before him. We will keep you, the family, in our prayers and thoughts. We will always remember Bro. Bob for his lovingkindness to us.
Ralph & Juanita Morris, Salado, Texas

Ralph and Juanita Morris - October 28, 2008 at 04:38 PM



“ Brother Bob will be missed by all who knew him. He was a wonderful man, a great pastor and a steadfast friend. I am sad knowing that I will not be able to visit Mt Harmony and hear one of his "no holds barred" sermons and shake his hand and chat at the door as we left church after the service. Heaven is a better place today, because Bob Baxter is there.

Gloria, you and your family are in our prayers.

Carol Burdett Cone - October 28, 2008 at 03:40 PM



“ Brother Bob:
You have been our Shepherd for
many years,
Always ready to calm our
every fear.
But most of all we
knew you cared,
All our heartaches willing to share.
Welcome to Heaven you've earned
your rest,
They will rejoice and also be blessed.

ROBERT AND ESTHER WALKER - October 28, 2008 at 03:36 PM



“ To say that the Baxter's touched our lives wouldn't even start to tell the story. I was 12 years old when the Baxter's came to "my church". (I told my Daddy it was "my church" after the first time I visited at 8 years old with a friend from school. All the Renfro's became Mt. Harmony folks that year.) All us kids at the church fell in love with Bob and Gloria from the start. We were all in awe of the new babies when Carol and David came along. Growing up at Mt. Harmony was such a blessing for us kids. As a teen ager we fell more in love with Bob at an outing one summer weekend at Adams Park. We were all singing crazy songs. Any song someone wanted to sing. One of the guys wanted to sing "Good Old Mountain Dew". We gasped! Brother Bob said "start it off". The boy did and we all sang. Bob was one of US!! We all laughed but never forgot that special day. Our pastor was a real person. We could talk to him about anything. As the years went by Bob was always there to counsel and encourage. He stood with us during so many hard times in our life. He was there with a touch of his hand, sometimes a hug and always a smile and a prayer. Just having him in the room gave me strength when I didn't think there was any left. His smile always lit up the room. It is hard to imagine a world without Bob Baxter. Bob and Gloria have given so much of themselves to our church family for so many years. I had hoped they would enjoy a long and happy retirement together. I know we will all see Bob again one day. Until then we will keep him in our heart and love him forever.

Carol and John Wright - October 28, 2008 at 03:12 PM



“ Brother Bob was a special person and we will never forget him. He made us smile and we will be praying for your family, that you will be smiling again soon. His memory lives on and he is where he always wanted to be. God Bless You All.

David, Donna, Kristy and Christopher Wilson - October 28, 2008 at 01:44 PM



“ Dear Gloria, Carol and David,
Words cannot express our sympathy and sadness. We know that GOD will comfort you and keep his arms around you during this time. Brother Bob was the most amazing man I have ever had the privilege to know. He touched the lives of my family in numerous and countless ways. I was fortunate enough to know Brother Bob for 40 years. He was always kind and loving and tolerant. He didn't love the sin but always loved the sinner. I have never nor will I ever forget the lessons he taught me. He was truly a man of GOD and I know that even an angel had to shed a tear at his passing. I know he is safe in the arms of Jesus now and surely smiling down on all of us. He always had a smile and his face had the light of Jesus shining through at all times.

I can't put in to words all the things that Brother Bob and his wonderful family mean and have meant to us through all the years. We are grateful and very blessed to have had someone as wonderful as Bob Baxter in our lives. His impact will remain for the rest of our life and he will forever be in our hearts. Gloria, we love you and wish we could be there for you at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Much Love,
Laurie, Steve and Stephan Friedman

Steve, Laurie and Stephan Friedman - October 28, 2008 at 12:34 PM



“ We are very sorry for your loss, you are in our prayers. God be with you and your family. Joshua 1:9

Tim & Silvia Cheely - October 28, 2008 at 11:55 AM



“ Gloria, Carol, and David & families,

Brother Bob meant so much to our family. I know your are sad that he has gone home, but what a homecoming! He is worshipping at the feet of the Savior he loved and served so faithfully. There are still many lives that will be won to Christ because he faithfully proclaimed the gospel. Take comfort and rejoice in the fact that by now he has heard the words we all long to hear - "Well done my good and faithful servant". We will be thinking about you and will be praying for all of you during this time.

Dan and Jill Mathis - October 28, 2008 at 11:32 AM



“ Bobby was a great cousin and I just hate that I didn't get to see him enough. I am so sorry that I didn't know that he had cancer/and that he was sick or I would have visited. My love and prayers are with you all and I know he is truly home now. He was a true angel here on earth.

Love always,

Melissa

Melissa McWhorter Worley - October 28, 2008 at 11:05 AM



“ Our very deep sympathy to Gloria and other members of the family. I (Judson) enjoyed knowing Bob especially during Mercer days. He leaves a great legacy and will be sorely missed.

Judson (and Dean) Moss - October 28, 2008 at 10:15 AM



“ Bob Baxter (Brother Bob as he was always known to me) and Mt. Harmony Baptist Church were such integral parts of my life growing up, I cannot imagine just where my personal journey would have taken me without the love, support, and guidance of this wonderful church family. The sadness I feel today over the loss of Brother Bob extends not only to Gloria and family, but to every person that was ever touched by one of the kindest, most caring individuals I've ever been privileged to know. Brother Bob was a true gift from God, and I was fortunate, if only for a moment in time, to have him touch my life.

Randy Hagood - October 28, 2008 at 10:11 AM



“ Gloria, Carol, David and families,
We are so sad the hear about Bro Bob. What a man of God. What a joy to have gotten to know him, even for a short time. He was such a witness to all he came in contact with. An example to follow. And so funny. He was so loving and kind to our son and his wife. We will never forget him and want you all to know that we are thinking about you and praying for comfort thru this difficult time. May the Lord bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you and give you peace.
Our Love

Maurice and Peggy Bandy - October 28, 2008 at 09:10 AM



“ To the Baxter Family:

Thank you for sharing your husband/father/grandfather, to touch so many of our lives in such meaningful ways. As hard as it is to let a loved one go to the Lord, how peaceful and reassuring it is to know that they knew the Lord in their heart and will be in such a wonderful place waiting to be reunited when the time is right. My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this time.

In prayerful thought,

Kris (Huddleston) Lloyd

Kris (Huddleston) Lloyd - October 28, 2008 at 09:02 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. The separation is temporary!

Wayne and Joy Clark - October 28, 2008 at 05:53 AM



“ Brother Bob will be dearly missed, and I cannot count how many things I learned from him while he was in the front of the church or simply living his life. I know that he is with the Lord and is being received by all the saints that have gone before. He will be missed not out of sorrow, but out of love and appreciation. I pray Brother Bob's family will find God's peace in this time of grieving and comfort in the number of lives that were enriched by Bob's love for others and for the Lord.

Stephen Hanthorn - October 28, 2008 at 02:14 AM



“ "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." We feel blessed that we had the opportunity to know Bro Bob this side of heaven. Our prayers are with the entire Baxter family now and in the days ahead. We love you all.

Chris & Debi Fronczek - October 27, 2008 at 11:20 PM



“ Precious Gloria---What a light you are. I treasure who you are as a beautiful daughter of our King of Kings and Lord of Lords...and as a wife and mom. You and Bro Bob shined the light of Jesus upon our family. As Bro Bob encouraged us to keep Jesus as the center of our home during our wedding, I thank you for being such a shining example. All His love to you as you remain in His grasp. We love you. Monny, Melinda, Jake, and Mia Haulbrook

Monny and Melinda Haulbrook - October 27, 2008 at 10:56 PM



“ We extend our heartfelt sympathy to you during this time.

Mitchell Appliance Company - October 27, 2008 at 10:08 PM



“ to gloria and david and the rest of the baxter family my heart felt deepest condolencesand i just pray that the lord will wrap his arms around yall and confert yall at this sad and time of grief and my thoughts and prays are with yall

robert e gamblin - October 27, 2008 at 08:47 PM



“ Dear Gloria, David, Carol and your families; we have always loved Brother Bob. He has meant so much to my family and I and has always been there for us. We know that he is with God in Heaven. We will be praying for all of you and your families.

Tony, Tammy and Amanda Chandler - October 27, 2008 at 08:28 PM



“ Our sympathy and prayers to the Baxter Family. We will always remember Brother Bob and his wonderful ministry.

Chris and Beth Gaddis - October 27, 2008 at 08:26 PM



“ Gloria, David and Carol - Words can never express our gratitude to Bob for the wonderful way he loved us and our families over the years. He married us, buried our loved ones and always treated us like we were still members of his congregation though we had left long ago. Our hearts are sad for you tonight and for all of us who loved him so. We love you and are praying for you. When Bor Bob rached the pearly gates we are sure there was a hugh crowd waiting for and so very glad to see him. It is their turn now to enjoy his company until we all get to heaven.

Bill and Penny Chambers - October 27, 2008 at 08:13 PM



“ Brother Bob was a wonderful pastor, preacher and teacher. He was a wonderful friend; one that we will never forget. He may remind us of these words of Jesus: 'I am the resurection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die'.
Praise God, we will see Brother Bob, again!

Frances Trantham and Alvis McIntyre - October 27, 2008 at 08:02 PM



“ What an honor and blessing the Couch's and Cooks had in the pastoring of Bro Bob, and Glory. What an inspiration from the children and grandchildren in their ministry at Mt Harmony. Even though we are somewhat sad as, it's almost as we have lost a family member, we, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" that the Baxter ministry will live on forever in our lives and the lives of numerous others.

George and Doris Couch - October 27, 2008 at 03:32 PM



“ What a friend we have in Jesus and what a friend Jesus had in Bro. Bob. We all thank God for bringing Bro. Bob into our lives to guide and nuture us in the ways of our sweet Lord. We know there was great rejoicing and shouts of praise in Heaven when Bob walked through those Gates and was Home at last. God bless you Gloria, David, Carol and families.

Francine Mitchell Cannon, Clay Cannon, Chris Cannon and Ron Cannon - October 27, 2008 at 02:47 PM



“ Dear Gloria, Carol, David and families, We just wanted to let you know that we love y'all and are praying for all of you. We are so grateful to have been ministered to by Bro. Bob. One of the things he believed and preached that meant so much to me was about loving others. He was such a wonderful example of this. Thank you for being a wonderful preacher's family!

Spencer, Leanne, Ella and Anna Hodges - October 27, 2008 at 02:16 PM



“ Dear Baxter Family: Thank you for sharing Bro. Bob with us. The love that your family has for each other, your church family and our Lord has blessed so many lives. We will miss him. We love you. Jerry, Judy, Brandon and Dylan Allen.

Judy Allen - October 27, 2008 at 01:49 PM



“ Praise God from whom all blessing flow. For the past 31 years we have been blessed with a pastor that was truly a pastor sent from God and he was always, I repeat always there for me and my family. What can we say? Words do exist for such a man as this. I guess thank you Bro. Bob is the best I can come up with until I see you again in Heaven and maybe by then as we see Jesus I will then be able to express what you and Gloria have ment to us. May our God bless all of the Baxters during this time. Glenn and Dorothy Lawson

Glenn & Dorothy Lawson - October 27, 2008 at 01:30 PM



“ Can words describe Bob Baxter? I think not. Yet words are all we have in a forum such as this. That being the case, here are the words that come to mind. Selfless. Devoted. Steadfast. A godly man. Humorous. Caring. Humble. A man of integrity.

While it is easy for us to see what a great man we have lost, we need to remember what Gen. Patton said about the men who gave their life in WWII. I think it applies just as equally for Bob Baxter. He said:

"Do not cry for those who died, but rather we should thank God that such men lived!"

Rusty, Lisa, Nathan and Anna Brackett

Rusty Brackett - October 27, 2008 at 12:01 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers will be with you and your family.

Deondria

Deondria Douglas - October 27, 2008 at 11:16 AM



“ Gloria, Carol, David, and families: Know that our hearts ache with and for you. Bro. Bob was a special man and we are forever grateful for the part he had in each of our lives. Thank you for sharing him with us all these years! May God pour out peace and comfort on each of you and hold you extra close during this time! We love you!

Cindy & Mark Hunter; Meghan & Kelli Cross - October 27, 2008 at 10:50 AM



“ To my sweet Gloria, Carol, David and your families....With my heart aching and missing him so, I rejoice knowing that B. Bob has already "bowed down and cried Holy". May God Comfort your hearts and Hold You By His Righteous Right Hand. B. Bob has always been a wonderful pastor and mentor to me. I will always thank The Lord for the day he asked me to work with the youth. I will always cherish the many times he invited me to sit and talk with him about anything. His counsel will carry me throughout the rest of my life. I am forever grateful for the many lessons of life he shared with me with his words and his actions. TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY, HONOR, AND PRAISE for Bob Baxter in my life. With much love, hugs, prayers, and THANKSGIVING, Patsy

Patsy Cole - October 26, 2008 at 10:29 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. He will be sadly missed but we all know he has gone home where he belongs. He is singing with the angels tonight.
Love ya,

Jerry and Harriett Harrell - October 26, 2008 at 09:41 PM



“ THANK YOU, BROTHER BOB. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. WE WILL MISS YOU.

HARRY & NORMA BARDEN - October 26, 2008 at 08:13 PM