



Walter S. Jackson

June 21, 2021

With great rejoicing, Rev. Walter Sanford Jackson, 91, entered heaven on June 21, 2021. He died at home in Greensburg, PA, where he had been living with family for the past 3 years.

Rev. Jackson is survived by his wife of 8 years, Helen (Betsy) Shoppy Jackson, daughter Beth Weaver(Jay) of Lancaster, and sons David Jackson (Jeanne) of Lancaster, PA; Steve Jackson (Lynn) of Greensburg, PA; Philip Jackson (Lynn) of Skopje, Macedonia, and stepchildren Elizabeth Carroll (Brian) of Houston, TX, and Wallis Shoppy (Emily) of Atlanta, GA. He was richly blessed to have 20 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 5 step-grandchildren.

Walter is also survived by his brother Paul Jackson and sisters Virginia Feenstra and Lois Spatola, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marjorie Harrison Jackson, his parents, and two brothers, Arthur and Frank Jackson.

Walter was born to Arthur and Adelaide Jackson of Upper Darby, PA, on February 5, 1930, the second of six children. He began an incredible life's journey when, as a young child, he put his trust in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, and when, as a teenager, he committed his life to missionary service. After completing Bible training, he and his wife Marjorie headed off with their young family to Suriname, South America, where they aided in church planting in the capital city of Paramaribo. There Walter learned of the Wayana tribe, located in the heart of the jungle, and became

deeply burdened to bring them the truth of God's word in their own language. Even at the end of his life, unable to express his thoughts in words, Walt clearly retained a passion for the Wayana people and a desire to be reunited with them someday. His greatest delight was knowing that he had been used of God to bring the message of salvation to these precious people.

Walter and Marjorie's work in missions and Christian education later took them to the Dominican Republic and then to Asheville, North Carolina. Upon moving to Lancaster, Walt served in many capacities: on the pastoral staff at Calvary Church, as chaplain at Calvary Homes, as an interim pastor at Rutgers Community Christian Church, even as a bus driver and painter. A man of varied professional skills, his greatest desire was to serve God faithfully and intentionally in everything he did.

After Marjorie's death, Walt met and married Betsy Shoppy who had been widowed some years earlier. Together they continued their ministry of hospitality and intercession on behalf of both believers and unbelievers around the world. As Walter's mind and body began to decline, his love for prayer, singing, and reading scripture never waned: in fact, passages from hymns and scripture were some of his final clear words. As in 2 Timothy 4:7, he fought the good fight; he finished the race; he kept the faith.

Walter's Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, July 3rd at 11 AM at Calvary Church, 1051 Landis Valley Road, Lancaster, PA, and will also be live streamed at www.calvarychurch.org/pastorjackson . Friends may visit with the family at Groff Funeral Home, 528 W. Orange St, Lancaster, PA 17603 on Friday evening from 6-8 PM and at Calvary Church on Saturday morning starting at 9 AM.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to America's Keswick Christian Retreat & Conference Center, 601 Route 530, Whiting, NJ 08759.

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL 2. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc
528 W Orange St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
(717) 394-5300
admin@thegroffs.com
<https://thegroffs.com/>

Viewing

JUL 3. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Church
1051 Landis Valley Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

Funeral Service

JUL 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Church
1051 Landis Valley Road
Lancaster, PA 17601

Tribute Wall



“ *Walter S. Jackson*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Grandpa Jackson was a wonderful man and a great example. He will be dearly missed by all of his family and dear friends.*

Rachel Painter - July 06, 2021 at 03:24 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Jay Weaver - July 06, 2021 at 09:45 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Jay Weaver - July 06, 2021 at 09:33 AM

RJ

“ So sorry to have missed Walt's Celebration. We were in Dallas, TX this past week with our son, Nathan and his wife and our two Grands. Walt and I worked together at Calvary Church for many years in the days of David D. Allen's senior pastorate. Walt was instrumental in seeing that I got to experience my first missions trip to Marseille and that led to later trips that impacted lives of many young adults as well as mine. Walt and I may have disagreed at times but I always sensed his respect for my perspective and he was always collegial in our relationship. Walt's deep connections with his generation showed his priority for lasting relationships that impacted many lives for the Kingdom.

Blessed by having known Walt.

Prayers for all of you.

Warmly,

Ric Joline

Ric Joline - July 04, 2021 at 06:51 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Walter S. Jackson.



July 01, 2021 at 07:40 PM

KS

“ *My Uncle Walt has an incredibly special place in my heart. He took me in when my parents went back to Brazil after their home service year while I was attending Messiah College. He stepped into a fatherly role and helped me navigate learning American culture as well as feeding and housing me on breaks. I will always remember his incredible kindness, and the twinkle in his eyes when he found something amusing. Love, love, love to the family. Wish I could be there in person to honor his life and legacy.*

Kathryn Stolarik - July 01, 2021 at 05:51 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Walter S. Jackson.*



July 01, 2021 at 04:04 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter S. Jackson.*



June 30, 2021 at 11:53 PM

GH

“ Pastor Jackson was interim pastor, many years ago, when our youngest daughter, Suzanne, wanted to become a member of Calvary Church. She came to that service in a wheelchair, having just had surgery on her legs. Walt went down to her to give her a special verse and welcome her as part of the church family. We have been blessed many times by Pastor Jackson. George & Patty Hauber

George & Patty Hauber - June 28, 2021 at 01:33 PM

PF

“ My deepest sympathy to Walt's family. I will always remember his kind, compassionate manner and uncompromising commitment to God's Word. One of my fondest memories is going out with Pastor Walt on visitation for the Evangelism Explosion program at Calvary Church. I never met any Christian who could witness so effectively to anyone , anywhere and in any situation. What a gift the Lord gave him! Also, his talent of playing the violin touched my heart. There were also times he opened up his home on Fordney and Pleasure Rd. for the College and Career class to gather after a Sunday evening service. While we mourn his loss here on earth we have the assurance that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord is what dear Pastor Walt heard to moment he departed this world. Till we meet again, my dear friend in Christ. - Patricia A. Fasnacht (Lancaster, PA)

Patricia A, Fasnacht - June 27, 2021 at 10:29 AM



“ I thank God for every remembrance of Walt and Marjorie, their children and grandchildren. Sincere Condolences to the entire Jackson Family.

Kevin Johnson - June 27, 2021 at 10:25 AM