



Rev. Howard Baker

July 2, 1929 - May 11, 2025

Rev. Howard Baker, went home to be with the Lord on Sunday morning, May 11, 2025, at home. He was 95 years of age.

He was born on July 2, 1929, in Carthage, Tennessee, the youngest of 12 children born to Willy Bell Baker and Minnie Frances (Turner) Baker.

Howard married Willowdean Woodward on November 8, 1947, in Tennessee. She was the youngest of 13 children, and they were partners in ministry until her passing on December 5, 1989.

Howard Baker was first and foremost a premier pastor. Even though he did not have a college degree, he completed the Church of the Nazarene Ministerial four-year course of study in two years while working a secular job and pastoring full-time.

Rev. Baker built five Nazarene churches and founded three new congregations. Beginning his ministry in Acton, IN, he went on to pastor, not only in Indiana, but in Kentucky and Tennessee. His years of full-time ministry stretched from 1959 to 1999.

Rev. Baker was known as a powerful preacher but was an even greater pastor. His love for people was evident in how he ministered to them.

Visitation work for Howard Baker was not a sacrifice, it was a service. He will always be known for his sense of humor and his infectious laugh.

Throughout his life, Rev. Baker was an avid reader and learner, and in retirement, he enjoyed wood crafting.

Those left to cherish Rev. Baker's memory include his wife and faithful companion of nearly 35 years, Pamela (Romans) Baker; his children, Janice (Mike) Suits of Paris, TX, Danny (Joyce) Baker of Camby, and Jerry Baker of Indianapolis; nine grandchildren, Christopher (Darcy) Baker, Keli (Aaron) Hendricks, Kimberly (Gus) Wiegman, Amber (Andy) Braisted, Ashley (Kyle) Dressing, Adrienne (Nick) George, Alexander (Mikayla) King, Jonathan (Brittany) Suits, and Jessica Baker; 19 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Rev. Baker was preceded in death by his wife of 42 years, Willowdean Baker; a daughter, Renotta King, and all 11 of his brothers and sisters, Willy Thomas, Mary Lou, Myrtle, Flora, Edgar, Thayer, Robert, Nellie, Fanny Bell, Delia Frances, and Charlie Baker.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am Monday, May 19, 2025, at Southport Church of the Nazarene, 920 E. Southport Road, Indianapolis, Indiana, with Pastor Tim Lanigan and Rev. J.D. Bailey officiating. Burial will follow at Bluff Creek Cemetery, 6286 West State Road 144, Greenwood, IN 46143 near Bargersville.

Friends may call from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm Sunday at the church.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Sproles Family Funeral Home in New Castle.

Memorial contributions may be offered to the Southport Church of the Nazarene by Clicking Here (https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/5880758?widget=1). You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

The Sproles family and staff are deeply honored to serve the family of Rev. Howard Baker.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 18. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Southport Church of the Nazarene
920 E. Southport Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46227

Funeral

MAY 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Southport Church of the Nazarene
920 E. Southport Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46227

Tribute Wall



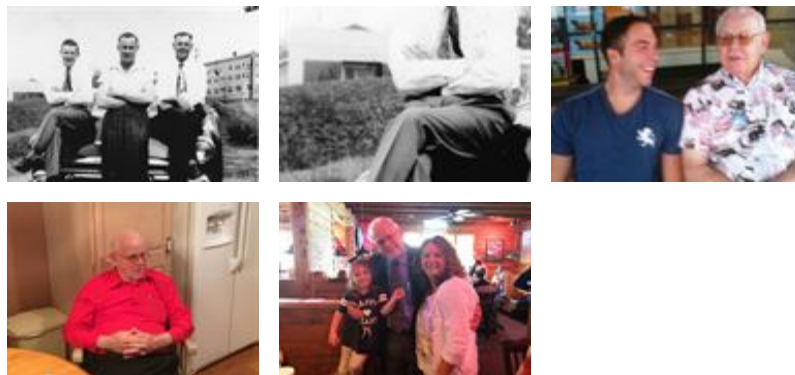
“ *Sproles Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rev. Howard Baker* ”



Sproles Family Funeral Home - May 16, 2025 at 05:52 PM



“ *152 files added to the album LifeTributes* ”



Sproles Family Funeral Home - May 16, 2025 at 05:48 PM

VG

“ So very sorry your loss.
Many wonderful memories of Papa Baker as he was called in our family. The most lasting one was when he asked me why I wasn't a Christian. I replied “ I don't want to.” And he replied back to me, “That's the best thing about Jesus, he changes your “want to.” I'm a Christian now and I still think about how much that one little statement influenced me. ❤️

Vonda Gast - May 15, 2025 at 04:51 PM

FF

“ From Marlon King and Family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Rev. Howard Baker.



From Marlon King and Family - May 15, 2025 at 04:08 PM

EB

“ My beautiful Aunt Pam, you were such an amazing wife to my Uncle Howard, he was so blessed to have you by his side for 35 years. He knows how much you loved him. We will be praying for your comfort during this time.

Elizabeth Bishop - May 13, 2025 at 09:32 AM

KH

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. My family attended SouthSide Nazarene Church New Castle. Brother Baker, as we knew him, was our pastor. I'm 72 years old, and he is the pastor I remember from my childhood. My family thought so highly of him. Will be praying for your family. Karen Lewis Hamilton

Karen Lewis Hamilton - May 12, 2025 at 09:43 PM