



Rev. Robert Merrill Brock

August 13, 1941 - December 3, 2023

Rev. Robert Merrill Brock, 82, of New Castle, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday afternoon, December 3, 2023.

Bob was a Missionary Statesman, a gifted Bible teacher and preacher, a prayer warrior, a spiritual hero to many, and a light to all who knew him.

He was born on August 13, 1941, in Columbus, Ohio, a son of the late Robert Champ and Vivian Louise (Weigand) Brock.

Bob's parents brought him to church when he was three weeks old. You could count on one hand the number of Sunday services he has missed in his entire life. His home church, Hilltop Community Church in Columbus, Ohio, was a strong supporter of The Oriental Missionary Society, and from an early age Bob felt called to serve in foreign missions. He was a 1959 graduate of West High School in Columbus, Ohio. In 1961, he entered the US Air Force, serving in Intercept Radio Communications with top-secret clearance, serving in Turkey and the Philippines. Following his honorable discharge from the USAF, Bob enrolled at God's Bible School and College and Missionary Training Home in Cincinnati, Ohio. While at GBS, he met the love of his life, Barbara Lee Hopkins. They were married on August 19, 1967.

Bob graduated from God's Bible School in 1969 with a BA in Bible. He was

encouraged by R.G. Flexon, the greatest hero in his life, to oversee GBS's City Missions Outreach for the following year. R.G. Flexon was the camp meeting evangelist at GBS in 1969. Before he was to preach the evening service, Bob was sanctified in R.G. Flexon's car in the parking lot, which was a great turning point in Bob's life. Beginning In 1970, Bob and Barb served as missionaries in Papua New Guinea for 21 years. They brought the message of Salvation and heart Holiness to the people deep in remote villages in "the bush." In addition to preaching, their ministry focused on literacy, teaching the people to read and write in their national language of Melanesian Pidgin English. Their four children were raised in Papua New Guinea.

In 1972, Bob established Tambul Baibel Skul (Bible School) to train national pastors to minister to their own people. Today, over 2,000 graduates are preaching in almost every province of Papua New Guinea. He served as the president of the Bible School and taught there full-time for 17 years. For the past six years he has taught online Bible classes for Tambul Bible School and Pacific Bible College. He authored the book Holines Long Bikpela (Holiness Unto the Lord).

In addition to serving in PNG, Bob ministered in South Dakota to the Sioux Indians, Grenada, Mexico, Haiti, Belize, Turkey, and the Philippines.

Bob and Barb returned to visit PNG several times over the years, most recently in 2015. They were invited by the National Church to be present at the ceremony as the authorized 1611 first edition of the King James Bible was presented to Papua New Guinea and accepted by the Prime Minister. It was placed in the Chamber of Parliament as a national treasure to guide the affairs and the decision making of Papua New Guinea.

Bob's life was a living testimony. He ministered to thousands of people and led many to Christ. The years spent in Papua New Guinea were the most fulfilling

years of his life.

In 1992, Bob and his family returned to God's Bible School in Cincinnati, where he supervised the Student Work Program. In 1996, they moved to New Castle, Indiana, to be close to family. Bob worked for Sproles Church Building Corporation where he played a large role in constructing over 50 new church building projects in his 22 years of service for the company.

He was a current member of the New Castle Pilgrim Holiness Church, where he had taught the Adult Sunday School Class and served on the Board of Trustees. Bob loved fixing things. He was detail-oriented, an organizer, an artist, a gardener, a model train enthusiast, and a coin collector. Bob's love for trains stemmed from his early childhood as his father worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad. They would take trips via train to California to visit family. Most importantly, he was an intentional grandpa who spent much time with his grandchildren, whom he dearly loved.

Bob spent endless hours reading and studying his Bible and praying for his family. He will always be known for fervently praying for his country, for "lost souls," and for his missionary endeavors in PNG. The message of heart Holiness and Godly living were distinct trademarks of his life and ministry.

Those left to cherish Bob's memory include his loving wife of 56 years, Barb Brock; four children, Julie (John Mark) Sproles of New Castle, Janie (Carl) Eisenhart of Loveland, Ohio, Rob (Tricia) Brock of Ft. Myers, FL, and Rick (Lisa) Brock of Columbus, OH; 13 grandchildren, Evan, Katelyn, Brooklyn and Brayden Sproles, Caleb, Abby (Ryan) Susan, Ella and Isaac Eisenhart, Taylor, Robert "Bug" and Evelyn Brock, Elaina and Ethan Brock; a sister, Karen Scalzi of Danville, CA; an aunt, Faith Bell of Olathe, Kansas, several nieces and nephews, his missionary family, and a great host of Christians all across

Papua New Guinea who will be viewing online the funeral of their missionary hero.

In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by his brother, Brian Champ Brock.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am Saturday, December 9, 2023, at Sproles Family Funeral Home with Pastor Don Raines officiating. Burial will follow in South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition with military funeral honors conducted by the US Air Force, American Legion, and VFW.

You may view the funeral service via live stream by Clicking Here (<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/obituaries/Robert-Brock-13/#!/PhotosVideos/00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000001/WebcastVideo>).

Friends may call from 4 – 8 pm Friday and one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be offered to the Tambul Bible School by Clicking Here (<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/online-payments-and-donations/>). You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

The family of Robert Brock would like to say a special thank you to the medical staff of Ball Memorial Hospital, especially to Amber and Brandon, for their exceptional care during Bob's final hours. The loving care shown by our church family during this time will never be forgotten.

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.

Cemetery Details

South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition

950 South Memorial Dr.
New Castle, IN 47362

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 8. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home
2400 S Memorial Dr.
New Castle, IN 47362

Visitation

DEC 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home
2400 S Memorial Dr
New Castle, IN 47362
(765) 521-2400
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

Funeral Service

DEC 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home
2400 S Memorial Dr.
New Castle, IN 47362

Tribute Wall



“ *Sproles Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock*



Sproles Family Funeral Home - December 05, 2023 at 12:41 PM

SG

Dear Sister Barb and family, Our hearts were deeply touched when we heard of your great loss. We know you are leaning on our Saviour and we pray you will sense His presence and comfort in the darkest hours.

Stephen and Janet Geise, Guatemala - December 05, 2023 at 07:01 PM

MA

*Late Rev. Robert Merrill Brock
You are the real hero of faith. You've fought a good fight and won the hardest and toughest battle. You've evangelised so many Papua New Guineans and now they know the gospel. You set a legacy in PNG and this will be remembered by the upcoming Sunday Schools and the Youths of PNGBC in the generation yet to come. You've won the race. Your tireless efforts and prayerful heart will be remembered. May your SPECIAL SOUL REST EASY IN ETERNAL PEACE and the good Lord may keep peace to mother Barb and family.*

Morgan Aroma - December 07, 2023 at 06:43 PM

JW

Precious Celebration of Life Service for a Life Well Lived!

Joanna Wehrman - December 09, 2023 at 05:01 PM

PW

So sad and heart breaking to hear of Rev. Brock's passing. I vividly remembered his stern yet sound and explicit preachings on Heart Purity and Holiness including his profound teachings on Eschatological events in fulfillment to biblical prophecy. He was a great prophesy teacher and a no nonsense preacher. As a kid growing up I feared him most, though he was humble and kind hearted.

Sister Brock had also touched our lives through Sunday School. She used alot of flannelgraphs and conveyed her lessons that profoundly impacted our lives. Kids grew up in the late 70s and 80s will know these, especially Tambul kids. She was also instrumental in taking RI classes in nearby schools and Tambul Primary school was of no exception.

Rev. Brock's legacy will remain. His time and immense contribution in setting up Tambul Bible School from its infantry stage up will also be remembered. His greater contributions to the PNG Bible Church in preachings, administrative duties, biblical teachings and evangelism will remain immense and unparallel. A great man has fallen! Thankyou Rev. and Sister Brock for touching our lives. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Pastor Kenneth Kenn Galuwa, Tambul, WHP. - December 09, 2023 at 05:13 PM

BM

“ So sorry Barb about Bro Brock he is up I'm Heaven with my husband



Barbara Martin - December 09, 2023 at 08:42 PM

TC

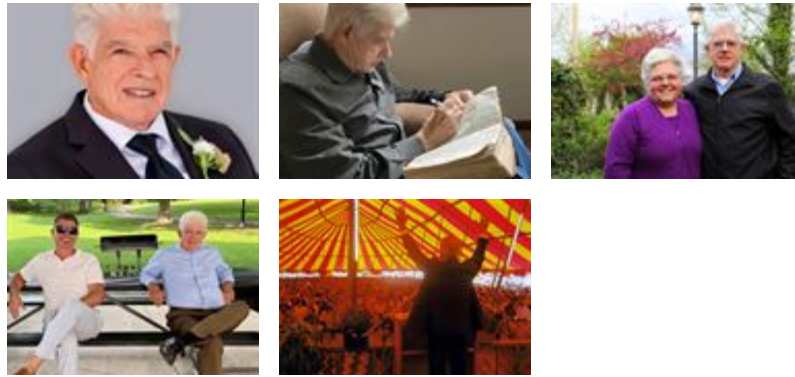
“ *Tabitha Cory lit a candle in memory of Robert Brock*



Tabitha Cory - December 09, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ *155 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Sproles Family Funeral Home - December 08, 2023 at 01:09 PM

MS

*Dear Barb & Family,
We grieve with you in the passing of your precious husband, father,
and grandfather! Bob was a great man and an example to all of us on
how to live a godly life in this world.
Our prayers continue for you!
We Love You!
Monte & Mary Stetler*

Monte & Mary Stetler - December 10, 2023 at 08:50 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.*



December 08, 2023 at 10:11 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.*



December 08, 2023 at 08:45 AM



“ *I Have You In My Heart Plush Blanket was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.*



December 08, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Barb,
I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Love, Faye Layton*



Faye Layton - December 08, 2023 at 12:31 AM

JP

“ John and Linda Price purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.



John and Linda Price - December 07, 2023 at 10:11 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.



December 07, 2023 at 05:44 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.



December 07, 2023 at 02:36 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.



December 06, 2023 at 08:04 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.*



December 06, 2023 at 07:48 PM



“ *Richard and Belen planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.*

Richard and Belen - December 06, 2023 at 07:48 PM



“ *Hazel Clark lit a candle in memory of Robert Brock*



Hazel Clark - December 06, 2023 at 04:45 PM



“ *Joyce Robert lit a candle in memory of Robert Brock*



Joyce & Robert - December 06, 2023 at 04:20 PM

DB

“ Rob, so sorry to hear of your loss. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Debby & Tim Bosch - December 06, 2023 at 02:40 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.



December 06, 2023 at 08:55 AM

SB

“ I'll never forget my Uncle Robert Merrill and love he showed towards me. His passing is another sad reminder that life here is temporary but I rejoice at the thought that he fought the good fight, ran his race and is now in Heaven

Sharon Brock-Neece - December 06, 2023 at 06:11 AM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.



December 05, 2023 at 09:43 PM

WO

“ West Broad Missionary Chapel, Cols, OH planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.

West Broad Missionary Chapel, Cols, OH - December 05, 2023 at 09:43 PM

FM

“ Flo Daniels family Sr Lawson The Mihalys purchased the Memorial Honor Blanket for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.



Flo Daniels family Sr Lawson The Mihalys - December 05, 2023 at 09:22 PM

WW

“ We have many good memories of time spent with Bob and his family especially on our two visits to PNG. One of our favorites was the Sunday morning we traveled up the mountain with Bob partially by truck and partially on foot. This was a remote village where the gospel was being shared for the first time for many of the people. We sat on the ground with the village people and listened in awe as Bob so simply shared the gospel and watched hearts being touched! Only God knows how many lives have been changed because of Bob and Barb's ministry! Wayne and Bev Waits

Wayne and Bev Waits - December 05, 2023 at 08:59 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.*



December 05, 2023 at 07:36 PM



“ *Rev. David and Marianne Stalder planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.*

Rev. David and Marianne Stalder - December 05, 2023 at 07:36 PM



“ *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith...(II Tim. 4:7)certainly applies not only personally to the apostle Paul but to Rev. Robert Brock. My wife, Patty(Bowen), and I were classmates of Bob and Barb at G.B.S. Some of my fondest memories are of being involved in the GI's of the Cross. Bob was always intently involved in our efforts in personal evangelism. Bob, you have fought the good fight, ran the race, and kept the faith. Now the crowning day awaits and what a day that will be!*

James Davis - December 05, 2023 at 04:52 PM



Bro Brock one of my heroes . What a faithful consistent man of God . So thankful this is a temporary goodbye. To his precious family my prayers and thoughts are with you 🙏 Kim Davis

Kim Davis - December 07, 2023 at 11:24 AM

SE

“ Phil and I will never forget the few days we spent with the Brocks at Tambul in New Guinea many years ago. Trusting the Lord to hold Barb and the rest of the family close in the days ahead.

Susan Estes - December 05, 2023 at 02:38 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.



December 05, 2023 at 02:36 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.



December 05, 2023 at 02:29 PM

AC

“ Adams Street Christian Church planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.

Adams Street Christian Church - December 05, 2023 at 02:29 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rev. Robert Merrill Brock.*



December 05, 2023 at 02:22 PM



“ *Earl Shaw lit a candle in memory of Robert Brock*



Earl Shaw - December 05, 2023 at 01:03 PM



Your husband and father and grandfather, my uncle, has been released from the cares of this world to spend eternity dwelling in the presence of Jesus Christ. May you find peace in His love and comfort.

*With our sincere condolences and sympathy,
Linda and John Price*

Linda Price - December 06, 2023 at 05:52 AM



Barb, Julie, Janie, Rob, Rick and all the family, our hearts break with you at the loss of Bob. We have so many memories in PNG. Don and I stayed with the Brocks for a few weeks in the early 70's at Pulupatu station, where, ironically our family moved as they went to Tambul. Many great times at our missionary conference/campmeetings also. You all are in our prayers.

Peggy, Ken, Joy, Anne

Peggy Shelley - December 09, 2023 at 10:18 AM