



## Dr. David Orlo Dykes

January 16, 1953 - July 2, 2025

Pastor David Orlo Dykes died peacefully on July 2, 2025 at his home in Tyler, Texas surrounded by his family. He was 72 years old.

Dr. Dykes, known to his congregation as Brother David, served as the senior pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas for 30 years, from 1991-2021, and as pastor emeritus after his retirement. During his life, Dr. Dykes led missions around the world and published more than 20 books. His broadcasted sermons reached many thousands of people over the course of his ministry.

Dr. Dykes was born in Ruston, Louisiana on January 16, 1953, and he grew up in southern Alabama. He became a Christian at age 9 and began preaching in 1970 at age 17. Dr. Dykes attended Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky where he earned his Masters of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry. In 2005, Dr. Dykes completed a post-doctoral study at Cambridge University, and in 2017 he received an honorary doctorate from East Texas Baptist University. In 2021, Dr. Dykes was honored as Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Alumni of the Year.

Before serving at Green Acres, Dr. Dykes served as senior pastor of three Alabama churches: Tallaweka Baptist Church in Tallassee (1978-1981), First

Baptist Church Oneonta (1981-1984), and Gardendale First Baptist Church (1984-1991).

In his 30 years as senior pastor at Green Acres Baptist Church, the church grew from 9,000 members to 17,000 members. Dr. Dykes often described himself as a missionary disguised as a pastor, and during his life, he led mission teams to more than 30 countries, notably several trips to both the Crimea in the early 1990s and China in the 2000s. Dr. Dykes also traveled around the world teaching and equipping pastors on how to grow and sustain healthy churches.

Under Dr. Dykes' leadership, Green Acres was the leading financial contributor to the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program for many years, which supports domestic and international missions. In 2008, the Southern Baptist Convention awarded Dr. Dykes the M.E. Dodd Award, their highest honor. Then-president of the Southern Baptist Convention Morris Chapman described Green Acres as "one of the leading churches in America."

Dr. Dykes served locally on the Boards of the American Red Cross, P.A.T.H., The Greater Tyler Chamber of Commerce, The Mother Frances Foundation, and Baptist Child and Family Services (Breckenridge Village). He has also served on the Board of Trustees for East Texas Baptist University and the Board of Trustees for LeTourneau University. He served ten years as a member of the Executive Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was also a volunteer Chaplain with the Smith County Sheriff's Department.

David was married to his wife Cindy for 51 years, and he was a devoted father and grandfather. He was an avid golfer and had his private pilot's license. Throughout his life, David enjoyed traveling the world, and he and Cindy led more than two dozen tours to Israel.

Dr. Dykes was known for his leadership and humility. Friends and colleagues describe him as leading the church with joy, compassion, and integrity. In 2024, East Texas Baptist University awarded Dr. Dykes the inaugural David Dykes Servant Leadership award acknowledging his contributions while fostering a spirit of servant leadership. The only verse Dr. Dykes specified for his funeral was Philippians 1:21: “For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain,” which exemplifies the message he wanted his life to leave behind.

On May 4, 2025, Dr. Dykes delivered his final sermon from the pulpit at Green Acres in his role as pastor emeritus as part of the church’s 70th anniversary celebration. His final sermon concluded: “You don’t have to know what the future holds, as long as you know who holds the future: Jesus Christ—the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Dr. Dykes is survived by his beloved wife Cindy; his daughters Jennifer Holman and Laura Grace Dykes; his sons-in-law Jason Holman and Joseph Provencher; his grandchildren Lizzie Holman, Caroline Holman, Ada Liner, Grant Holman, and Samuel Provencher; his sister Judy Kapa and his brother Daniel Dykes.

A memorial service for Dr. Dykes will be held on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Green Acres Baptist Church Worship Center with Dr. Michael Gossett and Jim Gillen officiating, under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to the Green Acres Foundation, 1607 Troup Hwy., Tyler, TX 75701 ([gabc.org](http://gabc.org)).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL 9. 1:00 PM (CT)

Green Acres Baptist Church Worship Center  
1607 Troup Hwy.  
Tyler, TX 75701

# Tribute Wall

RA

“*Brother David was a wonderful Pastor and Preacher in his years at Gardendale FBC! His knowledge of the Scriptures was astounding. He taught me so much. His Sermons kept us focused. Kept our attention. Great sense of humor. Gave us so many things to apply in our lives!*

*Praying for Cindy, Jenni, Laura Beth, and all the Family. Also praying for Green Acres and Tyler, Texas. David will be missed. We will all see him again some day. He has left a great legacy!*

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**Randy Akers** - July 31, 2025 at 12:51 PM

SB

“*I have been a member of Green Acres ever since Ed Boles was the pastor with the exception of 2 years. I will always remember special conversations, sermons by Brother David, and special events with him, his family, and my wonderful church family. My thoughts are with Cindy and their family. Sue Burrow*

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**Sue Burrow** - July 09, 2025 at 07:31 PM

TY

“ To Cindy and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you today in the passing of our brother David. He was an exceptional person and leader for God. I first met him when I visited Green Acres in the early nineties, I continued to visit a few times but never got to come back. I was sad by this choice, but his message carried on with me in all I do in life. As he said, God is ever present, you just have to seek out to accept him. I continued to follow you guys through worship on televised sermons, I even had my parents watching and my children until David retired. May God bless you all and continue to be there for you as you process life forward without our beloved friend, brother. Know this though, he is with our father and we can rejoice in the promise that we'll see him again, very soon. Amen!



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**TRACY YOUNG** - July 09, 2025 at 06:29 PM

GG

“ Hi Cindy and family,  
You never met me but I attended GABC when I was working in Tyler in 2000. During my life's crossroads, I requested from Arlene an appointment to see Pastor Dykes for prayers. Despite his busy schedule, he took time to pray for me, a legacy that I will always remember about him.  
The Lord bless you, comfort you and give you peace until we all see him at the pearly gates with Jesus one day. We love you all....Gg,  
Toronto, Canada

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**Gg Gesulgon** - July 09, 2025 at 03:57 PM

PA

“ Bro. David is still the greatest pastor I have ever had. He was our pastor at Gardendale FBC. He married me and my husband 39 years ago. Many of the words he spoke in our wedding frequently come to my mind and was some of the greatest biblical and common sense advice. Bro. David influenced many lives and left an incredible spiritual legacy.

Paula - July 09, 2025 at 10:34 AM

SD

“ Bro. David was a great source of compassion to us during our grief over the death of our son. We shall always be grateful to him, and we pray for peace and comfort for his family. We know he is enjoying eternity with Jesus!

Steve and Penny Davison - July 08, 2025 at 11:15 PM

CR

“ Pastor David did my husbands funeral three years ago. We had gone on an Israel trip together with one of David's groups as well as a mission trip to China over the years. David was a friend, a fellow golfer, and a great guy to be around. He will be greatly missed. Heaven is rejoicing to see him come home! Love to Cindy and the girls. Carol Rizer

Carol Rizer - July 08, 2025 at 07:29 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. David Orlo Dykes.



July 08, 2025 at 03:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. David Orlo Dykes.

July 08, 2025 at 03:15 PM



“ I am so thankful for the leadership and guidance of this man. He was my pastor, my boss, and my friend! Much love and prayers for Jenni, Laura Grace, and Cindy.



Lance Douglas Gutierrez - July 08, 2025 at 11:40 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Dr. David Orlo Dykes.



July 08, 2025 at 11:22 AM



“ David married me and then years later baptized me after I was born again. I only wish that the order had been reversed, for spiritual rebirth must precede everything.  
John 3:3, “unless one is born again, he(he) shall never see the Kingdom of God.” [bornagaingospel.com](http://bornagaingospel.com)

bornagaingospel.com - July 08, 2025 at 12:22 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. David Orlo Dykes.*



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July 07, 2025 at 10:26 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. David O. Dykes.

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July 07, 2025 at 10:26 AM



“ *Cindy,  
Br. David changed a direction of young teenager 45 years ago. I remember youth trips where he played tennis with us and just showed so much love to a bunch of kiddos from Oneonta. He was fun and taught us so much from the pulpit but mostly he taught us from his actions and his kindness. What an amazing legacy he leaves behind. Prayers for you and your family as you grieve his absence.*

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**Kitty Cornelius Cheak** - July 07, 2025 at 09:18 AM



*Bro. David was a great source of compassion to us during our grief over the death of our son. We shall always be grateful to him, and we pray for peace and comfort for his family. We know he is enjoying eternity with Jesus!*

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**Penny and Steve Davison** - July 07, 2025 at 05:17 PM

SM

“ *Sherri Mcfadden lit a candle in memory of Dr. David Orlo Dykes*



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**Sherri Mcfadden** - July 06, 2025 at 11:34 AM

PW

“ *I will miss Brother David & his wonderful sermons. He had a way of beginning with a story & making the Bible come to life. I was touched by the letter that he wrote to me when my Mother passed away in 2006; it helped to know that he understood the grief that I was experiencing. We were all blessed by his many years of service to our church. My prayers are with Cindy & their family.*

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**Pamela Wade** - July 05, 2025 at 11:09 PM

SC

“ *I will miss Brother David. He was a kind, gentle and had a great sense of humor. My final memory of him is having lunch with him in late February. He was happy, full of life and looking forward to the future. He told me about meeting the love of his life Cindy, his wife. He had a major impact in my life. praying for comfort to his family.*  
*Stuart Crutchfield*

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**Stuart Crutchfield** - July 05, 2025 at 12:16 PM

LL

“ *Prayers for the family!*



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**Lisa Dee Lunsford** - July 04, 2025 at 05:00 PM

LT

“ Lynda Tippit lit a candle in memory of Dr. David Orlo Dykes



Lynda Tippit - July 04, 2025 at 04:32 PM

WB

“ Dr David Dykes did the services for our son Corky Boyd at Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas July 7, 2001. His comfort for our family was so great. He was there for us . He will be missed by so many friends.

Walter and Glenda Boyd - July 04, 2025 at 03:42 PM

SD

“ When my father was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 1995, I was in the lobby of TMF Hospital and recognized him from watching him on television. I introduced myself and asked him to put my dad on the church prayer list. He immediately asked if he could go up to the room. We walked in the room and my dad recognized him from television also and was so glad to see him. He visited for a while and then prayed fervently for him. During the next year of his illness, there was always someone checking in him weekly feom Green Acres. I will forever be able to Bro. David.

Shelby Davidson - July 04, 2025 at 02:02 PM

JF

“ Jerry & Roxanne Smith Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. David Orlo Dykes



Jerry & Roxanne Smith family - July 04, 2025 at 10:51 AM

EP

“ Elicia Powell lit a candle in memory of Dr. David Orlo Dykes



Elicia Powell - July 04, 2025 at 10:04 AM

KE

“ I always considered David our entire Community's Pastor no matter your walk of life he helped us all. Honored to have known him and called him a friend. We will all miss him as he touched so many lives. May God bless the Dykes Family.

Kevin Eltife

Kevin Eltife - July 04, 2025 at 06:03 AM

JJ

“ Julie Johnson lit a candle in memory of Dr. David Orlo Dykes



Julie Johnson - July 03, 2025 at 11:18 PM

PG

“ *Patsy Grimes lit a candle in memory of Dr. David Orlo Dykes*



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**Patsy Grimes** - July 03, 2025 at 10:49 PM

PG

*Brother David you touched my heart so many times I am honored to have known you. Praying for your Family, Friends and Loved Ones Till we meet again one glorious day*

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**Patsy Grimes** - July 03, 2025 at 10:54 PM

KU

“ *Kelley Uzzell lit a candle in memory of Dr. David Orlo Dykes*



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**Kelley Uzzell** - July 03, 2025 at 06:30 PM

TK

“ I will never forget that you were the second person to call me when my daughter passed.

*Out of the thousands of people you served, you took the time to call and pray with my family. That meant everything to us.*

*You truly lived out the call to go and make disciples.*

*Bro. David, I hope you now get a glimpse of just how many lives you've touched.*

*We will all see you again.*

*Jay*

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**Thomas Knight** - July 03, 2025 at 06:21 PM

BD

“ David was one of a kind and will be truly missed. My life was enriched by his ministry. Condolences to his beautiful family.

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**Beverly Dunn** - July 03, 2025 at 05:51 PM