



Jerry Baker

January 9, 1953 - March 24, 2006

Services for Jerry Wayne Baker, 53, Tyler, are scheduled for 2:00 p.m., Monday, March 27, 2006, at Stewart Family Funeral Chapel with Dr. V. M. Robertson and Rev. Rudy Bond officiating. Burial will be in Whitehouse Cemetery under direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Mr. Baker, a Tyler area music educator and minister, passed away Friday, March 24, 2006 after a lengthy battle with several illnesses. He was born January 9, 1953 in Nampa, Idaho to Cleatus and the late Inez Baker, and raised in the Tri Cities, Washington, graduating from Kennewick High School. Jerry began traveling in evangelistic work at the age of 15, working with such well known groups as the Bill Carter Singers and Evangelist Lee Gerard as song leader, guitarist and preacher. He married Rebecca Flaten on December 22, 1972 in Park River, North Dakota. She survives, as do three children, Jared Baker and wife Jessica of Alexandria, Louisiana, Rachelle Harp and husband Matthew of Providence Village, Texas, and Shannon Baker of Austin; four grandchildren, Elizabeth, Hannah, and twins, Jonathan and Nathaniel Baker, as well as his father, Cleatus Baker and stepmother, Nellie; step-brothers, Douglas and Ronald Bedair. He was preceded in death by an infant son, Jason, his mother, Hattie Inez Baker, and a sister, Wanda Garrett. Jerry and his wife Rebecca traveled throughout the United States in concerts and evangelist work for seven years prior to pastoring Calvary Temple in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and moving to Tyler in 1981. Here they worked for Evangelist R. W. Schambach and later as music directors in several churches. Jerry was well known for his

virtuoso guitar playing. The couple founded Psalmist Ministries International and Psalmist School of Music in 1983, both of which continue on. He had been ordained with the Pentecostal Church of God and licensed with the Ministerial Fellowship of U.S.A. In addition to preaching and teaching private music instruction, Jerry was an engineer and producer in his own recording studio and was involved in video production and editing for New Life Community Church, which he attended, as well as the TV program he and his wife produced for seven years, "Proclaim His Glory!", airing on syndicated stations and several networks across the country. He was also involved in extensive research and writings involving the Pentecostal and Hebraic roots movements, as well as genealogy. He traced his roots back to King Charlemagne, the high kings of Scotland and Ireland, and ultimately King David. He was an avid member of the East Texas chapter of the Pineywood Buckskinners. Pallbearers will be Samuel Chambers, Thomas Kuhn, Dale Moran, Nathaniel Moran, Michael Rodberg, Mark Armstrong, Leo Berman, and Bobby Nick. Honorary Pallbearers are the members of the Pineywood Buckskinners. The family will receive friends from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Sunday at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy., south Tyler 75703. If desired, memorials in honor of Mr. Baker may be made to Hospice of East Texas, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, 75701, or Psalmist School of Music Scholarship Fund, P. O. Box 4126, Tyler 75712.

Tribute Wall

DR

“ *The Friar was a unique man. He demonstrated that you can live for the Lord, have fun and miss nothing. I don't believe he ever met a stranger. He would come to camp with only a package of hot dogs and some buns. The buns were always stolen by the dog and the rest went back home because he was always welcome at someones table for roast or some other campfire treat. Jerry was loved, and will be missed.*

Dan and Suellen Rightmer - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ *Our love and prayers are with you and your family.*

Joel & Char

Char Nichols - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *We all have our memories of which ours go back several years ago and only by email or phone call when passing thru did we get to see Jerry or Becky. Even apart when you are friends, you remain friends and remember the things that set people apart from others. Jerry, was a man full of dreams, and going full speed. He was so full of fun and life. His active creative life has once again taken its potential to a higher level of excellence! Heaven.....he is in his glory there wondering what he can do next. He will forever fulfill his dreams and carry out his God given talents! We love you, Becky, and the family.*
Larry, Dollie & Melody Meade

Larry, Dollie & Melody Meade - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ God has received a wonderful man into His kingdom. Becky and family, we are praying for you at this time. We remember Jerry's outgoing personality and his God given talents. Now, he is playing that guitar in Heaven! We love you!

David, Carleta, Carl and Kyle Cates - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ I will always remember Jerry's smile when playing his guitar with the KGH Jazz Band. He was always smiling in my memories of him; always kidding around and doing something to either cheer you up or to "pester" you if you weren't getting "cheered" up.

I don't know why he wanted me contacted after all these years, but maybe it's a "God Thing" and part of a plan I don't have access to today. I know Our Father will sustain you and your family through this time of release into His Hands and hope you can feel all the love, thoughts, and prayers coming to you from around the world today.

God keep and protect you always,

Debby Hembree

Deborah (Debby) Hembree - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Jerry was always ahead of the game....A teacher...a friend..Enjoyed working with Jerry on the production of Rebecca's video ministry...Someone who had time to spend helping others...Great patience and consideration for those lacking in experience, for those slow to learn or catch on...I'll miss him.

Mike Connor - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

NH

“ Jerry was a good friend and a great chaplain to our Pineywoods Buckskinning group. I miss his guitar playing and singing at our rendezvous'. I will miss him but look forward to seeing him again in a far more beautiful place.

Nat and Elizabeth Hart - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. I have so many memories of his sense of humor and love of life from the last 18 years or so. Truly a great man.

Perry Flowers - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ Our prayers are with you and your family. We know that this is a hard time, but know that the Lord will uplift and keep you. God bless you.

Penny Steel - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Jerry was my best friend throughout high school. Jerry was truly blessed by God in so many ways, musically talented, humor, being a true friend. Jerry was a Christian from early on and was never afraid to show it. We both brought our Bibles to school on a daily basis. I will never forget the day in US History class when Mr. Walker assigned us our books and Jerry proclaimed out loud, "This will not work!" I asked him, "What won't work!" He then stated, "This book is larger than my Bible!" The US History book was huge. After school that day, Jerry took his US History book down to the Book and Bible house and ordered the largest Bible I had ever seen, and yes, it was bigger than the US History book! From the days of having Bible Study in the corner of Mr. Walker's class instead of reading our History assignments, to finding black licorice in my clarinet case instead of my clarinet, to (skipping class) and making sand angels in the sand at the Columbia Lagoon in the middle of December because we did not have any snow, to taking our shoes off and playing slip and slide down Senior Hall, but most of all the 30 plus years of friendship, because I was female and his friend he always called me his "girlfriend" as he did to all of his female classmates that were his friends. To Jerry's family, I want you to know that I am a better person for having your father and husband as my friend. You are all in my thoughts and prayers and Jerry will be truly missed.

Debra

Debra Blum - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ We wish to extend our sympathies to Becky and family. May the "God of all comforts" truly comfort your hearts. (II Cor. 1:3-4)

Rev. Mark & Carol Flaten - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Jerry touched many hearts throughout his life. It's been many years since I've seen or talked with Jerry. It was only this last year that our paths crossed again through another classmate. There are no mistakes in God's world, and I truly believe there was a reason why I was "touched" by Jerry and his family during a most difficult time for them. May God's light shine on Jerry and his loved ones. Jan

Jan Christensen - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

HA

“ It gave our hearts pleasure to see Jerry & Rebecca pressing on in spite of barriers that would have otherwise hindered others. We consider it an honor to have known Jerry and pledge to do what we can to be there for Rebecca. We love you guys and thank God for lending Jerry to us for the time He did. We realize that he will continue to live on in our hearts through our precious memories and in the work he was able to do here on this earth.

Be strengthened in the Lord and rest in His comforting arms.

Love,
The Asberrys

Henry & Valerie Asberry - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I remember your visits to ND with great fondness. We loved having your family stay with us. My clearest memory of Jerry was of him saying "Cowabunga, dude!" He had a way of making me and my sisters laugh. He will be missed.
Love and prayers to the family.

Martin, Joy, and Isaac Solano - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *My prayers are with you and your family. Jerry was a gifted man with a great talent. He was a man of God. Those who came in contact with him knew how much he loved the Lord.*

Love to you all.

Terri

Terri Cook - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Jerry made my life richer! In many ways he was entertainment I didn't have to pay for! His sense of humor and dry wit were always a source of smiles for me. Plus his knowledge of the scripture and that intimate quality of his love for God will always be an inspiration. As sad as I am that he is gone, my joy is great for having been his friend!*

Jeff Miller - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

“ Larry & I have enjoyed our friendship through the years with Becky & Jerry. Becky & I have been friends since high school youth group in the 60's. But I am so glad that after we both moved away & got married & then visited again as couples, that Larry & Jerry became friends too. They weren't friends just because Becky & I were, but were friends with each other on their own. The four of us always had a good time together.

I am so thankful that Becky drove Jerry home to ND last summer for the 4th of July weekend. We didn't know then that that would be our last time together.

*The evening of July 4th, Larry made a make shift ramp out of two boards & wheeled Jerry into our old farm house. He was determined to get him in the house! And Jerry had to trust we wouldn't let him fall..and it WAS a bit shaky a few times in the process!
We grilled hamburgers that night & later went together to the fireworks.*

Two nights later we met at Pizza Hut for supper & then went back to their hotel in Grafton. And a 3rd evening we had them out for dessert & the movie "National Treasure" & got Jerry into our house again!

Now those are all precious memories -our most recent and last memories of Jerry-added to all our other memories throughout the 34 years that we knew him.

I cry as I write this, finding it hard to believe you are gone-and gone so young -younger than either Larry or I. We will miss you, Jerry. Miss your humor, miss all those good stories you could tell, miss that dimple when you smiled, & the twinkle in your eye when you were teasing. We will miss all those great business ideas you had and your excitement and passion for the research you had done on many subjects. And we will miss your great guitar playing and singing.

I hope up there in heaven you are giving everyone a "bad time" and making them laugh. Heaven is better off because you are there.

Love, your friends, Cyndee & Larry

Cyndee Ditzer - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

VG

“ *JERRY WAS A VERY TALENTED MAN WHO COULD ALWAYS FIND HUMOR IN THINGS WHEN NO ONE ELSE COULD. HE WAS A MULTI-TALENTED MAN AND IT WAS A PLEASURE TO KNOW THE ENTIRE BAKER FAMILY. I AM SURE HE IS SINGING IN GLORY ALREADY..*

VIRGINIA GEWIN - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ *to becky@family
my heart breaks for you all..i'm hurting to...jerry was my favorite cousin..we were close...and hes with the lord and his mom..god bless you all and just no i love you all*

*godbless you
phonda*

phonda gusman - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ I have missed both Rebecca and Jerry since i have left Texas, and now that Jerry has gone to be with the Lord, I will miss him even more. May God bless all the work he did on earth and may it bear fruit, in Jesus's name, Amen. God bless you Rebecca!

Grace Britton - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ I have known Mr. Baker for almost 20 years and know my life has been blessed because of him. Mr. Baker was such a character and entertaining man, and I am thankful for the many memories I have of him. My thoughts and prayers are with the Baker family now and forever.

Sophie Teasdale - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ (Neil) This morning at 8 a.m. holy communion at Kingsclere parish church, Hampshire UK, I prayed this prayer from the Anglican liturgy: "And we also bless thy holy name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching us to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom."

As I did so, I thought of Jerry, his ministry, his gifts and his witness in sickness and thanked the Lord for him.

(Jacqueline) We will keep special memories of Jerry, for his kindness in always being ready to chat with Grace and for the mutual courage that you have both shown in this time that was not easy to live through and which you did live through in victory. We miss you all but now that he has left us we will miss him. You have all been part of a happy time in our lives in Texas. Last night I got up to pray and read in the Song of Solomon 4:13 (our translation from the French): "You have the freshness of an orchard in paradise full of pomegranates and exquisite fruit." I think that this verse means that the Lord sees you, Rebecca, as a exquisite woman in whom the Lord takes pleasure, having seen all your good works offered in love. Grace will write something later.

Neil, Jacqueline and Grace Britton - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Just a note to let you know that our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Love, Robin and Billy Hunt and Family

Robin & Billy Hunt - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LV

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. I pray that God will continue to give you strength as you carry on. Although distance separates us, you are not forgotten. God Bless You.

LEANNE (MARKUSEN) VARON - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ It was truly a pleasure to have known Jerry. He always had such a friendly smile. His passion for Christ was unquestionable. Rebecca, know that my thoughts are with you during your difficult time. God Bless you and your Family.

Joice Arthur - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ We so enjoyed our visits with Jerry and Becky on their trips back to North Dakota. Jerry would entertain us with stories and amaze us with his knowledge of historical facts about such varied subjects. We appreciated Jerry's faith and love for God. It was an inspiration to see how hard he worked to be independent after his stroke. Becky's patience and care of Jerry reflected her love for him. They both were so proud of their children and grandchildren. We want the family to know that you are in our thoughts and prayers at this time. May God bless you and give you peace and comfort at this time.

David and Alayne Duame - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Rebecca,

To all your family, we will continue to remember you in our prayers. Thankful that Jerry is free from all illness. Still remember way, way back when Jerry let Chris "try out the drums". Chris was just a young buck, but he has been playing the drums every since then. Other fond memories...too lengthy to go into.

*Lovingly,
Dale and Marjorie*

Dale and Marjorie Moran - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ *Sorry to hear about Jerry.
Our Heart goes with you.*

Earl&Loretta Brown - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ jerry was a wonderful guy..we had fun when we were kids..i remember one time..my family went over to visit when i was a kid..we were leaveing to go home..and there was six of us kids..my brothers and 2 sisters well for some reason i got out of the car..and they were driveing off and we were waveing for my dad to come back for me..well my dad and mom thought it was jerry waveing..but it was me..and they were half way home and relize i was not in the car...so funny..yes jerry and i had alot of good times...i think it was last summer or the summer before last they come for a visit...i have some pics of us while becky and jerry was here...becky, kids, uncle cleatus, nellie
my heart is with you..and please no..i love you..and to my cousins..jerry and beckys kids....i love you so much..and your in my prayers and thoughts

phonda

phonda gusman - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

K7

“ Thank you so much Rebecca, for bringing Jerry to the Kennewick High School All Class Reunion in 2004 -- Jerry was able to see a lot of old friends -- who knew that this would be the last time we would all see him as well as hear his laughter and give us a bad time just to make us laugh!

Jerry, were so talented, I am thankful to have some recordings of our music classes with Mr. Don Paul!

I don't know what I will do without "my favorite pest"! You sure knew how to pester someone, yet still maintained the friendship. Your humor, dimples, smile, twinkle in your eyes, but most of all your musical talent -- will be so missed.

God Bless you my friend!

Prayers to you Rebecca and family, thank you for keeping us informed on Jerry's condition! Please give our prayers and concerns also to Jerry's dad!

Kennewick High School Class of 71 - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ The shock of Jerry's illness and death still seems a bit unreal - he was such a vibrant personality. We truly enjoyed meeting him at Matthew and Rachele's wedding. It didn't take long to feel we had known him always, and feel right at home. Rachele, your family will miss his presence for a long time to come - but knowing that his pain is finished is sure to be comforting. We will be there with you tomorrow in our prayers and thoughts. We love you.

Pat and Billie Waddle - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ *Rachelle, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time of mourning. We are here for you when you need us.*

I know that you believe as I do that this is a time of celebration as your Dad is joining Jesus and family members that have gone on before him in heaven. No more pain or sorrow for him.

*With Love,
Kay and Dennis*

Kay Jones - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DI

“ *We've been best buds since the days we were horsing around in Dr. Godbee's orchestra in Middle School, and I am full of hope as I know Jerry and I will one day be together again in God's Kingdom and this time there will be no end to it.*

David Ingersoll - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *i am grateful to GOD that i had a chance to share in the life of jerry a true friend. praying for rebecca and the family...\$amuel*

samuel chambers - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *Rebecca,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Russell and Anita Moncrief - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Please accept our condolences for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Rick & Lois Rutherford - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ I thank the Lord that He led my son and me to Psalmist School of Music last fall so that Jerry could teach my son, even for a short time. We have been so blessed by knowing him and seeing his Christian witness and I know my son will never forget Mr. Jerry. Seeing this trial and the way both Jerry and Rebecca went through it has been so encouraging and has inspired me in my Christian walk. I'm so thankful to know that now Jerry is with His Lord and there are no more trials, no more pain, nothing but joy!

We will continue to keep Jerry's family and friends in our prayers, and I know the God of all comfort will bring peace and comfort to you all.

Angela Mason - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JY

“ We would like to extend our sympathy to you the family in the loss of Jerry. We know that his purpose in life, to be reunited with his Lord Jesus Christ, has been fulfilled and we were blessed to have the opportunity to serve the Lord by being of service to Jerry in his time of need. Our prayers are with you.

Jana Yancey - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KU

“ Jerry and I sang and played in a small group "The Wayfarers" in 1969-1970. We will miss his gentle character.

Be well, my friend.

Karl Urseth - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

J"

“ I am so sorry for your lost. It is wonderful that you and Jerry have done so much for the Lord. I have been reading the e-mails and see your strong faith., I also believe that some day you will all be united in heaven. Maybe I will get to know you all better then.

Please do not feel like you need to write me back. I just wanted you to know that one more person from his high school class believes that he will be greeted in heaven with the words, Well done my good and faithful servant.

*Much Love to you and yours,
Jan Almquist class of "71"*

Janice Bocek "Almquist" - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ My thoughts are with all of you.

Amy Fair - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Jerry is a very special man, so full of live. Our lives have truly been blessed by Jerry sharing one of his greatest treasures with us - Rachele. Jerry will live on through his children and their families and we are so thankful to have the honor of sharing in that family.

Randy and Teresa Harp - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ Rebecca--It has been several years since we last ran into you, but you and Jerry always will be a part of my memories of my 3 childrens growing up and taking weekly piano lessons for many years from you and Gerry. Matthew, Carissa, and Benjamin all learned from you and were touched by the gifts you help develop in them.

Our hearts go out to you and your children at the loss of Gerry. May God's comfort be sweet to you in the days ahead.

In Christ--Janice Johnson

Janice Johnson - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

ND

“ I'm sure you feel that something very integral to your life is missing and I am so sorry for the pain this brings you. At the same time you must feel joy in knowing your "other half" is free from pain and rejoicing in heaven--released from the burden of his mortal body.

May you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in a special way, lifting you up and leading you gently as only He knows how to do.

My prayers are with you.

Love, Nedra

Nedra & Pat Dugan - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Becky,
You and Jerry were so special to me.
I'm so thankful I got to see you guys last summer at the reunion.
And little Kaitlyn had so much fun with you guys too.
And one day we'll have another reunion in Heaven. I can't wait to
see the Lord Jesus with all the other loved ones !!
God Bless.....JAN*

Jan Rollinson - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

HT

“ *To the Family,
Jerry was a wonderful man. I am so thankful I was able to know him
on this side. He had a big influence on my son Brandon Steele. He
was Brandon's 1st piano teacher..It saddens me that he is gone but
I know he is smiling down on us...He had a wonderful sense of
humor and he would not want any of us to be sad...His legacy will
live forever.
God Bless you Rebecca..You are a truly committed wife, Mother,
Teacher and friend..Sincerely..Herminia..*

Herminia Steele Thompson - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

HD

“ *To Rebecca and the family,
We just received an email that Jerry had died on Friday. We are so
sadden by the loss of him. Please know that our thoughts and
prayers are with you and the kids. I hope to see you the next time
I'm in Texas.*

Henry & Rebecca DuBose - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ *May God bless the Baker Family! I will be praying for your strength and peace.*

Mary Story - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ *To the family of Jerry Baker, our prayers are with you all. Bro. Baker was a very wise man full of knowledge and much revelation. We will always remember his teachings and his bubbly personality. May God Bless you and comfort you during this time of bereavement.*

Andy & Gabriella Davis - March 24, 2006 at 12:00 AM