

Memorial Service For William Brock

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Date: 24 August 1988

[0:00] Our Heavenly Father, we are here this evening with mixed hearts.

! At the loss of one that we love so dearly and ministered to us all, we would ask this evening that your name would be magnified in our midst.

Amen. We want to thank you as a family for coming tonight.

And we appreciate the kindnesses and prayers of many of you over the last several days. It seems like weeks for us. It's been very busy and very hectic. We thank you for coming and sharing this time with us.

We're here to celebrate. And only those who know Christ understand that. We're here to celebrate the homegoing of a son, husband, father, grandfather.

[1:21] And for many of you, I trust a brother in Christ. And for us who remain, it was certainly a sudden and unexpected homegoing, but not for God. He understood it was in his timing.

And the family felt it appropriate when we first started discussing the service to have it on Wednesday night. And those of you who know my father understand why. For Dad was convinced that the midweek prayer service was crucial to the success of a local church.

And prayer was certainly one of the hallmarks of the ministry of his life. And so it seemed appropriate to be here on this night and share that with you. Members of the family have been asked on numerous occasions, and I can remember a few, a few times over the years, why our family seemed so successful.

What was the secret to our upbringing, we're asked. What did our parents do, right or wrong? I'm not sure. And most of us literally chuckle at that. We kind of laugh to ourselves.

But we know all the imperfections and all the weaknesses and all the failures. In the lives of the members of our family. And some successes that have made all of us what we are. And I guess we know what we are about.

[2:33] We are just about what Dad was all about. Products of the grace of God. And Dad would have hardly identified with 1 Corinthians chapter 1. I'm going to read a few verses to you as I say a few words to you tonight.

1 Corinthians chapter 1, beginning with verse 26. For you see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flag of God and not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise.

And God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty. And base things of the world and things which are despised hath God chosen. Yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are.

That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. That according as it is written, he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

We need to remember not to look at Dad's life as a success story. But rather as a clear picture book that bears the prints of the footsteps of faith. For faith was surely another hallmark of his life.

[3:42] He lived by faith. He prayed by faith. He walked by faith. And he stood for the faith. And I think as a family, we thought there were many chapters left to be written in Dad's book.

A new phase of life with new opportunities to minister, to teach, to build and encourage the church. But God said, no. I've written the last line. And this work of grace is done.

I guess as Paul would have said, you have finished your course. I'm going to take this small, imperfect earthen vessel which I have used on earth. I'm going to make it perfect and clothe it with the righteousness of the saints.

And I think Paul put it so perfectly in 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 9 verses. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, and house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven. If so be that being clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened.

[4:45] Not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

Therefore we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. And we are confident, I say, and willing, rather, to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Wherefore we labor, that whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. We've been receiving a lot of cards, and I appreciate that so very much.

And I went to the mail this morning and pulled out a card, and there was a verse on the front. And probably a verse that I never looked at much before, nor I guess come to my attention. In Psalm 29, verse 11, right on the front, this is what it said.

The Lord will give thee strength unto his people, and the Lord will bless his people with peace. And I trust that will be our portion tonight as we spend this time together.

[5:46] Thank you for sharing this time of remembrance with our family. For in a sense, in Christ, we are all family. One of our favorite things to do is sing the universe that Murrow has written.

Let's begin by singing, Call Unto Me. And I will show you great and mighty things. Call Unto Me. Let's sing. Call Unto Me.

Call Unto Me.

And I will answer thee. Call Unto Me. And I will answer thee.

And slowly, baby, I will sing. This is the lowest love.

[7:48] And slowly, baby, I will sing. And slowly, baby, I will sing. The highest love. as a message from the pulpit, but knowing Ben Kendrick, I thought I'd better do it this time.

I must confess that I feel like the homegoing of our beloved brother, Bill Brock, is all part of a dream. This which has touched us so dearly, dear friends, happened in God's own way and in his perfect timing.

Bill, who was one of my dearest friends on earth, is with the Lord. His glorious promotion makes heaven just that much more precious and dear to us.

When I was asked if I would say something in this memorial service, I immediately thought of my 33-year relationship with Bill and Merle.

Not only was Bill a close friend, but he was also a pastor of a supporting church, a mission co-worker, my boss, a source of encouragement, a prayer supporter, and much more.

[9:35] I thought of a man who was my nomination to the Council of Baptism and Missions in 1975. He had the respect and admiration of his fellow council members and was chosen by them to be their chairman on two occasions.

Bill also served for three years as a trustee of the mission. The last two of those years as the chairman. His contribution to the Lord's work is beyond human comprehension.

God gave Bill the blessed opportunity to minister to literally thousands of people abroad and here at home. To the missionaries who knew and loved him, he was a pastor, father, and brother.

I thought of a man who was an outstanding Christian example at home and in public and whose life was controlled by biblical principles.

I shall long remember Bill addressing the congregation, now class, then too, the many times I heard him say, now you are aware, friends.

[10:46] I recall so well when he would laughingly say, no way. Are you got to be kidding? I met Bill and Merle in 1955 during our first furlough from Africa.

They practically adopted nine and me. Bill personally took the time to take me around and introduce me to Ohio pastors. He scheduled my first college chapel speaking engagement at Cedarville.

Bill was a practical guy in every way. He was always reaching out to help others in their needs. Only eternity can reveal the total extent of his dedicated life.

In 1968, Nina and I arrived home from Africa for another furlough. Since our daughter Pam was a student at Cedarville College and our son Pete was planning to enroll there, we wanted to relocate from northeastern Pennsylvania where we had lived during the previous furlough to the Cedarville area.

The Lord led us to a house in Xenia. Before we moved to Ohio, however, we took several weeks of much-needed rest at the houses of fellowship in Ventnor, New Jersey.

[12:04] the thought of moving was heavy upon my heart. One day, the phone rang. It was Bill Brock calling from Columbus. He really caught me by surprise.

I didn't think that he even knew where we were. Then he said, how are you going to get your furniture to Xenia? I don't know, I answered hesitantly.

I thought I would work it out somehow. I figured you might need help, continued Bill, and that's why I'm calling you. He then went on to say that he and his son Lynn would leave after church on Sunday night, drive to my hometown in Pennsylvania, help load the truck upon their arrival in the morning, and be in Xenia by Monday night.

That, dear friends, is the Bill Brock I knew. He was a very special friend who God privileged us to have with us for a short period of time.

Those of us who knew him loved him. when engulfed by the terror of tempest, you see unknown waves before you roll.

[13:48] at the end of doubt and peril is eternity. Though fear and conflict seize your soul, but just think of standing on shore and finding it heaven of touching a hand and finding it God's of breathing the air and finding it celestial of waking up in glory and finding it home.

home. When surrounded by the blackness of the darkest night, oh, how lonely death can be at the end of this long tunnel is a shining light for death is swallowed up in victory.

of just think of stepping up shore and finding it heaven of touching a hand and finding it God's of breathing new air and finding it celestial of waking up in glory and finding it home.

home. The first time that I heard Brother Brock preach, I said to one of the men in our former church, I said, whether you agree with Brother Brock or not, there's one impression that you just can't get away from.

Brother Brock was God's man. He was just God's man. And whether he agreed with him or not, he sought the face of God. Many times driving along the car, if we were wrestling over problems, he would turn and he'd look at me and with that twinkling of an eye, he'd say, joy, what are we going to do now?

[17:11] You know, he used that word joy. And that really communicated something to me as a young pastor. That helped me many times. Two months ago, Brother Brock preached a two-part series of messages on the fear of God.

And those messages are still having impact in my own life. I get the notes out and go over them and they stir me.

I told him later, I said, you know, after you preach that message, I'll be honest with you, for a minute I almost expected God to come out on the platform. It was so real and so awesome. And I understand that because in an hour like this when we're gathered together, and if you don't know the Lord as your Savior, and if you don't understand why we're saying the things we do, let me just point this one thing out.

When you belong to God, you become a man of the book. And in an hour like this, that's what really makes the difference. It isn't a matter of how well-known you are, and it isn't a matter of what plaudits the world may heap upon you, but it's a matter, did you know God, were you a man of the book?

And Brother Brock was a man of the book. Two of the passages of scripture that stirred his heart and stirred our hearts, I'd like to share with you. The families asked that we share these, and I think they're very appropriate.

[18:37] I'd like for you to take your Bibles and go back to Psalm 34. We make no apology for reading the word of God at a memorial service of a man of God. And I trust in the days ahead we will become more familiar with these passages of scripture as Brother Brock was.

In Psalm 34 we read these words that meant so much to him. I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul shall make her boast in the Lord, and the humble shall hear thereof and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

They looked unto him, and were lightened, and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encampeth

round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the Lord, ye his saints, for there is no want to them that fear him.

[19 : 50] The young lions do lack and suffer hunger, but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Come, ye children, hearken unto me. I'll teach you the fear of the Lord.

What man is he that desireth life and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good. Seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

He keepeth all his bones, not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked, and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants, and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

[20 : 57] Fitting doxology to Psalm 34 is Psalm 149. Praise you, the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.

Let Israel rejoice in him that made him. Let the children of Zion be joyful in their king. Let them praise his name in the dance. Let them sing praises unto him with timbrel and harp, for the Lord taketh pleasure in his people.

He will beautify the meek with salvation. Let the saints be joyful in glory. Let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand.

I suggest to you verse 6 was a fitting summary of Brother Brock's ministry. Sword in one hand, the song in the other. To execute vengeance upon the heathen and punishments upon the people, to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, to execute upon them the judgment written, this honor have all his saints.

Praise ye the Lord. Brother Brock will be missed by all of us, especially by us younger pastors. He was a pastor and a patient helper to us, to me in particular.

[22 : 18] Just one word. We'd like to extend thanks to the family for loaning Brother Brock's time and effort to many of us for so many years. I'm not on the program because we weren't quite sure whether I would be able to do this or not, but I wanted to talk to you.

I wanted to thank each one of you for your prayers and for your encouragement and for coming tonight. What a thrill it is to look out over this audience and see all of these who have come for this special time with us.

Our aim tonight is to glorify Bill's Savior and Lord and the one whom he served so faithfully and with all his might and sometimes to us as a family and to some of you with too much might, but that was Bill.

Bill was not only my companion and lover, but he was my friend and my boss. But even more than that, he was my pastor. I had the privilege of sitting under his ministry for about 38 years because he taught Sunday school long before he was a pastor.

And as I look back, his unique teaching of the word was most effective in not only in my life, but in my children's lives, as well as in many of yours. There were times these last few years as we've been traveling together, however, that I wasn't always listening as attentively as I should have.

[24 : 08] You pastors wise will understand. After you've heard a message for the umpteenth time, you kind of turn it off, you know. But sometimes he would sort of catch me off guard by forgetting a point or a name or a verse, and he'd look at me and say, can you tell me, mother, what it is?

And I, sometimes a good answer, but usually I would look at him and I would just will him to remember that. And then I would sigh a big relief when he did, getting me off the hook.

But we had a marvelous privilege of serving the Lord together, and I think the last six or seven years have been the most precious of all because I saw him 24 hours a day.

You may not think that's great, and sometimes I guess it's not always, but when you're a pastor and pastors-wise, it seems like you're always going all kinds of directions. But aside from knowing and experiencing the importance of prayer, that which impacted me most in Bill's teaching was that on the fear of God that Pastor Wright has just mentioned.

The biblical definition of the fear of God, which was fourfold. Obey his word, respect his will, hasten to serve, and tremble to offend.

[25 : 36] Bill not only taught it, but he lived it, and I can witness and testify to that. Now what about me? So many of you have shown concern and have perhaps even hesitated to ask me, what now?

Well, I don't exactly know what now. But a verse was brought to my attention on Sunday, and I went back to it on Monday and really looked at it. And it just seemed like the Holy Spirit had written it just for me for this time.

And that's Psalm 138, 8. the Lord will perfect or complete that which concerneth me. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever.

Forsake not the works of thine own hands. And I think he's telling me, maybe he's got a job for me to do. My desire, then, is to obey his word, respect his will, and I admit that's a little difficult right now.

Tremble to offend, but hasten to serve. And what better tribute to my husband and to my Lord could I have than that? We just want to thank you again for all of your cards, for your prayers, and for your words of encouragement, and especially for coming tonight to help us celebrate Bill's home going.

[27 : 03] Thank you. Let's say, let's show us, Jesus is mine.

Oh, what a full trace of glory divine, heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his spirit, washed in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture are now burst on my sight, angels descending bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

[28 : 47] Perfect submission, all is at rest, I am my Savior, sure and happy and blessed, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his blood.

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior of the day long.

All the day long. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior of the day long.

I would like you to turn in your Bibles to Hebrews chapter 11, verse 4.

Hebrews 11, 4. By faith, Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts, and by it he being dead, yet speaketh.

[30 : 33] the family has asked me to convey to you their desire for a number of spontaneous testimonies to the ministry and to the life of an individual that was richly used by God.

Because of the time constraints, we're going to ask that between four and five of you just come quietly to the front, and we want you to bear witness, if you will please, at this time to the very precious life and the ministry of our departed brother.

Don't hesitate, just come to the front, please. I'm Randy Patton. I'm the state representative for the Indiana Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches, and I've asked to, have been asked to come and represent the other state representatives across the nation that are serving the various churches affiliated with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.

During the meetings that we have each spring in Schaumburg, Illinois, Brother Brock always challenged us to think afresh, anew about our strategies in helping churches, and even his input in this last meeting set the tone and the course for what the theme of our meeting this next year.

And I can recall that during the evening meal we had together, I sat next to him and shared with him a burden that my wife and I and family were facing in our particular ministry that just seemed like a rock to us that we couldn't get around.

[32 : 17] And during mealtime, he gave me such new insight into that problem that I went back and told my home that the neatest part of the whole state reps meeting for me was sitting next to Bill Brock at supper and the way he influenced my life.

We will miss him. And I've been asked to convey to the Brock family the fact that state representatives all across the nation are praying for you folks during this time. He will be missed. Thank you. I'm Vernon Miller from Regular Baptist Press and the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches Home Office.

On behalf of Dr. Tassel, the Council of 18, the Baptist Builders Club, the Publications Committee, the Finance Committee, the Annual Conference next year, when I think of all of this, I think of a man who had a wonderful blend of spiritual insight and practical help and wisdom for us all.

And how we will miss him, but how we thank God for the wonderful, wonderful hope we all share. It's a great blessing and a great joy to know the Lord at this time.

[33 : 38] I, on a personal note, will always appreciate his straightening my collar recently and sitting with me and saying, isn't this something to sit up here and do all of this?

But then he'd say, but it's wonderful to serve the Lord. And I'm so thankful for that. I'm Max McCullough.

I was one of Pastor Brock's assistants. And I'd like to just share with you the side of a man that probably many of you never saw. A man with a heart as big as all outdoors.

I remember him taking a day out of his time, drive Carol and I all around Franklin County to find us a place to live. He loved to shop for cars.

And, uh, he found us a good lemon, which we drove for about eight months, but traded it in for more than we paid for it.

[34 : 55] He was a great car shopper. I remember the day we painted these beams and when he came down all you could see were his eyes and his teeth.

I remember the day we planted his shrubs out front. You know, people don't think that he did those kinds of things. But when we went home that night we were both dragging.

He had blisters on his hands. That's just the kind of guy he was. A super friend. The whole family has been a great friend to my family. I'm going to miss him very much.

He was a super pastor, great friend, and he loved the Lord more than anything else. I just want to share with you as a family, I love you a whole bunch.

I'm going to miss your dad, your husband. And I thank God for what he did to help me as a young man. Here comes another young guy that I know he did a lot for too.

[36 : 05] I am Tim Bosworth and I have no titles to lay in front of you. But in 1973 I came here wondering what Christian education was all about.

Pastor Brock says, well, we have a job for you, come on. And for the next ten years I had the privilege of working as a teacher and an administrator and a precious opportunity to be a staff member.

in 1986 the Lord took my mom and dad home. He was a very special person during that time.

It was he and Merle. Because you see, even though I don't have Brock as my last name, I feel very much part of that family. He taught me a lot about prayer.

He taught me a lot about the word of God. sometimes I didn't count it as much of a privilege to work for him as I probably should have.

[37 : 08] Especially when he was kicking me in the seat of the pants. I will miss him very much. My name is Mark Price.

I was one of the little kids that grew up in Maranatha Baptist Church. And I remember Pastor Brock just a couple years ago at an Ohio Association meeting getting on me for not wearing a tie.

And as you can tell I'm still not wearing one. But I remember Pastor Brock as a man who scared me at times. As a young child sitting in a service I'd fall asleep occasionally and you know if you've been in any service that he has a tendency to raise his voice and sometimes I just bolt right up out of the seat.

but he was also a man that I saw a different side of. I saw a side that really encouraged me. Right now I'm at Grace Seminary preparing for ministry.

And I know I can say not only because of my family but because of my church and Pastor Brock and Pastor Brock's family that's the reason that I'm where I am today.

[38 : 32] And if it wasn't for Maranatha Church that's where I got saved. And I owe my eternal life to Pastor Brock and what he's done for me and for the rest of Maranatha Church.

I'm George Engelman and I had the pleasure of serving with Bill Brock and the board at Cedarville College for some 20 years. And needless to say that his counsel was invaluable and when he would open a business meeting with prayer you knew and sensed that he was really talking to God. I was not privileged like most of you to hear many of his sermons but he did speak at the conference in Iowa a year ago and we have that sermon on tape and I've shared it with a number of people.

In fact we listened to it on the way here today and it was a sermon on that's right on faith and prayer and the theme was where Christ was chasing the money changes out of the temple because he said my house is the house of prayer and he emphasized the house of prayer and we'll never forget

Seek ye me let's sing that Seek ye me let's stand again please Seek ye me Seek ye me he shall
live Seek ye me seek the Lord he shall live Seek ye me that makes us and the seven stars and the
seven stars and the two of the holy Lord the night the city theorn the name the name the name the
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name the name lip lip lip lip lip lip lip lip class lip lip lip lip lip lip lip lip blue lip lip Sing to me, O God,
I hope you will be here.

Sing to me, O God, I hope you will be here.

Sing to me, O God, I hope you will be here. Sing to me, O God, I hope you will be here.

O God, I hope you will be here.

This is a very special service for me, and I sense for all of you. Already we have been in the presence of God, and our hearts have been warmed by this service the family has planned.

This is a very special man. To almost every one of us gathered here tonight. Probably in different ways.

[44: 23] It was 2.10 on Sunday morning, when the phone started ringing, and the message came from Lynn.

I keep feeling that I'm going to wake up and find out it really didn't happen. At 3.30, I was on the

Didn't tell her he was going, didn't tell any of the family or any of the rest of us, but just like Bill.

[45: 49] I thought about 25 of the leading men in the United States and the one least likely to die, and it was Bill Brock.

But Bill was spry. I don't think he had an ounce of fat on him. He was always in good shape.

In fact, Bill was not expected to live past 21 years of age because of some physical difficulties in his childhood and his youth.

And I'd like to take this privilege that the family has given to me to challenge all of us on the man with the enlarged heart.

The Word of God says that God told Japheth in Genesis 9, 27, that he would be enlarged as part of God's blessing. God told Israel in Exodus 34, 24, For I will cast out thy nations before thee and enlarge thy borders.

In Isaiah 60, verse 5, Thine heart shall fear and be enlarged. At least twice it's been referenced by Tom, by Murrow, of Bill's preaching on the fear of the Lord.

The last series he brought at Cedarville College, the last three-part series was on the fear of the Lord, just about 18 months ago. I am convinced that Bill Brock preached and lived in the fear of God because God gave him an enlarged heart, which resulted in an enlarged border of ministry and made him a blessing to every one of us.

[48:46] Bill Brock had an enlarged heart for churches, pastors, and pastor's wives. Bill Brock had an enlarged heart for churches, and he was under the ministry of M.R.D. Hahn early in his life.

Did you ever stop to think about how much Bill reminded you of M.R.D. Hahn? They had somewhat the same personalities, if you knew M.R.D. Hahn at all.

They preached in kind of the same way. In fact, Jeff told me, or Lynn perhaps it was this morning, that every Sunday morning for as long as they could remember, they had to listen to M.R.D. Hahn in the hall.

Bill, coming up under the ministry of a man who had a heart for pastors and for churches, was used of God to build two churches in this city, the Emmanuel Baptist Church, where he pastored for 10 1/2 years, and this Maranatha Baptist for 16 years.

And then out of that pastoral heart, he was the logical choice as the council selected him to be our state representative back some six or more years ago.

[50:00] And oh, how God used him. I was sitting up here and just trying to spot all of the pastors who are here from the state and the assistant pastors.

In fact, I'd like to have the pastors and the assistant pastors from the state of Ohio and your wives to stand, if you would. Would you do that, please?

This is a testimony, you may be seated, of these who've traveled, and there's some from out of state just to say how important Bill and you, Merle, have been to them.

You're pastors, pastors, no doubt about it. When any of these fellas got in trouble, the one man they knew they could turn to was Bill Brock. He especially was a mentor to young pastors in this state.

And to those churches where there was a time of struggling and problems. Bill loved problems. In fact, he just lit up when he heard that there was a problem. Whether it was at the college or Baptist admissions or whether it was in some of your churches or whether some of the kids had a problem.

[51:19] In fact, we were sitting in the office, some of the family, and talking this week, and if you had a problem and you didn't call Bill, he was upset with you because he wanted to be part of the solution. He sent out his bi-monthly publication to pastors and he entitled it appropriately, The Encourager.

But some didn't know it was not unusual for Bill, in a quiet way, to reach into his pocket and to say to a young struggling pastor, I think you could use a new suit of clothes.

Let me help you buy that suit. Only God knows all that he shared in a quiet way. With not only the men but the women in this state.

When he planned those two-day pastors' conferences at Cedarville, that was all Bill Brock's idea.

He said, now you be sure, when he would talk to Don Rickard, he would talk to Martin Clark, you be sure and have sessions for the wives.

Because the same heart he had for you pastors, he had for you wives. So what's all this going to mean to us? We're just going to take it in, fellas, and say thank God for Bill Brock?

[52:37] Are we going to let his life be a challenge to every one of us to have a heart for the ministry of the local church, to those churches we already have, to strengthen them and to start new churches.

And may I ask you this, since Bill Brock isn't around, who's going to meet your need? I'll tell you, you guys are going to have to meet each other's needs. There's going to have to be a new ministry of discipleship in this state, pastor to pastor, pastor's wives to pastor's wives.

And may God help you men and you women and the rest, who will know of this service. May there be a great revival among the leaders in the state of Ohio, because God has taken Bill Brock out of our midst, and we want to carry on this ministry that God has given him and Merle.

But he not only had a heart for pastors and churches and wives, he had a heart for the state of Ohio. I don't know if Bill Brock ever rooted for Michigan.

I didn't think so. Praise God. Bill Brock was Ohio State through and through.

[54:02] All of his creativity and his energy in the ministry, the ministry he gave to this state. Very few men ever do that. But Bill Brock did.

He had opportunities to go to other ministries. I had churches who would talk to me about Bill, and they liked to have Bill, but somehow as Bill worked through those opportunities and prayed about those opportunities, and prayed about those opportunities, he always stayed in Ohio.

You ever stop to think about those who do this and the security they bring to the rest of us? Man, isn't it great to have had a Bill Brock around for all of these years?

We always knew he was there. And what he meant to the state of Ohio. So what's the challenge? To us.

From this man with an enlarged heart for the state of Ohio, the challenge is this. Bill Brock is no longer our crutch. We can't lean on him anymore.

[55:22] Now we have to pull together. And in this state of Ohio, we have to carry on what he started and go on to new heights for the glory of God as a state of association of churches.

And I pray that as the council gets together and as you think about all the things that are coming, that this day of prayer that's coming up this fall will be the greatest day of prayer you've ever experienced in the state.

At the state meeting that's coming in Columbus and Westerville in just a few months, that it will be the greatest state meeting that we've ever experienced. That will go on and as God sends another man in to be the state representative to build upon what Bill and Merle have started to the glory of God.

Bill Brock had a heart for the general association of regular Baptist churches. He served as a member of the council of 18. He was on the Baptist Builders Club board. He counseled and prayed often with our national representative, Paul Tassel.

He was always working to organize anything he could for the association. And he wanted this annual meeting this next June in Columbus to be the best attended, greatest meeting in the history of the GARP.

[56:48] He'd get on the phone, he'd say, Paul, I have 50 churches lined up that I want to bring busloads of people to the national conference every night.

We're going to raise the money to pay for the expenses of the national conference before the thing ever gets started. I walked up to one of the council members last night, I said, by the way, who's the chairman of the national meeting in June?

He said, guess. It was Bill Brock. Bill Brock. He was the spearhead behind everything that was going on. So what's our challenge?

One of the challenges to me is that Bill Brock, as he viewed our association, listen closely, never had a narrow view of our association. He never thought we were the only ones who were serving God.

He taught us praise the Lord. There are others out there who are standing for the same Bible and preaching the same Bible and building churches and doing missions and doing the work for God and praise the Lord for them too.

[58:02] May God give us that kind of balance and that kind of perception that I believe honors God as Bill's attitude honored God.

The challenge to us is to continue to support through our finances and our energy and our prayers our national association. Bill had a large heart for missions.

You've already heard from Ben. He served on the board of Baptist mid-missions, past chairman of the general council, presently chairman of the trustees, made trips to Brazil and to Central African Republic and Chad and Ghana.

But his heart for missions went beyond that. Anything he could do to support missions, financially, encourage missions, pray for missions. Bill did that.

Even as Ben said, if it meant driving a van to take a young missionary's furniture and deliver it across two states, he did it.

[59:07] What's the challenge to us? Men and women, not only pastors but lay people, we have to look beyond our own local church.

We have to look beyond our own community. We have to look beyond our own state and our own nation. We've got to do the job of reaching a world for Christ. We're going to have to have more missionaries.

We're going to lose 50% of our workforce out there in mission service to retirement or through coming home in the next 10 years. How many of you young people are willing to take Bill Brock's place?

Have you been willing to say, Lord, here's my life. Use me any way you want me to. And maybe that's on the mission field. I see some boys and girls out there. Boys and girls, have you ever given your life to Jesus and said, I want you to do whatever you want to do through me, just like Bill Brock did with his life.

There's some young couples who are still wrestling with God's plan for your life. You may be in business like Bill Brock was in business for 10 years before he stood behind a pulpit.

[60 : 21] I don't know what God has for you. All I'm saying is God wants your life. And we need those who are going to reach a world for Christ. Bill had a heart for Christian education.

Started Maranatha Christian School. I can remember when he brought me in this building and showed it to me and how thrilled he was with this gymnasium. He was recognized as one of the leaders in Christian education in our state.

For 31 years he served as a trustee on the board of Cedarville College. You heard George Engelman testify, one of the most respected men on our board.

We waited to see where Bill wanted to go and what he had to say. In the last 35 years during the Baptist days of Cedarville College, no doubt two of the most significant trustees have been George Milner.

And Bill Brock. Dr. Jeremiah and I not only feel the loss for the college, but Bill Brock was one of our dearest friends.

[61 : 29] We called him often. We counseled with him often. An insightful man who had that rare combination of business skills, pastoral ability, spiritual discernment, combined with great vision, and a willingness to step out by faith and take risks for God.

He used to often say to Dr. Jeremiah and to me, let me know how I can help you. If you need anything, just let me know. What's the challenge?

The challenge is that Bill Brock saw the value of investing your life in young people. And really when it's all said and done, folk, when we've left this earth, if we can take our lives and pour them into young lives and be multiplied to the glory of God, we've lived a life worth living.

What an investment. It's not how much money we have and how we invest our money as much as are we willing to invest our lives in you. May God help us. Bill Brock had an enlarged heart for others.

He had a servant's heart. If you were to evaluate how Bill Brock spent his time, very little could have been found spent on self. Like our Lord, he was always looking how he might help somebody else.

[63 : 03] This unassuming, bright man who probably never told you, you know what he majored in at Calvin and Wheaton? Latin and Greek.

When the boys told me that they started laughing, they said, we always knew he was a little different. I never knew anybody majored in Latin and Greek. Bill Brock did.

Don't ever forget he was a very intelligent man. Yet he was organized. He was an administrator. He was business-like.

He had a sense of humor, but he was a sensitive man. A genuine compassion for all with whom he came in contact. Did you know what he was doing the day he died? He mowed his lawn, and then he went over and mowed his neighbor's lawn.

Then he came in and helped Merle mop the floors. Had a snack. Went to bed. And went to heaven. But the fact that he mowed his neighbor's lawn was so indicative of the heart of Bill Brock.

[64 : 20] The challenge? If ever we needed people in our churches with the servants hired, it's today. People who will not say, what will you do for me, but what can I do for you?

May God give us that spirit from the life of his dear servant. More importantly, Bill Brock had an enlarged heart for his family.

The investment of his life goes beyond the time spent at Emanuel Baptist, Maranatha Baptist, Baptist Mid-Mission, Cedarville College, and all the various organizations to which he gave hours and days and months.

To that time he spent with those six children. To that time that he spent with those six grandchildren. And what we saw up here tonight is Ben Kendrick leaned over and said, Man, what a testimony to the grace of God.

How many families do you know intact knowing the Lord and serving the Lord like that? Praise the Lord for this testimony by this family tonight. He had a heart for his mother, who's seated here in the front.

[65:36] In her 80s. And all how he loved his wife. I have never, never known Bill to be around.

But what Merle wasn't close by. One of the things as I sat around the table with the administrators on Monday morning and we started talking about Bill, one of the men said, I never saw Bill Brock treat his wife with anything but dignity and respect.

The challenge to us? Let's build families like that. People, no matter how we spend our lives, when it's all said and done, it's how we spend our time with our families and what God does to our families that's really going to matter for all eternity.

May God give us the priority on the family as Bill had it. And most important of all, Bill Brock had a heart for God.

This pastor Tim Kenoyer gave me this verse today, 2 Corinthians 4-7, when he spoke of Bill. We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.

[67:02] Truly, it was the treasure we saw in Bill. Never the earthen vessel. He lived his life concentrating on being God's man. A man of the word.

Remember, the boy said, they couldn't find any white on the pages of his Bible. Marked his Bible all off.

Had an interesting verse. Psalm 119, 32. I will run the way of thy commandment when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

He loved the book and preached the book and lived the book with an enlarged heart. But the theme of his life, the concentration of his life was prayer. I said his major was Greek and Latin.

I don't think so. I think his lifetime major was prayer. Out of all the men that I've called across this state, the people I've talked to just in the last three days, they all keep coming back to this fact.

[68:11] No man ever influenced me so much in my prayer life as Bill Brock. So the challenge. For us as believers, I listened to a tape this morning of Bill and he asked us, how's your prayer life?

He said, you know, the average Christian prays less than five minutes a day. Oh, the challenge to us to get our prayer lives in order, to get our Bible study in order, to get our practical Christianity and obeying the word of God in order because of the life of this man.

And then someday we too can hear like I am confident, Bill, well done thou good and faithful servant. You ever stop to think about how many people, servants of God, are blotting the landscape, moral catastrophes, and thank God for a Bill Brock who lived his life and leaves this earth without block.

Praise God for such a model and example. May I talk to some of you tonight though? I've been talking to the believers. Some of you come in here tonight and you don't know Jesus Christ as your savior.

In the providence of God you're in this service and it all goes back. It is not Bill Brock the man, it is Bill Brock the new man. Bill Brock was what he was by the grace of God.

[69:56] When Bill Brock repented of his sin and received Jesus Christ as his savior, he was born again. And you're here tonight and Christ died on the cross for you and arose from the dead. And if you would come to know the Lord because of the death of Bill Brock, I'll guarantee you not only would God be rejoicing in heaven and the angels, but Bill Brock would be too.

And especially because some of you were on his prayer list. And Bill Brock had power in prayer. And I am still confident God is going to answer those prayers just like he did the prayers of George Mueller.

Everyone George Mueller prayed for in his life got saved. Some of them after his death, but God still answered prayer. That's our prayer for you tonight. Sunday morning with that heavy heart and unbelieving heart, I got in my car.

And drove from the house to the college. About eight o'clock to start calling the trustees and people. And did something I'd never done before. Talked to the Lord about something.

I'll just tell you what I did. I said, Lord, I've never done this before. And I'm not sure you do this. But if you do, would you mind sending an angel to Bill Brock?

[71:19] Tell him, number one. If he didn't know how much I appreciated him when he was here. Please let him know how much I appreciate him now.

Number two. If he didn't know how much I loved him while he was here. Please tell him Paul Dixon loves him a whole lot right now. And number three. Would you please tell him that I miss him already.

And I think I not only speak personally. But I speak for all of you tonight. What a man. God brought across our paths. To challenge us.

For the rest of our days. Next. After our closing remarks and Dr. Jeremiah's prayer.

I will ask that you give the family time to leave. The family also wants to invite you to fellowship with them. In the multi-purpose room after you go into the church building.

[72:28] And through the lobby there. There will also be a reception line to receive some of you that would like to come in. Go down through the west door there. And they will be at the front of the church.

This evening is prayer meeting. And on the back of your bulletins you will see there. Prayer commands. When I get to heaven.

God will cure my eyes. I remember. When God relocated my family and I to Columbus.

We began the process of looking for a church. And I had the odd idea that if you were going to find a church. You should look on Wednesday evenings. I ever since then have always encouraged people to follow my example. And I tell them if you want to find out what a church is really all about. Go Wednesdays. Go Wednesdays. The Lord relocated me. And put me in a little red roof in. It's still out there. I moved down here and had a bicycle.

[73:49] So I came out by bike. Wednesday night. Drove up here. And I don't know who greeted me. But I wandered in and sat towards the back. I wanted to see what they were all about.

We were shopping for a church. My wife would relocate about six weeks later. And I remember hearing the message. And then we were ushered into prayer rooms.

I remember going into this one group. 10, 12 men. And the door was shut. And I thought, Oh, it's a little bit like the ark. Now this is final. And then there was no pretense.

There was no jibber jabber. You know how people tell, How's your dog today? Well, it got away and all that. None of that. Went right to prayer. And prayed for one solid half hour.

And I thought, I thought, Oh, I must have gotten in with the deacons. And I thought, Well, And I'm a skeptic. My wife will tell you I've been blessed with Just a small amount of pessimism.

[74:56] I thought, I'll come next week and find out. I'll try another group. Can't be that way.

Second week I came back and I moved to a different room. And lo and behold, They prayed for another half an hour.

The family asked me this evening just to highlight, Just a touch on some of the prayer lessons that Pastor Brock taught you, taught me.

I want us to look. At the statement that you find there in quotation marks, Lord, teach us to pray.

You know the context of that. It's taken from Luke chapter 11 verse 1. And it tells us there in the text that after the disciples had been watching Jesus pray, That something in his prayer life stimulated one of them to come to him and ask that question.

And as I studied and meditated upon this, I began to ask myself, What other things did the disciples ask for? I find no other place that they ask him to teach them anything. Now we know very well that they spent, He spent three years teaching his disciples.

[76:16] But as I looked through the passages, I found that on one occasion the disciples asked, Lord grant us a request. Selfishly, That we may sit on your right hand and on your left.

They were interested in their personal issues. Elsewhere in scripture we find that the disciples on one occasion in the midst of a storm cried out, Lord save us.

But nowhere do we find that ever did they ask what they did in relationship to prayer. Lord teach us. What?

One thing. To pray. The passages are taken directly from scripture. And I want to highlight two of them this evening for you.

We'll begin with the first one. I believe it's a very precious encouragement and commandment to us to pray for a very particular thing of hope.

[77:20] Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. This evening as you consider the issue of a commandment. Something that our Lord commands you and commands me to pray about.

I want you to concentrate just for a moment upon what that passage says to us. And how it ought to impact upon our very lives and daily communion.

Praying for the peace of Jerusalem centers in upon not simply the city itself. But the king of peace. And his coming.

It's interesting to see how often through the scriptures reference to the Lord's coming stand out. I remember in the days that have quickly flown since Sunday morning.

Hearing on two different occasions. Maybe three. The family referred to dad. Husband preaching. Not too long ago. On the coming of the Lord.

[78:23] And how that ought to impact upon our lives. As you think this evening on things that you ought to be praying about. I trust that one of the things that your heart cries out and rejoices in praying about.

Is the Lord's coming. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. When the king of peace. Is on the throne. And in control. It's interesting as you look at scripture.

You turn there in Revelation chapter 22 verse 10. And let's flip over there just for a moment. The very book that we treasure closes.

With a prayer. He who testifies these things say it surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so. Come. Lord Jesus. As you go out of here tonight. I hope one of the things you pray for is his coming. Scripture tells us that we ought to comfort one another.

[79:38] With that fact. In first John chapter 3 verse 3. It says he who hath this hope in him. And it refers to seeing him face to face.

And how that hope has an impact. Upon the life of the believer. This evening I trust that one of the things that consumes your prayer life. Is the coming of the Lord.

Even so. Come. Lord Jesus. There is another prayer command that I would like to highlight just for a moment. And look down there if you will to the ninth commandment.

The ninth command rather. Pray for the unsaved. In the sight of God our savior who will have all men to be saved. The passage is taken from first Timothy chapter 2 verse 4.

And let's turn to that. Paul as he was directing his beloved son in the faith. And encouraging him in his ministry. Makes a statement there in verse 1.

[80:40] And then carries it on down through verse 4 in instruction. He says I exhort therefore that first of all. Supplications prayers intercession and the giving of thanks be made for all men. In verse 4.

Who will have all men to be saved. I wonder about your prayer life tonight. Is your concern.

Marked in part at least for the unsaved. We're commanded to pray for the unsaved. And I trust that you have that passion in your heart and concern for them.

That part of your prayer life is consumed with the lost. One of the things that struck me this evening in study. Reviewing the issue of praying for the unsaved. Was the fact that even those who are in hell are concerned for those who are yet living.

And they're concerned. For their salvation. Luke chapter 16 verse 27 through 31. It doesn't tell us that the rich man in Hades prayed.

[81:47] I guess it does. Luke chapter 16 verse 27 through 31. The burden of every heart that is aware of eternity.

Is in part wrapped up in the concern and interest of the lost. Luke chapter 16 verse 27. After the rich man has asked for some kind of physical relief.

And that has not been granted to him. He then continues with one other request that surpasses the other. There in verse 27 he cries out. And then he said, I pray thee therefore father.

That thou would send him to my father's house. For I have five brethren that he may testify unto them. Lest they also come into this place of torment.

That struck me. As I thought about that. That those who inhabit the most horrible place imaginable. Have an interesting interest in those who are yet alive.

[83:24] lie and their salvation. Then the heart cry of a loved one for another loved one whose salvation is uncertain.

Pray for those who are unsaved. Many of you here this evening were taught to pray.

By Pastor Brock. How? Number one, by his example. And number two, by his very simple opening of the word of God and saying, there it is, do it.

And you discovered as I did as well, I'm certain that obedience brought blessing and joy and power. And I encourage you this evening to wrap up your prayer time with one.

A prayer for his coming. Wouldn't that be great? We wouldn't even have to worry about who would see to it that our traffic moved out smoothly on the tribune.

[84 : 36] They could come here and pick through our cars. I wouldn't care. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Beloved, at the same time, our heart ought to have at least some of the sensitivity of those who are in the 80s and now.

Oh, I pray for the lost. Go out of here tonight with a heart that's set on prayer that our Father who abides in heaven and delights in answering the call and cries, children, might do as we have asked. You have not because you ask not. You have not because you ask amiss. You've been given 11 prayer commands.

Exercise them. Shall we stand for prayer?

Our Father, in your providence and your wisdom and your love, you have taken a friend, a brother, a dear one to many of our hearts into your presence.

[86 : 13] We know you do not make mistakes. We know you're the God of great love toward all of us. And our Father, as we've come here today, came to this meeting tonight, we came with hearts that were heavy.

But we're leaving with hearts that have been challenged. we rejoice to know that we sorrow not as others that have no hope. But we have hope.

The hope of his return coming soon. And all of this and all that we've heard tonight and what God has been, what you've been pleased to do through the life of our friend Bill Brock challenges us, our Father, to be about our Father's business as long as we live.

Our Father, we realize we don't have much time. Some of us are nearer the end of the journey than we may think. And some who are young are nearer the end of the journey than they may think.

But Lord, as we look out in the future, we think of that day when the Lord Jesus Christ shall come from heaven and the dead in Christ shall be raised and those who are alive and remain shall be caught up with them together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with him.

[87 : 39] What a day of reunion. But our Father, the reunion day hasn't come yet. There are people out there who are lost. There are missing stations that need to be filled.

There are Christian opportunities in ministry and Christian education. There are lost people in the neighborhood. Lord, encourage us to go out of this place as a group of believers challenged to be about our Father's business until that day he calls us home or comes to get us.

Oh God, may we go with a desire to serve him because we've been listening rehearsing some of the things about a man he served.

He served without any desire or pleasure for himself or to please himself but to honor your name. Help us to be like that in that sense to do your will in obedience.

We ask Lord to especially continue thy blessing upon the world and the family and use them in a greater way than ever to touch the lives of others for the Lord Jesus Christ in whose name we pray.

[88 : 51] Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

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be. Thank you.

Thank you.