



## Dr. Henry Thomas Blackaby

April 15, 1935 - February 10, 2024

On the morning of February 10, 2024, Henry Thomas Blackaby came to the end of his life on earth and began experiencing God face-to-face. Henry was born April 15, 1935, in William's Lake, British Columbia, Canada. His parents, Gerald Richard Saunders and Jennie Marguarite, moved their family to Prince Rupert, British Columbia, where Henry spent his childhood. Henry's father, a bank manager for the Bank of Montreal, started a Baptist church. As a teenager, Henry moved with his family to Vancouver. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in History and English from the University of British Columbia. He then earned a B.Th. and a Th.M. from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He would later be granted five honorary doctorates from various schools. While in seminary, he met Marilyn Sue Wells, and they were wed on June 3, 1960. They would have five children: Gerald Richard, Thomas Wayne, Melvin Duane, Norman Charles, and Carrie Elizabeth. Henry served as senior pastor of Baptist churches in San Pablo and Downey, California. Both churches prospered under his leadership. In April 1970, Henry moved his family to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, to be the pastor of Faith Baptist Church. During the next twelve years, his church and its missions started 38 churches and mission posts, as well as a Bible college. All five of Henry's children would be called into Christian ministry. All four boys have served as pastors, and Carrie was a missionary to Germany. In 1982, Henry became the Director of Missions of the Capilano Baptist Association, representing the lower mainland of British Columbia and Vancouver Island.

While he held that post, the association experienced dramatic growth. In 1988, Henry was called to serve as the director of prayer and spiritual awakening at the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He and Marilyn moved to Atlanta, Georgia. In 1990, Henry wrote his landmark book, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*. It has sold more than eight million copies in English and been translated into 80 other languages. God has used it to transform many lives and churches and to inspire the launching of numerous ministries and churches. Today, the book is considered a Christian classic. In the ensuing years, Henry wrote more than 50 additional books. He traveled with Marilyn to speak in 115 countries. He met four American presidents and ministered in the White House, Pentagon, and United Nations. He ministered to corporate CEOs, government officials, and countless church leaders. He was eventually asked to be a special assistant to the presidents of the North American Mission Board, the International Mission Board, and Lifeway Christian Resources of the SBC. Upon his retirement, Henry established Blackaby Ministries International and continued his speaking and writing ministry. He became famous for his teaching, "Look to see where God is at work and join Him." Henry was a powerful preacher, once speaking to 40,000 pastors at a Promise Keepers event in Atlanta. He was also known for being an attentive listener and counselor. He and Marilyn especially loved ministering to international missionaries. Though he moved to the United States in 1988, Henry always loved Canada and sought to encourage its churches whenever he could. Henry's parents, Gerald and Jenny, and his two brothers, Alf and Will, predeceased him, as did his wife, Marilyn. Henry leaves behind a strong spiritual legacy. His five children continue to serve his Lord in ministry. He also had 14 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. He leaves behind countless people whose lives were forever changed by his life and teaching. Henry's funeral will be held at First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Georgia, at 3:00p.m. on February 25. He will be interred at the Camp Memorial Cemetery in Fayetteville, Georgia. In lieu of flowers, people can donate either to

Blackaby Ministries International, which carries on Henry's work, or to the Blackaby Chair of Spiritual Leadership at the Canadian Baptist Theological Seminary in Cochrane, Alberta, Canada. Donors can give Online at <https://gift.idonate.com/georgia-baptist-foundation/blackaby> or mail donations to P.O. Box 1035, Jonesboro, GA. 30237. The funeral service will be live-streamed at <https://rb.gy/13pkz3> A viewing will be held between 5-7 p.m. on Feb. 24 at the Ford-Stewart Funeral Home (2047 Highway 138 S.E. Jonesboro, GA) and from 1:30-3 PM prior to the service at the church.

# Cemetery Details

## Camp Memorial Park

1095 GA Hwy 54 East  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **24**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Ford Stewart Funeral Home Inc.  
2047 Highway 138 S.E.  
Jonesboro, GA 30236  
(770) 210-2700  
fordstewartfh@aol.com  
<https://www.fordstewartfuneralhome.com/>

## Service

FEB **25**. 3:00 PM.

First Baptist Church Jonesboro

# Tribute Wall

LH

“ I had the honor and privilege of transporting Dr. Blackaby and Richard at a senior retreat in Sept 2018. First thing he said to me was, "What did you read in God's Word this morning".



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**Lee Harrison** - March 08, 2024 at 09:02 PM

BS

*Experiencing God changed my life. So thankful*

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**Beverly Spence** - December 29, 2024 at 06:17 PM

DF

“ God was at work in the life of Henry Blackaby ..... as only the Father could do. What an impact!!!! We all celebrate his life here on earth and now in the presence of the one he loved and served so faithfully. One night in my 20's, in desperation, I cried out “ Lord , Timothy had Paul. I need a Paul!”. The grace of God was to put me in the Experiencing God seminar in Nashville where they made the original video tapes before the workbook came out. That encounter with God radically changed my life. Not only did I start functioning differently as I looked to see where God was at work, I started walking with the Father differently. Being mentored by Henry and Marilyn radically changed my life and ministry. Following the principles in Experiencing God since 1990 has led me into numerous things that only God could do.... and He gets all the credit. Each day I look to see where God is at work and try to join Him. The stories could fill an Experiencing God workbook lol. What a great life! The impact was not only Henry, but all the people he introduced me to..... T W Hunt, Avery Willis, Claude King, Richard Owen Roberts, Byron Paulus and more. One day Henry called and asked if they could shoot the videos for Fresh Encounter at the church I was serving. Not only did Henry teach me how to know the will of God, but he introduced me to revival and spiritual awakening(if you have not been through Fresh Encounter.... you should!). There is no way to describe the impact of how God used Henry in my life. Thank you Lord. Truly Henry has been the single most significant spiritual influence in my life..... Thank you Lord for a Paul.

David Franklin

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David Franklin - February 25, 2024 at 01:07 PM



“ 130 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Ford Stewart Funeral Home** - February 23, 2024 at 10:42 AM

GW

“ *I had the great opportunity to spend a weekend with Dr. Blackaby, sponsored by Paul Henderson (Olympic hockey hero) at an Ontario retreat centre. It was life changing. His work will live on in his family, his writing, and in untold numbers of people who will be touched by his life... I lead a House Church through my local church body and we have just embarked on a book study using Dr. Blackaby's *Experiencing God Together...* on behalf of all of my House Church who will benefit, thank you.*

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**Garth Wunsch** - February 21, 2024 at 08:36 PM

JL

“ *My heart goes out to the Blackaby family. I am from Bragg Creek Alberta, just south of Cochrane. I feel so fortunate to have had a few conversations with both Henry and Marilynn Blackaby. I treasure memories of those conversations as they were instrumental in directing my life.*

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**Janis Leong** - February 20, 2024 at 02:48 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Henry Thomas Blackaby.*



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February 15, 2024 at 06:07 PM



“ *Edgar Sandoval - World Vision - US planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Henry Thomas Blackaby.*

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**Edgar Sandoval - World Vision - US** - February 15, 2024 at 06:07 PM