



Dr. John Edward Vanden Akker

June 19, 1932 - May 23, 2019

Jesus invited Dr. John Edward Vanden Akker, age 86, of Roanoke, to join Him at His home at 1:33 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2019.

Visitation will be from 1 – 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Drive, Huntington, Indiana. Funeral services will immediately follow at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Bailey-Love Mortuary with Pastor Dennis Miller officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Huntington.

Preferred memorials are to Baptist Mid-Missions Foundation (Mark Sheppard National/Pastoral Assistance for Liberia in memory of John Vanden Akker).

For online giving, go to www.bmm.org

Giving > Online giving > Missionary support > select Mark Sheppard > (add notes in Additional Information – Special Projects section.)

Funds will go towards Calvary Baptist Church in Monrovia, Liberia for their church building expansion project including a K-12 school, Thomas Willie for Bible correspondence courses, and the Yila, Liberia Elementary School Building.

John was born on June 19, 1932 in the Heeg, Netherlands, the son of Joe and

John (Visser) Vanden Akker and emigrated to Grand Rapids, Michigan with the family in 1949. He was a 1952 graduate of Union High School in Grand Rapids and graduated from Grand Rapids Baptist Theological Seminary in the spring of 1960. He married the love of his life Marilyn R. Mol on September 7, 1956 in Grand Rapids. John spent over 40 years in Liberia, West Africa as a missionary devoted to teaching students for the pastorate and developing leaders. His work continued here in the U.S. in Easley, South Carolina for 16 years as he led Rogma International (now Christian Discipleship International), which serves more than 50 countries. John was also instrumental in developing the curriculum and writing courses for Jake Memorial College, based in Monrovia, Liberia, from his Roanoke home. His favorite life-guiding Bible verse has been Colossians 1:18c "...that in all things, Christ might have the preeminence."

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Marilyn R. Vanden Akker of Roanoke, a son, Kevin Scott (Jodi) Vanden Akker of Huntington, and their children, Jonathan and Kaleb, as well as a daughter-in-law, Janice Vanden Akker of Grand Rapids, and grandson Rich, and a grandson, Don Krueger of Grand Rapids. Also surviving are brothers Frank Vanden Akker of Atlanta, Georgia, Joe Vanden Akker of Dekalb, Illinois, and Donald Vanden Akker of Fairfield Glade, Tennessee, and a sister, Helen Mink of Grand Rapids. He is preceded in death by his parents, a son, Keith Allen Vanden Akker (2009), and a brother, Sidney Vanden Akker.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Hope Cemetery

1700 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 28. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-1710
wecare@baileylove.com
<https://www.baileylove.com>

Service

MAY 28. 3:00 PM (ET)

Adkins Bailey-Love Mortuary
35 West Park Drive
Huntington, IN 46750
(260) 356-1710
wecare@baileylove.com
<https://www.baileylove.com>

Tribute Wall

JD

“ Marilyn, We are so sorry to learn of John's home going. Gerda remarked what a long time connection there was between your families even though many miles separated us. We know John is at peace and though we won't be able to spend more meals together, we know John is happy where he is. We realize there will be some difficult days ahead, but we will be lifting you up in prayer. We also hope the future brings us together again to share as families once again.

John & Gerda DenBoer
gjthanks97@gmail.com

John W DenBoer - June 03, 2019 at 11:42 AM

BO

“ Bonnie Kwenah Otchere lit a candle in memory of Dr. John Edward Vanden Akker



Bonnie Kwenah Otchere - May 28, 2019 at 08:42 PM

RE

“ Rev. Steven S. Enoch lit a candle in memory of Dr. John Edward Vanden Akker



Rev. Steven S. Enoch - May 28, 2019 at 01:15 PM

JG

“ Sorry to hear about your family's loss, but grateful to know John's gain is Heaven! I loved it when John and his wife came to share their ministry with our church, Calvary Baptist of Grand Rapids MI. They were always so excited about serving their Lord. I loved John's accent. May you all know God's peace, comfort and strength as you walk this journey with HIm.
Janice Gerber

JANICE GERBER - May 28, 2019 at 12:07 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. John Edward Vanden Akker.



May 28, 2019 at 09:50 AM

BC

“ I have been a grader for Rogma, now CDI, since May 2003. I enjoyed working with John and his sweet wife. I know he will be greatly missed.



In Christian Love, Wallace & Bessie Cox Anderson, S.C.

Bessie Cox - May 28, 2019 at 08:17 AM

JD

“ John was my Sunday school teacher at Quarry when I was a teenager.

john Dykstra - May 25, 2019 at 05:18 PM

DC

“ We rejoice that John is with his Savior but mourn his loss with you. What a tireless and wise worker he was. We have precious memories of the whole family in Liberia. John was one to be counted on and the Liberians affectionately called him teacher Van. We stayed in your home when we got to Yila. In your cupboards Evie had her first encounter with a tarantula, and still lived to tell the story. God bless you all. We love you.

Drue Corbett - May 25, 2019 at 03:34 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. John Edward Vanden Akker.



May 25, 2019 at 03:25 PM

JH

“ Just wanted you to know that we are thinking of you and will continue to keep you in our prayers as you adjust
Love, OJ and Joyce
Janet Austin's parents

Joyce Hatchell - May 25, 2019 at 12:43 PM

MH

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Mark Horne - May 25, 2019 at 12:18 PM

DH

“ *Dear Vanden Akker Family,*

Please accept my warm and honest condolences for the loss of a Great man of God, Dr. Vanden Akker.

I was honored to work with him even we did not meet, but we worked through calls and emails. He was a great supporter of our ministry in the country of Jordan in training national leaders for the field of our Lord through CDI material. We will miss him.

May our Lord Jesus Christ give you his Peace and Comfort in these difficult moments.

In His Service

Your Servant

*Dr. Ghassan Haddad
Biblical Theological Seminary of Jordan
President
Amman, Jordan
ghassghad@yahoo.com*

Dr. Ghassan Haddad - May 25, 2019 at 12:09 PM

MB

“ *From Holland Mr Bas van den Bosch
I sent you my condolence with the pasaway of dr van den Akker
I remember him from our good conversation on e-mail about
Holland but also about our faith in Jrsus Christ And the good Bible
studie about Romans and Efesians He is now on the best place
there is bij the Lord And when the Lord calls me I will see Him
because I go to the same place
The Lord give you all the the grace and power to go further without
him
Greeting in the soon coming Christ
Mr Bas van den Bosch*

Mr van den Bosch - May 25, 2019 at 05:46 AM

RK

“ *I can remember growing as a boy, I listened to him preaching to us
and telling everyone about Salvation. One great thing I admired him
for is, he was really a disciplinarian. He was a fast paced Pastor
who wanted everything done faster. I have always talked to people
who didn't know him about his great and sacrificial job done while in
the Mission field. For the Bible says, precious in the sight of the
Lord is the death of His saith. My deepest condolences to you and
the rest of the family.*

Rufus Kwenah - May 25, 2019 at 01:06 AM

JM

“ Thinking of you, Marilyn and family, at this time of loss. I never met a John, but know he was an amazing man of God. He and Barbara are rejoicing with Jesus! Losing a loved one is so hard, but I believe you'll find comfort in knowing you'll see him again. God, bless and comfort you.

*Julie Ritter Miller
Barbara's niece*

Julie Miller - May 24, 2019 at 11:13 PM

SU

“ I have many memories of your mom and dad's hospitality and friendship with us. I especially remember the 25th anniversary dinner they hosted for my mom and dad, even though I wasn't very old then. Very special! I know he will be missed by many.

Suzanne Bertness

Suzanne - May 24, 2019 at 09:58 PM

RM

“ When Uncle John was in Yila, Liberia and needed to contact my dad he would find a ham radio operator in the US and have the operator call us collect. My parents taught me to accept the collect call and how to talk through the ham radio operator by ending my speech with, "Over." When I was about 12 I was home alone when he called, and I was so proud that I knew how to follow all the procedures. Uncle John was happy that he got through, but that quickly changed to disappointment when he realized his message was in the hands of a 12-year-old!
We love you Uncle John! Thanks for being a wonderful part of our Christian heritage.

Ron Mol

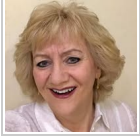
RON MOL - May 24, 2019 at 09:20 PM

SV

“ I'm sure Uncle Sid, Pake and Beppe were waiting there with Keith to welcome him home. God bless you Uncle John.

Steve

Steve VanDenAkker - May 24, 2019 at 08:41 PM



“ Hi Kevin, My condolences to you and your mother. Things I remember about your dad:
his sense of humor (I remember listening to Bob Newhart records)
His ability to find joy in his work. I remember when I lived with your family in Liberia it hit me that your mom and dad didn't focus on the sacrifices missionaries make, but focused on the positives
His leadership skills
His commitment to the Bible. He studied a lot.
His ability to wear so many hats on the compound
How he encouraged the other missionaries on the team
His playful nature - laughing with so many people, playing on the motorcycles, paying with Lucy the family pet. (i was scared of Lucy)
What a wonderful heritage you've been given.

Linda Vanlaan

Linda Vanlaan - May 24, 2019 at 08:26 PM

RS

“ Dr. and Mrs. Van served in Liberia for many years, establishing churches and training men and women for the ministry. They moved to Monrovia in the middle of the 1980s and established the Baptist College of Church Ministries, where many of us were trained for the ministry. As the result of their ministry, today, I am the senior pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, 18th Street, Monrovia, Liberia, and the acting president of the Jake Memorial Baptist College. Dr. Van spent his last years preparing courses for the Bible College. He also helped to revise our curriculum. In answer to my prayer to pursue my doctorate degree in pastoral ministry, the Lord used Dr. Van to help me enroll at the Newburgh Theological Seminary, Newburgh, Indiana, where I am presently working on my dissertation. I had hope that he would be alive to see me graduate, but God had another plan to take him home from labor to reward. For those of us he trained, Teacher Van is not dead. As we continue the work they trained us to do, we still see part of Dr. John Vanden Akker in us as we reach Liberia with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. My his soul Rest In Peace.

Rev. G. Larque Vaye, his former student - May 24, 2019 at 08:09 PM

SL

“ Carrying you all in my heart and prayers. I so wish we could personally join you to celebrate John's life. "Celebrate" is the definitive word for John and Marilyn. They taught me so much in my early days in Liberia - always joy-filled in the service of the Lord. So many precious memories over the years. Please know I am praying for you much. Sallie (McElwain) Lemponen



Saleen A Lemponen - May 24, 2019 at 06:08 PM