

In Memory of Chick Atkins

Born Dec. 24, 1933

Entered into the joy of his Lord

Oct. 31, 2009



Henry "Chick" Atkins began his missionary service with World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions in 1993, when already in his sixties. He served the Lord faithfully until he was called into His presence on October 31, 2009. Chick is survived by his wife, Renee; his son, Stephen; two daughters, Tammi Sue (& husband Mark) Kittrell, and Heidi (& husband Auckie) Henry; and many grandchildren.

While every believer lives with a mandate to evangelize the lost in the world, some people are divinely selected and separated unto particular tasks which take them to fields near and afar.

"But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." - Acts 20:24

This was the life of Chick Atkins. He and Renee, a true help-meet for him, served our God this way. The Atkins were commissioned for missionary service at the Community Baptist Church of South Bend, IN. In that service the church "sent them away" to be missionary helpers whenever, wherever and however they could.

Our God saw the whole path He would have the Atkins take. We all believed in them, but only He knew their full potential. As with each missionary who receives the call, the Atkins left for destinations unknown. During their years of service, they ministered in Liberia, West Africa (serving missionaries and teaching); Yap (supplying for missionaries, preaching and teaching); Pohnpei; Guam; Grenada, West Indies; and in various states throughout the US.

Chick Atkins was one who labored with a dedication that was uncommon. He taught, built, preached, assisted, supplied, pitched in, and made a difference. He was not a "job description" kind of missionary, seeking to sign up for the glory jobs. Rather, he was content to serve in the shadows and stand in the background. He saw himself as a sinner saved by grace. Much of his work was the hand work of building structures. He could build, repair, design, and figure out the best way to accomplish the most difficult of tasks. Though he dedicated himself to building structures, yet if you read his letters you would see that he was most dedicated to his heart's work of building souls. Chick was a builder of lives, an investor in souls, and one who was not too good for any task. He dedicated himself to the Christlike task of seeing people - not as they were, but as they would become. He invested in the unlikely, the uncommon, and often in the unwanted, because he could remember that is what his Savior had done for him.

Chick's sole motivation was that one day he would see Christ. Confident of this fact, he chose to serve Christ wherever, whenever, and however God chose. Though physical difficulties kept him close to home for the past several years, he continued to minister to others through this time. He made it clear to friends and family that if the Lord chose to heal him, he would leave immediately for his next assignment in Germany. In His wisdom, the Lord chose instead to call Chick home to be with Him on October 31, 2009.

As we remember Chick Atkin's life, we rejoice in hearing stories of the difference he made in many people's lives. His life was a life of joy because he put others first. Truly, he fought a good fight, finished the course, and kept the faith. May we do the same!

