



Robert John Vajko

April 27, 1936 - December 20, 2020

Robert John Vajko, 84, passed away peacefully on December 20, 2020 in Bloomington, IN.

Robert (Bob) was born April 27, 1936 in Chicago, IL, the son of John Robert Vajko and Ethel Sweeney. As a young man, Bob worked semi-professionally as an illusionist, adept at sleight-of-hand and escape tricks. He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1953, serving in intelligence at a base in Ruislip, England. He met his wife Noreen there in 1955, and they married two years later.

College and four children later, Bob and Noreen began pastoral ministry in France in 1965. In 29 years, they established several churches in the suburbs of Paris. In 1995, they moved to Australia, where Bob lectured and directed a program at the Adelaide College of Ministries while also pastoring a local church. Despite his many ministry 'hats', Bob always set aside time for scholarly study (his personal library ran to 6,000 volumes), and he eventually completed a doctoral degree in missiology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Bob and Noreen moved in 2003 to Bloomington, IN, where they served in area churches. Bob also counseled Christian pastors, teaching seminars to church leaders in Eastern Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia.

After Noreen passed in 2019, Bob continued to mentor young leaders in the Bloomington Bible Church. He met Barbara Maxwell, also a widowed Christian ministry leader. They were married October 27, 2019 in Bemidji, Minnesota.

Bob was dearly loved by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He also touched many lives throughout the world. Bob was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Noreen. He is survived by his wife Barbara Vajko; his brother Richard Sweeney, his sister Donna Vajko-Schnayer; his four children Dale (& Emily) Vajko, Robert (& Jody) Vajko Jr., Gail (& Tim) O'Connor, and Renée (& Len) Srch, along with 14 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

A funeral will be held on Monday, December 28, 2020 at 1:00pm, at Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37, restricted to immediate family only. A public memorial service will be held at a later date, post-pandemic.

Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Bloomington Bible Church (where Bob was a member): www.bloomingtonbible.org/give

Previous Events

PRIVATE SERVICES

DEC **28**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Funeral Service*



Allen Funeral Home and Crematory - December 29, 2020 at 09:02 AM

SP

“ *As a brand new TEAM missionary in France, I had the privilege of working under Bob and Noreen for four years at Orly Church in the Paris suburbs. I also had the joy of knowing all four of their children and seeing them follow in their parents' footsteps. Bob's contributions to TEAM's ministry in France were profound and long-lasting, as a pastor and as a field leader. I followed with amazement their continued ministries in Australia and then around the globe. I also had the privilege of renewing our friendship when he came to Minnesota to marry Barbie. May God comfort each member of his family and thrill your hearts with his on-going legacy!*

Sarah Page - December 26, 2020 at 04:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert John Vajko.*



December 26, 2020 at 01:37 AM

RS

“ Rich and I are grateful for the time we were able to spend being trained by Bob and Noreen. What we learned from them was the basis for how we approached ministry from then on. They continued being great role models with their work in Adelaide and continuing outreach even as they returned to the U.S. We grieve with the Vajko family today, but rejoice in Bob's homecoming. Blessings on you.

Rich and M.A. Sicard - December 24, 2020 at 11:35 PM

CM

“ We will miss Bob very much. He was a wonderful neighbor, and such a kind and caring person. He had welcomed us into the neighborhood with open arms, and was always there if needed. We were so sad to hear of his passing. Sending thoughts and prayers. Jason & Christa Moore, and Vada.

Christa Moore - December 24, 2020 at 01:00 AM

VR

“ Apart from knowing Bob as Gail and Renee's dad, we were privileged to take classes on church planting from him at TEAM headquarters. He also sent newsletters to encourage and educate church planters for many years. These were so helpful. He was always ready to help and counsel church planters. Praying for you, Gail and Renee, as well as your families.

Vicki Reyes - December 23, 2020 at 08:35 PM



“ Bob's presence in our church will be missed tremendously. He was a gifted teacher to us all, but especially the men. His vast ministry experience helped our pastor and elders as he continued to mentor them. We will all miss him. Amy Wu, Bloomington Bible Church.

Amy Wu - December 23, 2020 at 06:23 PM