

**“If Baptist Children’s Home has been blessed of the Lord, and it has, it is because of the choice people God has brought to serve in this ministry.”**

**-Don Worch**

Those are Don’s words written for a little book written by Chuck and Brenda, who served as houseparents for 11 years. Chuck and Brenda and their two children, Rick and Amy, served long and faithfully, caring for over 100 children.

Recently we joined Chuck and Brenda for a special time at their church. Their church reprinted their BCH memories in “These Kids are a Loan from God”. Imagine all the memories made in a decade of child care ministry!

**Don Worch is part of those memories, a wonderful person God brought to serve in BCH.** God declared Don’s work on earth completed on Oct. 7, and moved him to his eternal home. But the impact of his passion, the family, continues. That was so evident as his children, grands, adoptive parents, and former BCH children shared memories of his influence on their lives.



Don and Jim “The Early Years”

Don fulfilled his passion for God honoring-families through Family Life Conferences in hundreds of churches. His words, **“God gave the family; then we must give attention to the family,”** still echoes in the hearts and minds of parents challenged by Don’s messages for the family.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter which is, in part, a tribute to God’s dear servant, Don Worch. I served at Don’s side for two decades. I give thanks to God and Don for his influence on my life and my family.

Grace to you,

Jim Geurink  
President Emeritus

**Don loved and lived this passage.** *“Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God! Therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now we are the sons of God; and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in Him purifies himself, even as He is pure.”* 1 John 3:1-3



# In Loving Memory

Dr. Donald E. Worch  
July 16, 1929-October 7, 2019



God called Don Worch home on October 7, at age 90. He was born in Dayton, OH and received Jesus Christ as his personal Savior at age 9.

Don attended Bob Jones University, preparing for full time Christian service. There he met and married Nan Clark. Don and Nan celebrated their 68th anniversary on August 26, 2019. They ministered together, first as he pastored three churches, and then at the Baptist Children's Home.

Don left the pastorate to become President of the Baptist Children's Home in 1967 where he served until his retirement in 1994. He touched thousands of lives and was always glad to hear later of how the Lord had made great changes and restored families through the

ministry of BCH. **His love of children and the importance of the family knew no bounds, and he worked tirelessly to see children loved and cared for and families restored.**

At his funeral, many shared tributes of Don's ministry in their lives. The following excerpts will give you a glimpse into the many ways he cared for people.

**David Cieply** (Grandson) – "I did not have a Grandpa; I had a *Papaw*, and a Papaw is a pretty wonderful thing. I am not sad because he is gone, because I know his suffering is over, and he is in glory. I am sad because I have to wait so long until I see

him again. One day I hope to be as loving and caring of a Papaw as he was."

**Linda Bradley** (Adoptive Mother) – "I am thankful for the adoption ministry of the Baptist Children's Home. Don handed us our daughter Kristen and a year later, Jason. They rescued these babies and entrusted them to us. I am thankful to say that those babies are 42 & 43 years old and know the Lord and are pointing their families to Christ. Garry and I are eternally grateful."

**Gaylon Worch** (Brother) "Don was also a great negotiator. He negotiated with me, and I lost. He wanted his back scratched. He started paying me a penny a minute to rub his back. Finally I grew a little bit smarter and said, "No." So he said, "How about two cents?" and I said okay. He finally got to a dime a minute, and so I consider that my first job in life."



Don and his faithful Station Wagon drove many miles together in ministry.



**Cindy Hamilton** (Former BCH child) I am the oldest of seven kids. Our church contacted the Children's Home and said "We have these kids to place." I can say Uncle Don and Aunt Nan went above and beyond. **They moved out of their house so that we could be together.**

We were the first group home. My mom's dying wish was that we could all be together. I thank you so much for the opportunity to grow up to be safe, to pursue dreams, and to ripple out into the lives of others.



**Les Anderson** (former BCH resident) –I was four years old when my dad dropped me and my two brothers off at the Children's Home in Kouts. I remember so many memories of Uncle Don. Even as a little boy, I would go into his office and play. He would sit down with us and read a book. **Through the years when we would see Uncle Don and Aunt Nan, we were always treated like family.**

I was a pastor in Michigan, and Uncle Don sat on my ordination council and then preached my ordination service. That was something I will never forget. Because of the ministry of Uncle Don and the Children's Home, I got a dad (John Mixon) that I never had.

**Carrie Santner** – I am a friend of the Worch family. I am speaking to share with you how far spread his ministry went in this community. I was a hairdresser coming to Valparaiso in 1981. Nineteen years old at the time, and very much not a Christian. I grew in my relationship with the Worches because God placed them in my chair. A year later my husband had open heart surgery. Because my husband's surgery was December 23, 1986, the Worches came to the hospital and decorated our room with a Christmas tree. They brought Christmas to the hospital room.



"He could preach a sermon like no other."

Rachel Cieply

But the most important thing that happened was that Don & Nan visited us the night before his surgery. **Don prayed that prayer with me that led me to the Lord while our pastor was in John's intensive care room praying with him.** A very pivotal point in our lives. But Don didn't stop there; he continued to feed truth into my life, offering me much wisdom. I want to thank the Worch family for the path that my family is on right now.

**Rachel Cieply** – I am the oldest granddaughter, and through this whole process one thing that has been on my heart is legacy and the legacy that my grandfather has laid down. Today I am realizing the impact that he has had and how far stretched his love has reached, I've never been more proud to be in the family that I'm in. **We all know that he could preach a sermon like no other. But he could also influence lives just in small little comments every day that you didn't even realize that he was preaching to you.**

When I was 16, we went to India to visit Pastor Abraham. At the time I had wanted to be veterinarian. I had a lot of compassion in my heart. Because of that, during my time in India, I realized that I really loved kids. *I really loved kids.* During that trip I decided that I didn't want to be a veterinarian anymore. I wanted to be a nurse. I became a pediatric nurse, and I work in cardiology. So I take care of little babies with heart defects. And I truly believe that is part of the legacy that my Papaw has instilled in me.

**Sandi Nihart** (Former BCH resident) “I was thankful for Don Worch before I ever met him. We lived in CA and were at church one day. The pastor told my dad about a children’s home in IN. My dad was an abusive father.

On our way home he told me and my two little sisters that he was going to call the Children’s Home, and he was going to tell them that we were very naughty bad girls. He would ask if the Children’s Home would take us. He told us that they would probably say “No” and when they said no, we would be in big trouble. Sure enough, my dad called the Children’s Home. Don Worch answered the phone.

We three girls stood while my dad told Don Worch what terrible children we were and why he (Don) wouldn’t want us. My dad held the phone out after he said, “Would you be interested in taking them?” I heard Don Worch say, **“Let me tell you, sir, let me tell you something. We’ll take them.”**

And then my dad said, “Will you even take the *really naughty 13-year old*?” That was me. And Don Worch said again, **“Let me tell you sir. I said we will take them all.”** He might have been the President or the Director, but to us he was just Uncle Don, and we knew that he loved us.

He gave undeserved second chances. He saw the best in people. And he encouraged them to start again and walk with God. He was a cheerleader for the fatherless. He invested himself in lives by giving biblical counsel and exhortation that were life-changing. In short, the life of Uncle Don was characterized by the Fruit of the Spirit. He was a man whose heart was full to overflowing.

**Debbie Goode** – I first met Uncle Don as Pastor Don. I was at Aetna Baptist. I lived in a very dysfunctional home and I was invited to go to church in 1965 by my friend. I accepted the Lord July 17, 1966. Uncle Don was the one who led me to the Lord.

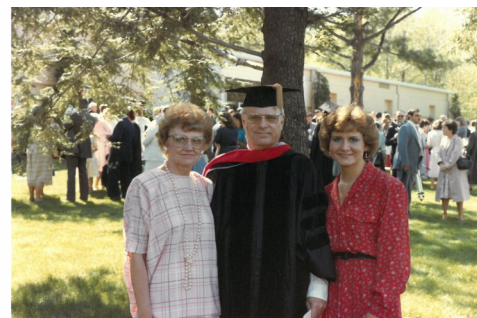
I think he had some idea of what was going on in our home. While others were sad that Pastor Don was leaving us (our church), little did I know that the Lord had a plan for me in that move. There came a day when my mom had to go to court for child neglect. My new pastor went with my mom to court.

I can remember sitting outside the courthouse in Gary with the two big domes, that I still pass quite often as I’m going into Chicago. **My mom and my pastor came out and said we would be taken away, it was just a matter of where we would go. Pastor said “I’ll ask the judge if I can take you out on a visit to the Baptist Children’s Home in Kouts.”**

We made that trip and he said, “Well, what do you think?” Well, that was a no-brainer for me. I was now a child of God and I wanted to be in a place that was going to support my faith, and it also gave me an opportunity that my brothers and I would stay together. Now I learned to know Don Worch, not as my pastor, but as Uncle Don who was overseeing the ministry.



Sandi and Lanny Nihart. Sandi still shares her testimony at women’s events.



Drs. Nan and Don Worch with daughter Dawn





Every year our supporters make it possible for our children to attend a Christian Summer Camp. Our kids had an amazing time participating in all the fun activities and making new friends.

God also worked out His unique purposes and plans for their spiritual lives. We praise God for Christ-centered camps that provide great fun, sincere encouragement, and intentional discipleship.

A special “Thank You” to everyone who helped make these experiences possible. Here are some testimonies from our children!

“I was very grateful to go to camp this year. Camp impacted my life so much, I can hardly describe it. **I was surrounded by people who cared for me and they supported me in my walk with God.** They helped me get rid of the filth that kept me away from God. I have been in prayer, I have been doing my devotions, and I surrendered my life to God. I have never felt so free in my life! I want to thank everyone who made it possible for me to go to camp this year.” – Avante



**“Jesus entered my life on Thursday of this week. This was definitely the most influential week of camp I have had in my life.** I really think that God placed the people who were there for a reason. What the preacher was preaching pricked at my heart and made me want to better myself. My counselor encouraging me through my walk with Christ. Last but not least, my friends who were super-encouraging and friendly. Besides my friends in the BCH, those were the best friends I have had, which is crazy because I only knew them for a week, but in that week we all grew. I felt I grew a lot, spiritually that week of camp.” – Michael



“This week of camp was not about activities. God made it fun for me in a different way. It was about the bond I made with people and the commitment I made. I learned a lot from this week of camp. We had a time where my cabin and our sister cabin got together to share our testimony and struggles. It was the first time I shared my testimony with people. **This week of camp, I decided to let go of my life and let God take over. I also committed myself to do daily devotions. This week of camp has been the best week of camp, so far.**” - Iggy



### Baptist Children’s Home Wishlist:

- Commercial shelving for office: \$500
- Bike helmets (adult sizes)
- Grocery gift cards (Aldi, Meijer, etc.)
- Size 6 diapers, pull-ups
- Commercial, zero turn riding mower: \$12,000

### International Needs:

- 180 Chickens (\$7 each) for Liberian Christmas Dinners
- Internet service for Hope Student Center (Liberia)
- Funds for educating children, tuition, uniforms, etc.

# Honor, Memorial, and Estate Gifts

Thank you to many friends for providing a special gift "in memory" or "in honor" of a loved one or friend.  
Gifts from May 1, 2019 — October 31, 2019.

## In Honor of:

### Bekah Beals

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### Samuel and Bekah Beals

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(Continued on page 7)

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**Ray Young**  
Mafra Young

If you would like to give in honor or memory of a loved one, please include the information on the card provided in this envelope. Your Year End gift can also be given in memory of Dr. Don Worch.





# Praises from 2019!

As 2019 comes to an end, here are some things we are celebrating at Baptist Children's Home....

James (right) has been taking a culinary class in Mt. Pleasant. He recently made the Bosquez family a delicious homemade barbeque sauce!



Thank you to volunteers from Bethel in Crown Point, Indiana who delivered Christmas gifts to our office! They always make our day with their delivery and cheerful presence!



Thank you to everyone who is giving gifts to our children and families for Christmas!



### There's nothing better than a cupcake!

"Jayden" (left) celebrated his 2nd birthday in one of our Safe Families Host Homes.

Jayden has been in one of our homes for a month with his 3 siblings. His mom is searching for a job, but she is relieved to know that he is in a safe and loving home. He's getting plenty of hugs and kisses!

We appreciate our volunteers, This picture (right) is a volunteer who is probably familiar to you. Jim Geurink, our President Emeritus, helps at our office doing anything and everything from mowing the lawn, opening our mail, and serving as a valued consultant on our foreign ministry matters. Thanks, Jim!



Avante was baptized this year!



### It's a Boy...and a Girl!

Congratulations to the Beals and Bosquez families! Sam and Bekah Beals (and big brother Silas) welcomed baby Westin.

Billy and Sarah Bosquez (and big sisters Bethany and Maria) celebrated the birth of Clara.

