



Robert Keith Spradling

September 16, 1932 - March 27, 2025

Robert Keith Spradling, 92, of Huntington passed away, Thursday, March 27, 2025, at the Woodlands Retirement Community.

Bob, as he was known to his friends, was born in Princeton, WV, to the late O.A. and Irene Spradling on September 16, 1932. His early life in the rugged hills of West Virginia was far from easy and yet those moments of adversity formed a resilience and tenacity that influenced him throughout his life.

As a teenager, Bob heard the message of salvation and committed his life to Jesus Christ. The radical change in his life was biblical salt and light for his parents, who also became believers, and so it might be said that here is when his ministry of sharing the good news of the Gospel began.

Bob graduated with the Class of 1950 at St. Albans High School, where he met the love of his life in the school hallway. "Who is that?" he asked his buddy, who replied, "that's Gertrude Ranson and her dad owns the local Ford dealership." Bob quickly responded, "I don't care who her dad is, I'm interested in her!" Convincing her to go out with him and eventually marrying in August 1953, he knew what a devoted life partnership could be.

Bob and Trudy set out with very few resources to prepare for lifelong service in ministry. His academic journey took him to Southland Bible Institute, Ashland, KY (Teacher's Cert.); Piedmont Bible College, Winston-Salem, NC (B.Div.); Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC (M.A.); and Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, IN (B.Div. and Th.M.). Most importantly through his studies, he sought opportunities to learn from Bible teachers and pastoral mentors.

God led him to serve congregations at Burr Oak Baptist Church (Indiana), Northville Baptist Church (Michigan); and Bible Center Church (West Virginia). After retiring from the pastorate, he embarked on a church growth consulting ministry serving smaller churches.

As a man's character is more often revealed in between the milestones and

accomplishments, Bob's humble beginnings increased his faith to step forward when the pathway was still unseen. Not knowing if there would be money to finish his own education, influenced him to be financially generous to others. Most of all, learning from the insight of wise biblical scholars ingrained in him the importance of being a godly mentor. And so, he confidently completed the work he was supposed to do.

Bob was predeceased by his wife, Trudy (d. 2020), of whom he said to his family daily how much he missed her. Surviving are his children, Cindy Begley (Dave) of Huntington, WV; Cheryl Marling (Will) of Alexandria, VA; brother-in-law, Joseph Ranson of Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada; grandchildren, Lauren Begley, Brooke (Eric) Field, Kate Marling, and Alex Marling; two great grandchildren; and many friends.

Friends may visit with the family from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, at Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, St. Albans. A Celebration of Life will take place at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 4, at the Southridge Campus of Bible Center Church, 100 Bible Center Dr, Charleston.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of Huntington, hospiceofhuntington.org, or Appalachian Bible College, abc.edu.

You may visit Bob's tribute page at BartlettNichols.com to share condolences and memories with the family.

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, family owned and located at 409 Sixth Ave., St. Albans is honored to serve the Spradling family.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 3. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home
409 Sixth Avenue
Saint Albans, WV 25177
(304) 727-4325

Celebration of Life

APR 4. 2:00 PM (ET)

Southridge Campus of Bible Center Church
100 Bible Center Drive
Charleston, WV

Tribute Wall

LM

“ His parents Irene and Sprad had a great influence on my life at Pleasant Hill Baptist church. They were so proud of the man he became in his service to God.

Linda Stutler Maines - April 03, 2025 at 03:11 PM

DY

“ I was a young Christian when I first heard Pastor Spradling in the pulpit of Bible Center Church in 1977. He was one of the best real preachers I have ever heard. I will never forget the way he could drive home the point as he preached the Word. I'm thankful to have heard him and learned under him for 17 years. I also will always remember his humble spirit when he finished his last sermon in 1994. "For the privilege of being a pastor I thank God, and for the privilege of being your pastor I thank you," he said as his voice broke. His impact on people was enormous as a servant of Jesus, and I'm as sure as I'm writing this that when he went from this life to eternal life the the Lord said, "Well done."

David Yost

David Yost - April 02, 2025 at 10:43 PM

EM

“ The strength of Bible Center Church through the years was built upon the shoulders of Bob Spradling. His twenty seven years of dollar cost averaging faithfulness made the place go and set it forward on a trajectory of momentum wrought by God. His pastoral heart beat for forward progress for the gospel in Charleston and beyond. He wanted his life to matter for our Lord and lived accordingly. He was a friend and supporter of colleagues in ministry, I know that first hand. He was realistic, and a visionary. It is a wonderful leadership cocktail. He loved his wife and family. He loved Christ's church. He was not flashy, but faithful; and solid as a rock in character and integrity. He left his mark that many will not soon forget. His mark was characterized by the fragrance of Jesus Christ.

Eric Mounts - March 31, 2025 at 02:42 PM

MJ

Amen! Well said, Pastor Eric. As a pastor who benefited from his friendship, mentoring, encouragement, and example, I thank God for his impact.

Mark Johnson - April 01, 2025 at 05:08 PM

GW

Dave and I are eternally grateful for the teaching of Pastor Spradling. He was a quiet, humble man with great wisdom. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Gail Wechsler, Texas

Gail Wechsler - April 02, 2025 at 09:02 AM

RL

what a great blessing it was to be able to sit under his teaching during my time in Charleston. I remember how he often challenged us to pursue holiness because Christ was holy. He was willing to share his ministry platform with other gifted ministers such as Warren Wiersbe and Howard Sugden. He also had a surprising sense of humor which he imbedded in his sermons from time to time. Well done thou good and faithful servant is certainly appropriate for this man of God.

roberta lynch - April 02, 2025 at 11:55 AM

DG

My five brothers, and my parents all have been blessed to sit under this man of God's ministry. ministry.

All of us who are still living speak of him, and his family, often.

The impact of his life and ministry still impacts us all daily!

God speed to you and yours, dear friend!

The Gandy Family

Phil Sr., Mary, Phil Jr., David, Bobby, Danny, Quinton, and John.

Daniel Gandy - April 03, 2025 at 06:46 AM

LH

Pastors Spradling and Darlington's guidance placed Faith Baptist Church, Prosperity, on course for the planning and construction of a new church facility. He was a mentor and friend.

Larry Halsey - April 25, 2025 at 05:09 PM