



## Jerry Lynn Piker

October 5, 1950 - May 17, 2018

Jerry Lynn Piker, Pastor of The Door, age 67, of Laurie, entered into Heaven on Thursday, May 17, 2018. He was surrounded by his beautiful wife Shirlene, and his loving family in their home as God received His good and faithful servant into His arms.

Jerry was born in Hickory Ridge, Arkansas on October 5, 1950, to Jess and Edwina Piker. On June 6, 1970 Jerry married the love of his life, Shirlene Culver.

Jerry graduated from Truman High School in Independence, Missouri in 1968. The following year he honored our country and joined the United States Navy serving at Oceana Naval Air Base in Virginia Beach, Virginia and aboard the USS Roosevelt. Later on, Jerry attended and graduated from Rhema Bible College in 1984. Jerry blessed many serving as Regional Director for Rhema Ministerial Alliance International covering Missouri and Arkansas for over 20 years. He and Shirlene have spent the last 32 years as pastors at The Door. While in Virginia Beach, God spoke deeply to Shirlene as she waited for her sailor to return home from his tour on the USS Roosevelt. Through letters, Jerry knew his wife had encountered a relationship with Jesus that would impact his life all the rest of his days. They moved to Independence in 1972 where their precious daughters were born. Amy Leigh and Jessica Lynn were given to Jerry and Shirlene with great anticipation and joy. Jerry loved his three ladies more than anything. He cherished his position as husband to Shirlene and daddy to Amy and Jessica.

While in Independence, Jerry and Shirlene launched their life as servants of the Lord together. They served as youth pastors in their home church. During this time, they determined they would serve God as individuals, as a family, and in their local church all of their lives. Jerry's heart for children and youth only grew through the years.

As the years passed, God continued to speak to Jerry's heart. In 1978, Jerry accepted the call in his heart to enter the ministry. A move to the Lake of the Ozarks came in 1979. He and Shirlene attended Opened Door Christian Fellowship where Jerry served as an elder and together he and Shirlene served in the church helping in any area that had a need. In 1982 Jerry and Shirlene packed the girls up and moved to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma so Jerry could attend Rhema Bible College. God solidified a life of faith in Jerry and showed him numerous times how He made a way for him and his young family. Jerry and Shirlene returned to the lake and accepted the call to pastor Opened Door Christian Fellowship in 1985. During his 32 plus years of ministry at Opened Door Christian Fellowship, also known as The Door, Pastor Jerry encountered thousands of people showing them the love of Christ. He was a pastor, a friend, a servant and an honorable man. Pastor Jerry worked and sacrificed constantly to see people taken care of physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Many were given the gift of family just by the open arms of this courageous man.

Pastor Jerry was blessed to travel to several nations. The words God gave him to speak are still heard across the lands he visited and remain in the hearts of the people he encountered. He will forever live in the seeds he has sown throughout the years in Jesus' name.

Pastor Jerry has left a legacy behind in his wife, children, grand children and great-grandchildren. His legacy will forever be passed on through the countless lives he welcomed into his heart; calling them sons, daughters, and friends. Few men have the gift, willingness and opportunity to impact lives at a level that this man did. Pastor Jerry will be forever missed, forever cherished, and forever loved by all of us left here to carry on the work God started in him.

In addition to his beautiful wife Shirlene (Culver) Piker, Jerry is survived by daughters Amy Leigh and husband, Don Allen, Jr. of Versailles, Missouri and Jessica Lynn Freeman, and husband, Ed Freeman of Tampa, Florida.

Jerry's cherished grandchildren are Elizabeth Drescher and husband, Zack Drescher, Chase Freeman and wife, Bree Freeman, Michael Allen, Christian Freeman, Lucas Allen, Claudia Freeman and Sarah Allen. His great-grandchildren are Genesis Drescher, Moses Drescher and Jordi Freeman. Jerry is also survived by his sister Pam Epps and husband, Bud Epps, his brother Norman Piker, and several nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his loving parents, Jess and Edwina Piker. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, May 21, 2018, at The Door in Laurie. The family will receive friends from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Monday in the church. Graveside services and interment full with military honors will follow in Garber Memorial Estates.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Jerry Piker Memorial Fund. Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel.

# Cemetery Details

## Garber Memorial Estates

417 Silvey Rd.  
Laurie, MO 65038  
(573) 374-7688

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

The Door  
212 Faith Blvd.  
Laurie, MO 65037

## Service

MAY 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

The Door  
212 Faith Blvd.  
Laurie, MO 65037

# Tribute Wall

CA

“ 35 years ago, this man trusted the faith of a child and baptized me when others refused to because I was only 4 y/o. I remember that day like it was yesterday. I was reminiscing & decided to search for him today & found this, that he has already gone on to be with our Lord. I wish I would've thought sooner to find him, because I would have loved to have thanked him for blessing me; it was in that moment that my faith solidified & it is what has kept me going all my years through some of the most terrible experiences. Thank you, Rev Jerry, for believing me when all I had to say was “Because I love my Jeemie (Jesus)!” Rest in Paradise kind soul 🙏



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**Candi** - June 05, 2021 at 10:14 AM

DE

“ I'm so sorry for your loss I'll never forget the time that you and me almost went to Northfolk to see the guys I think Jerry and Alan got along really well but it's sad to say that Alan has Alzheimer's now he's in the end stage we don't know how much longer he has but God bless them both and may they rest in peace thinking of you

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**Dianna Edmondson** - May 21, 2018 at 08:21 PM

DO

“ It is with great sorrow, that, as we plan our 50 year reunion of the Truman High School Class of 1968, we learn of our classmate Jerrys passing. Our love and condolences to his family. May God bless and keep you all.

Doug Cummins  
THS68

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Doug - May 21, 2018 at 06:15 PM

TE

“ Where to begin!! Wow, I became close to Jerry and Shirlene when we went to Oklahoma together to attend Rhema. They both took me in and became my friendants (friend/parents) lol! Jerry was destined to be a pastor even back then. He was a calming influence and he always had a twinkle in his eye and an encouraging word. Our big joke was that he was speaking in faith that he would ALWAYS have hair on the top of his head! In Jesus' name!!! LOL . HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED!

LOVE TO ALL OF YOU!!

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Terre - May 21, 2018 at 11:01 AM



Christina  
Hackney-  
Garcia

“ Pastor and Shirline are the reason I am the Christian woman that I am. Even through the hards times in my life, he never gave up on me. They both made a huge impact on my life and those I love around me. He taught me how to be a prayer warrior. How to be a lady. There will never be another Godly man that can replace Pastor Jerry. You will be forever greatly missed.

Patricia Lepper

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Christina Hackney-Garcia - May 19, 2018 at 09:49 PM

 Grace  
Wilson

“ I love you paster Jerry. You will definitely be missed. Thankyou for welcoming me back in to your church (family). You loved us all, regardless of our past. I will never forget when we dedicated our son John to the Lord. You really loved your babies. If I could describe paster with 2 words it would be passionate (in his pursuit to do what God called him to do. ) second word would be love. Good buy paster see you again some day.

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**Grace Wilson** - May 19, 2018 at 10:51 AM

 George  
Frey

“ April and I love Jerry and Shirlene Piker, and the whole family. We're so blessed to be their friends. They're a blessing. We will miss Jerry a lot between now and when we see him again in the presence of the Lord. Thank you Lord for this great salvation.

*Life is so interesting, painful, and wonderful. But by the sure expectation Jesus has given us we're able. Able to traverse it all by our faith in God.*

*Lord may your presence, comforts, and encouragements be wonderful. May they be the atmosphere that surrounds Jerry's family and friends. Always.*

*Our hearts and prayers will never leave Y'all. We grieve, we are comforted, and we have a sure expectation of good. Our God is a good God.*

*George and April Frey*

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**George Frey** - May 19, 2018 at 08:24 AM

DM

*We rejoice that this wonderful Servant of God is now blessed and being a blessing to all in heavenly places. Our prayers and condolences are with his family and Church. We will all see him again soon as we join him in our Lord Jesus. Phil. 1:3:innocent:*

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**Dr. Carroll McCarroll** - May 19, 2018 at 11:36 AM

LG

*“ One word to me describes Pastor, the word is love. In all things, he truly loved. His love, goes on, only brighter now as he walks with Jesus. Thank you Shirlene and family for your gift and faithfulness of sharing your love with us. The Lord gives strength and grace through our most needful times, He is always with you and in just a short time you will all be together again. Much love and prayers to you all.*

*Laura Greenleaf*

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**Laura Greenleaf** - May 19, 2018 at 08:18 AM

JZ

*“ You blessed my family as well as many others, I am happy you are no longer in pain and I know that you will watch over all of us. We love you and your family. You are truly going to be missed for you personally touched my life in a way that many would never understand. From my family to yours we love you.*

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**jason zimmerman** - May 19, 2018 at 05:19 AM

JN

“ Shirlene and family, our hearts hurt for you. Knowing Pastor is where he has been headed for many years makes us know in our head that this is the right thing. But it does not take away the pain of the loss. That is where we are so fortunate to have such a loving God to lean on. We are praying for peace for you. It has been three years since we moved back to Des Moines and Pastor's words have come back to us again and again. Jack's favorite is "If what you are doing is not working for you, then STOP doing it!!" All of you are in our hearts and thoughts always. Love you.

Jack/Linda Northway - May 18, 2018 at 11:30 PM

 Cheryl  
Farr

“ Such a kind and gentle servant of God. We will miss him.

Cherryl Farr - May 18, 2018 at 10:22 PM

PJ

“ Amy so sorry for your loss - sending love ❤️ to you and entire family from Iowa ❤️❤️❤️

peggy jenkins - May 18, 2018 at 10:08 PM

TH

“ I remember Jerry being in my mom's ICU room with family when she was taken off life support. After she was pronounced dead, family left but I stayed behind and he stayed with me until I left the room. My parents new Jerry very well, and he did the services for both my parents. My condolences for the family.



Tina Hanlon - May 18, 2018 at 08:48 PM



“ So sorry to hear this my thoughts and prayers are with Shirlene and the girls as well as close extended family and friends!

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**Pam Edgar** - May 18, 2018 at 08:27 PM

FL

“ Jerry was a class ahead of me but I always remember he was about a nice of guy you could ever meet. I've known Shirlene most of my life and was so impressed to hear of their marriage. I've followed Jerry and the Church on social media, and I know the love of his congregation and know he will be deeply missed by so many. Although I can't make the service my heart is with Shirlene, Pam and the kids as I know it's very very hard to let go. But knowing Jerry's commitment to his father in Heaven, he was well received and celebrating seeing his mom and dad again. You sir will be missed. Your memory will be in the hearts of everyone who met you, knew you, and encountered your convictions.

*Fred Link*

*Truman Class Of 69*

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**Fred Link** - May 18, 2018 at 07:02 PM

JW

“ So many fond memories of Pastor Jerry. The ones that stand out the most were the times I would have to go to St.Louis for surgery and we would get to registration and he would be there waiting to pray with us. Such a great Pastor teacher and friend.

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**Jeff Wilmering** - May 18, 2018 at 06:53 PM

CG

“ *The absolute best Pastor that ever has been. He mentored my husband and I in the most gentle nonjudgmental way for over 10 years. He led by example and we could only hope to mirror a portion of his greatness to our own marriage and family. I’m so thankful for all our time with him. He loved us from the day he first met us, he comforted us in sorrow, he celebrated with us in victory (including the countless attendances to our kids’ t-ball, softball, basketball, and soccer games), he was always there and merely a phone call or text away. Our hearts break not having him in the flesh but we know he’s in the grandstands of Heaven still cheering us all on!! ❤️ I love you, Pastor!*

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**Christie Gresham** - May 18, 2018 at 06:33 PM

CG

*I will never forget a message Pastor has fit in to a sermon time and time again. Your life isn’t about the birth date or the death date. It’s all about the dash! That dash in the middle. How are you living it? How are you fulfilling the call of God on your life? Are you leaving a legacy behind you? This man has truly done that. He’s fulfilled the legacy of his dash to the fullest! I’ve never known another that has in the way he has. ❤️*

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**Christie Gresham** - May 18, 2018 at 06:36 PM

SM

*Thursday I was on my way to a local radio station for an interview about my book and youth ministry. On my way there, taking a staff member w/ me, he asked me in 43 yrs of Ministry, who was the nicest & kindest pastor I ever met. That could of been a loaded and long thought out question. But it wasn't. W/o skipping a beat I said, Pastor Jerry Piker. He said 'wow. You came up w/ that awfully quick. I did because I know and have known many many kind and amazing pastors and ministers. But Pastor Jerry was always my first pick. For all the yrs he blessed us at GO w/ food, supplies and anything else we needed. He was always there. Our hearts here at GO and w/ Bec & Are are so heavy. Especially for his lovely wife, his kids, and his wonderful family at The Door. He will be sorely missed but forever remembered as a mighty man of God, Pastor, and one of the most gracious friends any Ministry was blessed to ever have.*

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**steve munds** - May 18, 2018 at 07:00 PM

CG

“ So very sorry for the passing of a great husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend to so, so many! He hurts no more! Thank you, Jesus! Our prayers and love are with you all! I want to share a personal story about Pastor. When I got word of my family in a car crash on June 1st, 2016 that totaled the car and could of killed them all so easily if not for Jesse calling out to Jesus during the flips no doubt about that what so ever! I called Pastor and explained what I knew about the wreck (which wasn't much) and that I needed to go to the hospital in Osage Beach to be with Jesse and Colten and could he go to Columbia, University Hospital to be with my wife, Christie, (one very difficult decision) and Pastor didn't hesitate a bit to getting there and praying with her mom and dad in the waiting room. I'll always be so grateful for his loving, selfless, helping hands in that scenario and not to mention so many other times of helping, mentoring and ministering into my family's lives. That following week Pastor smoked us the best ribs we have ever had the pleasure of eating! Pastor will be greatly missed and forever embedded into our wonderful memories of our time spent with him and around him from church, ball games and canoe trips down South. Until we meet again, Pastor!❤️

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**Craig Gresham** - May 18, 2018 at 06:26 PM

CG

Yes indeed. He was the greatest of all time! ❤️

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**Christie Gresham** - May 18, 2018 at 06:34 PM



Brennan Ransdell

“ One of the few in my life I would genuinely call a GREAT man and one of the most sincere persons I've ever met. Jerry will truly be missed.

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**Brennan Ransdell** - May 18, 2018 at 06:23 PM