



Bernard Everett Holritz

October 25, 1921 - April 15, 2023

Bernard Everette Holritz was born in Carson, North Dakota on October 25, 1921. He was the fourth child of Edward and Jennie Holritz. He accepted the Lord as his personal Savior through radio ministry in 1940.

In 1942 following Pearl Harbor, Bernie enlisted in the Navy serving as a Petty Officer First Class and teaching radar to sailors.

He married Jeanette Miller in 1945 in Corpus Christi, Texas. Following University training for ministry, Bernie and his wife joined The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM) and served in Japan from 1950 to 1968. He was one of seven founders of the Pacific Broadcasting Association (PBA), a radio and television broadcasting agency (www.team.org) and helped found the Asagao Kyoukai (Morning Glory Church) in Tokyo. Between 1968 to 1991, he served first as the Executive Director of the North American office of PBA and then as Southeastern Representative for TEAM.

Bernie was a gifted musician singing solos from the age of 9 until he was 99.

Many recordings of his singing were made over his 90-year career. His final solo was sung in his home church in Atlanta in December of 2021 when he was 99 years old. He sang a song composed and accompanied by his daughter in law, Kathy (<https://photos.app.goo.gl/74FmB9WnkhoKR02L7>) He also established and directed several choirs during his time in Japan. His life story and testimony were recorded on Unshackled in 2003 and can be heard here https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zQDv5yIh8IrtXBJr8WgBmyBvn_qqLv-d/view He was also featured in the World Magazine in 2020 <https://wng.org/articl>

es/a-veteran-adjusts-to-bigger-plans-1620617787

Bernie retired in 1991 to care for his wife and moved to Knoxville to be near his son Paul in 1995, following them to Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 2002. In 2004 he moved to the Twin Cities to be near his daughter Karen. For the following 19 years he took part in several Bible studies and mentored several men until the end of his life. His burden for the Japanese people also continued following his return to the US in 1968. He returned to the country several times over the following 30 years to celebrate the anniversaries of the ministries he helped to start. In 2016 he invited retired missionaries to join him in praying for Japan on a bimonthly basis which he continued doing faithfully until his death. Bernie and Jeanette's story, "Memoirs of Miracles" is available in book form at Amazon.com.

Bernie was preceded in death by his wife in 2011; his older siblings, Adolf Holritz, Alta Tollefson and Clarence Holritz; and his son-in-law, Dave Drake.

He is survived by his daughter, Karen Drake of St. Paul, his son, Paul (Kathy) Holritz of Atlanta, and grandchildren, Brad (Megan) Drake, Heather Drake, Lani Chirindo, Munya Chimukangara (Nichole), Kundai Chimukangara (Brenda), Nathan Holritz, Jason (Theresa) Holritz, Josh (Kristen) Holritz, and Jeremy Holritz; great-grandchildren, Austen, Addison, Tadiwa, Brianna, Olanna, Tawana, Tinashe, Marc, Will, Gianna, Calvin, Chinua, Logan, Selah; and nieces and nephews, Carol Farmer, David Holritz, Karen Jean Caron, Mike Holritz, Robert Tollefson, and Bruce Tollefson.

A celebration of Life service was held at Calvary Church of Roseville on May 1. A recording of the service may be heard by clicking on this link: <https://youtu.be/0d2Tltd87qo>. Our apologies for the quality of the recording due to multiple technical difficulties the church was experiencing on the day of the funeral service.

FOX News provided wonderful coverage of his military interment including a gun salute and a "Missing Man" flyover done by WWII vintage aircraft. You

may enjoy the FOX News report by clicking on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdZmCbA764Q>

Memorials preferred to Pacific Broadcasting Association (PBA), c/o TEAM,
PO Box 1683, Carol Stream, IL 60132.

Tribute Wall

JJ

“ Thanking our good God for Bernie and Jeanette, lives well lived for the Kingdom of God. May God's peace and comfort be experienced by you all as you feel the deep loss.

Judy Jeter - May 05, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Rejoicing over the enormous joy Bernie is experiencing now as he stands in the presence of the one he loved so dearly and served so faithfully while here on earth. I know he will be missed so much by his loved ones, but know also that they will all be reunited once again one day as Bernie is now with his beloved Jeanette. Praying for the comfort of all those missing Bernie.

Doris A. Waters - May 03, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Grandpa, our 8 weeks' interaction four years ago never left me the same.. You helped me make a fundamental decision of releasing my son to the Lord's ministry when you shared your own story as told to you by your mom when she eventually released you to serve God .



We bless the Lord for your service in His vineyard. And yes I am delighted to know that when the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more, when His beloved ones gather over beyond the other shore... When the roll is called up yonder, we shall be there!

To my teacher and great support in my masters education and research, Dr Karen, may you find strength in the hope of the second coming of our Lord. It is well for us who believe in the Lord. May Grandpa rest in peace.

Betty.

Masengere Betty - May 01, 2023 at 12:00 AM

OM

“ I especially remember as a young man meeting with Bernie for Sunday morning prayer meetings. His willingness to share from his lifetime of experiences blessed and encouraged me greatly. I very much appreciated his openness and willingness to share. Owen (Killian Hill Baptist Church, Lilburn GA)

Owen McKeon - May 01, 2023 at 12:00 AM

GM

“ We are so thank the Lord that He brought Uncle Bernie and Aunt Jeannette into our lives. They are family and we have been Blessed to be a part of their lives. We rejoice in the Lord that we will see them again in heaven. We pray for Comfort and Peace . With much love.

Greg and Hortencia Mendoza - April 29, 2023 at 12:00 AM

K(

“ If you were blessed to be part of the Holritz family (Alta, Adolph (my father), Clarence, Bernie, you were surrounded with the warmth and uncompromising love they had for each other, God, music, prayer, late night stories, laughter (lots of laughter) heard by us children sitting unseen on the staircase long past bedtime. Many years later when I was just starting my recovery, Bernie and Jeanette sent me many letters of encouragement always reminding me that I was loved by God. Bernie sent me his Bible Study notes. Bernie, your laughing and compassionate eyes so like my dad's, your smile, your walking with my family in acceptance and humility, your enduring love of God that you spread by lovingly stopping and greeting everyone you met in the hallways of your home at Johanna Shores, your shocking demonstration of spreading peanut butter on a caramel roll (who does that?!), and your tender love for my grandchildren are all the memories I will forever keep close to my heart.



Karen Caron (neice) - April 27, 2023 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ *What a privilege it has been to have known my brother in Christ Bernie! He was full of the Holy Spirit and Christ's light burned brightly within him. He abundantly loved people and wanted them to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was a friend and mentor to me. He evangelized to unbelievers and disciplined many believers. He was very humble, wise and persevered to the end...well done good and faithful servant! We will dearly miss him. Our prayers go out to his entire family.*



Todd Hopps - April 26, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ *He has a great friend and a mentor, we daily pray for him. We pray God keeps him in his Bossom.*

Rev. Abraham Nakom - April 26, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ *Mr. Bernie fought a good fight, ran his race and finished well. The evidence of this is all over the entire family he has left behind. I thank the Lord for using him immensely to impact very many other peoples' lives. May the good Lord rest his soul in eternal peace, and comfort the family he has left behind. AMEN.*



Mr. Joseph Olimporera - April 25, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KV

“ My deepest sympathy for the loss of our Daddy, Grand pa, and friend who has gone to be with lord. My sincerest condolence to the entire family of Dr Karen may the almighty God who gives and takes away grant you peace, support, comfort,courage and strength at this difficult time of sorrow MHSRIP. .

Kagasa Veronica - April 25, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ My family and I will never forget brother Bernie's faithful support and assistance to us introducing us to numerous churches and friends in the Southeast of the USA at the beginning of our journey with TEAM and ministry life. The Lord has used brother Bernie's ministry and connections in order to establish a solid and healthy prayer and financial support ministry that lasted for the entire years of our missionary service overseas. It's been an honor knowing brother Bernie and may the Lord be glorified as he is transitioned from his earthly tent to heavenly dwelling with Jesus.



Salem and Farida Barghout - April 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ RIP beloved father. May God comfort your family 🙏. One day we shall meet in heaven and praise God together. We bless the name of the LORD for the work you have done while on earth and we pray that God uses your family to continue the ministry. Rest in eternal peace father of Dr Karen.
Prayers with you Dr Karen and family, God is with you. Let Dad sleep in peace.



Kanyesigye Dianah - April 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

EE

“ Blessed are they who sleep in the Lord

Elizabeth Namukombe Ekong - April 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AE

“ Papa, you will be remembered by many. May Papa's soul rest in peace.
May God comfort you Dr.Karen and the family members.



Amongin Esther - April 24, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ We continue to pray for Dr.Karen and family for the loss of their dad, we pray that God continue to comfort you and your family in this trying moment. Thank you Dr Karen for the care you offered to your dad, may God bless you. May the soul of your dad continue to rest in eternal peace



Simon Habimana - April 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AE

“ We praise God for gift of life. Dr Karen Drake we celebrate with you Papa's life well lived. We glorify God for such a gift. I pray that God will fill the vacuum in your house. God gives and God takes those he choose may his name of the lord be praised



Akugizibwe Eva - April 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

IN

“ We thank God for the life given to our dear Dad. We are grateful that he has served the Lord with all his heart and strength. He has had a good fight. Am pretty sure that he is heaven with our lord Jesus Christ. May His Soul Rest in Peace.
Irene



Irene Nakamatte - April 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ *My brother Bruce and I have many fond memories of family gatherings with Bernie and Jeanette at Winnipeg, meeting with his sister Alta and husband Walt, Jamestown, meeting with brother Adolf and wife Clara and children Robert and Karen and one trip with brother Clarence wife Edna and children Carol and David.*



At one visit to Winnipeg during his furlough year, Bernie was asked to address the congregation at Our Saviours Lutheran Church in Winnipeg where he gave a VERY spirited message - really woke up the sleepy Lutheran's!

Bernie also gave my Mom and Dad a number of small mementos from Japan, some of which we have to this day

One last thought and confirmation of his real gift as a singer we remember Bernie serenading us with his beautiful tenor voice in person and also on a CD he gave to us.

Blessings on you Karen and Paul and your very large extended families. You will certainly miss this wonderful man.

Robert Tollefson - April 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dr Karen, I pray that God may continue to comfort you and your family for loss of your dad. I also thank you for the care you offered to your dad. May God reward you accordingly. May the soul of your dad continue to rest in eternal peace*



S - April 23, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ I recognize some extra "adopted" grandchildren and great grand children there. :) We also have some. :)

Dick and Mary Ann McCloy - April 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AO

“ Bernie was a faithful prayer warrior who was an encouraging example to us who joined the "Japan Prayer time" two Tuesdays a month. He will be missed as we gather to pray. ---Alma Oline

Alma Oline - April 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ I was a fellow TEAM missionary in Japan but missed Bernie by one year as he left Japan in 1968 and we arrived in 1969. But it was a great privilege to meet him on our twice a month ZOOM prayer meetings for Japan. It was Bernie's burden and inspiration that started that prayer meeting about three years ago. I loved his opening and closing prayers.

Bob Shade - April 22, 2023 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ Praise God for Bernie's life of service to God, his wife, his family, and his country.

Anita Lewis - April 21, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ To Karen and the rest of the family. Our deepest condolences on the loss of a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and witness to many. I never got to meet him but heard a lot over the years. We pray for God's peace for you all as you celebrate the amazing life of Bernie.

JoEllyn and Doug Fountain - April 21, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ *I know you will miss him. He was a blessing to you and the world.*

Ketty Holt - April 21, 2023 at 12:00 AM

GV

“ *Bernie remains my Brother in Christ!!*



George Vagher - April 21, 2023 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *Giving thanks for the life of this great man.*

Dave Muhovich - April 21, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SI

“ To Bernie's family & loves ones,

Your papa, grand papa was such a human spot of sunshine. His faith in Jesus Christ was a shining light to many countries, and the people he met and how he let his faith be shine through with grace and unconditional care.

What an honor to attend Bernie's Bible study along with my incredible mama. His offer to pray for so many and teach us so diligently yet in such a humble way, represented Christ in a beautiful way.

I honor and celebrate Bernie's life and will miss him and his wise words though I am thrilled that he is eternally home with his sweet bride and our Heavenly Father.

I can only imagine how many will joyously welcome him in heaven due to his life of serving so courageously.

*Gratefully,
Susan Ivancie*

Susan Ivancie - April 21, 2023 at 12:00 AM