



Dr. Robert John Kingsbury

September 15, 1934 - October 11, 2021

Robert John Kingsbury (Bob) was born September 15, 1934, in Saginaw, Michigan. He was the son of Arlie and Nellie Kingsbury and the older brother of three sisters whom he loved dearly: Mary Ann, Marlene, and Vesta. Their affectionate nickname for him was "Precious." He attended Fresher Elementary and Arthur Hill High School.

During high school, he enjoyed playing the saxophone in a jazz band, as well as being the drum major for the marching band. At 17 he had a life-altering encounter at Revival Meetings where he received Jesus Christ as his personal savior. His relationship with Christ set the course for his life. He was often heard saying "The Lord has every fiber of my being."

After graduation from high school in 1952, he went to Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. He majored in Chemistry and Biology. He participated in various activities: business manager for the yearbook, singing in Glee Club, student body Vice President, and playing basketball. He might add that he enjoyed "chasing Carolyn." He met Carolyn Reeder at Asbury during his junior year and knew "she was the one for him." They both had a passion to serve the Lord in overseas missions. They were married four days after he graduated from Asbury College in June 1956.

Bob went on to the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. During this time, Bob and Carolyn started their family with the birth of their eldest daughter Mary Beth. After graduation, he went to Gorgas Hospital in Panama, Canal Zone for his internship and continued there for

three years as a resident in surgery. Bob and Carolyn welcomed their daughters Rebecca Lynn and Bonny Kay during these years. While there, he went on mission trips to various tribes, going down the Branco River in a dugout canoe to hold clinics.

After finishing his training in Panama, Bob, with his family of five, went to serve as a medical missionary at Ganta United Methodist Mission in Liberia, Africa. Their family continued to grow during their years in Liberia with the birth of their sons Robert Denton (Bob) and John William (Bill). In addition to bringing physical healing to the people of Liberia, Bob also shared his ultimate hope in Christ. When he was not working at Ganta Mission Hospital, he would treat patients at the Ganta Leprosy Colony and do some teaching at the mission nursing school. In the midst of their terms as missionaries in Liberia, Bob and Carolyn came back to the U.S. for a couple of years. He passed his boards in general surgery and was the chief resident at Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, as well as an Adjunct Professor at Washington University Medical School for a year.

In 1973 they moved back to the U.S., although the people of Liberia always held a special place in their lives and hearts. Bob joined a well-known surgical practice, Benrus, in St. Charles, Missouri. He was a well-respected doctor within the community-not only for his expertise but also his compassionate bedside manner. He was one of the first doctors in the area to do laparoscopic surgery. Bob was also very active in Christian Medical & Dental Association (CMDA). He served as the National President of CMDA, as well as a board member of the International CMDA, which created many opportunities to serve in various countries. It was common for Bob and Carolyn to have a house full of medical students at their home. It brought him joy to encourage these students to walk in all that God had for their lives. Bob also served on the board of Asbury College and was always grateful for the significant impact Asbury played in his life. One of those significant moments that guided his life was in a chapel with E. Stanley Jones' sermon "Jesus is Lord."

In 1999 he retired from surgery and pursued further training in Palliative Care.

He was one of the charter founders in establishing Hospice in the United States and later served as Director of Hospice for the Sisters of St. Mary's in St. Louis. Also, in his "retirement" he started Volunteers in Medicine, a clinic for people who couldn't afford health care and retired physicians donated their time to patients.

Some of his hobbies were tennis, model airplanes, fishing and always planning his next adventure.

His greatest legacy was his family. Bob dearly loved his wife, Carolyn, and found great joy and pride watching their family multiply. He was blessed with five children and their spouses: Mary Beth and Chuck Schwagel, Rebecca and Steve Gatton, Bonny and Ron Thiesen, Bob and Michelle Kingsbury, Bill and Beth Kingsbury. His 16 grandchildren and their spouses are Hudson Gatton, Hannah and Kyle Meinke, Hunter Gatton, Jessica Thiesen, Nicole Thiesen, Joshua Thiesen, Charissa Thiesen, Noah and Mariah Kingsbury, Zane and Alexandra Kingsbury, Aidan Kingsbury, Max Kingsbury, Paul Kingsbury, Sarah Kingsbury, Abigail Kingsbury, William Ezekiel Kingsbury, Esther Kingsbury and his one great-grandson, Colson Kingsbury. Bob wore his "Grandpas Fishing Buddies" sweatshirt proudly and his face always lit up when he was with his family. He encouraged each one through his example and his prayers to love and follow Christ.

In his last years, he would say "The best is yet to come." On October 11, 2021, he entered into his eternal home.

Memorial Gifts can be sent to:

Christian Medical & Dental Associations

PO Box 7500

Bristol, TN 37621

Please designate your memorial gift to the:

Bob Kingsbury Memorial Fund

Link to memorial service live stream: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojYdtA3uhYI>

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Robert John Kingsbury



December 14, 2023 at 06:22 PM

MF

“ MaryBeth,
My condolences to you and your family.

MaryAnn Farrar

MaryAnn Farrar - November 24, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ I was so honored to know and work with Bob at St.Joseph HC in St.Charles. I was a chaplain there for 30 years and worked with Dr.Kingsbury in hospice and floor duty. He was not only an obvious Christian man but a wonderful person with a warming personality. How often we lifted each other up with a dying patient. I will always remember him with much love and fondness. Carolyn I offer you and all your family my sincere sympathy. Lets remember he now shares in the "best to come."



Marilyn Antrobus - October 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ I had the pleasure of working with Dr Kingsbury in the operating room at Barnes- Jewish St Peter's hospital. He was a great physician and a true gentleman to work with. My deepest sympathy to the family.

Mindy Manley - October 18, 2021 at 12:00 AM

PE

“ I was a little child on Camphor Mission, Grand Bassa County, Liberia, where the Kingsburys would visit, the First Saturday of each month, to participate in the "Well Baby Clinic," sponsored by the Methodist Church Mission. My parents: Joseph Cephas and Annie Early, were also missionaries. They worked with Dr. and Mrs. Kingsbury, and their efforts healed lots of mothers and their children on that mission. May God guide his path.

Pianapue Early - October 18, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ He always was a very kind and very driven personable Doctor to take the ultimate limit of care for his patient. I worked with Dr Kingsbury for many years at St Joesph's Health Center in St Charles, Mo in surgery. Prayers and comfort for his family.

Michelle Mills-Weniger - October 18, 2021 at 12:00 AM

PO

“ Wonderful surgeon and a pleasure to work for

Pamela Muehling Oswald - October 18, 2021 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Your parents have given you such a special legacy. Bob had such a heart for the Lord, as does Carolyn. That legacy shines bright in the lives of all their children. I'm sure that the Lord greeted Bob with "Well done, good and faithful servant!"
I'm confident that my Bob was there also, ready to welcome Dr Bob, along with countless others whose lives he impacted

Pam Havens - October 16, 2021 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ Sending my love to you all. Thank you for sharing the celebration of Bob's life. I loved seeing his family, hearing their stories and songs, and sharing their love and appreciation for a wonderful man. My prayers are with you all. ❤️

Tracy Brown Toskey - October 16, 2021 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ What an amazing life with such a beautiful family. Some people will end their journey with empty hands; he has ended it with hands full.

Greg Boughton - October 16, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ Our deepest sympathies to you, Kingsbury family. I hope you'll always enjoy many wonderful memories of the great man he was to many of us. He is very much in our thoughts now, and you are in our prayers!

Dave Riazzi - October 16, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ I have happy memories of coming to visit and playing with uncle Bob as a kid. From my kid point of view he was really fun to be around. He was always jolly in my memory. Sorry I couldn't be there. He will be missed.

Josh Evans - October 16, 2021 at 12:00 AM

TD

“ Uncle Bob was the perfect example of a good and faithful servant...well done!
My prayers and heart goes out to each and every member of the Kingsbury family.
Love to all, Tami Dean

Tami Dean - October 16, 2021 at 12:00 AM

ED

“ Prayers to the family



Eddie and Pam Dean - October 16, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ Bob was a wonderful gift to our family. It was always such an honor to speak with him and to learn from his wisdom. His bedside manner was unsurpassed. The best has finally come for him!



Karen Woodward - October 15, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Remembering our times at Avon Park. I thank God that our paths crossed and I send my prayers to Carolyn.

Mrs Les (Betty) Woodson - October 15, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RI

“ That you for putting me back together and standing up for me all those years ago.

Ronald Russell II - October 15, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Dear Bonnie and family. My sincere condolences at the loss of such a wonderful person. Reading his obituary I can imagine you have been blessed with such a father. It's a comfort he is home with the Lord, but still you will miss him.
Greetings and God bless you.
I was blessed by you as my outreach leader!!!!!!



J.J. Van der Have - October 15, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ To the Kingsbury family, specially to my dear friend Bonny:
I am very sorry to learn about your loss. I perfectly remember Dr. Robert and his loving wife Carolyn. I send you all my sincere respects and love from very far away, but feeling close through The Lord's love.
It was wonderful to learn about Dr. Robert's amazing life. God bless you all.
A big-big hug with all my love to my dear friend Bonny.



Karina Avendaño - October 15, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Heaven is richer and we are poorer. Long live his memory*

Jerry and Betty Monzo - October 15, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *We have wonderful memories of Uncle Bobby and the family. He was a very gracious host when we were traveling through on our way to MI. I'm sending ya'll my prayers and hugs. He will be missed. Cheryl*



Mark & Cheryl Dean - October 15, 2021 at 12:00 AM

WB

“ *It was a blessing to have known and worked with Bob in the healing ministry for the Liberia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. His work and kindness will be remembered by the grateful people in Ganta, Nimba County, Liberia. Rest in peace my dear friend and enjoy the place which He has prepared for you!*



Wilfred Boayue - October 15, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *A wonderful friend and neighbor.
Sincere condolences to Carolyn and all the Kingsburys*

Barbara Gossow - October 14, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ My heart is sad for you, but then happy also knowing your dad is in heaven. He was such a kind man. I remember the first time I met he and your mother and knew what a blessing they were to you, and others. My condolences to the whole Kingsbury family. May God wrap his loving arms around you. Please give your mother a hug from me also.

Marsha Kueckelhan Bittner - October 14, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ My Uncle Bob, is one of my heroes. He came back to speak in chapel at his alma mater, Asbury College, years ago and I remember him talking about how he came to marry my Aunt Carolyn (Reeder). "Her love for Christ matched my love for Christ." That kind of love reverberates. It is beautiful and growing. It cannot be contained. I feel so grateful and blessed to have known and loved him.

Certainly, Love is Eternal, and the love that he shared with me and so many others is always with us. Love, love, love to my dear Kingsbury's!

~Jeannie (Finch) Howell, daughter of MaryAnn (Kingsbury) Finch

Jean Howell - October 14, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ A life well-lived, Bobby K! I'm glad I got to share a bit of it with you and your sweet Carolyn. You will be missed but never forgotten (especially that old Pontiac we used to sneak off campus with our girls!) I know you will be forever at peace until you and your love can join hands again.

Bob Deckert - October 14, 2021 at 12:00 AM