



## Rev. Richard Arvid Holmquist

September 28, 1929 - December 1, 2010

Age 81, passed from this life into the presence of His Lord, December 1, 2010, at the Suite Living of Maplewood, MN following a lengthy illness. He was born September 28, 1929, to Ernest & Ruth Holmquist (Weekley), on the family farm at Menahga, Minnesota. Following the death of his father, his mother remarried and the family moved to Park Rapids, MN, where he graduated from Park Rapids High School in 1948. After leaving home, he attended North Central Bible Institute (now North Central University) in Minneapolis, graduating in 1951. While studying at NCBI, he met and married Mary Virginia (Ginger) Anderson, in 1950, and from that union seven children were born. Together they began a life of ministry in Minnesota and Michigan. He was ordained by the General Council of the Assemblies of God and pioneered two churches; Shakopee Assemblies of God Church, and the Grand Rapids Assemblies of God Church, both in Minnesota. Additionally, he pastored the Assembly of God in Petoskey, Michigan and the Jacobson Community Church in Jacobson, Minnesota. He also conducted revival and evangelistic meetings in a variety of churches. As he neared retirement, he served as interim pastor at several Assemblies of God churches within the Minnesota District. After the death of his first wife, Ginger, he married Elizabeth (Betty) Ronchak, in 1992, and together they continued his ministry until his health began to fail. Most of his life, he preferred to remain bi-vocational; an astute pastor and highly skilled cabinet-maker. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was known for his contagious sense of humor. He

was preceded in death by his first wife, Ginger; parents, Ernest & Ruth Holmquist (Weekley); step-father, Vern Weekley; brothers, Philip (infant) and John; sisters, Ruth (infant) and Josephine Kuns; stepbrothers: Patrick Weekley, David Weekley, & Lesley Weekley; nephews: Boyd Weekley, Chad Weekley, Greg Weekley; step-granddaughter, Tiffany Johnson; sister-in-law, Irene Holmquist. He is survived by his wife Betty (Ronchak) Holmquist, Little Canada, MN; son, Rev. Paul (Marilyn) Holmquist, Stillwater, OK; daughters: Marijo (Ray) Sarff, Lino Lakes, MN; Shari (Dave) Bergstrom, Woodbury, MN; Cindy (Greg) Doyle, Oakdale, MN; Twila (Mike) Buesing, Oakdale, MN; Kris (David) Anderson, Maplewood, MN; Nancy (Tim) Merrins, Spring Lake Park, MN; stepsons: Andy (Lori) Ronchak, Eagan, MN; Rick (Deena) Ronchak, Lakeville, MN; Tony (Sheri) Ronchak, Rosemount, MN; stepdaughters: Kris (David) Kevorkian, Glendale, CA; Diane (Michael) Jacobson, Hibbing, MN; Terry Rasti, San Clemente, CA; Laura (Ray) Nikkel, Grand Rapids, MN; Beth (Paul) Napoli, Wyoming, MN; 34 grandchildren, 15 great-grand children; brothers: Sibert (Blanche) Holmquist, Eden Prairie, MN; Walter (Alice) Holmquist, St. Louis Park, MN; Ivan (Jeannie) Holmquist, Anoka, MN; Melvin (Patricia) Holmquist, Sun City, AZ; Ben (Cindy) Weekley, Detroit Lakes, MN; stepbrothers: Dean Weekley, George Weekley, Boyd Weekley; stepsisters: Donna (Earl) Holmes, Park Rapids, MN; Katie (Melvin) Hockstatter, Park Rapids, MN; Sister-in-law: Sharon (Holmquist) Lasher, TX; brother-in-law: Richard Kunz, Walker, MN; and many nieces and nephews. Visitation will be held from 2-5PM on Sunday, December 5 at HOLCOMB-HENRY-BOOM-PURCELL FUNERAL HOME, 515 Highway 96 West at Mackubin, Shoreview. Funeral services are being held at Summit Church (Assemblies of God), 845 Summit Avenue at Victoria, St. Paul, MN at 11AM (visitation begins at 10AM) on Monday, December 6 with the Reverend Paul Holmquist and Reverend William Wampler co-officiating. Burial will be at Forest Lawn Cemetery in St. Paul. Memorials preferred to the family.

# Tribute Wall

LE

“ After graduating from High School, Richard came down to the Twin Cities area, attended North Central Bible College, worked for my father in his well drilling business, and for a short time lived at my home in Hopkins, Minnesota when I was about nine years old.

Later he founded a church in Shakopee, Minnesota which my folks, my brothers, my sisters, and I attended. He also worked part time for my father's well drilling business and since at that time I was older we often worked together on the wells allowing me to become well acquainted with him. I considered Richard to be not only my friend but also the older brother which I never had.

I knew Richard to be a man of integrity beyond question. The Bible instructs us to love our neighbor but Richard seem to carry this one step further and developed Godlike qualities which allowed him to love others thru his own personal choice.

When we think of time in millions of years, the time we spend on this earth is extremely short. For this reason I think of separation from Richard as both temporary and very short.

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**LeRoy Clyde Esler** - December 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ Most of my childhood memories are filled with Richard and his Family, His jokes, his wisdom, his encouragement, his sermons, his laughter, his songs, and his love of God, Mostly we considered him and his, members of our family whom we dearly love

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**Marvin Esler** - December 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ To all the Holmquist family and relatives,

*My brother, sister, and I were truly blessed when the Lord sent Rev Holmquist to our farm in northern Minnesota. We were over 20 miles from the church and during those cold and wintry months he would come and get us for church services. I could feel the Lord's hand in his caring attention he gave me and my siblings which lead us all to accept the Lord as our personal savior truly blessing us for the rest of our lives. I am thankful for the Lord guiding him to us and the blessings we all have received from his efforts. He will always be remembered and loved by us all.*

*Sincerely in the Lord,  
Len Wohlsdorf*

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**Leonard Wohlsdorf** - December 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM