



Rev. Dr. A. Joseph Essington

March 27, 2020

(Rev. Dr.) A. Joseph Essington, 79, known to many as “Brother Joe” or “Pastor Joe” was born in Swedesboro on February 7, 1941 and passed away on March 27, 2020. He graduated from Penns Grove High School in 1959, from Shelton College in 1965 and from Grace Theological Seminary in Winona Lake, IN in 1979. In addition, he has taken graduate work at Queens College in Flushing, New York City, and is a graduate of the American Correctional Chaplaincy Training School, when it was headquartered at Taylor University in Fort Wayne, IN. In September 2003, a Doctor of Letters Degree was conferred on him by Dayspring University in Walnut Creek, CA.

He is a member of the Legion of Honor of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains in Valley Forge, PA. He was licensed to preach in 1959 and ordained in 1965. In addition to being an ordained pastor, he was a New Jersey certified teacher.

Dr. Essington served as Chaplain of the McAuley Water Street Mission in New York City after graduating from college. He then served as a teacher and as an administrator in Christian Schools for twenty years. He has served in the chaplaincy and facility school at Bayside State prison in Leesburg, NJ. For twelve years prior to his retirement, he was Senior Chaplain and Director of Inmate Services of the Salem County Correctional Facility (NJ), where he was in charge of Chaplaincy, the facility school, the facility law and recreational library and the facility volunteers.

In more recent years, Dr. Essington has also served as Interim Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Penns Grove-Carney's Point, NJ., as interim Pastor of the Greenwich Baptist Church, Greenwich, NJ and as Interim Pastor of the Chili Crossroads Bible Church, Fresno, OH. His hobbies also include photography and church history. Over the years he has done some church related historical research and writing. In the past, as well, his "tentmaking" was as an electrician and in serving as the business manager for electrical contractors.

He is survived by his wife Barbara; children, Albert, Ruth, Dan and his wife Heidi and Parker and his wife Lauren; grandchildren, Ashley, Danny, Makayla and Abigail. In addition to his parents, two siblings, Jack and James Essington predeceased him.

At this time services are private and burial will take place at St. George's Cemetery in Pennsville. www.adamsfuneralhome.org

Cemetery Details

St. George's Church Cemetery

Pennsville, NJ

Tribute Wall

JN

“ I met Joe some 21 years ago when he invited our ministry team to take over the third Sunday night church service at the Salem Co Correctional Facility . He mentored taught us how to minister to those in jail . Because of this many souls came to Jesus over the years . Because of Barbara's Joe's love or Jesus we've learned by there example to love others . Our condolences go out to the Essington family with the void Joe's homegoing presents . He's home !

The ministry team from Sharptown United Methodist Church

james newkirk - January 23, 2021 at 08:14 PM

AM

“ I know this is almost 4 months afte the fact but I just found out about Joe's homecall. Please accept my sincere condolences. I would prefer to speak to you, Barbara, personally, but am dependent on the internet.

Warmest Christian regards

A J Higgins MD

A J Higgins MD - July 28, 2020 at 05:59 PM

TL

“ We offer our sincere condolences to the entire Essington Family. ' Joe' was a wonderful person who served the Lord humbly, and cared a great deal for his family, and others. An unforgettable memory we will always treasure was Joe performing our marriage ceremony nearly 25 years ago. Dear friend, we will miss you. Tim & Sherrol Lowe

Tim & Sherrol Lowe - April 21, 2020 at 06:32 PM

DR

“ My wife and I send our heart felt sympathy to the Essington family. Br. Essington, was a very gracious man, who loved the Lord, and was thrilled at every opportunity to preach and teach the Word of God. The years that he and Barbara were with us at Victory Christian School, were years of great blessing. He is fondly remembered, and his dear wife is is being upheld in prayer. Dr. & Mrs. George Riddell

Dr. & Mrs George Riddell - April 20, 2020 at 05:55 PM

MH

“ Dear Rev. Essington family. I knew Rev. Essington and know what a kind and gentleman and gentle man he was. Please accept my sympathy. Marie Haaf, Woodstown, N.J.

Marie & Charles HaafJr - April 09, 2020 at 01:14 PM

CZ

“ I am so very sorry to hear of Rev. Essington's passing. He spent many Sundays preaching at Taylor Memorial Baptist Church before it's closing. He is finally home!

Carol Zitkevitz - April 09, 2020 at 07:59 AM

 Louis Hecker

“ On a very warm July day almost 25 years ago Rev. Essington officiated the marriage between Kim and I. Before he would agree to marry us we had to assure Rev. Essington that we were both ready for and serious about marriage. I have always been grateful to Rev. Essington for his counsel. May he rest in peace and may God show His grace to the family. The Heckers, Lou, Kim & Boys

Louis Hecker - April 01, 2020 at 09:38 AM

DF

“ A memorial gift is being made in Joe's name to the New York City Rescue Mission by Betsy Blessing Fornoff and Donald Fornoff, brother in law of Joe. The McAuley Water Street Mission was the predecessor for this vital Christian social service mission at which he served as chaplain upon graduation from college, a service in Christ he apparently never stopped striving towards to the end of his days.

Don Fornoff - April 01, 2020 at 12:30 AM

 Marilou Roberts

“ He was a wonderful teacher at Burlington County Christian School the 5 years I was there and I have fond memories of him being a wonderful biology teacher. I learned a lot from him and I even got into Nursing School because of his teachings in high school. I will never forget his kind personality and his love for his family. He will be surely missed and I know he is with the Lord and in no more pain.



Marilou Roberts - March 31, 2020 at 09:24 PM

HZ

“ Barbara's, I am so sorry. Joe has meant so much to me and my family. He has helped us so many times. Joe and I had known each other since he started high school. He also helped First Baptist Church through some difficult times.

Helen Zaluske - March 31, 2020 at 02:44 PM

RH

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Barbara and the Essington family. During the time my father taught at Shelton College in Ringwood, New Jersey, "Joe" was a big part of our lives. I was quite young when we lived on campus, but I still have fond memories of him being in our home and spending time with our family. I know he was a great source of encouragement to my father when my mother became sick with cancer. He was truly a friend and a wonderful man of God. We were blessed to have had him in our lives. I can see the smiles on the faces of he and my father as they have reunited in heaven. Well done good and faithful servant! Rondi Bergstad Hovdestad

Rondi Bergstad Hovdestad - March 31, 2020 at 10:02 AM

DC

“ ALways the peace maker ..
I will truly miss our chats , laughs , and your support when I'm needing it most .
My condolences and love to Barbara and family .
Fair winds
And
Following seas



Dee Curriden - March 30, 2020 at 08:14 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. A. Joseph Essington.



March 30, 2020 at 05:41 PM

BF

“ *Babysitting AJ at Mt Joy was my first job. All Mr. Essington’s students will remember him forever. He touched many lives as a teacher, pastor, friend, and prison chaplain. Thank you for your faithfulness to God. Enter into the joy of your Lord!* ”

Beth Harvey Ferguson - March 30, 2020 at 05:40 PM

DF

“ *Betsy and I grieve with you all, from far too far away, but hopefully close in heart and in spirit. We look forward to joining you at the memorial service. May the Lord bless and keep you. Rest in peace, Joe.* ”

Donald and Betsy Fornoff - March 30, 2020 at 04:45 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Rev. Dr. A. Joseph Essington.* ”



March 30, 2020 at 03:40 PM

TG

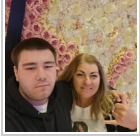
“ *Barbara: i am so sorry to here of Joe”s passing. I know he is rejoicing with his Lord in heaven. I have special memories of both you and Joe as you served as teachers at HCS. My prayer is that you and your family will know the peace that only our Savior can give at this difficult time.* ”
Tom Gilbert

Tom Gilbert - March 30, 2020 at 10:33 AM

BA

“ I remember Joe and his wife being such amazing volunteers for the Salem County CERT Program. Rest in peace friend.

BJ Ayars - March 30, 2020 at 12:15 AM



“ Sharon Peters lit a candle in memory of Rev. Dr. A. Joseph Essington



Sharon Peters - March 29, 2020 at 07:55 PM

PC

PRAYERS FOR PEACE. We have FOND MEMORIES of Joe and Barbara esp. of our wedding Nov. 3 1973 and the fellowship we had before that day Love Ray & Pia

Pia Cresswell - March 30, 2020 at 06:21 PM

RJ

Barbara, AJ, Ruth, Dan, Parker, spouses, and grandchildren, Rachel and I join with you in saying how much we will miss Joe's kind words, good advice, and sincere love for everyone he interacted with. He indeed radiated Our Lord in all he said and did! He has been a good friend and mentor for many years. However, we can all rejoice in knowing that one day we will all be together again with him in Heaven. May God continue to bless all of you as you carry out Joe's life work in serving Jesus!

Robert L. Adams, Jr. - March 31, 2020 at 09:57 AM