

On the Wings of Prayer

“Because thou hast been my help, therefore in
the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice:”
Psalm 63:7

May/June 2020

Leon George Wambsganss

Feb 25, 1944 - Mar 30, 2020

Leon George Wambsganss was born on February 25, 1944 in Eureka, Kansas to George and Eleanor Mae Wambsganss. He was born on a farm and in his youth aspired to be a farmer. His father was called into the ministry and their family dynamically changed, but Leon still had his mind set on farming.

In the summer of 1960, the youth group at his church went to a rally in Wichita, Kansas and they were shown a film about the life of William Carey. The story made a difference in his life, and he felt the call of God to be a missionary. That same summer he met and proposed to Mary Rebecca (Becky) Schmidt. The following year Leon enrolled at the Bible Baptist Seminary in Arlington, Texas. On July 7, 1962, he and Becky were married in Grand Prairie, Texas. Upon graduation from Seminary in 1966, Leon and Becky moved to Spain as missionaries with the World Baptist Fellowship to begin their missionary work. They lived and worked in Barcelona, Tenerife, Burgos and ultimately in Madrid. Leon helped in the founding of a church there, built a youth camp, and produced the first Christian radio programs to be aired on Radio España at the end of the Franco era. With the help of Rupert Neve from England and a Cuban refugee and broadcaster named Armando Martinez, hundreds of radio programs were produced. While serving in Spain, Leon also had the historic opportunity to assist with the forming of the religious freedom amendment in the new Spanish Constitution.

In 1977, he and the family returned to Texas where he formed Accent International Radio (AIR) in order to produce and distribute Spanish-language, Christian radio programs - which led to traveling extensively throughout Latin America. He subsequently became heavily involved with the Cambridge Radio Course - spending his summers in Newmarket, England. Leon trained Christian workers from developing countries in the effective use of radio outreach. Through AIR's expanded efforts in coordination with other like-minded outreach organizations; he was able to encourage and support students and missionaries from many diverse cultures and in many countries previously closed to the Gospel message. During this time, Leon joined with the Independent Baptist Fellowship International until he retired from active missionary service.

In retirement, Leon served as a Municipal Judge and also helped create Whispering Creek Ranch - a wedding venue outside of Granbury, Texas. He enjoyed working at the ranch and performing weddings. Leon also was proud to serve as a Trustee of the Bear Creek Cemetery Association. In 2013, Leon suffered a stroke from which he never recovered and was substantially incapacitated until he passed away in Grapevine, Texas on March 30, 2020.

His hobby was hard work—he was funny, caring, outgoing and ready to help anyone in need. He loved the Lord, his family and a host of friends. He is survived by: his wife Becky of 57 years; their three sons - Stephen A. Wambsganss of Friday Harbor, WA, Andrew L. Wambsganss (wife Leigh) of Southlake, TX, and Phillip B. Wambsganss (wife Tiffani) of Mansfield, TX; his grandchildren - Caitlin Bowman, Riley Wambsganss, Walker Wambsganss, Joshua Wambsganss, Emma Grace Wambsganss and Jacob Wambsganss; his brother - William Richard Wambsganss of Leander, TX; and a large extended family of nieces, nephews and many friends.

***Prayer Request:** Several of our missionaries report their countries are in quarantine. Please pray for our missionaries as they adapt to the restrictions, as well as, for strength, wisdom, good health, and protection.

***Daniel and Michelle Jones (Rio Grande Valley & Mexico)** report 24 were attending the discipleship class in March. In February, there was a record attendance of 38 going out on soul-winning. In December through February, there was an average attendance of 101. Please be in prayer for Michelle as she recovers from a fall.

***True and Diana Hawkins (Brazil)** had plane tickets to return to Brazil, but due to the Coronavirus had to postpone the trip until flights resume. The Hawkins' request prayer for the people of Brazil, most live in poverty conditions.

***Mark and Tricia Haynes (Navajo Nation)** report it is encouraging to watch the spiritual growth of those won to Christ in the church. The beginning of 2020 was fruitful with church members being a faithful witness. Many have attended the church services after being invited by church members.

***Larry and Regina McKinney (N. A. Indians)** report three coming to Christ in March. The Lord is at work on the reservations. The McKinney's have servant's hearts and are a blessing to the Indians on the reservations!

***John and Neila Yelle (Brazil)** report in February they had a youth retreat and an outdoor baptismal service. It was a refreshing time of fellowship and Bible study. Please be in prayer for Leila Yelle, the Yelle's middle daughter, will be having scoliosis corrective surgery in June. Pray that the surgery goes well with optimal results.

***Melissa Houston (Rio Grande Valley)** reports that she taught the course Directing Music the beginning of this year at the Bible institute. Please be in prayer as Melissa teaches the children the Bible via Facebook Live. She has classes in Spanish and English.

***Darrain and Mari Coker (Mexico)** continue to serve in central Mexico. They faithfully minister to the church congregation, as well as, an outreach ministry in another community. Please pray for wisdom as the Coker's are looking at property to build a church building.

***Bill and Sharon Smith (Brazil)** please be in prayer for the Smith's. They have had some health problems. Bro. Bill had a bout with a kidney stone and Sharon had treatment for skin cancer (none other found and treatment was successful).

“Just keep on praying, and the light will break through!”

- Dr. Raymond Barber