

Pioneer CC Missionary Passes Away

Pastor George Markey served in the U.S., Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan

A long-time missionary pioneer to Central Asia, Pastor George Markey passed away in February—nearly a month after exhorting believers and fellow missionaries at the CC Missions Conference in Murrieta, CA.

Returning to Central Asia after the U.S. conference, George, 65, was taken severely ill in late January with an unusual serious illness, pancreatic necrosis. After being medically evacuated to the U.S. on February 7 for emergency treatment, he was also diagnosed with multiple infections. After a total of three weeks in intensive care, he seemed to be gaining strength but passed away on Tuesday, February 13 at Indiana University Medical Center.

In 1992, George left his pastorate in CC Crawfordsville, IN, to plant a church in Kiev, Ukraine. They later adopted a daughter in Ukraine. Fourteen years later, Pastor George turned CC Kiev over to the pastorate of a national believer in 2006. Eleven daughter and granddaughter churches have been planted in Ukraine.

Last summer, George and Pam left Ukraine to help two of their daughters and their husbands—the Gourleys and the Billings—with a new work in Kyrgyzstan, a predominantly Muslim country west of China and north of Pakistan.

“He was such a man of faith—to move to the Ukraine without knowing the

language, with his wife and eight children,” said long-time friend Pastor Bill Goodrich, pastor of Horizon Christian Fellowship of Indianapolis. “He had the greatest heart you could ever imagine. To know George was to know his heart: He was very open and friendly, yet simple and madly in love with the Lord.”

Pam Markey, his wife of 35 years, shared about her husband the day after his passing. “The thing I loved the most about him was his consistency with the Lord,” she said. “He was human; but he was never a hypocrite. He was who he was, whether in a sermon or at home. That really blessed the kids. There was no hypocrisy.”

“He never gave up,” she said. “Even while he was sick ... he told us, ‘I’m going to fight because I love you. I want to keep going.’” During George’s hospitalization, he had moments of coherency in which he would joke and talk with his family and the staff, and moments of pain where he would lie still and whisper for the Lord’s help. “He really did suffer a lot. Even when he was sick, he always reached out to the Lord,” Pam said. “If I heard him say Jesus, then I would pray for him, and he would agree with me in prayer.”

Whether to his family or his flocks in Indiana, Ukraine, or Kyrgyzstan, George was a generous and unselfish man, said Pam. “He was so giving. He would give



George Markey



George with some of his family last year

what he didn’t have,” she recalled. “[He was] so like the Lord—he wanted to lavish on the people he loved.”

George was the outgoing one, she said. “I’ll miss him. I know the Lord will fill that empty place. I trust in His sovereignty. I receive what He has with open hands. I don’t understand it, but I receive it.”

Doctors are unsure what triggered his condition, in which severe pancreatitis caused part of the pancreas to die.

“We have been astounded by the level of prayer, encouragement, and calls that have been made to us and on our behalf,” said son-in-law Jed Gourley.

Donations earmarked for “George Markey Fund” may be sent to:

Calvary Chapel Crawfordsville
P.O. Box 29
Crawfordsville, IN 47933
765-362-8881
calvary-chapel@sbcglobal.net

Contributions will defray medical expenses.

www.ccmukraine.org/forum

2007 Calvary Calendar

Month	Dates	Event/Church
March	12-14	Pastors and Leaders Conference CC Tuscon, AZ
	26-28	High Sierra Conference CC Carson Valley, NV
	29-31	Pastor and Leadership Conference CC Dallas, TX
April	23-25	Canadian Pastors Conference CC Sunshine Coast, Canada
	26-28	Great Lakes Pastors Conference CC Appleton, WI

Month	Dates	Event/Church
May	2-4	Deep South Conference CC Stone Mountain, GA
	8-10	Rocky Mountain/Plains Conference Crossroads Church, CO
	21-23	East Coast Pastors Conference CC Philadelphia, PA
June	4-7	Senior Pastors Conference CC Costa Mesa, CA

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