



Homer Cleveland Couch Sr.

March 20, 1934 - September 22, 2021

Homer Cleveland Couch, Sr.
Pickens, South Carolina

Homer Cleveland Couch, Sr. passed away at his home on September 22, 2021. Preacher Couch, as he was lovingly known, began his ministry as pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Pickens, SC. He then continued his ministry at Holly Springs Baptist Church in Pickens, SC and then moved to Crossville, Tennessee where he served as pastor at Memorial Baptist Church. He also served as pastor at Antioch Baptist Church and Mountain Grove Baptist Church, and finished his career as Interim Pastor at Northside Baptist Church in Pickens, SC. Preacher Couch loved his church family at Northside Baptist Church and was honored to have been recently named Pastor Emeritus in a service where he preached his last sermon.

Preacher Couch was a man who believed not only in serving his congregation but in serving his community. His life was spent ministering to those who were poor and rich, celebrating and grieving. He was present for births, officiated marriages and baptisms, and comforted families at funerals. Preacher Couch's greatest desire was to serve like Christ would, serving those who were less fortunate and those who were suffering. His greatest joy in his life was to fulfill his calling as a pastor and as a public servant.

Preacher Couch graduated from Travelers Rest High School and subsequently began his military service in the Army. After he completed his service, while working as a sales representative for National Biscuit Company in Miami, Florida, Preacher Couch surrendered to his calling and moved home to begin his seminary education. He studied at North Greenville University and Furman University, and obtained his bachelor's degree from Luther Rice Seminary. While he was studying, he met his wife Shelba Powell at Rock Springs Baptist Church in Easley, SC where his father pastored. Preacher Couch saw Shelba playing the piano at a church service and knew she would be his wife. The couple served together until her death in 2015.

Preacher Couch leaves behind his children Cleve Couch (Ashley), Christie Hemphill (Joel), Crystal Pitrois (Thomas Takayama) and his grandchildren Zachary, Ethan, and Christian Couch, and Marc and Julien Pitrois, his brother, nieces and nephews, and friends whom he loved deeply. The family is grateful to his caregivers who cared for him during the last days of his life so that he could fulfill his wish of dying at home.

A private family burial was held on September 25, 2021.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at the Pickens Amphitheater, 114 W Main St, Pickens, SC 29671.

Seating will be provided for the immediate family. For those attending who will need seating you are encouraged to bring your own chair.

Mountain View Funeral Home is serving the Couch family.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

OCT **16**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Pickens Amphitheater
114 W Main St
Pickens, SC 29671

Tribute Wall

DG

“ Debra Gravely lit a candle in memory of Homer Cleveland Couch Sr.



Debra Gravely - January 25, 2022 at 06:31 PM

DG

I miss him so very much.

Debra Gravely - January 25, 2022 at 06:36 PM

KB

“ I use to work at Laurel Hill Nursing Home in Pickens years ago as a nurse. Preacher Couch and Shelba would visit. I always looked forward to their visit and encouraging words. I could hear Preacher Couch laughing down the hall, always wearing a smile. He loved the Lord and lived serving Him. I'll look forward to seeing him again.
Kathy Brewer, TN

Kathy Brewer - December 12, 2021 at 06:09 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Homer Cleveland Couch Sr..



October 15, 2021 at 03:23 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Homer Cleveland Couch Sr..*



October 01, 2021 at 12:57 AM



“ *Dear Couch Family, My heart was saddened to learn of HC's leaving us for his Heavenly Home but I know he is walking streets of gold and praising our Savior now. I got to know HC when we were in school at North Greenville. he has been a very special friend since then. Very proud of all his accomplishments and the way to minister that he taught us. My prayers are with all of you. Nancy Evatt Anderson and Jim*

Nancy Anderson - September 28, 2021 at 01:52 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear the news of Pastor Couch passing. I have such sweet memories of him. He was one of a kind and now rejoicing with this wife who he missed so very much and with his savior. Prayers to Christy and the Family.*



Sherry Grigg - September 28, 2021 at 12:25 PM

JD

“ We are at a lost of words to describe our sadness in Preacher Homer Couch home going. He was a mighty man of God and lived it day to day. His ministry was wide spread which involved hospitals, nursing homes and home visits throughout the upstate. We always told him he filled the shoes of former paster Garland Sentell in visiting the sick and needy. You considered yourself a special person if he baked you a pound cake. We loved him and will miss his smiling face. Until we meet again Preacher Couch. Jimmy Lee and Helen

Jimmy Lee & Helen Dodgens - September 27, 2021 at 10:40 PM

SC

“ Preacher Couch married my wife and I. We already loved before that but that made him even more special to us. Almost every time we would see him, he would ask, " How long has it been?" I sure will miss him down here but look forward to meeting him again before too long. Love you, Preacher!! Steve and Glenna Coleman

Steve Coleman - September 27, 2021 at 10:21 PM

LD

“Loved this man so much, my entire family did also. He would come see my granny, Agnes and my grandmother Ruby every single time he went down Little Eastaoee, along with Mrs. Winnie. Stopped In The nursing home To visit each week, for each of them and was there for both deaths. He preached both of their funerals, and when my mother, Kristia passed away, they asked me what they could do for me At the hospital. I replied, “Please just get me Preacher Couch.” He came immediately, knelt down and prayed with us. At the moment when I lost my mother I wanted him, to pray with me and my brother. He had such a strong presence of the Lord surrounding him and he gave me comfort through many deaths of my family. I was very saddened to see this news, but there’s not doubt about where he is, and back with his wife. We have always loved you Preacher Couch, and will always remember you. — Lindsey and Joseph Davis—

Lindsey Davis - September 27, 2021 at 04:46 PM

SU

“Preacher Couch and his wife was a special blessing when they were called to start his ministry at Calvary Baptist Church. He was always a frequent visitor to the aged and sick and loved to laugh. Great Job Good and Faithful Servant.



susan - September 27, 2021 at 01:05 PM

LW

“ *Preacher Couch was so special to me and my family. His spirit was so sweet and definitely one that was born of God. Some of my favorite memories of him were of his smile and laughter. He was someone who always knew whether to give you a hug, a pat on the back, or say a prayer with you. Heaven is a better place because he is there.*

Lori Willoughby - September 27, 2021 at 09:56 AM

SH

“ *I have multiple memories of Preacher Couch from when he pastored Mountain Grove. He married my youngest daughter in the history room. He also helped mama so much when daddy was dying. He was a most lovely and caring person. He fought the good fight, finished the race and I am sure will receive his reward in heaven. Sue Porter Heiney*

Sue Porter Heiney - September 27, 2021 at 08:21 AM

AK

“ *Preacher couch was such a wonderful man ! I've known him for over 20 years he's prayed with me cried with me laughed with me !! I get comfort knowing from the last conversation we had two weeks ago he told me he loved me he appreciated me and that he just needed to go home and sleep in his bed !! I'm so glad he got to do that ! He loved laurel hill nursing home witch is now manna he bring a smile to us all every time he came to visit us you will be missed until I see you again!*

angela kelkey - September 27, 2021 at 06:52 AM

EK

“ *Preach Couch was such a blessing to the nurses and Residents at Manna! I feel blessed having known him. Many times he stopped at my nursing cart and prayed for me!! His godly influence has changed so many's lives!! We will miss you... enjoying heaven... I shall see you again in the sweet by in by...*

eunice kirksey - September 27, 2021 at 06:34 AM

PR

“ *I was honored to work with Preacher Couch and see him on many occasions bringing light and joy to other residents where I worked in Pickens as an Occupational Therapist. He and I had so many wonderful conversations about our Father, and his passion for the Lord was one of the truest I've ever encountered. I loved being able to see him regularly, I am saddened for the world's loss, but am so happy to know Preacher Couch is home at last with the One he shared with so many.*

P.D. Robbins - September 26, 2021 at 11:51 PM

DW

“ *Sorry for your loss. Preacher Couch led me to the lord when I was 12 years old at Holly Springs Church. We will miss him so much. Love and Prayers. Love, Darla Queen Wheeler and Louise Queen (mom)*



Darla Wheeler - September 26, 2021 at 10:10 PM

DR

“ It was such a joy to see Preacher Couch’s smiling face when he came to the bank. He was a sweet man that loved to joke and share his love. You touched many peoples hearts and you will be greatly missed.



DelRita Roberts - September 26, 2021 at 09:15 PM

PB

“ We are so saddened and feel such loss to learn that this great man of God is no longer in our midst. His presence will be sorely missed. Being twice blessed, we had the unique privilege to call "Preacher Couch" our pastor at two different times in our lives. To know him was to love him. As our pastor and friend, he was there for every single important occasion in our lives and we sincerely appreciate the positive influence he had on us, as well as our children and grandchildren. He was the ideal pastor who always knew exactly what to say in any circumstance, and he knew how and when to say it. He had a genuine humility about him that allowed him to connect with people of all walks of life and knew no boundaries in his ministry - He ministered to all. The draw toward heaven became even greater with his loss of Shelba, and today I feel he is supremely happy, knowing they have been reunited in heaven. Truly, "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal." (-Thomas Moore) May God's grace and peace comfort his family in the days ahead.

Pauline & David Blackston - September 26, 2021 at 08:56 PM

DG

“ You are so missed . Many blessed memories of the ministry you have given to so many. Praying for strength and peace for your family and friends. Job well done my faithful friend.

Debra Gravely - September 26, 2021 at 08:44 PM

PT

“ Patricia Turner lit a candle in memory of Homer Cleveland Couch Sr.



Patricia Turner - September 26, 2021 at 08:37 PM

BG

“ Forever with GOD and precious memories in our hearts.

Bobby Joe & Carol Gravely - September 26, 2021 at 08:18 PM

MM

“ The Couch family has always been a part of my life as well as my family. There was no one on earth like HC and Shelba. I will never forget the years of wonderful memories we made from marrying me, dedicating my children, later leading them to Christ and baptizing them and being my Pastor for many many years. I enjoyed all the times we visited and went out to eat after Shelba died and our frequent phone conversations. HC always ask about my kids and my family and would tell me about his children and he was a proud grandpa. One of the most recent special memories was at my parents 50th Wedding Anniversary. HC was the only person we invited and we had family pictures made together. He was family to me. He was a prankster and always had that contagious laugh. He is irreplaceable. I know he is happy to be in heaven with beautiful wonderful Shelba. He missed her so much. Well done my friend and family member. Until I meet you again on the streets of gold to play my violin. Love to all the children and grandchildren. Love, Monica Marling

Monica Marling - September 26, 2021 at 08:02 PM

CA

“ A wonderful man of God that touched many lives. I hold him in the highest regard and know that he is with his dear wife again. Well done good and faithful servant.

Charlotte Anderson - September 26, 2021 at 07:56 PM

LG

“ Preacher was a very special man of God. He took my cousin Jack Gilstrap and myself over the last few years under his wing and treated us as his own blood. What a wonderful Christian man! He was our best friend without a doubt. He always spoke wisdom and of our Lord every time he came by the shop. We had lunch or dinner together many times a week. He was a joker as well. His favorite statement he would tell people when we were out together was that "He was trying to convert us and we were trying to corrupt him!" He shared the story of his life with us as well. Told us about his childhood as well as when he was a young man and received his calling to preach. He loved to talk about his precious wife Shelba and his son, two daughters and grandchildren. He was always the perfect gentleman and my lovely lady Jennifer loved him with all her heart as well. I can picture him and smile as I can just see in my mind him and his wife Shelba holding hands as they sit and talk to Jesus Christ! I have lost another best friend here for a short while until we all meet again in Glory with Jesus Christ and my best friend, Preacher Couch!

LAMAR GILSTRAP - September 26, 2021 at 07:21 PM

JG

“ We loved Preacher Couch and Shelba dearly, as he was our pastor for many years. He had the unique gift of preaching the Word of God so anyone could understand. He will be greatly missed here on earth, but take comfort knowing he is rejoicing in heaven. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers daily. Tim, Jennifer, Dawson & Jessie Lee Gilstrap

Jennifer Gilstrap - September 26, 2021 at 06:59 PM

LP

“ Cleve, Christie & Crystal, Your mom and dad were both very special people to our family and our community. Your dad baptized me at Holly Springs many (many) years ago and your mother taught me at Holly Springs Elementary and my husband at Pickens Elementary. Thank you for sharing them! Your mother has been greatly missed and your father is just absolutely irreplaceable! We've called on him many times to to serve the Parris family and we appreciate his life and dedication so so much!

LaNelle Parris-Day - September 26, 2021 at 06:55 PM

MA

“ It was an honor to have known this General of the faith. Family you have my prayers



Michael Anthony - September 26, 2021 at 06:25 PM

JH

“ Brother Couch was my Pastor from my younger days. He was a great friend and someone I always looked up to.

James Henry - September 26, 2021 at 05:58 PM

TB

“ It was always so nice to see preacher Couch come thru the manna nursing home he would always pray with the residents and the employees. I am Thankful I got to take care of him at the manna in his last week of life he would pray for me everyday and work say ho home and take care of those babies. I sure will miss him.

Tara Burgess - September 26, 2021 at 05:53 PM

DG

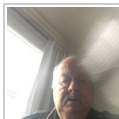
“ I am SO sorry to read this! He was such a nice man. He was very kind and my mom enjoyed his visits at Manna. This is a big loss for the Pickens community.

Donna Glenn - September 26, 2021 at 05:52 PM

CA

“ My family loved this dear man so much. He was there for us so many times from births, birthdays, marriages, funerals and all those Sunday dinners at the Chapman home place. We'll remember your life and how you lived it, such a wonderful man of God! Now you're with your Savior and reunited with the love of your life, Shelba. Love and prayers for this precious Couch family. Till we meet again my friend!

CarolynDurham - September 26, 2021 at 05:17 PM



Same thing with my mom and dad

Terrell Parris - September 26, 2021 at 05:28 PM

JB

Preacher Couch was truly a man of God. He was a friend to us and many more. He married us. We didn't know until years later that our Anniversary was his and Shelba's also. A memory we will always cherish. We will miss his smile and his laughs, but one day will see him again in Heaven. God Bless and comfort the family.

Janice and Lee Beacham - September 26, 2021 at 05:39 PM

LW

“ *Well done my friend. you were always there through the hard times as well as the happy times. See you later.*

Linda Willoughby - September 26, 2021 at 05:00 PM

PC

“ *Until we meet again my Pastor, my Mentor and my Friend. I will forever cherish the memories of the sermons, talks, laughter and tears we have shared. I know that you are so happy to be Home and you are enjoying rejoicing with all the loved ones gone before us. Thank you for always being there, my life was forever changed for knowing you. See you in Glory.*

Pam Crenshaw - September 26, 2021 at 04:59 PM

MT

“ I had the honor of meeting Preacher Couch at what is now Manna Health and Rehab. He would stroll the halls lighting up every area he walked. I always enjoyed conversations with him in the mornings when he would make his rounds. One I remember well is when I was struggling to make a decision about trading my car because we had taken my nieces and nephew in and I needed a bigger car, but the mustang was my dream car. He said “God always gives you the desires of your heart when you are in align with His will. Is His will for you to help those babies or to keep the car?” Wow! I traded the car and kept the babies and God has blessed our family more than we could imagine. I’m thankful for the many wisdoms he has poured into my life during the 12 years I knew him. He will be greatly missed but I know he is having the time of his life sitting at Jesus’ feet!

Melissa Timmerman - September 26, 2021 at 04:39 PM