



M. Wendell Calder

April 20, 1938 - March 25, 2025

M. Wendell Calder, 86, passed away peacefully on March 25, 2025, in Leesburg, Florida. Born on April 20, 1938, in North Road Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada, Wendell dedicated his life to serving his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and sharing His message across the globe. Wendell's journey of faith began with formal theological training at the New Brunswick Bible Institute, where he earned a three-year certificate. His lifelong commitment to ministry and evangelism was later recognized with an honorary doctorate from Liberty University. These academic milestones were only the beginning of a remarkable life devoted to spreading the Gospel.

Throughout his life, Wendell was a tireless servant of Christ. He founded Woodland Baptist Church in Woodland, Maine, and Living Waters Bible Conference in Weston, Maine-both enduring ministries that continue to impact lives today. His passion for teaching led him to serve with Word of Life ministries around the world. Perhaps most notably, he founded Local Church Evangelism, a ministry now in its 50th year. Through this organization, Wendell preached and taught on six continents, always driven by his unwavering desire to share Christ with others. Known affectionately as "the man with the hair," Wendell was also remembered for his personal motto: "I will not quit-by God's grace I can do it." These words encapsulated his steadfast spirit and deep reliance on God's strength throughout decades of ministry. His life was a living testimony to perseverance and faithfulness.

Wendell is survived by his beloved wife Joan TL (Newman) Calder; daughter Laurie C Harsh; son-in law Paul B Harsh II; granddaughter Kristin Bell and her husband Chad Bell; and great-granddaughters Kerrigan Bell and Keagan Bell. He was preceded in death by his parents Colwell and Kathleen Calder; brothers Clifford Calder, Austin Calder, and Clinton Calder; and sisters Velma Calder and Marge (Calder) Lank.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at the First Baptist Church of Lady Lake, located at 432 County Road 466 E, Lady Lake, Florida 32159. A viewing will take place from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM prior to the service at 10:00 AM. A graveside service will follow immediately after. Wendell Calder finished well-a faithful servant who lived every day with purpose and conviction.

May his legacy continue to inspire all who knew him to live boldly for Christ.

Arrangements entrusted to Beyers Funeral Home of Leesburg, Florida.

Previous Events

Viewing

APR 12. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Lady Lake
432 Co Rd 466
Lady Lake, FL 32159

Celebration of Life Service

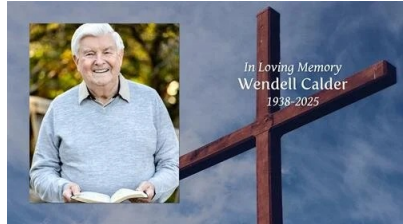
APR 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church Of Lady Lake
432 Co Rd 466
Lady Lake, FL 32159

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of M. Wendell Calder*



Beyers Funeral Home - April 07, 2025 at 03:09 PM



Wonderful!

Patricia Cliff - April 07, 2025 at 11:40 PM

HM

Well Done, good and faithful servant!

Houston McCall - April 08, 2025 at 02:13 AM

RW

Outside of my own father, this man had the most impact on my life. Thank you for being faithful, Mr. Calder. Well done.

Rebecca Woodman - April 08, 2025 at 09:03 AM

RM

I will always be grateful to Dad Calder for investing the gospel in me modelling leadership and generosity. Miss you Dad.

Rajashekar Moorthy - April 08, 2025 at 09:55 AM

DP

My all time favorite Pastor

Dianne Porter - April 08, 2025 at 03:40 PM

TS

Great slid show your dad father was a man of god to lots of people around the word we can replace a man. Like calder

Tyson seekins - April 12, 2025 at 08:20 PM



Dr Wendell Calder, famed into flame the gift of God within me by his prayers. Even without having to mention the prayer need, he knew what to pray for. He supported us as a family in more ways than one, on a consistent basis. It is our prayer that we will continue to carry out and fulfill the work he began. May his legacy of love and good deeds be multiplied in and through the many people he impacted. Conforted that he is at rest safe in God.

Danny Sathyadass - April 13, 2025 at 06:53 AM

MB

50 years ago last night Wendell led me to the Lord. Two weeks later he led my parents to Christ. I have been so blessed to have been able to tape Wendell a few times over the years. The video Gods simple plan of Salvation will probably be my favorite of all times. Wendell is now in the present talking to Christ in heaven everyday . Your ministry is still touching many people with the gospel of our savior. Thank you for serving Christ all these years.

Maurice Brown - April 14, 2025 at 10:06 AM

DJ

“ I met Wendell at Word of Life Bible Institute in Sept 1985. He was used by the Lord in my life. He was the reason that I remained at WOLBI that year and it has made the difference in my life. What an impact he had on so many!

David Jordan - August 24, 2025 at 10:46 PM

CC

“ What a great finish for the Lord. Our hearts are broken. He will be greatly missed. Condolences to Joan and his family. He left such a huge legacy.

cheryl cropley - April 17, 2025 at 01:19 PM

WF

“ One of my first memories of Wendell was a picture in the Woodland High School yearbook, *The Jewel*, in a late-1960s edition. The image showed him sitting in a chair with his feet up on the desk. The shoes were big and how little did we know at the time, the footprint he would make in the Kingdom of God through his ministry!

I remember him saying in those early days, “you must be born again!” Years later, after I had become born again, my love and respect for him had increased immeasurably.

He and Joan traveled to Guam three times in the 1990s during our ministry there with TWR, where he conducted weeklong revival meetings at our church Bayview Baptist. On one occasion, he preached a message “Finishing the Race Well.” Shelley and I still have the notes from that sermon and finishing the race well is our goal.

There is no one I admired and respected more than Wendell Calder. He was a man of integrity and he backed his talk with his walk. His shoes will be very big shoes to fill!

Wayne Frost

Wayne Frost - April 16, 2025 at 05:13 PM

TS

“ I met calder wendell in walmart in palmrya maine i also had him in central maine men fellowship in 2017 i was 27 years old he lead me to jesus

Tyson seekins - April 12, 2025 at 08:13 PM

AB

“ I met Dr. Wendell Calder during my youth days in India. His meetings brought spiritual revival to the church. He raised money for church building which the church enjoys until this day. I am ever so grateful for all his contribution. His love for Jesus was loud and clear through his actions and work. Bless his family.

Agnes Benjamin - April 12, 2025 at 11:06 AM

JM

“ Wendell was my uncle and, although it was under sad circumstances at the funeral of my brother Allan, I was so happy to have seen Wendell and Joan a few years ago. We chatted, laughed, and had a lovely lunch with a large group of family and friends later that day. I live in Ontario and our paths hadn't crossed in many years. My thoughts and prayers are with Joan, Laurie and their entire family.

- Judy Moffat (Calder)

Judy Moffat - April 12, 2025 at 10:10 AM

CT

“ Wendell will be missed by so many, he was my great uncle and though we didn't get to see him very often it was always memorable when we did. I remember him (& Joan) always having a big smile and loving to share a laugh. We were looking forward to seeing him this summer on Campobello and hearing him preach. God bless you all today.

- Christina Tardif and family

Christina Tardif - April 12, 2025 at 08:29 AM

BP

“ It is amazing to us how even with all of Dr. Wendell's health issues he kept trucking on. We received his normal Christmas letter with his yearly schedule booked full. He was an awesome teacher, preacher and inspiration to us. We met him earlier years in Hansen, Mass when he preached and we did the music. Shortly thereafter, we received a call from Living Waters Bible Conference in Danforth, Maine and enjoyed being part of the ministry doing music many years with some week-long camp events and Labor Day Weekends. One weekly event is well remembered when he gave us wisdom regarding our daughter who had gone astray. Another Labor Day event, Nathan Ouellette made his first appearance with us as a 4-year-old singing one of our songs. He gave Nathan a high five. It was also special and an encouragement to be invited out to dinner with him and Joan a few times.

Bob & Darleen Puffer - April 11, 2025 at 03:53 PM

RD

“ About ten years ago Wendell Calder changed my life and my families life forever! He preached a message at Word of Life that convicted me to listen to what God was telling me to do. Because of Wendell's faithfulness to God and sharing His word, that night I rededicated my life to Jesus and applied to attend WOL Bible institute. During that year my husband got saved. The seed he planted continues to grow! I am forever grateful for Wendell's love for Christ. I am truly sorry for your loss. He is now with his Savior, he left an impact for Jesus and was a true man of God!

Renee DelBene - April 10, 2025 at 09:22 AM

DC

“ Dr. & Mrs. R. Duane Cook purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of M. Wendell Calder.



Dr. & Mrs. R. Duane Cook - April 08, 2025 at 04:44 PM

BV

“ I first heard Mr. Calder speak at a NBBI teenage retreat in the early 1960's. In 1973 my husband Bill and I first attended Living Waters. We are still attending and taking grandchildren. We appreciated his friendship and his messages from God's Word. We will miss him. Prayers for your family. Bill & Linda Crawford from NB

Bill & Linda Vrawford - April 07, 2025 at 08:10 PM

SW

Heard him often as a teenager, mostly at camps and NBBI retreats, and occasionally at Word of Life events. His messages had a tendency to speak to me personally.

Stephen Woehr - April 10, 2025 at 06:11 AM

MW

The first time I ever heard Wendell preach was at an NBBI teen retreat back in the 70's. He was there with Eddie Piper who sang and I thought they were the best preacher and singer I'd ever heard. He also did many evangelistic crusades in our little country church and came to our home on many occasions for meals so we got to know them quite well. Later when my husband and I were in ministry ourselves, he came to do crusades in all our churches and stayed with us in our home. It was always a highlight of our year! Many were saved and God worked in marvelous ways through this man.

Wendell always was concerned about the families of the ones he knew as well, and was a constant witness to those he met day in and day out.

God used this man in my life and the life of my family over and over. Even our granddaughter, Gracie considered him one of her best friends. That's who Wendell was.

We are praying for this dear family and that God for the years God gave him on this earth.

Mary Woodcock - April 10, 2025 at 08:08 PM

MW

Wendell finished the race well! What a blessing he was to so many! He was scheduled to preach June 8, 2025 at his childhood church, North Road Baptist, Campobello Island, New Brunswick and me and all my family, Kelly, Jason, Christina and all their families we're looking forward to being there and getting together again with Wendell and Joan. My deepest condolences to Joan, Lori and all your families.

Marilyn, Allans widow - April 12, 2025 at 11:52 AM