

In Memory of Dave Barker

-Ron and Linda Stullenbarger-

Dave Barker folded up his earthly tent and left us quietly. He was very precious to many of us, and several kind and appreciative thoughts of him remain with us. Dave was quiet, but consistent in his efforts to help others understand God's will for them. Once a week, he used to ask a Bible question of the people who lived in the same senior citizen apartment complex in which he lived. He encouraged them to look for the answer in the Bible and to discuss it with him.

You may remember his dear friend, Blanche Siebert. She told him one day that she knew the answer to his question for the week. Dave asked her where she got the answer and she told him that her Methodist minister had given her the answer. Dave explained to her that accepting answers from other people was not good enough, and that it was necessary to read the scriptures to find out the things that God wants us to know about Him. He ended up bringing her to worship services with him and studying with her, and she obeyed the gospel and was a faithful Christian until her death.

Blanche became very ill with lung cancer and could no longer care for her apartment or cook for herself. Her family members lived several states away and were not available to take care of her. Dave stepped in and cooked for her. It was a bit of a well-kept secret, but that man was an excellent baker and cook! He cleaned her apartment for her and did her laundry. As she grew more ill, he showed up day and night to check on her and to be sure she was taking her medication at the right time.

On the day Blanche died, Dave himself was ill and had to have some tests completed by his own physician, but he went and stood by Blanche's hospital bed and comforted her until her soul left her body. Tears were in his eyes, but within the same hour that she died, Dave insisted on going to help deliver meals to the shut-ins, as was his custom to do. He was a quiet soldier.

Dave was a well loved man by those who knew him. We cannot tell all the good that he did, because he did it in an unassuming manner, and only his benefactors and God knew of much of his selflessness. Although at the end, he became very weak and ill, his mind was alert, and he was appreciative of those who showed their love to him and who prayed with him. He wanted to be free of the chains that bound him to earth. He looked forward to that place where there would be no more pain and sorrow. We are thankful that he was a part of the congregation of believers meeting here at National Road, and we will truly miss him. Our love and prayers go out to those who cherished him most, and especially to Hazel Sonnenwald and her family.