



## **GARY DEAN JANKY**

September 23, 1939 - October 14, 2023 (Age 84)

When I think of faithfulness, I think of Gary and Sandy Janky. They were some of the most faithful missionaries we had in Ecuador. They faithfully drove up and down the dangerous, precipitous mountain roads, high in the Andes mountains, taking films, having tent meetings, and preaching the Gospel to the Quichua Indigenous people. They walked up the slippery mountainsides carrying equipment to project the films, and other equipment they needed for the meetings. Their home was always open to people with needs and people who just wanted to talk and they usually served them a meal as well. Gary

struggled with Spanish, as we all did, but he usually got his point across. Gary loved the people and the people loved him. The people may not have always understood Gary, but they understood love and they responded to that. Gary and Sandy had an impact on the people in Ecuador. Souls were saved and a Bible institute was started so the people could be trained to carry on when they left. It was a blessing and a privilege to serve as co-laborers with Gary and Sandy Janky.

On October 14, 2023, at 4:27 a.m., Gary Dean Janky began living. For seven years under the cruel suffering of Alzheimer's, he only existed here on earth-no memories or remembrance of anyone. But at 4:27, he thrived!

Gary was born in Grand Island, Nebraska, on September 23, 1939, to Francis and Mary Janky. He graduated from Chapman High School in 1957. He grew up on the family farm in Chapman, Nebraska. Gary met Sandy and they were married on July 11, 1959.

Sandy was told she could not bear children, and they eventually adopted three children, Tammi, Tim and Tom. A few years later, after Sandy miscarried two sons, Troy and Trevor, God surprised them with Tod, their miracle baby. Sandy has recounted that the people they were working with in Ecuador were not responding to the Gospel message. But after they lost their two babies, the people began responding. They said it was because Gary and Sandy had buried their babies in their land of Ecuador and had stayed instead of returning to the U.S.

Gary had a great job working for New Holland and worked his way to shift supervisor. While both working and running the 250-acre farm, Gary enjoyed playing softball with his friends and drinking heavily after the games. The normally quiet, gentle Gary became violent after drinking. Things got pretty bad for Gary and Sandy. One fateful day, Edrie Womack told Sandy about the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and eventually, Sandy accepted Jesus as her Savior. Gary continued in his ways, but eventually he also found salvation in Jesus Christ. When Gary got saved, he became a completely

changed man. He also found his purpose here on earth and felt the call to be a missionary. He quit his job at New Holland six months shy of his retirement, as he felt his calling could not wait.

In 1974, he packed up the family and moved to Arlington, Texas, to attend Arlington Baptist College. Gary and Sandy graduated from Arlington Baptist College in 1978. They made a few missionary survey trips to other countries, but Gary found his heart in Ecuador, South America, where they spent 22 years telling the wonderful people of Ecuador of the love of Jesus.

In 2002, due to medical issues for Sandy, they moved back to the U.S. They dedicated their time working with the Hispanic people in the Metroplex until again, due to health issues, they retired as WBF missionaries in 2019. Gary lived out the remainder of his life in Arlington, Texas.

Gary was preceded in death by his father, Francis Janky, and mother, Mary Janky, and two sons, Troy and Trevor Janky. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Sandra Janky, daughter, Tammi Janky, sons, Tim Janky and family, Tom Janky and family, Tod Janky and family, and a loving host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life service was held at Pleasantview Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas, Saturday, October 28, 2023.