



Roger William Perkins

August 27, 1940 - December 19, 2024

Roger Perkins, age 84, of Holland, Michigan, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Thursday, December 19, 2024. He was born on August 27, 1940, in Battle Creek, Michigan, to Cecil Perkins and Elizabeth White Perkins.

Roger is survived by his beloved wife, Sharon, three children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren (known affectionately as “Grandpa Roger” and “Paw” and dearly loved by all). Daughter Kamal Perkins (Rick) and granddaughters Heather Bridge (Geo), Erica Bridge, Emily Bridge; Stepson Eric Moss (Nicole) and grandson William Moss; Stepson, Stephen Moss (Jeanette) and grandsons Everett and Grant. Roger was pre-deceased by his son, Eric Perkins, brother, Lowell Perkins, and parents Cecil and Elizabeth Perkins.

Roger graduated from John Wesley College in 1962 and later earned a master’s degree in pastoral counseling from Michigan State. His first job out of college was teaching sixth grade in Durand, Michigan. He then worked with Youth for Christ’s Lifeline program for 4 years, which was the start of YFC’s juvenile justice outreach, helping young people feel seen, heard and valued. Roger continued working with youth as Supervisor of the Juvenile Court in Ingham County, a season he looked back on with great satisfaction.

The next step in Roger's work life took him to John Wesley College where he spent seven years honing his skills in development work. Following this he held several positions as the development officer in various locations across the country. This led him to establish a development consulting firm with his life-long friend, Chuck Roost. Their focus was on helping non-profit organizations with fund-raising strategies, capital campaigns and board development.

In 1995, after several painful losses, including the death of his son Eric, Roger reconnected with Sharon Moss, and they were married in 1996. In 1998, they moved from Montana to Holland, Michigan, where they have been living since. During this time Roger entered what he considered the most rewarding season of his life. He spent many hours soaking in the words and entering into the hearts of saints who lived and wrote in the past and present. The question paramount in Roger's mind was, "how does God change lives?" which he approached with great intentionality for his own life.

Roger's own journey inspired him to develop what he called the 4 Habits of a Healthy Heart: core spiritual disciplines for followers of Jesus. He became passionate about passing these on to men individually and in groups, in jails and prisons and in the community, creating safety for them to tell their stories and for them to share their pain and joy in a context where they could grow together. Over the past twenty-five years he has become the friend and mentor that men often long for and has helped many men experience God's healing.

Roger's deep, rich bass voice is known by many in West Michigan and across the country. He mostly sang solos but also enjoyed singing in quartets and at one point considered music as a vocation. Over the years Roger enjoyed many hobbies including fishing, hunting (deer and upland birds), wood working, tinkering and boating. He was also a big sports fan and especially

enjoyed following the Detroit Red Wings and the Detroit Tigers.

Family and friends will remember Roger as a deeply empathetic person who delighted in connecting conversations and whose creativity and humor were woven into almost everything he said and did. At home there will be an empty brown leather chair in front of the fireplace where he spent most mornings reading, meditating, praying and writing. It is assumed he will have some great conversations with his Father in Heaven, seeking understanding of the mysteries that he loved to ponder.

Memorials in memory of Roger Perkins may be made to Reach the Forgotten Jail Ministry (<https://jailministry.org/>) at the Muskegon County Jail (980 Terrace St. Muskegon, MI 49440) or Christ Memorial Church (<https://christmemorial.org/>) (595 Graafschap Rd, Holland, MI 49423).

A Memorial Service in celebration of Roger's life and faith will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 8, 2025, in the sanctuary of Christ Memorial Church, 595 Graafschap Rd. Holland, MI 49423. There will be visitation from 4:30 – 6:00 PM on Friday, March 7 at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 East 16th Street, Holland, MI 49423. There will be additional visitation beginning at 9:45 AM Saturday morning prior to the service at church. www.langelandsterebergh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home
315 East 16th Street
Holland, MI 49423

Visitation

MAR 8. 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Christ Memorial Church
595 Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423

Memorial Service

MAR 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Memorial Church
595 Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423

Memorial Service Livestream

MAR 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Christ Memorial Church
595 Graafschap Road
Holland, MI 49423

<https://www.youtube.com/live/9VTHJvz6VM4>

Tribute Wall



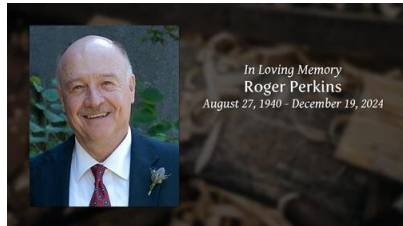
“ Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Roger Perkins Memorial Service in memory of Roger William Perkins



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - March 08, 2025 at 03:34 PM



“ Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Roger William Perkins



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - March 08, 2025 at 01:49 PM



“ 1 file added to the album - Higher Ground download



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - March 08, 2025 at 01:49 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Roger William Perkins.*



March 07, 2025 at 03:01 PM



“ *Our sincere sympathy goes out to Sharon and the entire family. Roger was a very kind soul and we always enjoyed talking to him back in the days at the OAR Xmas parties. Always a welcoming smile on his face. May you rest in peace Roger. Hugs Sharon.*

Mitch and John

Michelle Szot - January 21, 2025 at 01:04 PM

DC

“ I met Roger in 1960 when I came to Michigan for a senior year at what was then known as Owosso College.. Roger was a transfer from a community college in Battle Creek. We both attended on a scholarship provided to the college quartette. I sang first tenor. Roger sang BASS. Way down, low bass. We arranged many of our songs to feature his remarkable voice.

When Roger was developing materials for the Higher Ground Ministry, we were in touch again. My last ministerial assignment was as a senior editor for adult teaching/learning resources in the United Methodist Church. Roger would share his enthusiasm for his ministry in spiritual formation and picked my brains a bit. I think he developed some significant resources for developing spiritual disciplines in men. Roger led men beyond knowing forgiveness of sin into wholeness of life and personal integrity..

Roger pioneered the use of short video vignettes and decided to make his resources available gratis to all who would use them.

Considering the fact that he had devoted much of his life to fund-raising, his willingness to provide resources without seeking revenue was a witness to his commitment to be a servant of God who "freely received and freely gave."

C. Dow Chamberlain S.T.D.

DOW CHANBERLAIN - January 04, 2025 at 06:17 PM

BB

“ We are so sad to hear this! We loved running into Roger at the Midtown Center.

Bruce Benedict - January 02, 2025 at 01:25 PM

DH

“ Roger was one of the most energetic caregivers I have ever met. His work with Higher Ground - both in prisons and after release - was the very work of God. He was straightforward, open-hearted, gifted and talented. He was working on projects, videos and programs right up to the days before he died. He said he was not going to let death get in the way of his ministry. He said he would offer his ministry right up to the day he died -- and that just what he did. My deepest regards to Sharron and the family. I hold you all in prayer.

Don Heydens - December 27, 2024 at 03:43 PM



“ So sorry Sharon for your loss. Pancreatic cancer has taken too many dear loved ones, I have had him on my prayer list since I heard of his diagnosis. I just now saw of his passing in Doris' prayer newsletter. Again, I am so sorry for your loss Sharon. He was a good man with a loving heart for making disciples.

Jonathan Brownson - December 26, 2024 at 05:14 PM

WW

“ I remember our first meeting which lasted 3 1/2 hours. We shared life experiences and connected on a level that brought together for years to come. Will miss you old friend. 😭

Wilbur Watson - December 26, 2024 at 11:37 AM

LB

“ I am shocked and saddened. Roger reached out to me and surprised and delighted me in introducing me as my mother's first cousin. He informed me about my family history that I had no idea about. I am grateful to have made the connections with him. I am sorry we never in person. We never realize how short our time is as it slips away. Rest well, you are now with our Lord. Can't get better than that! Thank you for all you have done on earth. And for connecting with me.

Linda Beverly - December 25, 2024 at 07:46 AM

DN

“ Roger was a great friend and great mentor to me. God sent him into my life at just the right time. He was a true Man of God whose servant life impacted so many lives in a very positive way. Thank you - you will be missed.

Dan Neumann - December 25, 2024 at 06:59 AM

AE

“ Saddened to hear this news. We just reconnected after a long break and had a wonderful conversation. My follow up will need to wait for eternity. We had talked about how positive this passing is for the one who is ill, but how tough it is for those left behind as I lost my wife to a brain tumor just six months ago. I extend love and empathy to those who will miss him terribly, but am thankful for his confident faith in Jesus Christ and look forward to seeing him again.

Al Erisman - December 24, 2024 at 06:01 PM



“ We as the online followers and friends of Roger Perkins in Cape Town South Africa would like to convey our deepest condolences to his wife Sharon and family in America.

Roger was my friend, soulmate and mentor.

This world lost an Angel and Messenger of God. It is now our time to fill the gap that he left - in the prisons, hospitals and small group Higher Ground ministries to guide and support men. And we must continue to wrestle with the life and spiritual questions he posed in his Men's Groups and Facebook posts and comments.

Although we mourn this great loss with Sharon and the family, we rejoice that Roger were faithful to the bitter end. During the last days of his life he affirmed - in the words of the apostle Paul: "For to me to live is Christ, and to . is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better" (Philippians 1:21).

Rest in Peace Roger. You have fought the good fight, you have finished your course, you have kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7)

Your friend and disciple in Christ.

William McKay

Cape Town, South Africa

William McKay - December 24, 2024 at 05:52 PM

BP

A Boabab Tree has fallen. Our deepest condolences to his wife and his family. May the Lord Strengthen you as you are walking this dark road. Thank you for sharing him with Africa.

Bridge Patosi Petoors

Cape Town

Bridge Patosi - December 24, 2024 at 09:42 PM

WF

My condolences to Sharon and family. I was so saddened to hear of Roger's passing. He often spoke of the many conversations he was going to have with the Lord... I'm certain he didn't waste any time. There are those who leave us and leave us feeling empty and a bit lost because of the impact they had on our lives. Roger was to me a mentor, father-figure, and friend.

The Lord brought Roger into my life at the lowest point in my life. Roger met me in prison. He was a very bright light in a very dark place. The Lord moved through Roger and brought about significant healing and personal growth. He helped me navigate life and my walk with the Lord. He introduced me to "Eagle's Nest" through his Higher Ground Ministry. I was privileged to lead one of his first groups in prison. Roger didn't stop investing and mentoring me when I got out. He wanted to continue our relationship outside of prison. That is rare, I may add. We met often over the years. He and Sharon invited me into their home for dinner and talks. Another rarity for an ex-con. What a blessing they both were to me. This is when he became more than a mentor - but also a friend. If there was a lapse in time from our meetings, it was Roger who made the reconnect.

I remember one time, on parole, that my vehicle died. Roger lent me his personal vehicle for a time. He was fully invested, fully committed to me - my walk.

To say I will miss him is a great understatement. His humor and laugh will be missed as well.

We never got to hunt or fishing together in this life Roger, as we often talked about... but one day... one day we will.

I am humbled and feel privileged to know Roger. I will carry Eagle's Nest with me as well as the desire to minister to men because of both what the Lord has pressed into my heart and because of Roger's mentoring of me.

Until we meet again, my friend... 🦵🕶️❤️

William Friberg - February 16, 2025 at 09:10 PM

KN

“ You were an amazing person Mr. Roger! Very encouraging and you brought so much wisdom to my life! God bless you!

Karreecha Newby - December 24, 2024 at 03:51 PM