

Arthur Blessitt, Evangelist Who Carried the Cross Throughout the World, Dies at 84

Arthur Blessitt, a Christian evangelist known for his unwavering faith and record-breaking feat of carrying a 12-foot wooden cross across the globe, died Jan. 14 at the age of 84. Blessitt dedicated his life to spreading the message of Jesus Christ, traversing over 300 nations, island groups and territories, often through the most challenging terrains and circumstances. He was the third person to be featured on the cover of "Charisma" magazine, in the January/February 1976 issue:



Born on Oct. 27, 1940, in Greenville, Mississippi, Blessitt grew up in a humble Southern household. From an early age, he exhibited a passion for preaching and outreach. After being ordained as a Baptist minister, he began his ministry by reaching out to marginalized communities in the United States, including drug addicts and gang members in Hollywood, California, during the 1960s. It was here, on the Sunset Strip, that Blessitt opened His Place, a Christian coffeehouse and outreach center, earning the nickname "Minister of Sunset Strip."

In December 1969, he embarked on what would become his life's mission: carrying a large wooden cross around the world. Initially, the idea was a symbolic gesture to share Christ's message, but it quickly evolved into a decades-long journey. Over the next five decades, he walked more than 43,000 miles through deserts, jungles, war zones and bustling cities, becoming a fixture in the Guinness World Records for the

“World’s Longest Walk.” His travels spanned every continent, including visits to countries in conflict such as Iraq, Afghanistan and North Korea.



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Blessitt’s mission was rooted in simplicity and humility. “The message of the cross is love, peace and forgiveness,” he often said. “It’s not about the messenger, but about the one who sent me.” Whether walking through a remote village in Africa or a bustling city square in Europe, he would pause to pray with individuals, hand out Bibles and share the story of Jesus.

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His journey was not without challenges. He faced arrests, threats, illnesses and extreme weather conditions. Despite these obstacles, he remained undeterred, often citing his favorite Bible verse, Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” His unwavering faith and resilience inspired millions worldwide.

In addition to his travels, Blessitt authored several books and produced documentaries, including “The Cross: The Arthur Blessitt Story,” which chronicled his global pilgrimage. He became a sought-after speaker, sharing his testimonies in churches, conferences and on television programs.

His work earned him accolades and recognition, though he often deflected praise, crediting God for his strength and guidance. His legacy is one of faith, determination and a deep love for humanity.

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Before he died, Blessitt prepared a final message that now appears on his social media pages. As a part of it, he shared the gospel message one final time, writing,

Everyone knows that death brings us face to face with God. Should you have died the moment you read this, do you have the assurance that you would be in heaven? Welcome Jesus now as your Savior, giving your heart to God. He is waiting for you. How? Simple, but life-changing. Call on Him now!

Blessitt is survived by his wife, Denise, seven children, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His life's work stands as a testament to the power of faith and the enduring message of love that transcends borders and cultures.

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