

Pastor 'On Par With Billy Graham' Meets His Savior Face to Face

"Iconic," "Legendary" pastor Buckner Fanning is dead at 89. The church leader passed away on Valentine's Day.

"It is with deep sadness, but with great and unbounded joy, that we want you to let you know that Buckner passed away peacefully last night. We are so excited that he has finally met his Lord that he served so faithfully, passionately and devotedly his entire life. We celebrate the life that he lived on this earth and the eternal life that he is enjoying right now. Thank you for all your prayers for our entire family," according to a family statement.

Fanning was pastor at Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio for 42 years.

"His captivating preaching and vision to engage the church in wide-ranging mission opportunities contributed to continued growth. During Dr. Fanning's 42-year-long pastorate, mission teams, including youth and adult choirs and ensembles, went to all parts of the world – Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia – collaborating with local church leaders and missionaries to bring encouragement and humanitarian aid," according to the church website.

"Trinity was also known for Dr. Fanning's short TV spots that were a source of inspiration and encouragement here and in other parts of the world. The development of innovative ministries to Single Adults and expansion of ministries to Youth also began during these years."

According to the *San Antonio Express-News*, Fanning was an evangelist "on par" with Billy Graham, and the two had been

friends for more than 60 years.