

About Robert Blair, and Norma

Bob was born on an acreage north of Hoisington, Kansas. He and his wife Norma now live on an Iowa acreage. They spent much of their married life in busy Los Angles. Bob graduated from Milwaukie, OR, (near Portland) Union High School, where he hardly distinguished himself as a student.

Mostly because Bob's friends began college studies at Portland (Oregon) State College, Bob enrolled at PSC intending to major in psychology. During his high school senior year, Bob met Norma at an evening church service in Oregon City, Oregon. She graduated from Tigard, OR High School

Bob proposed to Norma by buying an engagement ring, placing it in the glove box of his 46 Chevy coupe, and driving to her parents' place on the west side of the Willamette River. When Norma came out to the car and got in, Bob told her: "Your ring is in the glove box, put it on and don't ever take it off."

The preacher who performed their wedding ceremony recommended that they live at least a thousand miles from their families. He thought Bob had ministry potential, and he recommended a small Christian college in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Bob furthered his education at Pepperdine College in Los Angeles. They attended a Wednesday evening service at the Hollywood Church of Christ the first week they were in town. Bob and Norma appreciated the fellowship of the Hollywood church. Wade Ruby, Hollywood minister at the time encouraged Bob to take a double major, (Religion and English). To support their growing family and to pay his college tuition, he worked fulltime for an oil company. Norma babysat and took in ironing to help pay expenses.

In addition to his Greek reading classes, Bob chose to take Hebrew, taught by Michio Nagai. Bob received a B.A. in English and Religion from Pepperdine College and an M.A. in Religion from Pepperdine.

Hollywood church Associate Minister Harris Goodwin had long dreamed of evangelizing Mexico and Central America. In 1963, the Hollywood church sponsored Harris in that effort. The church elders also wanted to more strongly evangelize the Hollywood area by hiring someone to work especially with young people. They asked Bob to serve as a fulltime co-minister with Wade Ruby. Wade died suddenly in 1966, and the elders asked Bob to become the Hollywood Church of Christ pulpit minister. Bob preached for the church in Hollywood 28 years.

During Bob's ministry, the Hollywood elders approved strong community evangelistic efforts. Members knocked on doors and the church developed an extensive direct mail effort. The church welcomed people of all races and ethnic background, something Wade Ruby had urged in the 1950s, and the Hollywood elders reaffirmed in the 1960s. The Hollywood church carries on that loving, godly mission.

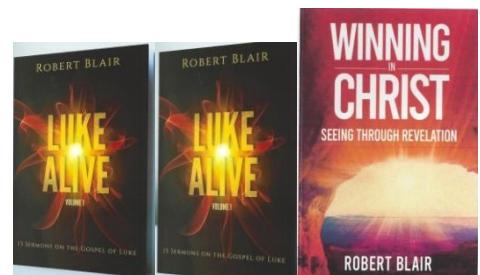
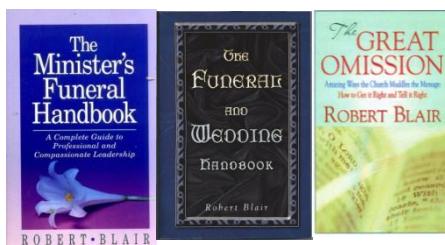
Norma began volunteering at Los Angeles public schools. Soon school administrators wanted her to work part time, then full time. She advanced to become the office manager of Laurel Elementary School in Hollywood. Norma retired from that position in 1990.

Baker Book House published Bob's *The Minister's Funeral Handbook* in 1990. Bob "retired" from fulltime ministry in August 1991. He hoped to spend more time writing.

Bob and Norma live on an acreage near the most remote place in Iowa—and also the coldest. They are very thankful for the four children God allowed them to nurture for a while. Those happily married offspring reside in Iowa, Missouri, Texas, and California. Bob and Norma both read the Scriptures daily. He continues to write and does fill-in preaching. Norma and Bob enjoy gardening and taking walks near their rural home accompanied by their frisky farm Lab, *Josie*. Their wandering cat *Smash* usually tags far behind.

Bob's and Norma's greatest interest has been serving the kingdom of God. Both in California and Iowa, the Blairs hosted a weekly Bible study in their home (Norma did/does most of the work). People of many backgrounds gathered in the Blairs' living room to study, discuss, and implement God's Word. Bob's articles have been featured in *Leadership*, *Power for Today*, and *21st Century Christian*. His published books are listed below.

The Lord's wisdom, knowledge, and love astound and amaze Bob and Norma. They appreciate, how at crucial moments in their lives, God provided thoughtful, loving people to advise, inspire, and sometimes admonish them. Only the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ deserves honor and praise. Thank Him for the scores of His servants, who remain faithful to Jesus all over the country and many foreign countries. You may write to Bob at PO Box 304, Marcus, IA, 51035. He is sentimentally stuck in the mid-20th century and hates to do Email.



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