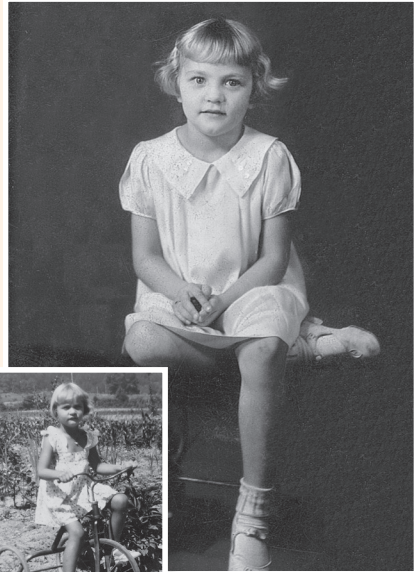




Honoring the Life and Legacy of
Dr. Rebekah (Beka) Horton
1929–2020

A Life Marked by
Faithfulness,
Dedication,
and
Love for God

Rebekah Leah Hall Horton was born in Wartburg, Tennessee, on July 23, 1929. As a young teenager, she accepted Christ as her Savior and soon after dedicated her life to His service—and what a life of service it was!



Beka (age 4) in
Huntsville, Tennessee



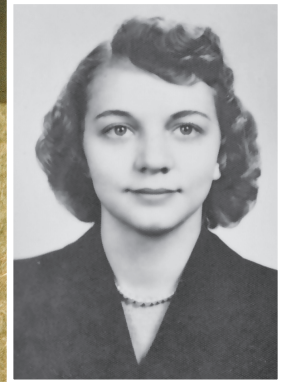
Outside her college dorm, c. 1948

Called to Serve

Beka chose to attend a conservative Christian college to prepare herself for God's call on her life. While in college, she worked part-time in the campus dining hall. Her faithful work habits, poise, and desire to do right caught the attention of another student, Arlin Horton, and it didn't take him long to realize that Beka was the girl for him.



College graduation, 1951



College portrait

Serving Together

Arlin asked Beka to marry him during Christmas break of their college sophomore year, but Beka waited three months to say yes, taking time to pray about God's will before committing herself. A few months later, Beka's parents transferred to an army base in Germany. Arlin said, "I knew she would need someone to look after her, so I volunteered." They married on August 28, 1950, just before the start of their senior year. Arlin and Beka continued to look after each other throughout nearly seventy years of marriage and ministry.



Beka and Arlin's wedding, 1950



Teaching Bible in the city park, McMinnville, Oregon

Heart of a Teacher

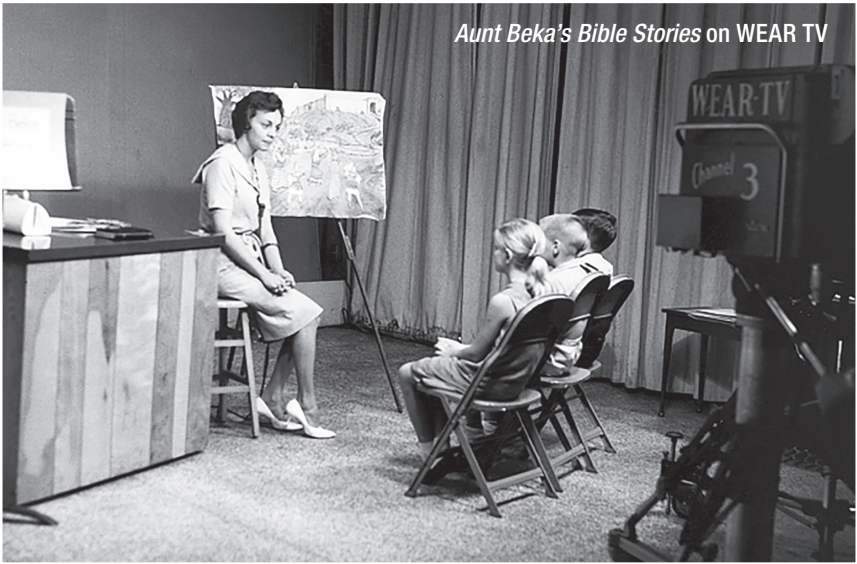
Beka's deep love for God made her eager to share His Word. After graduation, Beka went right to work teaching Bible lessons in a local park in Oregon. When the Hortons moved to Pensacola in 1952, Arlin and Beka's first ministry was hosting Sunday schools and Bible clubs for Child Evangelism Fellowship, with Arlin gathering the children and leading singing while Beka taught the Bible stories. She also served with him in the summer camp ministry that later grew into Camp o' the Pines. At Pensacola Christian, she taught teachers to "first love what is nearest God's heart—telling the children about Jesus and how He loves them." Throughout years of ministry, Beka never forgot her most important task: sharing the love of Jesus.



Arlin and Beka's Sunday school at Moreno Court, 1950s



The popular local camp, Camp o' the Pines, was established under the Hortons' leadership, where Beka was once a cabin leader and program director.



Expanded Influence and Ministry

In 1953, her ministry expanded to television with a weekly flannelgraph Bible lesson that aired on Pensacola's only local television station each Sunday afternoon as *Aunt Beka's Bible Stories*. These televised lessons continued for twenty years and still captivate children today through the *Bible Truth* DVDs. Along the way, Beka also began teaching a weekly ladies' Bible class at a local bookstore, a community outreach she continued for 45 years. At Pensacola Christian College, Beka taught freshman girls Sunday school for two decades. From teaching the Bible, Beka made a natural transition to writing, authoring three Abeka high school Bible textbooks and numerous Sunday school materials. Whether in a park,

on television, or in a classroom, her lessons were always expressive and earnest, not depending on humor or entertainment tricks. Straight from God's Word to her own heart and then to the heart of her listeners, Beka's teaching has inspired generations of children and adults.



A Vision Realized

Once Beka decided to follow Jesus, there was no turning back. For more than sixty years, she dedicated her life to serving Christ by her husband's side as they fulfilled the vision that God revealed one day at a time. Although the Lord did not bless the Hortons' marriage with children of their own, they were the spiritual parents of countless children and adults who were touched by their work. Beka was her husband's chief assistant, never



Beka's office in the elementary building

wavering from any new challenge. In the early days of Pensacola Christian School, she was a teacher, office worker, administrator, and the school's chief promotion through her televised Bible lessons.

When it became obvious that their students needed traditional, Christian textbooks, Beka spearheaded the writing of academic programs that later developed into the publishing ministry named after her: A Beka Book. She remained chief editor for many years. In 1971, Arlin's dream of a Christian radio station came to fruition in WPCS, and Beka became instrumental in guiding programming and music selection. When God called the Hortons to start a college in 1974, she embraced this new opportunity, saying, "The future is as bright as the promises of God; so with our eyes upon God and upon His promises, we will go from day to day this next year and ask Him to



Beka promoting textbooks at a conference.



Hortons in front of PCC's first dormitory

help us be as faithful to Him as He has been faithful to us." Faithfulness characterized Beka's life.

God Gave the Increase

She was a gifted teacher, writer, and administrator, yet when credited for her accomplishments, Beka reflected the praise back to her Savior: “Well, to be truthful, I’m not sure that I could do what I have done except that the Lord says as we give Him our talents and abilities and are obedient, He multiplies them.” There can be no doubt that the Lord multiplied her talents and used her obedience and faithfulness for His glory. Among the honors she received for her influence on Christian education is an honorary Doctor of Letters bestowed by Clearwater Christian College in 1991. Although she



Portrait of Beka
by artist
Joe Bowler

retired from ministry in 2012, Beka Horton continues to influence thousands for Christ through the ministries of Pensacola Christian Academy, Camp o’ the Pines, Abeka, and Pensacola Christian College.



Honors Concert celebrating the Hortons’ Diamond Jubilee, April 20, 2012.



“I believe that God,
aside from His unusual blessings
on this ministry,
has used Beka’s life and example
more than any other person
connected with this ministry.”

Dr. Arlin Horton
