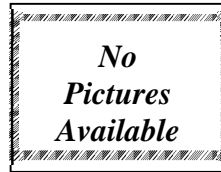


# **Dave Hersey**



My name is Dave and I live in Pleasant Ridge, Missouri, about one hour west of Branson near Monett. My wife and I moved here four years ago from Maine. My wife is from Missouri and we had an opportunity to purchase property next door to her mother. The snow shovels a lot easier here than in Maine, so here we are.

I had polio in 1953 when I was 15 months old, which left me with a crippled right leg. I wore a brace until I was 5, have had 5 surgeries on my legs, and was told I could do anything (just like all polio survivors were).

I am a minister with the United Pentecostal Church and spent 25 years ministering in the state of Maine. I have also taught school and was a science/math teacher in Middle School and High School. I try to remain as active as possible with church work here in Missouri and volunteer stuff.

My wife has developed fibromyalgia since we moved here. She is currently employed at Stone County Senior Citizen Center. We have been married for 30 years.

We have two children: A son, who with his wife and my only grandchild, are pasturing a church in Springfield; and a daughter who is a missionary in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The dog is a Dachshund who is ten years old: Skippy John Von Weiner. He thinks that he is a tough dog. He was just barking at a turtle outside.

A few years ago, I attended the first Polio Support Group for the Pine Tree Society in Maine. While there, I did notice that I was the youngest person there.....that is good since it means that polio has been eradicated in our country. But the interesting thing was that one of the nurses from Hide Home, which was the hospital that treated polio was present at this meeting. I introduced myself to her and she cried and hugged me. I was honored to meet this wonderful individual before she passed away.

