



Kent W. Wray

July 18, 1921 - January 31, 2015

Kent Wagner Wray, age 93, entered the presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Saturday, January 31, in Dallas, TX. Kent's life was dedicated to serving the Lord as a husband and father, pastor, missionary, writer, Bible teacher, and friend to many. Kent was born on July 18, 1921 to Bailey and Orpha (Wagner) Wray in Kenton, Ohio. During Kent's early years the family moved to Plainwell, MI where he grew up and graduated from Plainwell High School.

When Kent was 10 years old he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. As a teenager, he spent several summers as a camper at Maranatha Bible Conference, Muskegon, MI. It was through the influence of his counselors and camp speakers that Kent chose to dedicate his life to vocational Christian ministry.

At the age of 16 Kent went to Bob Jones College, Cleveland, TN, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Pastoral Studies. He also attended Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI.

Upon graduation, Kent became the pastor of Day Bible Church, Augusta, MI. It was there Kent met his bride and the love of his life, Evelyn Bostwick. Kent and Evelyn were married November 13, 1948. They were blessed with nearly 58 years of marriage.

Kent was pastor of Goodells Gospel Church, Goodells, MI from 1948-1954 and Lake Center Bible Church, Portage, MI from 1955-1958. In 1958 Kent accepted the position of Editorial Vice President of RBM Ministries (then Rural

Bible Mission), Kalamazoo, MI. For more than 50 years Kent served writing children's curriculum and as a missionary to children in Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties. Kent also enjoyed ministering to children in Gibson City, IL, and various summer camps around the country.

It was in 1992 that Kent saw a life-long dream come true with the publishing of his first children's book, "Boy from Shacktown." Ten more children's books followed. Besides writing himself, he also enjoyed teaching writing workshops for children.

Kent was a member of Covey Hill Baptist Church, Paw Paw, MI for 56 years, where he served faithfully in various capacities, most recently as an adult Bible teacher. Kent considered the congregation his "family."

For the past year and a half Kent has resided with his daughter, Mary Compton, in Dallas, TX. Most recently Kent was a resident of the Villages of Lake Highlands Skilled Nursing Facility.

Kent will be deeply missed by his 5 children: Lois Riddick (Edward), Oshkosh, WI; Stephen Wray (Patricia), Vancouver, WA; Ruth Corrie (John), Three Rivers, MI; Mary Compton (Donald), Dallas, TX; Elisabeth "Beth" Thomas (Paul), Lexington, NE. Kent was blessed with 16 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bailey and Orpha Wray; his dear sister, Marian Wray; his beloved wife, Evelyn; his precious granddaughter, Pamela Ruth Corrie; great-grandson, Caiden Davis; and great-granddaughter, Natalie Jean Riddick.

Visitation and a celebration of life service will be held Saturday, February 14 at Covey Hill Baptist Church, Corner of M-40 Hwy and 28th Avenue, Paw Paw, MI. Visitation will be from 12 noon to 2pm, with the Celebration of Life at 2pm. Memorials may be made to RBM Ministries. Arrangements by the GOBLES CHAPEL, D. L. Miller Funeral Home.

Cemetery Details

Robinson Cemetery

34000 20th Avenue
Gobles, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 14. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Covey Hill Baptist Church
33566 28th Avenue
Paw Paw, MI

Memorial Service

FEB 14. 2:00 PM (ET)

Covey Hill Baptist Church
33566 28th Avenue
Paw Paw, MI

Tribute Wall

KD

“ This message may not get to family because I just discovered the obituary. Kent is remembered as a sweet, kind, gracious man who deeply loved the Lord My best memory is that of playing piano for Bible Schools in churches where there was no pianist as I was growing up. I also remember giving piano lessons to Stephen, Lois, and Ruth. There were many good Covey Hill days as result of Kent's testimony and wisdom.

Karen Jacobson Dekker

Karen Jacobson Dekker - March 12, 2015 at 11:30 AM

JR

“ Having served shoulder to shoulder with Kent at RBM Ministries, I have nothing but respect for him, as I reflect on his gracious heart toward me, his love for children and his love for the Lord. Our two families had many good times together. Betty and I offer our sympathy for your loss, and also rejoice that he is now with loved ones and his Lord in Heaven!

Jack Rood - February 16, 2015 at 05:12 PM

VM

“ My favorite memory is when I would visit Mary and Donnie's shop every week I would tell Kent you must have known I was coming today cause you have your Napa hat on and he would just smile. I loved hearing his stories What a special man he was .VICKY MILLER

VICKY MILLER - February 13, 2015 at 06:32 AM

CC

“ Jesus said he who has seen me has seen the father. Certainly if you knew Kent you have seen the father. We have loved and admired Kent all our married lives. Till we meet again, Dean and Carolyn Corrie

Carolyn Corrie - February 12, 2015 at 03:50 PM

RG

“ There are many memories of Mr Wray one of my favorites is when Mr Wray would come to childrens church and read a chapter a week to the kids they loved it and so did I. Roy and I are thankful not only to have known Mr Wray but to call him our friend. Roy and Donita George.

Roy and Donita George - February 11, 2015 at 05:39 PM

JF

“ Joseph Compton for the Elizabeth Compton family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kent W. Wray.



Joseph Compton for the Elizabeth Compton family -
February 11, 2015 at 01:01 PM

BS

“ I met "Uncle" Kent because of my wife, Julie and her family back in 1984 at the Gibson City Bible Church. All four of our daughters, and my wife, attended Vacation Bible School with Uncle Kent and later Cousin Kirby teaching them bible stories that literally came alive. My fondest memories were visiting with him during his trips by playing putt putt golf with the Lunde family, long talks when I was able to eat breakfast with him before he left for home, and finally a road trip to visit him in August of 2011. He was a mentor to me, a dear friend and full of wisdom that he freely gave. Uncle Kent and Aunt Eveylyn touched our family in a great way. Well done thou good and faithful servant! I am a better man, husband and father because of "Uncle" Kent.

Brian Stagen Family - Paxton, Illinois



Brian Stagen - February 10, 2015 at 02:20 PM

MC

Thank you, Stagen Family...be assured your entire family was loved by both Kent & Evelyn...they kept all the photos you sent to them...you were fondly spoken of when we were home, asking "Who is that family?" God bless you, and thank you for the encouragement of your memories here!

Mary Katherine Wray Compton - February 12, 2015 at 03:45 PM

PT

“*“Kent Wray Day” was a held in our church on Sunday, May 31, 2009. It was meant to honor the ministry and service of Kent Wray in our church and community. I remember being a bit nervous about Kent preaching. It was wasted anxiety. He did a fantastic job. His message represented his life - it was witty, humble, biblical, and focused on Jesus. Kent and I shared a love for all things aviation. Mostly, however, I remember his love for the Lord and for others. Only the Lord knows how many children in Ford County, Illinois met Jesus through his life and ministry. Paul Thomason, Sr. Pastor - Gibson City Bible Church.*

Paul Thomason - February 09, 2015 at 02:12 PM

KA

“*Mr. Wray was the first person to share Christ with me. I remember that I brought the cherry pie and he ate it standing on his head. Now many in my family are saved and serving the Lord.*

kathleen allen - February 08, 2015 at 11:16 AM

TB

“*In the short time I had to get to know Mr. Wray, I got to know him well. On Thursdays my employer and friend Brian and would have lunch with Mr.Wray, we would always think of questions to ask him. This on Thursday really stands out in my mind we asked Mr. Wray why is it when we pray for this person to get healed they get healed, then we pray for another person to get healed and they don't and Mr. Wray took his fist and hit the table and said "when are we going to learn it's not about what we are doing but what the Lord is doing". You will be missed brother till we meet again in Glory.*

Tom Beezley - February 08, 2015 at 08:35 AM

JM

“ My condolences to the family and friends of Kent Wray. Knowing that he is in Heaven with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as well as with loved ones who have preceded him only helps to ease the bittersweet separation in the here and now.. May your memories of this kind, gentle and loving man bring you comfort and strength in the days and weeks ahead. May his memorial service indeed be a celebration of his life as he served his Lord, his family and his friends and neighbors. Praying for peace and comfort for all. May there be those even now who realize how Mr. wray became the man he was and who will trust in Jesus Christ to become their Savior and Lord.

Judith Merrill - February 07, 2015 at 09:18 AM

 Anna
Martin

“ I learned so much from him from the Word of God. He was a very loving man. He would give the shirt of his back to help anyone

Anna Martin - February 07, 2015 at 07:29 AM

MC

“ One of my favorite moments [age 18] in SEPT-1973, I remember being at a missionary retreat with my Dad at a northern Michigan Bible camp...during an afternoon break time, in a vast wooded area, in a rowboat out on the camp's small lake, I distinctly recall some serious talking going on between the two of us as we rowed around the lake...

At one point, Dad began sharing with me how God impressed upon his heart the urgency to be a better husband & father after the time I was born into the family. I was rather surprised [& tickled] by his statement, & asked, "Really? Was I that naughty?" Dad laughed a bit, then said [after a thoughtful pause], "Well...you DO know that you're my favorite, don't you?"...which of course, was all done with a big smile & twinkles in his blue-blue eyes...we both fully knew I was really-only his favorite "Mary" daughter...that he didn't have "favorites" among us kids...

So in later years, we would come to remember that Father-Daughter time as an "extra special" defining moment...what a glorious day that was, rowing the boat 'til our arms [& probably backs] ached, occasionally breaking out into singing together, some of our favorite hymns & RBM-VBS choruses...

I will always praise the Lord for times like this one, where my Dad showed love & humor, while teaching great life lessons to a daughter who had so much to learn about God, His Holy Word, living an earthly life with a Heavenly focus, & loving others...

"Thank you, my Dear Daddy-O-Papas...I'm so excited you're right where you most want to be...in Heaven, where you see our Precious Mama & all our loved ones gone before you...but most of all, I know you're praising the God you always loved & served for all your days!!!"

"Thank You, Heavenly Father, for rescuing my Dad at an early age, by giving him the Free Gift of Salvation by way of Your Obedient

Son-Jesus Christ...& for giving Daddy the desire to serve You his entire life!!!"

Mary Katherine Wray Compton - February 07, 2015 at 01:10 AM

MC

He was faithful to the end. Will miss seeing him at church.

mary alice colvin - February 07, 2015 at 12:44 PM

MH

“ *I recall Mr. Wray as someone that was very active helping the Christian youth in Van Buren County back in the late 60's and early 70's, certainly there should be a long line of tributes from those that were the recipients of his good deeds; all of which he did in the name of his Lord Jesus Christ. He was certainly a man of God. Rest in Peace Mr. Wray!*

*Michael Hanners
Bangor, MI*

michael hanners - February 06, 2015 at 08:24 PM

TS

“ *Mr. Wray was the first one at Covey Hill that wanted to get to know us so asked us to lunch after church. This was less than a month from when we started attending in 2008. What a wonderful man of God!*

Tom and Sharon Sunlin

Tom and Sharon Sunlin - February 06, 2015 at 02:22 PM

RF

“ Steadfast, faithful, dedicated are just a few words that describe our memories of Kent Wray. God kept him here on earth a good long time for all to enjoy before He took Kent home. God bless the family.

Ron & Flo Fluty

Ron & Flo Fluty - February 05, 2015 at 07:00 AM

DP

A wonderful man to know. Great family. Mr. And Mess Wray visit ed my family when we lived at Baseline and. Eagle. Lake trailer parks. Such carring and loving couple. Love them.

Dale powers - February 07, 2015 at 06:44 AM

JC

I only had the privilege of meeting Mr Wray a few times. He always expressed so much joy and happiness in his face and in his life. It was refreshing to know someone who truly knew Jesus and the abundant life He promises.

Joseph Compton - February 07, 2015 at 03:11 PM

PD

Worked with Kent at RBM Ministries. Was a Godly man and always had a smile. He will be missed by anyone who knew him. Praying for the family.

Patricia Dickinson - February 07, 2015 at 05:10 PM