

Larry Ray Cheatham

52, a resident of Lincoln, Arkansas, passed away July 19, 2007 near Cheyenne, Wyoming. He was born June 12, 1955 at Fayetteville, Arkansas, the son of Davie and Geneva Brindle Cheatham. He was a member of the Central United Methodist Church in Lincoln, Arkansas.

He was a truck driver for the Swift Truck Company.

Survivors include his wife Darlynda Sauer of the home; three sons, Aaron Cheatham and Brian Cheatham both of Lincoln, Arkansas and Cory Cheatham of Rogers, Arkansas; one step daughter, Kerra McDaugale of Fayetteville, Arkansas, and one step son, Ryan McDaugale of Lincoln, Arkansas; five grandchildren; his mother and father of Lincoln, Arkansas; three brothers, Gary Dale Cheatham of Lincoln, Arkansas, Danny Joe Cheatham of Poynette, Wisconsin, and Tommy Lynn Cheatham of Cave Springs, Arkansas.

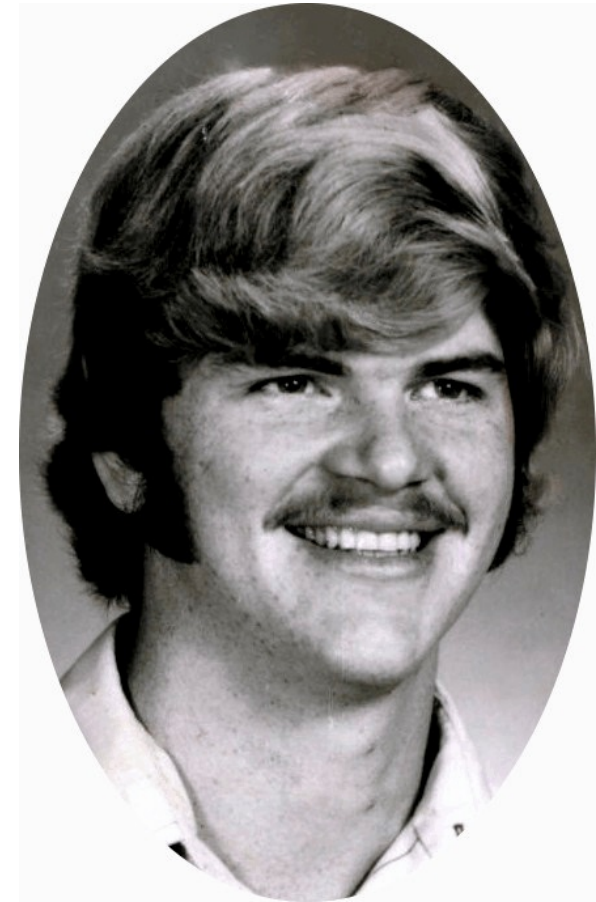
APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Cheatham family, we wish to express their gratitude for your many acts of kindness, and for your attendance at the funeral service.

Luginbuel Funeral Home

Prairie Grove, Arkansas

online guest book, visit www.luginbuel.com



Larry Ray Cheatham

June 12, 1955 - July 19, 2007

Perhaps Today

Perhaps at cool of morning when
The day is breaking light;
Perhaps at noontide's hour, or
'Midst gathering shades of night

I'll see a burst of glory, and
The angel's voice I'll hear;
The trumpet's golden throat will sound
The summons loud and clear!

Then suddenly - I'll see the Lord!
I'll meet Him face to face...
The Lord of all the universe
The Lord of truth and grace!

My cup of bliss will overflow;
I'll see Him as He is!
What joy to place my hand within
That nail-scarred hand of His!

Perhaps today will be the day
I'll hear His welcomed voice!
Perhaps today I'll see the Lord
And evermore rejoice!

CELEBRATING THE LIFE & MEMORY OF

Larry Ray Cheatham

DATE, TIME & PLACE OF SERVICE

Monday, July 23, 2007 - 3:00 P.M.
Central United Methodist Church - Lincoln, Arkansas

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude Music "The Old Rugged Cross"

"(Everything I Do) I Do For You"

Eulogy Linda Rae Klassen
Cory Cheatham

"Special Music" Kerra McDaugale

Words of Comfort & Victory Andy Newbill
Pastor - Central United Methodist Church - Lincoln, Arkansas

Prayer

"Hell or Highwater"

Postlude Music "Go Rest High On That Mountain"

Linda Klassen will drive one of the Swift Company Truck's to transport Larry to his final resting place in the Cheatham Cemetery.

FINAL RESTING PLACE

Cheatham Cemetery
Lincoln, Arkansas

PALLBEARERS

James Davis - Russel Frye - Jermiah West
James Ray Hall - Mike McCratic - Aaron Gamble

Larry Ray Cheatham – July 23, 2007 – 3:00 P.M. – Central United Methodist Church
Lincoln, Arkansas – Message delivered by Rev. Andy Newbill

1 Samuel 20:3

Then David took an oath before Jonathan and said, "Your father knows perfectly well about our friendship, so he has said to himself, 'I won't tell Jonathan – why should I hurt him?' But I swear to you that I am only a step away from death! I swear it by the LORD and by your own soul!"

None of us likes to think about death. We are concerned with life, with our dreams and hopes for the future, with our plans for the days ahead, and with the goals we seek to attain. The end of life seems far away, and death is something that happens to someone else. When one we love comes to the end of his days, we place his tired head upon a silken pillow and close his eyes as if in sleep. Then we surround the casket with flowers as though to distract our attention from the fact of death.

In doing such things, we reveal our human nature. Our faith naturally grows weak in these times of sorrow, and we need these reminders of the true character of death. It is but a sleep, with an eternity to follow. We are certain that the resurrection power in this universe, represented by these flowers, must be ultimately stronger than the power of the grave.

At other times, death comes suddenly and unexpectedly. In the midst of life, with every joy of living near at hand, the one we love is taken from us. Then we must look squarely into the face of this last great enemy we call death. Then these things that we have done to give comfort seem to mock us. The tragic events of life remind us of the truth of those words uttered by the young man long ago. Death is, indeed, but a step away.

David spoke the literal fact of his own experience. His life was in great danger. The king had turned against him and had tried on more than one occasion to have him killed. There was no hope but for him to hide, and no refuge with his countrymen who were loyal to the king. David's words, however, are just as true for us today as they were three thousand years ago. With all our learning, with all our knowledge of health and disease, with all the precautions we can take, death is still but a step away from any of us..

Perhaps we can find some comfort in the fact that the step of death is common to us all. Whether the great time-table of God puts death near at hand or far away, it is a step that we all must take. None can escape. Eventually we move into the mysterious land from which no traveler returns. We may be ignorant of the precise moment appointed for each of us, but we are certain, as long as history continues, that the time will arrive.

None of us looks forward to taking that last step, for we know the occasion as a sad one. As we move out into the unknown, we leave our loved ones behind us. We are separated from all that is familiar-the common sights of our everyday lives, the faces of our friends, the voices of those dear to us, the touch of loving hands. Death seems to cut us off from all we hold dear.

Moreover, this final step is one which we must take alone. All through life we have had others to help us. As children, we were not afraid of the bustle of the big city, for our hands were clasped firmly in the hands of Mother and Father, and we knew we could depend on their love. When we left home to enter school, we discovered that the teacher was there to guide us in these strange surroundings. Over the passing years we have come to know the strength available to us from so many different sources, encouraging us in times of stress. We remember the words of helpful friends, the skills of doctors and nurses, the guidance of a kind preacher. In every crisis, someone was nearby to help. But as we come to the end of life, we face a moment when this help is no longer

available. The doctor, the minister, or our friends may be able to comfort and strengthen us until the end comes, but we must take the final step by ourselves.

While these thoughts about death are all true, they are only half-truths. Certainly, death is but a step away from each of us. Disturbing as that fact may be, it is also the source of hope for those of us who anticipate a life beyond.

Death is a step which separates us from those we leave behind, but it is also a step which reunites us with those who have gone before. We remember so many whom we loved in times past and love still though they have long been away. Mother, Father, grandparents, friends—we recall the farewell. But on the other side of this experience we call death, we know they are waiting for us. Each one is only a step away. Our tearful leaving on this side gives way to the joyous reunion on the other side.

Beyond all these human relationships, is the love that the Christian knows, tying him to his Lord. The step into eternity is also a step into the presence of Christ. He has gone to prepare a place for us. Then he will receive us unto himself, that where he is we may be also, eternally with our Lord. (John 14:3)

While the time of death may be uncertain for each of us. There need be no such uncertainty about our destination, The end of life is not marked with a step into the void or into the unknown. We follow in a way that Christ has traveled before us. The eternal home to which we go is far more glorious than our finite minds can comprehend. We only know the depths of love which our Lord expressed to us, and that we shall move into the home that he has prepared. We need nothing more.

As far as human companionship is concerned, we must walk alone in death. However, the Christian has discovered that he has divine fellowship in every moment of life. When he comes to the end and takes that last step, he does not leave God behind. The Shepherd walks always with his sheep. Even when they must walk through the valley of the shadow of death, he does not leave them. They need not fear, for he is present to comfort and to guide. (Ps 23:4) Death is but a step away from each of us. Yet, we need not be frightened or anxious. When the time comes, our Father walks with us to the place prepared for us and the heavenly fellowship that awaits us there.

We all know that a journey requires some preparation. If we expect to travel by airplane, we buy the ticket, pack the luggage, and make plans to arrive at the airport on time. If we are to drive, we get the the automobile ready to carry us to our destination without difficulty. We would be wise to give some of the same forethought to this last journey which we must take. Death is but a step away. Will you be ready when the time comes?

Let us pray:

Our Father we realize that all of life must be lived in the shadow of eternity. We thank thee for the opportunities that come to us each day to experience thy love and to reflect it toward one another. Forgive us for our failures, and help us to use these days of preparation wisely.

Larry would say:

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.* (Written by Reinhold Niebuhr)

Comfort us with thy presence and with the certainty of the hope which thou hast given us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.