



George Walter Ray

January 13, 2008

Myrtle Beach.....Pastor George Walter Ray, age 58 of Pepper Hill Circle went home to be with his Lord Sunday, January 13, 2008 at N.E. Ruby Green Hospice House. Pastor Ray was born in Bladen County, NC, the son of the late George Washington and Reba Edge Ray. He was a pastor for 34 years and was Pastor at Friendship Baptist Church in Myrtle Beach for 17 years. Pastor Ray was Chaplain of Vietnam Veterans of America, Grand Strand Chapter #925 in Myrtle Beach. He was also a U.S. Army Veteran of the 101 Airborne during Vietnam War. Surviving are: his wife, Emma Ray of Myrtle Beach, SC; one son, Johnny Ray and wife Starre of Myrtle Beach, SC; one daughter, Melissa Higgins and husband Joseph of Conway, SC; three grandsons, Johnny Ray, Aaron Ray, and Patrick Higgins; one sister, Brenda Joyner and husband Steve of Sharpsburg, NC. A funeral service will be held 2:00 PM Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at Friendship Baptist Church with Pastor Will George, Pastor Bruce Scott, and Pastor Glenn Hill officiating. Burial with military rights will follow in Hillcrest Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6-8 PM Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Friendship Baptist Church Land Fund, PO Box 9147, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577. Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Mrs Ray & family, We visited Friendship Baptist Church several times whilst on vacation in MB, and appreciated Pastor Ray's sermons, his heart for the Lord, and for people. We had been praying for your husband, and yourselves both individually and as a church family, since he shared his health with us in an email last fall. We are saddened to hear of his passing, but know that He is now rejoicing with the Lord, free from suffering & pain. We are praying for the Lord's comfort & strength for you all in these difficult days. In Christ, Pastor Chris Wyatt, Beacon Baptist Church, Cambridge, ON.##imported-begin##Pastor Chris Wyatt##imported-end##

February 13, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Well its me little Bird. You always had a name picked out for me. I miss you so very much. The Church is not the same with out you. I remember how you would always say I will see you soon with a smile on my face and a song in my heart and a Bible in my hands. There will never be anyone else like Pastor Ray. He was so funny and loved to talk on the phone. He would talk your ears off. But I will miss thoes long conversations and the special birthday song he would sing. Mrs. Ray I love you so very much and pray for you every time I think about you. I know you are sad and so are all of us. But it wont be to long and we will be up there in Heaven with Him and Jesus and boy will we have a time. Danae##imported-begin##Danea Knight##imported-end##

January 21, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I was saddened to hear of your loss. Though it has been many years since Rocky Mount Free Will Babtist i.e. Shannadoah Babtist Church, I remember that my parents spoke highly of George. I remember he had a powerful testimony, and a lovely family. He was very young to leave this world and I pray for your heavy hearts.##imported-begin##Denise Prince Hughes##imported-end##

January 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To Emma and Family, Our thoughts and prayers go out for you that the Lord will strengthen and bless you during this time. You and George left imprints on the hearts of people everywhere you went. When George spoke of heaven and meeting Jesus, he beamed with excitement. Thank you for standing with, supporting, and sharing him with us during your visits and ministry while in Rocky Mount. As the old song says, "God be with you til we meet again."##imported-begin##Robert, Mary, & Meredith Collins##imported-end##

January 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Sorry to hear about the passing of George.##imported-begin##Joe and Mary Ezzell##imported-end##

January 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ms. Emma, It is heartfelt sympathy that we feel for you and your family. Pastor George was a wonderful person and such a great testimony. We enjoyed all of the revivals he held every year at Shenandoah and looked forward to them. We will always remember him with great admiration. You and your family are in our prayers. We know GOD will help you through but it doesn't lessen the pain. I can see pastor George and Marty having themselves a good time in Heaven. Take care and God bless.##imported-begin##Ray and Darlene Jones##imported-end##

January 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Emma and Family, Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. Psalm 116.15 My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. II Corinthians 12.9 We have fond memories of you both, especially our times of fellowship around the table at the Carlton House Resturant and in our Home. We loved having you and George for revivals at Shenandoah Baptist Church. One of our favorite songs for such occasions as this is, "Until Then". Knowing, both our Hope and the words of this song are comforting. In His Love. Heart felt Sympathy, Carl & Lynn##imported-begin##Carl & Lynn Sellars##imported-end##

January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ray Family, While we did not know Pastor Ray personally, we have been praying for him for sometime. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bean, members of our church and care group, winter in Myrtle Beach and have sat under Pastor Ray's ministry for the past few years during their winter retreat. Their testimony of his ministry in their lives to us has been a real blessing. We celebrate with you his homegoing and trust that God's grace is more than sufficient for you at this time or your personal loss. Sincerely, In Christ, Charles & Charlotte Nicholson Calvary Baptist Church Cresaptown, Maryland##imported-begin##Charles & Charlotte Nicholson##imported-end##

January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



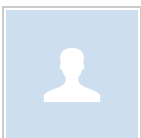
“ NULL##imported-begin##Donald & O'Nile Bean##imported-end##

January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Miss Emma & Family, We want you to know that we share your loss of Pastor Ray and miss him at church so much. He was a great friend and wonderful preacher and we loved him very much. Our prayers are with you and your sweet family. Love, Don & Me-o-my-O'Nile##imported-begin##Donald & O'Nile Bean##imported-end##

January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss, but rejoice in the Lord that George didn't have to suffer any longer. He's free of pain and now is enjoying a new body. Our prayers are with "YOU" the family.##imported-begin##Butch & Pansy Peele##imported-end##

January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Ray Family, I've known Jo and Melissa for quite some time now. Throughout the years I've come to know about your family and seen the love that you share. I've only met Pastor Ray once or twice but realize that he was a blessing to Melissa, Jo and Patrick. I hope that you will celebrate his life and see what he has brought to this world...a beautiful family. Our deepest regrets go out to you and your family and our family and 'Columbia Friends' send our love.##imported-begin##Brian and Melinda Hunt##imported-end##

January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Ray and Family, We are truly sorry your loved one is gone, but praising the Lord he's no longer suffering and is now resting at the feet of Jesus! We will be in fervent prayer for you all praying that the grace and strength of our Lord and Savior to see you through. In His Love, Billy and Sharon Powell##imported-begin##Billy and Sharon Powell##imported-end##

January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Preacher Ray came into my life when I was 19 years old. I came home from college for the summer and couldn't wait to hear the new pastor my Mom was talking about. The first time I heard him preach I left the service feeling so happy and hopeful. He had a way of making you laugh and cry all the way through his sermons...laugh at yourself, him, life in general...cry at the feeling of the Holy Spirit surrounding you in His house...because you could truly feel God's presence at the church filling your heart and the room with love. I went to see Pastor Ray at his house back in November when I learned of his cancer prognosis. Mom and I spent a few hours visiting with Ms. Emma Preacher Ray's wife and with him. Preacher Ray talked about the people he loved with such devotion. He was beaming over how proud he was of his children, his grandchildren, and his son-in-law, Jo. I saw him again Tuesday night. He was in a Hospice unit and not doing very well, but he still had his sense of humor..laughing and even correcting his wife's grammar as he always has. He thought I was Miss America so obviously he still had his strong sense of humor! I loved Preacher Ray while he was on this earth like a true friend and a father. I will always love him and thank him for loving me back. I knew I could tell Preacher Ray anything and he would love me unconditionally. I will truly miss his presence here, his voice, his laughter, his enormous smile. I am thankful, however, for the peace in knowing that Preacher Ray is with God in Heaven even as I am writing this and he is probably at the feet of Jesus right now praising him and shouting with joy. I love you, Preacher Ray. Thank you for being you. I will see you again someday. Like the good ol' hymn says, "When we all get to Heaven what a day of rejoicing that will be. When we all see Jesus we'll sing and shout the victory."###imported-begin###Traci Byrd###imported-end##

January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ TO MY AUNT EMMA AND FAMILY: I AM TRULY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. WE HAVE ALL LOST A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON IN OUR FAMILY. GEORGE WAS SUCH A GOOD PERSON. HE HELPED ALL OF US ANY TIME HE WAS NEEDED. HE TOUCHED SO MANY LIVES AND WAS A WONDERFUL PASTOR. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO PROUD OF ALL OF YOU. I KNOW HE IS IN HEAVEN NOW AND WE WILL SEE HIM AGAIN. HE'S IN NO PAIN AND LOVING WHERE HE IS TODAY. WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HIM BY THE PERSON HE WAS. ALWAYS FUNNY AND LIKED TELLING HIS OLD STORIES ABOUT THE FAST CARS. HE WILL BE MISSED AT OUR FAMILY REUNIONS BY EVERYONE. I'M SO SORRY I COULDN'T BE THERE TODAY, BUT YOU ALL WILL BE IN MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS TODAY AND EVERYDAY. WE LOVE YOU, DIANE, BILL AND ANTHONY##imported-begin##DIANE SUTTON##imported-end##

January 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We were truly blessed to have Pastor in our lives, we are heartbroken that he is no longer with us. He is in glory now and what better place could he be! Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family we can't imagine how hard it must be on them. It has been very hard on us and hard to accept but we know this is all part of Gods wonderful plan. We can't wait to see him again one day when we will be in heaven ourselves. Love always, Rich, Julie, & Nathan##imported-begin##Rich & Julie Gregory & Nathan##imported-end##

January 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Precious friend and neighbor for 17 years. We were so blessed to have him so near.##imported-begin##James & Melissa Joyce##imported-end##

January 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



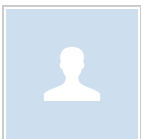
“ A precious friend and so much more. Our lives were blessed by your life and family. Soon and very soon we will see you once again.##imported-begin##Henry & Lynn Ridge##imported-end##

January 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Pastor George, not only my Pastor but my Vietnam Brother suffering from the same memories and pain from a war 40 years ago. Brother George you'll always be in my heart and I'll be a stronger person because of you and be able to face the future of what demons it can throw at me. Now that you're at rest I know that youâ??ll be by my side to help me through the hard times just like you were there before. Some day we will be reunited and I thank the Lord for when that glorious day comes! I Love You Brother, I Really Miss YOU!! Rod Miller##imported-begin##Rod Miller##imported-end##

January 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ We will remember all the wonderful memories that we have of Pastor and we look forward to seeing him again. He has meant so much to us and we were truly blessed to have him in our lives. We love you Mrs. Emma!##imported-begin##Andrew, Jamie & Layton Ridge##imported-end##

January 14, 2008 at 12:00 AM