

Until He Returns Newsletter

Volume No. 10

Monday, October 22, 2018

UHR Class Attendees & Friends:

Our friend and past teacher, Pastor Garth Yess, left this life suddenly just a few short days ago. Now he is at home with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Garth's service will be conducted by Pastor J B Hixson; the service will be held at the Presbyterian Church in Princeville, Illinois on Tuesday, October 23, 2018.

I hope all friends of this ministry will strongly consider attending the visitation and/or the funeral service.

UHR has lost a true friend of the ministry. Garth was a humble man and a gentle spirit, always quick with a smile and warm greeting to all. His life was a tribute and testament to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He will indeed be missed.

We at UHR request that you please pray for Lacey and their six young children.

Blessings to all from The Board of UHR.

Garth Yess Obituary

Princeville – Garth W. Yess, 50, of Princeville, passed away at 5:32 a.m. on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at his residence.

Garth was born on November 5, 1967 in Peoria, the son of Jerrold Elwyn and Betty M. (McDaniel) Yess. He married Lacey Harwood on April 10, 2004 in Peoria. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law, John Green.

Surviving are his wife Lacey and their six children--three sons: Isaiah, Creed, and Julius, and three daughters: Alaythea, Avigail, and Kayna, all at home; two sisters: Gayle Yess Fisher of The Woodlands, Texas and Gwen Lea of Georgetown, Texas; and two brothers: Greg (Kari) Yess of St. Louis, Missouri and Gary (Beth) Yess of Fort Worth, Texas.

Growing up, Garth loved basketball. But God took that desire away through an injury and replaced it with a desire to study God's word and teach it to others. He was a coach at heart. He coached kids in basketball camps when he was younger. Later he coached anyone who would listen in knowing how to be sure they would spend eternity in Heaven, and he coached Christians in understanding the Bible and applying it to their lives. He and Lacey started a community Bible study in Peoria which eventually moved to Princeville and ran for 14 years.

This was one of his very favorite things to do each week. He had various teaching and leadership roles in local churches, always with a great emphasis on and passion for the clear teaching of the gospel and personal application of the scriptures. Any time he had an opportunity to teach, he was happy. He was head pastor of Heartland Bible Church in Peoria as well as Northwest Baptist Church in Peoria.

Most people are familiar with John 3:16, but he also loved verses 17-19, which says, **“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world and men loved darkness rather than light.”** Garth took to heart 1 Corinthians 9:22b which says, **“I have become all things to all men that I might by all means save some”**.

He was not afraid to talk to anybody, anywhere, or anytime. In social settings he made every effort to talk with every person present. He always knew how to have a good time and he left nothing unsaid. He loved Moose Tracks ice cream for a treat; his favorite pies were rhubarb and cherry, both of which grew on the farm. Having festive parties, especially in the loft of his barn or over a campfire on the farm, were things he was well-known for. He would say, “I can't carry a tune in a bucket and I don't play any musical instruments, but I can play the radio.” Yet each morning he delighted in singing praises to the Lord together with his family. He loved good music and enjoyed

playing the role of DJ at his own parties and social gatherings. He did not like playing slow or sad songs in social settings, but his favorite song to listen to when he was missing a loved one was “If Heaven” by Andy Griggs. His favorite album to listen to anytime was songs by Rich Mullins.

Tombstone and It’s a Wonderful Life were two of his favorite movies, and if you knew him well, they were often quoted. Watching old episodes of Daniel Boone with his kids was his favorite way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

He also regularly used Daniel Boone’s line, “Can’t...or won’t?” to encourage his children in joyful obedience. He always loved dogs and German shepherds were his favorite breed. He always said the farm could be an awfully lonely place for a kid without a dog.

He loved to study history and to see how God’s plan unfolded through the ages. He played Freecell Solitaire when he was really trying to think through something important. He enjoyed playing board games, especially Scrabble and Rummikub. His nieces and nephews were a source of great joy for him, and he loved them all and prayed for them regularly. He especially enjoyed teasing them and teaching them all the things that only uncles can get away with. His favorite place to be was home, and he always loved to sit around the kitchen table and visit with loved ones and friends.

Lacey was the love of his life, and he treasured her and their children and the ways in which the Lord used them to shape him into a better man. He kept every single note or picture he ever received from them. He came to truly know the meaning of Psalm 127:3-5, **“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them”**.

Garth spent many lonely, difficult years waiting and hoping to find his wife. But after he met Lacey, he often said, “It was SO worth the wait.” In like manner, Garth also spent many years here on earth, waiting to be in the presence of his Lord and Savior forever, and hoping to be free from the presence and power of sin. The family rejoices and believes according to the scriptures that at this present time, by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, and not by works of righteousness which he had done, that Garth is alive with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and will be for all eternity. They are most confident that he is thinking again, “It was SO worth the wait.”

Garth’s service will be at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at the Princeville Presbyterian Church. Pastor J.B. Hixson will officiate. Visitation will be from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers and memorial gifts, contributions may be made to the Garth Yess Memorial Fund at Princeville State Bank. Haskell-Hott Funeral Homes in Princeville is in charge of arrangements.

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