



Jerry Vestal Matthews

JAN 25, 1939 - FEB 13, 2007



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FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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Jerry Vestal Matthews went home to be with the Lord, Tuesday, February 13th, 2007, after a courageous battle with illness. Jerry was born January 25th, 1939, in Odessa, Texas, to Elbert Fuller Matthews and Muralene Vestal Matthews. He graduated from Overton High School in 1958. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served from 1958-1961. He married his high school sweetheart Darlene Melton November 16, 1963. He graduated Stephen F. Austin University in 1972, while teaching in the communications Department. He attended Perkins Theological Seminary at SMU. He was a lifetime member of the Overton Ex Students Association.

Jerry Matthews was called into the ministry Sept 16, 1969, at the First Baptist Church, Longview. He was the pastor of McCary's Chapel Methodist Church in Liberty City. As pastor of the First Methodist Church in Cushing and Lilbert, he would begin each Sunday by ringing the church bells early, and jumping into his little red Volkswagon to drive to Lilbert for services. Immediately following he would return home to pick up his wife, baby boy and five year old daughter for Sunday services at the First Methodist Church, Cushing. After a quick lunch he would go to the nursing home for an afternoon service, followed by evening services back in Cushing. Rev. Matthews also served as the associate pastor at First Methodist Church and pastor of Christ Church in Longview. In 1979 he founded, with his wife Darlene, , the original Church on the Rock, a non-denominational ministry located in Longview which flourished for many years. From 1991 to 2000 he worked for Gregg County as the Court Coordinator of the 307th District Court, Juvenile Probation Officer, and Domestic Relations Officer until taking early retirement due to illness.

Rev. Jerry Matthews was well-known around Longview for his infectious smile and his friendly greetings. During his ministry he married and buried countless people, as well as visited hundreds who were ill and hospitalized, always with his warm



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humor and caring manner. He was an avid health enthusiast and enjoyed riding his bicycle, often over long distances earlier in his life. Although he had many jobs, he was first and foremost a preacher of the gospel. Always with a word of inspiration, a compliment, or a hug, Jerry reached out to everyone who crossed his path. A loving husband, devoted father and grandfather, and special friend to us all, Jerry will be greatly missed. He was beloved by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his father, E.F. Matthews. He is survived by his wife, Darlene Matthews of Longview; daughter Monique Matthews of Austin; son Dominic Matthews of Longview; grandson Logan Matthews of Longview; his mother Muralene Webb of Marshall; his brother and sister-in-law Charles and Paula Matthews of Marble Falls, his half sister and her husband Joy and Gareth Pollard of Odessa; his mother-in-law Peggy Melton of Overton; his sister-in-law and her husband Brenda and Blu Hubbard of Dickinson; as well as many nieces and nephews.

The family of Jerry Matthews wishes to thank the staff at Whispering Pines for their compassionate care and loving concern during this difficult time. You will never know how much we appreciated your kindness and professional treatment.

Pallbearers are Donn Bindler, Bob Carmack Blufford Hubbard, Jason King, Charles Matthews, Steve Morrow, Ronnie Weaver and Wailen York.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Darlene Matthews Ministries, PO Box 9880, Longview, TX 75608.

Funeral services will be held at 2 PM, Friday, February 16th at Rader Funeral Home under the direction of Rev. Mike Buie of Cathedral of Praise, Sandsprings, OK.

Interment will be at Rosewood Park in Longview. Family visitation is scheduled for Thursday evening 6-7:30 PM at the residence.



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

I worked with Jerry at Gregg County and enjoyed being around him very much. He performed the marriage ceremony for my daughter and son in law. I missed him alot after he retired. I know that you're going to miss him but,I know that he is smiling down at us from Heaven and we'll see him again someday!##imported-begin##Theresa Edge##imported-end##

February 19 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Our Sympathy,Tracy, Regina and Hayden Traxler##imported-begin##Regina Johnson Traxler##imported-end##

February 19 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Jerry was a huge part of my development as a teenager and young adult. I would not be the person I am today if it had not been for the excellent Bible teaching and counsel that he gave me. My family and I send our condolences to Darlene, Dominic, Monique, and the rest of the family.##imported-begin##Kyle Ambrose##imported-end##

February 16 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I was truly saddened to hear of Bro. Jerry's death, only because it reminds me of how quickly the years are passing....and what an invigorating force he was in any crowd! Of course, we are celebrating his reunion with Jesus and Our Father. It was 22 years ago this month that Jerry married Jim and I, and I remember his smile like it was yesterday! You all are in our prayers. With much love,##imported-begin##Charlinda Davis Gray##imported-end##

February 15 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

May the Lord bless and grant you His grace in this time of loss. Les & Darlene##imported-begin##Les & Darlene Wooten##imported-end##

February 15 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Dearest Darlene, Monique, Dominic I can still remember the first day I heard Jerry preach on Alpine. I knew he was special to the Lord, but I never knew how much his life and ministry would impact my walk with the Lord. I will never forget the day Kathy and I first entered the church out in Judson. The Lord led us there. We knew it would be our church home. Through Jerry's ministry we renewed our faith and truly made Jesus our Lord. We were looking for more of Him. We were so hungry and thirsty. We found such love, friendship, teaching, preaching, inspiration and motivation. God used Jerry to lay the foundation from which springs of living waters have flowed over the years. The day we were baptized in Lake Cherokee before the Lord is a day I shall never forget. We loved Jerry and to you his family we say thanks for sharing God, Jerry, and your lives with us and so many. Our prayers and love are with you. May you be comforted by His precious spirit. I am comforted personally in knowing that Jerry is dancing around the throne with my sister, Kathy, and they will be in His presence forever. In His love, Cindy Psalm 116:15,16##imported-begin##Cindy Brown##imported-end##

February 14 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

##imported-begin##Cindy Brown##imported-end##

February 14 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

To The Family May God be your source of peace and strength in your time of need. I worked with Jerry at the juvenile probation department and I will never forget his kindness. I am deeply sorry for your loss. Have comfort in knowing Jerry is home. Kim Creer##imported-begin##Kimberly Creer##imported-end##

February 14 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I am a co-worker of Jerry's here at the Gregg County Courthouse. While Jerry was employed, he always had a warm and friendly smile and always had a way of making everyone feel important. I consider him as a friend. Over the years, after leaving Gregg County, Jerry's demeanor remained the same. Thank you for sharing him with us and may God continue to bless each of you.##imported-begin##joyce norris##imported-end##

February 14 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

I cannot express what Jerry and your family has meant to me over the years. My fondest memories of church as a child include your family and the church you founded. I got saved and baptised as part of your church family. I will treasure those memories forever. There has never been a pastor that I respect and love as much as Jerry. He was a lovely man. I'm confident that he is now in heaven in his mansion full of fried chicken that he always talked about! Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.##imported-begin##Jennifer Anderson Pepper##imported-end##

February 14 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Darlene and family,It was a great honor to call Jarry a friend. It was a priviledge to work with him during his time at Baxter Sales. He was always a gentleman. Dominic is following right in his fathers steps. He is a very fine young man, and always a gentleman. Marsha and I regret we will not be able to attend the service on Friday, but just wanted you to know the family will be in our thoughts and prayers this week and in the days ahead.##imported-begin##John Barrett##imported-end##

February 14 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I will never forget what an important part, in my growth as a Christian, Jerry played. He has and will always be someone I respect. Darlene, Monique, and Dominic, Thank you for sharing him with all of us.##imported-begin##Valerie Hyde##imported-end##

February 13 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

We were Blessed to know and love Jerry. He was kind and generous to our family. We love Darlene and the rest of the family. God Bless You during this time.##imported-begin##Hollis & Rae Anderson##imported-end##

February 13 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jerry by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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