



Marcus Howard Solmes

MAR 2, 1938 - SEP 5, 2020



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Marcus H. Solmes Sr., 82, of Alma, Michigan, passed away September 5, 2020, at his home surrounded by his wife and family. In 2014, doctors gave him three days to live due to kidney failure, but with hard work, determination, and prayer, he was blessed with six more years of living a blessed life.

Marcus was born in Farmington, New Mexico to parents Walter Howard Solmes and Ida Marie Hamilton Solmes. Marcus graduated from Alfordsville High School in Indiana and attended North Central Bible College in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He married Joann M. Heier of Aberdeen, South Dakota, and together they were married for 63 years.

Marcus well remembered asking Jesus to come into his heart when he was three years old. In a conversation with his mother, he came to realize that his mom and dad were going to be in heaven if they died, and he wanted to make sure that he would go to heaven, too. That became a story that he would often tell others as he shared with them that they too, could have a personal relationship with Jesus and have eternal life.

Through the years Marcus served as Pastor and Church Administrator in various locations including Indiana, South Dakota, New Mexico, and Illinois. He also held a variety of other positions including Director of Accounts Receivable at Sioux Valley Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD; Administrator at Christian Life Retirement Center in Rockford, Illinois; Business Manager at Trinity Bible College in Ellendale ND; Chaplain and Coordinator at the Rockford Rescue Mission in Rockford, Illinois; Credit Manager and Safety Coordinator at Miller Engineering in Rockford, Illinois; and most recently worked at the Pentecostal Church of God District Office, before retiring.

With a sharp eye for detail, Marcus was a gifted gardener and landscaper. He enjoyed collecting clocks and model cars. He and his wife belonged to a Christian Motorcycle



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Club (CMA), riding together with friends in various states. Whether you were his waiter, health provider, neighbor, or a stranger on the street, Marcus would share some humor and an encouraging word, making a new friend wherever he went. Loved and respected by his friends and family, Marcus now stands in the presence of the Lord; the rich reward of that decision made so long ago, and made possible only by the grace of Jesus Christ.

Marcus is survived by his wife, Joann; his daughters, Faith (Nathan) of Michigan, and Melody (Trevor) of Washington; his grandchildren, Seth (Rebecca), Sheena (Ryan), Dawson (Celeste), Mya; Taylor (Caroline), Evan, and Bryson (Tiara); and six great grandchildren, Arwen, Caspian, Elora, Gwynevere, Irene, and Kalmar. He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Ida; his stepmother, Dorothy Solmes; his brothers, Matthew, Stephen, and Kemuel; his son, Marcus Jr.; and his grandson, Gabriel.

A Celebration of Marcus's life will be held at the Mt. Pleasant Nazarene Church on June 7, 2025 at 12 P.M. with Seth Mallay officiating. The service will also include celebrating the lives of Joann Solmes and Nathan Mallay. A lite luncheon will follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to medical missionary Dr. Seth Mallay (grandson) to help him and his family return to Togo, Africa (Mallays on a Mission).

<https://www.mallaysonamission.com/>

<https://www.abwe.org/work/missionaries/seth-and-rebecca-mallay>



Tribute Wall

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Sheena posted:

Our family would not be what it is today without this man. I will never forget how he endured years of pain and faced death without losing sight of the cross and the hope that only Jesus can bring. The last time I saw him spoke of his joy in what was to come and sang the words, "On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame, and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain." He is now with the Dearest and Best, he has traded that cross for a crown, and even though we are left behind, with hearts that are breaking a little, the hope that he had is ours too. Thank you grandpa for the life you walked out before us, for showing us what it is to live and die with Jesus, always Jesus, before you.

September 10 at 8:00 PM



Brighamfuneralchapel posted:

Written by grandson, Seth Mallay It's amazing to consider how each one of us stands at every moment on the threshold of eternity, and yet we pass most of our lives without seeing how precariously we balance on the invisible edge of our own mortality. Sometimes we catch a small glimpse of our own fragility, our dependence on a God that we see as so far beyond our mortal comprehension. Most will hurriedly distract themselves from their knowledge of the existence of the unknowable and go on living as if they might always live. The reality is that each of us stands to lose everything, and it's really as simple as a question of timing. Certainly, in life, we can face devastation and loss on scales both great and small, and sometimes all at once without notice. Yet more certain still is the fact that we can take nothing and no one with us when we leave even our own mortal bodies to pass through the one-way veil. When considering the reality of that path, it comes down to a simple choice: repress the knowledge of that reality and lean on your own understanding; or, surrender your possessions, your loved ones, your semblance of control, and your very life into the hands of God. God and His eternity are truly beyond our mortal comprehension, but He has made Himself knowable through the person of Jesus Christ. More than that, Christ, the man of sorrows, has gone before us into the unknowable and uncertain to make a path for His children which is sure. He changed the prescribed outcome and showed us a hope that we could not have hoped for: there is life beyond death. And it's not just life, it's abundant life. Eternal. In Him and of Him. That is why death's sting is made impotent. Though loss would cause us to mourn, the adopted rejoice in great hope. Grandpa was diagnosed with end-stage kidney failure six years ago. He came so close to death that he could taste its bitterness in his mouth. We all beheld in those days a picture of our frail reality. We were certain that grandpa would pass into eternity then. Grandpa chose not to pursue dialysis, and he relinquished himself and his fate into the sovereign hand of God. The Lord gave him six more years. Today, his suffering ended forever. We are again reminded of how fragile we are, and yet how God is sovereign over each of our days. Grandpa would want you to know of his hope in a just and loving God, in Jesus Christ. He would encourage you to resign all that you cannot keep, including your life, into the trustworthy hands of God. He would tell you of Christ's faithfulness to forgive sins and the hope of eternity with God. We see past this life from time to time. Such as today when grandpa took his last breath. When Arwen was diagnosed with stage four cancer. When family members lost a son and grandson to suicide a couple of weeks ago. When a friend's husband has worrisome symptoms. When the world falls apart because of a virus. war, pestilence, and suffering until the end of days - that has been guaranteed. God is always in control and He is always good. Do pray for grandma if you get a chance. She is grieving the loss of a companion of 63 years. • • • •

September 9 at 8:00 PM



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Brenda Kingsley posted:

So sorry to hear of the passing of Brother Marcus, but we rejoice that his battle is over and He is in the arms of Jesus! We are praying for comfort and strength for Joann and the family. God Bless, Ted & Brenda Kingsley

September 9 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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