



Evan DeWayne Kurtz

January 27, 1987 - September 17, 2017

Evan DeWayne Kurtz, my beloved husband, our Daddy, son, and brother, was born to Mervin and Bonita Kurtz at the Bothwell Hospital in Sedalia, MO on January 27, 1987. He was unexpectedly taken Home to be with Jesus during the early morning hours of Sunday, September 17, 2017. He passed away, at his home, from complications of a heart attack, reaching the age of 30 years.

As a boy, he grew up in the Versailles, MO area on their family farm. Evan received his formal education at the Ozark Christian School in Versailles, MO. He was full of life and energy and enjoyed a close relationship with his parents and siblings, often teasing and tickling those he loved. Evan loved to hunt and be outdoors and especially enjoyed hunting with his brother. He often spoke of how thankful he was that he could grow up on a farm, and that he had the same desire for his children.

At the age of 15, with the help and encouragement of his sister, Evan gave his heart to the Lord. On March 17, 2002, he, along with his sister Bethany and some other friends were baptized into the Church of God in Christ Mennonite. Evan was a man of faith, who loved God and often led our family in prayer, especially when we faced the challenges of life. Though he often felt like he fell short of the mark, he was faithful to the end and his testimony leaves us comforted as we remember how he never doubted that God would take care of us, no matter what.

On August 24, 2008, he was married to me, Kendra Smith at Versailles, MO. We were blessed with 9 years and 3 weeks of happy life together. There were three children born to our home, Jaci 5, Garrett 2, and Mason 3 months. Our children were dearly loved by their Daddy, and he would often take them with him during the day. We had also recently enjoyed a family camping trip at a nearby state park which has many special memories for us. Evan was enthused with whatever he did, and as a young man he began his working career as a carpenter. He really enjoyed that line of work, however he soon moved on to pursue his dream of raising his family on a farm. He first worked on a ranch in the community and then on to have his own poultry and cattle farm in the Versailles area. He enjoyed the opportunity of often working alongside his father and including us as the family into his daily life. We enjoyed having him home for lunch and he would often read the children their nap stories and tuck them in before going back to work. Evan was not one to complain and often spoke of his thankfulness for the many blessings we enjoyed. We were so happy. We felt so loved. He was my rock when I needed him. He would often brighten my day or calm my fears by some little act of love, like a bouquet of flowers or a little note.

A short time after we were married, Evan was diagnosed with congestive heart failure, but he never let that get him down. In fact, he lived a very full life, often to the amazement of his doctors. We never thought our happy home would be changed so suddenly.

Evan had a ready smile and a big heart for those in need. He greatly enjoyed his time spent at a CPS boys' unit in Slidell, LA. At this unit, they help rebuild damaged homes after the Hurricane Katrina. He dearly loved his house parents and unit buddies, forming lasting relationships with them. Evan also enjoyed serving on the local tract committee and going on tract routes. He often looked for little ways to help others in need, and would gladly serve or

help in some way. Looking back, we can see God was preparing him to go home. It was as though he knew his time was short and he had some things he wanted to get done yet. He finished some of these projects just days before his passing. We have special memories of the last weeks and days of his life.

Though our hearts are torn, and we feel alone and sad, we are so thankful that the life we had together, we lived to the fullest.

Left to cherish fond memories are, his loving wife, Kendra, three beloved children, Jaci, Garrett, and Mason, his father and mother, Mervin and Bonita Kurtz of Versailles, one brother, Kendall and wife Savanna of Versailles, two sisters, Bethany and Luke Toews, of Hadashville, MB, and Dedra and Colby Nightingale of Fairview, OK, his mother-in-law, Belle and husband Scott Johnson, of Eldon, his father-in-law, Doug and wife Darlene Smith of Barnett, five brothers-in-law, Matt and Donna Smith of Versailles, Daniel Smith of Seward, NE, Kendall and Holly Penner of Barnett, Kyler Penner of Barnett, Kaleb and Stacey Penner of Versailles, his special Grandpa Koehn of Versailles, and also his nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts and cousins, whom he all dearly loved and enjoyed being with. He was preceded in death by his Grandpa and Grandma Kurtz and his Grandma Koehn.

A visitation will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 20th, at the Beulah Mennonite Church near Versailles. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, September 21st, at the church. Graveside services and interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home of Versailles.

Cemetery Details

Beulah Cemetery

Old Marvin Road
Versailles, MO

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 20. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Beulah Mennonite Church
Shadey Brook Drive
Versailles, MO 65084

Service

SEP 21. 10:00 AM (CT)

Beulah Mennonite Church
Shadey Brook Drive
Versailles, MO 65084

Tribute Wall

KG

“ *Kendra we are so very sorry for your loss. You, your children, and all of Evan's friends, family, and loved ones are in our prayers. May the Lord give you strength and peace beyond understanding. Greg and Krissy (Smith) Gonder*

Kristin Gonder - September 21, 2017 at 08:35 PM

SB

“ *May Lord give strength to the bereaving family.*

RIP Evan.

Kendra, I'm very sure you continue to do your best for the kids as a caring Parent and they see in you as their Mom and Dad both.

Sachin Bajaj - September 21, 2017 at 01:27 PM

JW

“ *Oh Kendra....our hearts have been aching for you....May God be very near! And also Mervin & Bonita and family & Doug Smith family...we have been thinking of you all...God has called another one of His Souls back to Him...
With lots of love and prayers....
Justin & Rebecca Wiebe and family*

Justin & Rebecca Wiebe - September 21, 2017 at 09:57 AM

LD

“ Kendra,
Words fail me. It's hard for me to believe he's gone. We are lucky to have known him! I'm glad you wrote about how he liked children and loved to tease them- that's one of my biggest memories of him. He even tried to get my shy children to talk to him. ;) See you tonight... Love from Russ & Lydia, Chaniel, Jayla, Isaiah, and Hudson

Lydia Dirks - September 20, 2017 at 03:53 PM

TS

“ Although I don't personally know you, your name has been lifted in prayer...may the arms of our God of Comfort wrap around you now and especially in the days to come...love and prayers...Terry and Robyn Schultz

Terry and Robyn Schultz - September 20, 2017 at 09:33 AM

GR

“ I am so sorry Kendra, You and your children are in my prayers. I have good memories of Evan from my time spent in the Unit in Columbia. He was full of life and fun. A good addition to any youth outing or adventure. May you feel Jesus' arms around you today and in the coming days, with much love, Grace (Knowles) Toews
Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia

Grace - September 20, 2017 at 08:30 AM

BW

“ Oh so sorry to hear of Evan's passing. Praying for God to wrap His loving arms around you and comfort each one of you in the family!



Bob and Karla Wenger - September 18, 2017 at 04:57 PM

RG

We are so very sorry to hear of your loss! Just no words! May the Lord bless you with peace and comfort. You're in our thoughts and prayers!

Richard and Deb Gronstedt - September 18, 2017 at 06:10 PM

DE

We are so very sorry to hear of the passing of your dear husband, daddy, son, brother, and grandson. Words fail us. Kendra, we are so thankful you have those precious memories of a happy life together! Our hearts ache for your dear young children who will miss their daddy so terribly much... May you all feel God's nearness and love during this time and in the days and weeks to come. With much love and prayers, Lyndon & Denise and Trevyn Unruh (Evan's Grandpa Melvin Kurtz was a brother to my Grandpa Norman Kurtz)

Denise - September 19, 2017 at 12:39 AM

LB

Those we lose live in our hearts and minds. May your love and good memories live on forever.

Loretta & Dan Baumgartner - September 19, 2017 at 10:23 AM

LC

What a beautiful tribute. We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Lori croy - September 20, 2017 at 07:52 AM