



Jimmy William Kruse

August 26, 1930 - February 18, 2021

Jimmy William Kruse, passed away February 18, 2021. He was born August 26, 1930, in Crescent, MO, first born son to Jerry and Gladys Kruse. He graduated from Versailles High School, Versailles, MO in 1947, from Manhattan Bible College in Manhattan, KS with a B.A. in 1958, and from Lincoln Christian Seminary in Lincoln, IL with a M.A. in 1965.

After a two-year courtship, Jim married Laura Lorraine Turner on September 1, 1951. Three children were born to this union, Eva, Arleen, and Ginny. Laura's accidental death in April of 1958, left Jim a widower. He married Eileen Donna Violet on June 7, 1959. Three children were born to this union, Oneta, Tim and Steve. Jim and Eileen fostered children for several years, later adopting Misty and Amber.

Jim was a veteran of the U.S. Army, Company C, 86th Regiment/Division in Ft. Riley, KS during the Korean War in food service as first cook and mess sergeant being honorably discharged as Sergeant.

Jim preached his first sermon at Hopewell Union Church on Thanksgiving weekend in 1954. He received his ministerial license in 1955 and was ordained in Christian Church ministry in 1957. Jim preached steadily from February 1956 to July 2015, for a total of 60 years. His pastorates include First Christian Church, in Odell, NE, Brumley Christian Church, Ulman

Christian Church, Hopewell Union Church, Barnett Union Church, First Christian Church of Versailles, Martinton Church of Christ, in Martinton, IL, Centennial Christian Church, in Watseka, IL, a new church plant in Waukesha, WI, First Christian Church, in Abilene, KS, Rolling Hills Christian Church, in Topeka, KS, First Christian Church, in Sallisaw, OK, and Olean Christian Church, in Olean, MO, until he retired at the age 85 at the end of July 2015.

He was evangelist for many revivals, officiated 100's of weddings and funerals, too numerous to count and he truly had a passion for mentoring countless young ministers.

Jim served on the board of Quality Industries, a sheltered workshop for people with special needs in Versailles, New Hope Christian Community, Lake Ozark Christian Evangelizing Fellowship, C.E.A., N.C.E.F., W.E.A., various church camps, serving as camp manager at Prairie States Christian Service Camp in Watseka, IL from 1964 to 1971.

Jim was preceded in death by his first wife, Laura Kruse, son Timothy Wayne Kruse, grandsons Daniel and Brian Schad, his sisters Mary Kruse Miller and Geneva Kruse Mundy, brother Earl Kruse, and daughter-in-law Belia Kruse.

Jim is survived by his wife of 61 years, Eileen Kruse, of Versailles, MO, daughter Eva Kruse Maxwell and husband, Ed, of Bixby, OK, daughter Arleen Kruse Stephan and husband, Brad, of North Richland Hills, TX, daughter Ginny Kruse Schad and husband, Rodney, of Versailles, MO, daughter Oneta Kruse Spielman and husband, Jeff, of Versailles, MO, son Steve Kruse and wife, Judy, of Versailles, MO, daughter Misty Kruse Dake of St. Louis, MO, daughter Amber Kruse Wilson and husband Chris, of Jonesburg, MO. The tribe has increased to 27 grandchildren and 43 great-grandchildren. Jim is also survived by a sister, Chris Laughlin and her husband, Wayne, of Jonesburg, MO, brother Bob Kruse and wife, Billie, of Liberty, MO, brother

Gayle Kruse and wife, Julie, of Wright City, MO, numerous nieces and nephews and countless other relatives and friends.

Jim Kruse was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend. Those that knew him knew he wasn't perfect, but he endeavored to represent Jesus well. We remember his piano playing and his preaching, his comforting words in times of trouble and hard times, his ready smile and laugh in the good times, his Godly wisdom in counsel and his humble example of servanthood. Besides standing behind a pulpit, we've seen him patty cake with his grandchildren, have tea parties with little granddaughters on the floor, fish and hunt with sons and grandsons, take grandkids for ice cream, preparing the Thanksgiving turkey or Christmas ham or Easter cinnamon rolls. He enjoyed playing cards, laughing at a good joke and ministering to the broken hearted. We've seen him roll up his sleeves and do the "grunt" work even when time was short. We've seen him mop the floors and change out the toilet paper. Then get up and preach a sermon to a church full of people. Any time, any place, if he was called, he was there.

If Jim Kruse wanted to be remembered for anything, it would be as a servant who represented his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in a way that drew people to the cross. And he would say to us, "That's how it's done! Now, you go and do it. You live it out."

So after 90 years of faithful service, we hear the Heavenly Father say, "Well done, Jimmy! You were faithful...Enter into the joy of your Lord."

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 26th, at the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home in Versailles. Graveside services and interment with full military honors will follow in the Hopewell Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the New Hope Christian Community or to TRU Ministry.

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

Cemetery Details

Hopewell Cemetery

19700 Highway C
Barnett, MO 65011

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 25. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Versailles Chapel
207 North Monroe St.
Versailles, MO 65084
(573) 378-4655

Service

FEB 26. 10:00 AM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Versailles Chapel
207 North Monroe St.
Versailles, MO 65084
(573) 378-4655

Tribute Wall

SL

“ *ShaNay Long lit a candle in memory of Jimmy William Kruse*



ShaNay Long - March 03, 2021 at 04:23 PM

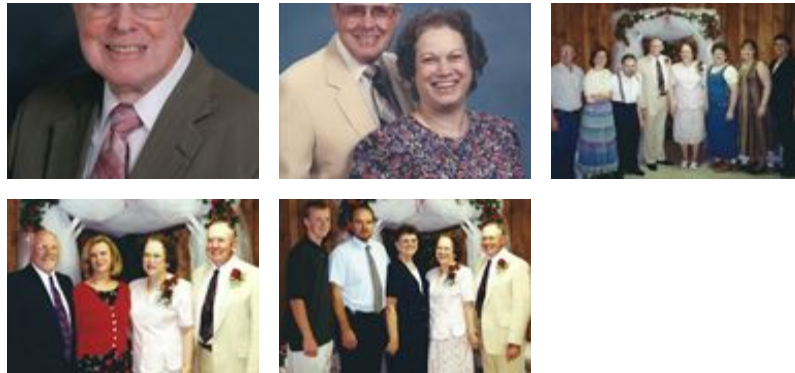
SN

“ *The only two memories I have are of Reverend Kruse officiating my aunts Laura Elliott and Joyce Rice' funeral services. I am Susan Nolting, daughter of Aileen Stiers. My dad, Bill saw the obituary in his news paper and let me know. We are sorry for your loss.*

susan nolting - February 26, 2021 at 08:19 AM



“ *168 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Kidwell-Garber Funeral Homes - February 25, 2021 at 12:06 PM

JR

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family. Jim was a wonderful person and we are honored to call him our friend. We will miss hearing him play "He Touched Me" on the piano. He played it so beautiful. May God Bless and comfort you during this time.
Joe and Joyce Rowland

Joe and Joyce Rowland - February 23, 2021 at 10:16 PM

DC

“ Jim was not just my pastor in High school, but my best friend's father. Oneta brought me into her family and I was treated with openness and love. Jim's servant's heart and faith was genuine. His spirit was as beautiful as the piano he played. I know his crown in heaven is one of the brightest. I can see him now laughing and teasing Tim. They are having the thrill of a lifetime together. I pray Oneta and Eileen and the rest of the family find each day a little easier with memories to hold tight to. It is hard to lose someone so dear. The good ones are always hard to let go. Jim was one of the absolute best! Rest in peace Jim and thank you for your generous love and devoted heart to God. To the Kruse Clan--my prayers ring out to God for comfort, peace and warmth in your hearts. I love you! DeAnn



DeAnn M. Cornwell - February 20, 2021 at 07:28 PM

ML

We first met Jim at the wedding of our son, Adam, to his granddaughter, Alisa. It was easy to see he truly loved his family and our Lord and savior, Jesus. Our hearts and prayers are with you all as you celebrate a life well lived in the service of our Lord. Mary and David

mary Lovitt - February 22, 2021 at 03:06 PM



“ *Jim was such a wonderful and kind man. He will be dearly missed from this community.* ”



M - February 19, 2021 at 08:20 AM