

Clyde Dwight Henderson

February 1, 1929 - November 4, 2021

Clyde Dwight Henderson was born February 1, 1929 to Chesley and Katie Deweese Henderson. At the age of 12 he became a Christian believer at Freeman Baptist Church in Freeman Spur, Illinois. He is survived by his sister, Freda Pirtle, her husband, Wayne Pirtle, his sister-in-law Carolyn Kammerad Henderson, and his son and daughter, Mark Henderson and Jill Heins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Chesley Clarence Henderson and Katherine Deweese Henderson, and his five brothers.

Clyde grew up in a home of Christian believers who shared their beliefs and their meals with others. Sunday was frequently a day when other church friends were invited to Mom's delectable chicken dinner.

Clyde's parents did not spare the rod when willful disobedience was involved. Clyde had to cut his own switch for his punishment if he willfully disobeyed. His father, Chesley, was on the school board and a teacher would come to talk with him on occasion. Preschooler Clyde sometimes shared information about his older brothers to the teacher about their opinions of "Old Lady Joyner" much to everyone's chagrin--including Ms. Joyner. Clyde was a cooperative student both at school and Bible School. Once his father saw him enacting Zacchaeus in a tree and came to reprimand him. The teacher intervened, explaining that he was an actor in her drama and she'd asked him to climb the tree.

During his junior high and high school years, he helped his father with their home farm and also worked for the neighbors as a farm helper. Once while he was at the nearby Hubbard household they had a horse that had never been ridden. They managed to get a saddle on him in a plowed field and Clyde rode the horse in view of all twelve children. He spent summers helping his uncles and aunts in Henderson, Kentucky when summer farm work was at its height. In Freeman Spur he worked for Herman Flota, who trusted him to drive a steam engine that pulled a threshing machine to a distant farm when he was much too young to have a driver's license. Clyde drove these oversized items over some questionable bridges. He was also experienced in showing animals at local fairs.

During the Second World War, C.D. worked on collections for scrap drives. His older brothers were in military service. Carl helped build the nuclear facility in Yakima, Washington. Wilbur survived being thrown over a hill in Italy by an enemy grenade, and Jim transported a convoy from Egypt to Russia. Frank was on his way to the Philippines when the war with Japan ended.

At age 16, Gerald Jones, Eva Robinson, and Mary Sue Barnett were the three Warder Street Baptist Church speakers from a Gospel Team providing services at some of the other American (Northern) Baptist Churches in the Southern Illinois area. Afterwards they had a social in the home of the host pastor and this is where Clyde met his future bride, Gerry Henderson. Clyde invited her to go with him to attend a special prayer service in the home of a handicapped woman and the following week at the home of a handicapped man served by their church. Gerry was impressed that his faith was genuine.

Clyde wanted to attend Moody Bible Institute, but got a job at the Humphrey's farm, then for a bottling company. He left for Air Force training on January 15, 1949 and the Korean War broke out. Thus he was held in the military for three years and nine months instead of the two years he signed up for. His Air

Force testing scores provided Clyde the opportunity to study electronics and attend weather observer school. While serving in Valdez, Alaska, he helped renovate a Russian Orthodox Church for the Southern Baptist Church. Four preachers, a missionary, and Clyde cut off the dome, prepared the roof, and painted the church.

Clyde enjoyed serving as Sunday School Superintendent at the Eastchester Baptist Church, a suburb of Anchorage. He also helped at the Lazy Mountain Children's Home through the First Baptist Church of Anchorage. Letters of recommendation for Clyde's promotion made mention by the Warrant Officer of Clyde's deep faith. This officer used to appreciate Clyde's listening to him recite from Rudyard Kipling's extensive writings even when the warrant officer had been drinking heavily.

Clyde met fellow believers at the base chapel services. The Eastchester Pastor was also in the Air Force Weather Service. The Pastor was the Secretary to the Air Force Executive Officer in the Anchorage Weather Service.

When the war ended in 1952, he was released and enrolled in Southern Illinois University Technical Institute and later Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois.

Clyde's Air Force training in electronics led him to work as a television repairman at a local business while attending SIU. Geraldine Jones was teaching history at Carbondale High School at this time.

Clyde also volunteered as a leader for his Brother Ray Keith's Boy Scout group. He took the scouts on scenic Giant City State Park trails and later became a VBS and Boy's Club organizer. He wrote and organized a VBS theme project which helped the church grow.

C.D. and Gerry enjoyed returning to the trails at Giant City Park, Crab Orchard Lake picnics, fires and grilling out in nature, and the spirituality of the Southern Illinois churches. They went fishing with Geraldine's parents, who instilled in them additional appreciation of God's beautiful design in nature.

Clyde proposed to Gerry at Crab Orchard Lake after building a fire. He graduated from SIU's Vocational Tech Institute with an Associates in Technology. He continued studying for his Bachelor's at SIU in 1955 and completed this degree in evening school at Roosevelt University in 1967.

When he was 25, he accepted a job offer to work as a telephone equipment engineer for Western Electric (later AT&T, then Lucent) in 1955. He and Gerry married and moved to Chicago, where he could finally fulfill his desire to attend Moody Bible Institute.

In 1956 they bought a newly built house in Westmont, Illinois and became part of the Westmont Baptist Church where they became friends with Pastor Dave and his wife Gwen Kimball. They sponsored the youth group which became like family. Gerry taught history and speech therapy at Downers Grove High School. She also sponsored a Hi-C group that was part of Bill Gothard's developing ministry. Later Clyde was able to help set up for some of the later Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts in the St. Louis area. This later became the Institute in Basic Life Principles. Clyde and Gerry took their children to these conferences in Washington, D.C. along with their friend Andrew Horn.

Gerry wanted to establish libraries in the churches where they served so she obtained a Master's Degree in Library Science at Rosary College, later Dominican University. Clyde built or arranged for the building of rolling libraries for the early churches meeting in schools before they had a room for the permanent library. She completed this second Master's in Library Science just before the birth of their first child, Jill Marie in February of 1964. Fifteen

months later, their second child, Mark David, was born in June of 1965. Clyde worked at AT&T or Lucent for 33 years and attended Moody evening school for two years. AT&T paid the tuition for him to complete his Bachelor of Science in Business Management degree. Clyde and Gerry spent six months in their first apartment in Brookfield, Illinois which was close to the La Grange Bible Church. They sponsored a youth group in La Grange. Clyde was transferred to St. Louis, Missouri in 1967. This move made it easier for them to visit their family in Southern Illinois.

The building of Bethany Baptist Church was their first experience of helping to build a church from the ground up. Five other families transferred from the Chicago area and participated in building churches. One of his joys was to see his son drive a tractor as our family helped with the projects at Bethany in Town and Country, Missouri and later Immanuel Baptist Church, a sister church.

Clyde retired three years before his wife and helped his friend Tony Horn build a horse clinic for Dr. Tom Loafman in Wildwood, also a good friend. This was a true joy and Gerry retired three years later.

Marie Jones, Clyde's mother-in-law, lived with them for the last six years of her life. She had a separate section of the house with her own rooms and bath.

Clyde and Gerry helped families that had moved to the U.S. from persecution in Russia. The Alex Rife family left Azerbaijan for the USSR through Israel and then came to the U.S. These moves complicated their remaining in the U.S. so they returned to Israel to straighten things out. They assumed this would take about two weeks but our government's bureaucracy actually necessitated two years. Andy Farrier at Friends of Israel arranged for Alex to attend an evangelism course and his wife, Yulia, worked for the Beverly Milder School of Music Arts after their return to St. Louis. Their daughter is at the

University of Arizona and their son working in Manchester, Missouri.

When Bethany Baptist Church changed their name to West Hills and watered down the gospel message, they joined Cornerstone Baptist Church. The people there were truly real Christians and had a righteous and loving lifestyle that they appreciated. The worship services and music were the most beautiful they had ever experienced. Clyde's favorite hymns were Lead me O Thou Great Jehovah and He Giveth More Grace.

Funeral services will be held at Crain Funeral Home-Egyptian Chapel in Energy, Illinois on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. with remarks from his family. Private interment will follow in Egyptian Memorial Gardens.

Cemetery Details

Egyptian Memorial Gardens

3208 S. Park Ave.
Energy, IL 62933
(618) 942-6051
crain@crainsonline.com

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV 9. 11:00 AM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Egyptian Chapel
Hwy 148 just north of Illinois 13, next to the Williamson County Airport
3208 S. Park Ave
Energy, IL 62933
(618) 942-6051
crain@crainsonline.com

Tribute Wall

JH

“ *Beloved husband and best of fathers, you will be daily missed. Your sense of humor, your kindness and generosity, your Christian heart was nonpareil. We will see you again in heaven and hope to live a life you'll be proud of.*

Dad is now "dressed in His righteousness alone."

Psalm 16:8-11

I keep my eyes always on the LORD.

With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

*Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful one see decay.*

*You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

Jill Heins - November 12, 2021 at 03:22 PM

SU

“ *I remember how I always felt welcome in your home!*

Susan - May 14, 2024 at 03:38 PM



“ *This reminds me of my quiet father, who always helped behind the scenes:*



Jill Heins - March 24, 2024 at 04:07 PM



“ *Clyde Dwight Henderson*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



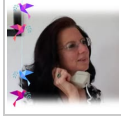
Jill Heins - September 24, 2023 at 06:05 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jill Heins - August 18, 2023 at 03:17 PM



CD and Jere Henderson's wedding. Frank Henderson (CD's brother) on right.

Jill Heins - August 18, 2023 at 07:17 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jill Heins - July 18, 2023 at 11:16 AM



“ *3 files added to the album Henderson Family*



Jill Heins - July 12, 2023 at 02:31 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jill Heins - November 13, 2022 at 04:24 PM



“ *“Music I heard with you was more than music,
and bread I broke with you was more than bread.”*
- Conrad Aiken

Jill Heins - February 05, 2022 at 05:09 PM



“ *Clyde wrote this years ago: I grew up in a Christian home with five brothers and one sister. We learned obedience and respect for the word. I accepted Christ as my Savior in a church service at about the age of twelve. My Dad taught Sunday School. Our home was one of hospitality and frequently Sundays were spent entertaining a family from church. Church was the center of our family life. My parents were an example to me of integrity and a model for Christian living.*

The joy of my life has been to recall like the Israelites of old with their Ebenezer stone in I Samuel...“Hitherto has the Lord helped me.” I looked back at the detailed ways the Lord has provided wonderful teachers of the Word, has put us in places where we could sit under the teachings of people like Dr. Weist of Moody Bible Institute Evening School. God has given us the joy of helping build several churches. It is so much like a New Testament church when you are in on the building of a new church. I was able to help in these ventures with two churches in Alaska, one in Illinois, and three in Missouri. All of these experiences were done with the support of a family looking toward that same goal of serving the Lord. We never wanted to give the Lord leftovers. It was out desire to give him the strength of our youth. Now we enjoy seeing young families grow in the Lord.

Jill Heins - January 12, 2022 at 08:59 AM

JH

“ *Jill Heins lit a candle in memory of Clyde
Dwight Henderson*



Jill Heins - November 13, 2021 at 05:48 PM