

Christian Friends,

This is Don Hunt II writing about my dad, Donald G. Hunt. First of all I thank many of you for your continued prayers for mom and the Hunt family. Many relatives, friends, work associates, ministers and their families came from all over America to celebrate the life of a man who gave so much of himself to the Lord's work. Your words to each of us at dad's visitation, memorial service, flowers, and cards with personal notes of encouragement were most helpful. Dad was called away from earth to live with Jesus on July 1st, 2005. A few days after his memorial service, I went back to his grave for the first time.

I'll be the first to admit that I again cried aloud and left a huge pile of tears over the loss and void I deeply feel in my heart and life right now. God and I had a long conversation about many things; thoughts about dad's life; thoughts about the future; I rehearsed many promises found in His Word.

I've never had to cope with the loss of a parent and it's been tough for me; more so than I anticipated! To help me process the death of dad and accept my loss as his gain, I've listed below several things that I admired in the man who God allowed me to live with, grow up around 24/7, watch his life, and listen to his answers. I continue to sense his PRESENCE from what he taught me with his words and by his example!

Much could be said about each of the following, but I'll just make a list.

- Dad's had a brilliant mind that seldom rested.
- July 1st he went to sleep and immediately woke up in the presence of Jesus. God satisfied his desire to "die in the saddle".
- Dad had several writing projects that are left unfinished. There never would have been a good time for him to go see Jesus. We will get his final manuscripts completed and published either in book form or on CD-ROM.
- The word retirement was not in his vocabulary, although it was in the Levites job description (Numbers 8:23-26).
- He displayed unconditional love to everyone he met, that seemed to know no limits even if you were outside of Christ.
- Dad always expressed a genuine concern for the lost. He didn't just talk or think about them. He went to see them, spent time teaching them in their homes, prayed for them, and would not easily give up on people!
- Dad had a heart-felt compassion for the hurting and misfortunate. He committed himself to give back to those who could not return the favor. (His County Home and high-rise ministry every Sunday afternoon for several years, says that best.)
- Dad had a generous heart for God's Kingdom = double tithed on everything from his pocket book to his garden produce as long as I can remember.
- He hungered for the Word of God every day -- **so his "well" never ran dry.**
- Dad loved to laugh at a good story, funny joke, or cartoon from the paper. (He had an unusual laugh that I can still hear.)
- He lived for opportunities to serve God and others.
- Dad challenged people in his world to excel in righteous living; whether teaching, preaching, conversing, or writing.
- Dad was a quiet man and "lover of home", yet he couldn't wait to make the next trip somewhere where God could use his talents. I was with dad when he received the call to go to Colorado Springs and preach on the 4th of July rally. He was excited!
- He was always interested and excited to see something new along his journeys across America.
- He was a trustworthy and honest man with his business transactions.
- Dad displayed a zest for life and a zeal made of steel!
- He was flexible, yet firm and stern! (For certain, I could say a lot more about that side of dad. Let me say it this way, when raising three sons, there was not always "peace in the camp" -- yet dad was fair and asked for forgiveness when he failed to keep his promise or wrongfully accused or punished me!)
- My father **truly honored his wife and refused to ever argue or speak unkindly to her.** And she did the same.
- To my knowledge dad didn't ever make a lot of money, yet God gave him enough to share with those in need and he paid cash for what his family needed.

- Dad was the happiest when he was with the family, relatives, and his Christian family. The last piece of snail mail that dad sent to me arrived the day before his death. It was announcing a Sommer family reunion coming up the end of this month. (Sommer was my dad's mother's maiden name.)
- Dad loved the land and **anywhere that was productive was a beautiful place to him**. That's one reason why he loved Iowa!
- He liked the looks of poplar trees as they reached upwards toward heaven. (Dad's coffin was made of poplar wood.) One of his favorite places on earth was Hagerman valley near Hagerman, Idaho along Highway 30. Our family used to drive through that valley each summer on our way to and from Oregon. Those were the days before interstates where we slowed down and/or stopped in every town along the 4,000 mile roundtrip trek each summer.
- Dad displayed a Godly example before his three sons, and as most of you know, he was always approachable.
- Dad displayed discipline that seemingly knew no bounds.
- He had patience beyond the call of duty, yet there were limits to his patience. Trust me. I've seen that side of dad a time or three -- usually ending with a paddling during my younger years.
- Dad had high expectations of people to do their best at whatever they were involved in with the church.
- Dad loved conversation and could converse about almost any topic because he was well read. (Well maybe not mechanics.) Take the maybe out of that sentence.
- He could make a friend out of nearly every one he met.
- Dad listen to criticism, yet didn't seem to retaliate or lash back. Dad didn't ever bring his dirty laundry home to the family. (In going through some correspondence on his desk and in his file, there were only two negative letters criticizing him and one was typewritten from an anonymous coward! The other was a printed e-mail with the preachers name well labeled.
- Dad was tenacious and stuck with a task until completed.
- He managed his time each day by following a list of "to do" items.
- He insisted on having family devotions and each of us praying each morning.
- Dad took advantage of teachable moments.
- He wouldn't compromise his beliefs for anyone; any where; any time!
- Dad missed attending his last annual high school reunion, May 2005, but now enjoys his first "upper class reunion" that will NEVER END!
- Wonder what dad first said to Jesus?
- Wonder what hi first conversation was about with his father-in-law, Archie Word?
- Wonder how long his first hug was his with his preaching brother, Kenneth Hunt, who was killed at age 29 after being struck by a car while on his way back from baptizing someone in Christ during a revival in eastern Tennessee? Dad grieved for a long time over the loss of his brother. He told me that soon after Kenneth died, Grandpa Word took dad on his boat down the Columbia river for a week-long excursion -- so dad could get away, think, pray, and regroup his life.

We could use other words like integrity, character, vision, sensitive, unselfish, high energy, work ethic, smile, eyes of blue that could look through you. Yet dad was human and **become a Christian just like followers of Jesus have done for nearly 2000 years**; saved only through and by the grace of God. He would be the first to tell you that he, as everyone, was in desperate need of a Savior because of sin (Romans 6:23). "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Dad would tell you that his belief (**John 3:16 & 8:24**) led him to repent of his sins (**Luke 13:3. Acts 3:19, Acts 17:30, II Peter 3:9**), confess the name of Jesus as Lord of his life (**Romans 10:9-10; Luke 13:3 & Matt 10:32-33**), and that his belief led him into the watery grave of baptism where his sins were forgiven and where his heart and life was filled with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38**). **That's where** he "put on Christ" (**Galatians 3:27**) and had the blood of Christ applied to wash away his sins (**Roman 6:1 - 4, Rev 1:5; Acts 22:16**).

Dad now is resting from all his labors and awaits us in the presence of Jesus and figuratively in the bosom of Abraham as we all will receive our just rewards together **Heb 11:39 - 40**. What a grand day that will be!

As I was leaving dad's grave last night, words of several old-time songs that dad loved to sing and hear the church sing ran through my head and heart.

- Work for the night is coming.
- I want to be a worker for the Lord I want to love and trust his holy word. I want to sing and pray and be busy every day in the kingdom of the Lord.
- Soon I'll come to the end of life's journey and perhaps we'll never meet any more. But in heaven fair city....we will meet on that beautiful shore. If we never meet again this side of heaven....we will meet on that beautiful shore.
- This world is not my Home, I'm just a passing through. My treasures are laid up, some where beyond the blue.
- Sweet Hour of prayer....that calls me from a world of care.
- Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father.
- I'll be a friend to Jesus.....My life for him I'll spend. I'll be a friend to Jesus until my years shall end.
- Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine, O what a fore-taste of glory divine....This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
- In Time like these, you need a Savior; Anchor, etc.
- Come and dine the Master calleth, come and dine. Come and feast at Jesus table all the time.
- Help somebody today; somebody along life's way. Let sorrow be ended, the friendless befriended. O help somebody today.
- 'Tis so sweet to Trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His Word.
- Faith of our Fathers living still.
- I choose Jesus when I need a friend.
- Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound...I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
- When Jesus comes to reward his servants, whether it be noon or night, faithful to him will he find us watching, with our lamps all trimmed and bright. O can we say we are ready....waiting, waiting when the Lord shall come.
- Tell me the old, old story of Jesus and his love.
- The light of the world is Jesus.
- Jesus paid it all that I might live.
- We're saved, saved to tell others of the man of Galilee.
- Bringing in the Sheaves....we shall come rejoicing, bring in the sheaves.
- Sin can never enter there.
- I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away...when I die, Hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away.
- Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling.
- In the resurrection morning, when the trump of God shall sound, We shall rise, we shall rise....When death's prison bars are broken, We shall rise. We shall rise!

The old church songs still say the gospel message very well!

Many of you called him, "Brother Hunt", "Leader", "Mentor", and "Friend". I was also privileged to wear his name and call him "Father" and "Dad". I long to be with him again. It will happen!

1 Thessalonians 4:13 - 18 (NIV)

[13] Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or grieve like the rest of men who have no hope.

[14] We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

[15] According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, we will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

[16] For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

[17] After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever.

[18] Therefore encourage each other with these words.