



Ronald Carl Kendall

November 7, 1929 - August 30, 2017

Ronald Carl Kendall, 87, of San Antonio, Texas passed away on August 30, 2017. He was born on November 7, 1929 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to David Alvero and Virginia Mae (Lounsbery) Kendall. Ron married Norma Agnes (Wyllys) Kendall on August 30, 1951 and was married to her for 62 years. She predeceased him on February 5, 2014. Ron joined Norma in heaven on the day of their 66th wedding anniversary.

Ron and Norma are survived by his two sons and their spouses, Mark and Michelle Kendall of Rockford, IL, Douglas and Karen Kendall of Jackson, MI; his daughter and her spouse, Sue and Thomas May of San Antonio, TX; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Ron was predeceased by his parents and siblings David Alvero Kendall, Richard Lee Kendall and Lynn Dee (Kendall) Wilt.

Ron graduated from Ottawa Hills High School and Moody Bible Institute. He was the Music Director for the Children's Bible Hour radio program from 1952 to 1959. From 1959 to 2000, he ministered to youth in various leadership capacities at local Youth for Christ programs in Gary, IN; Cadillac, MI; Jackson, MI and San Antonio, TX. During his tenure with Youth for Christ, he was appointed to lead two musical mission teams to Australia/ New Zealand and South America.

While Ron devoted his life to Christian ministry and his family, he did enjoy

many activities with family and friends including golf, tennis, fishing, hunting, snow skiing, snowmobiling and tabletop games. He was an accomplished singer who enjoyed singing and playing his guitar for himself and others. He was an excellent woodworker and enjoyed making gifts for family and friends. Ron used friendliness and good humor to make many friends throughout his life.

Ron has been an active member and leader at Wayside Chapel since he moved to San Antonio in 1978. A memorial service will be held in Ron's honor on Tuesday, October 24 at 1:00PM at Wayside Chapel, at 1705 NW Loop 410, San Antonio, Texas 78213. Donations may be made to Wayside Chapel Agape Fund.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **24**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Wayside Chapel
1705 NW Loop 410
San Antonio, TX

Tribute Wall

“ REMEMBERING RON

Ron was my best friend and he called me his best friend. Our friendship began after I asked him if he would play his guitar at two assisted-living homes. We were a great team! In addition to leading the hymns with his guitar, he always had an interesting or funny thing with which to entertain the residents. Sometimes he would play a song that he had composed. One story he liked to tell was about a song he had written called: "Walking with the Angels on the King's Highway." He played and sang it in a church one day. However, he felt he did such a terrible job that he just wanted to slink away after the service without seeing anyone. At the door, a couple met him and he thought, "Here comes the criticism." Instead, the woman praised him for the song and remarked, "I loved that song, and I would like you to play and sing that at my funeral." He often pointed out that God uses the weak, because, "When I am weak He is strong."

Twice, after our service at the Madison Estates home, we were invited to eat dinner with the residents. Many times, we would sit downstairs and eat popcorn. For a while, Sara Cardell helped out at the meeting and enjoyed the popcorn with Ron. At one point, as she walked between us, she laughed "A rose between two thorns," and sometimes referred to us as "the boys." She became a good friend with Ron and they enjoyed lunch on many occasions.

Ron loved the game of Joker which we played at the church every Thursday night, after enjoying a covered-dish dinner. He also organized a monthly Joker Night for about six participants.

He found What a Burger to be his regular breakfast eating place. He was loved by many of the workers who liked his cane with the horn attached. A cane with a horn! That so well expresses his excellent sense of humor. He was so appreciated by the workers

that they one year, surprised him with a birthday party. They presented him with a cake and singing and many well-wishes.

Ron and I spent many hours chatting: after game night, at What a Burger, on the telephone and after serving at the assisted living home. The folks there were very sad to hear of his home-going and they miss him at the meetings.

He never suspected that he had a gift for writing. When I suggested he put some of his interesting stories down on paper, he replied, "I can't write." But I insisted that he try. When he began to write, he discovered a hidden talent. His one –page, folksy stories were very captivating and always had a spiritual application. He collected them into a book, copies of which, he gave away freely. He read his stories in Sunday School class, at Game Night, in the assisted living home and wherever he could bless people with them.

Others today will probably elaborate on his years of ministry. He was involved in children's ministry with Aunt Bertha's radio program. For many years he served with Youth for Christ in various locations in America and in foreign countries. After he retired in San Antonio he was awarded "Optimist of the Year" and Youth for Christ honored him with an YFC International Presidential award. Now he is receiving his reward in Heaven and hearing, "Well done good and faithful servant."

I think he was wanting to get more intimate with God. He purchased several books by Chuck Swindoll with the emphasis of getting intimate with God. He signed my copy, "To my best friend Bill Kinsey (Kinzie). Now that intimacy is a reality for Ron.

As his legs got weaker, he decided he wanted to try Gold's Gym water aerobics. He bought a lock for his locker, swim shoes and carried all the other necessities to the gym. He did quite well in the water but became tired and took the steps back up to the platform. It seems that he backed up to sit on a chair, lost his balance and fell backward, hitting his head very hard into the wall. Because he was

on blood thinner, we called EMS and rushed him to the hospital. Sue took over from there and has the rest of the story. The Lord took His trusted servant home on his sixty-fifth Wedding Anniversary to spend it with his beloved Norma.

I miss my good friend Ron, but he would not wish to come back. His death was a shock to many of us, but we rejoice that he was called home without much suffering.

Bill Kinzie - October 14, 2017 at 09:09 AM

MW

“ *I first got to know Ron when I was the outgoing nursery coordinator and Ron and I were tasked with interviewing and choosing a person to fill the newly created staff position of nursery chairman. He led me through the process with prayer and a helpful understanding of Wayside's vision for this department. God gave us a wonderful servant for the job in Darlene Strader. Over the years, I've enjoyed hearing Ron sing, play guitar and teach us lessons from his life. His smile and good humor have been a light in our Sunday school class that I already miss, but I know he is much happier at home with our Lord and his Norma. Sing in Glory, Ron!*

Mary Weed - September 14, 2017 at 04:50 PM

JW

“ *Ron and I served in San Antonio Youth for Christ for several years. I greatly appreciated Ron's humor, wisdom, and love for both the Lord and for others. He sacrificed greatly for the ministry and gave sacrificially so that others might hear of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. He laid a foundation that is being built upon even today. He will be greatly missed*
John Williams

John Williams - September 13, 2017 at 11:21 AM

LS

“ I had heard about a couple named Ron and Norma years ago when I worked for the Morrises. I did not know much about this couple, but I knew they were really good friends of Jim and Jan. Fast forward 20 years. Earlier this year I decided to join the exercise class at my church. The class is for 55 plus seniors, so being 56, I thought it might be fun, especially being one of the youngest in the class. I sat in the last row, second seat from the left. Ron sat in the second to the last row, third seat from the left. So mostly, I just saw Ron from the back. I would admire the man, quite a few years my senior, and how he executed every exercise to the best of his ability. A few times I would run late, and he would remind me that we started at 8:30 a.m., and if I come too late, I would miss the devotion. He was the guy giving the devotion! He had a book that he read from. What this book contained were the stories or devotions of his life, and the common thread between the stories was how the Lord worked through his life in different situations. Two weeks ago we had no devotion, and we had no Ron. We all asked where Ron was. It was not like him to miss Tuesday exercise class, because afterwards the men in the group often went to Whataburger, and they never seemed to tire of eating there. I guess I now know why Ron was not there. He had an appointment with Jesus. I felt so sad for several days over this man I hardly knew, because in the short time I knew him, that one hour a week in exercise class, he had an impact on my life.

Lisa Schwenn - September 12, 2017 at 12:55 AM