



Philip Stanley Hartzler

September 7, 1943 - September 19, 2020

On September 19, 2020, Philip Stanley Hartzler stepped into the other side of eternity to meet Jesus face to face at the age of 77. He was a wonderful, loving husband to his wife Sandy of 54 years; a much loved dad to his 3 children Monica (Mike) Prescott, Jennifer Hartzler, Bruce (Niovi) Hartzler and papa to his 4 grandchildren Kaelan (Serena), Samara, Kyveli & Rhea, as well as recently earning the title 'great grand-papa' to Grae (Monica).

Phil was born on September 7, 1943, in Wakarusa, IN, to Roy & Katie Hartzler. He was predeceased by his parents along with his younger sister Mary "Marty" Hartzler and sister-in-law Cathy (Dave) Hartzler. His siblings Ruth (Jay) Martin, Freda (Paul) Friesen, Isabelle (John) Blough, David Hartzler and Dwight (Margaret) Hartzler will greatly miss him as well.

While he held various careers throughout his life including math teacher (Northridge High School), computer specialist, tutor and pastor, his life was dedicated to ministry. He was a 'pastor' in the greatest sense of the word, whether he officially held the title or not. Serving, loving, caring for, teaching and leading people to know Jesus was his passion and a deep part of his nature. He and Sandy mentored many couples in their marriages. They formed many decades-long friendships with those they ministered to, not only locally but internationally through missions trips abroad, as well as Canada, where they resided for 12 years leading Bible study groups, church planting and pastoring. Even during his later years, as his health started to deteriorate due to Parkinsons, one of his favorite activities was posting daily scripture devotionals on Facebook.

If you're an old friend or acquaintance or former student of Phil's reading this, and hadn't been in touch for years, or had just recently met him, you can be sure he would have remembered you very fondly. He had a gift for remembering (just the good stuff :). And it's also very likely you made it into his prayers from time to time too.

"John 17:8 – 'For I gave them the words You gave Me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me.' - Jesus is praying for His disciples one last time...He has fulfilled His Father's desire...In other

words, "mission accomplished". What a blessing. Let's do all we can to accomplish the mission God has for us." --(From one of Phil's Facebook posts, summer 2020)

While Phil's mission is accomplished, his legacy lives on.

A Celebration of Life will take place at a future date. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made at World Missionary Press, New Paris, IN (www.wmpress.org/donate).

Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret Funeral Home, Goshen, is handling arrangements and online condolences may be sent at www.rrefh.com

Comments



“ Phil has had a major impact on our lives after having met the Hartzler family 43 years ago in Fort McMurray. For us Phil has been a leader, mentor, friend, counsellor, intercessor, example and supporter. He played a large role in our 40 year involvement in church ministry. Although mostly observing from a distance, it was difficult to see him decline physically over the past 15 years. His fortitude and desire to live with purpose was in inspiration for us. Just a few days before his death, he posted his last online devotional. We wish Sandy, as well as Monica, Jenny and Bruce along with their families our deepest sympathy. Our prayers are with you. Rob and Carol Schroeder

Robert Schroeder - September 30, 2020 at 04:42 AM



“ I had Phil as a teacher years ago at Northridge. Not only was Phil a great teacher, he was a great mentor as a Christian friend. When he, Sandy and family moved to Ft. McMurray Canada, they invited everyone to come visit. A friend and I took them up on their invitation and spent a month in Ft. McMurray. There we seen Phil and Sandy in Action, ministering to others in the town and on the "reservation". I will never forget my time there and what their lives taught me. Phil was always a faithful teacher and follower of Christ! Jeri (Miller)Roggelien

Jeri Roggelien - September 26, 2020 at 01:59 PM



“ Sandy...sorry to hear about Phil's death but we know that he is in Heaven...what a wonderful feeling...to be assured of that forever...and ever! We enjoyed you and your testament to Christ at our PD meetings...God Bless you as you move forward with this earthly life missing Phil...most sincerely, Peggy and Dennis Swanson

peggy Swanson - September 26, 2020 at 07:43 AM



“ To me Phil was a friend, a father-figure, a brother and just a huge blessing over the 43 years of our friendship. Phil was all in, never holding back timely counsel, encouragement, a challenge, or that love of the purest sort that came from the depths of his relationship with God. And Phil never gave up. He is already greatly missed. What an honor to call him friend. Phil, we will see you again!

Lorrie Langemann - September 25, 2020 at 09:27 PM



“ Sandy, So sorry, we will miss Phil. Prayers for you. Homer and Jean Swartzentruber.

JEAN SWARTZENTRUBER - September 25, 2020 at 08:16 PM



“ Sandy, my heart and prayers are with you and family. I remember you guys as always happy and gracious. Kathryn (Yoder) Coblentz

Kathryn Coblentz - September 25, 2020 at 08:16 PM



“ Phil was one of the great treasures of Northridge. Thank you for impacting so many lives. Dan and Mary Shroyer

Mary Shroyer - September 25, 2020 at 11:24 AM



“ Phil was a God-filled soul who always validated students, friends, and colleagues. He gave me courage to get into computers when they were just arriving on the scene in schools. His life was certainly well lived.

Susan Weybright

Susan Weybright - September 25, 2020 at 10:21 AM



“ I have known the Hartzler family since I was about 3 years old, so Phil and his family have been life time friends. I remember Phil's hearty laugh that came from the depths of his soul, and his twinkling eyes. It's been a long time since I last saw him or Sandy, but when I think of them..only fun memories come back very quickly. I am sure that my parents were some of the first people he saw when he entered into glory!! Sandy...my heart goes out to you during this time of great loss. You and Phil have impacted me more than you realize, thank you for showing who Christ is. Many prayers and hugs to the entire family and prayers xoxo.

Celena Titterington

Celena Titterington - September 25, 2020 at 03:03 AM



“ Phil is my first cousin. I never had any biological brothers, but Phil has, especially in recent years, served for me the role of a brother. I have had many occasions to spend some time with him. We would talk about God, life, a book we were reading. It struck me that even during this period when the Parkinson's took a serious toll on his memory, and his ability to process information, still he was sharp when it came to knowledge of the Bible and discussing theology. Case in point is his daily devotions posted on Facebook. Those who frequently checked in on those know what I mean. He will be missed.

Herman Hartzler - September 24, 2020 at 04:56 PM



“ I have looked up to Phil my whole life, a wonderful friend of the family. Such a sweet spirit he had, in these last year's everytime I got to see him, he seemed so happy to see me, someone who makes you feel valued and loved is a wonderful thing indeed. To Sandy, Monica, Jennifer, Bruce and all the spouses and grandkids, I'm so sorry for this huge hole in your family. What a wonderful thing to grow up with a Dad who cared so very much for you and always loved you. And Sandy one reason I think so highly of Phil is how much you loved him, it is clear you both had a wonderful partner all these years, may He grant you supernatural comfort as you grieve.

Suzanne Hoek - September 24, 2020 at 02:26 PM



“ Well said Suzanne Hoek, my sentiments exactly. Hartzler family, we grieve with you at this time. Phil will be missed. May you feel God's presence.

Judy Miller - September 25, 2020 at 08:45 AM



“ Phil was my pastor, mentor, and friend, he married I and my husband. I remember his empathy for others. He always asked thought provoking questions that helped trigger spiritual growth, and he was a good listener. I learned much by observing and listening to him. We were able to visit twice in Goshen, and we saw his determination to press through all his physical difficulties. He maintained that determination to the end. We are so grateful that he was able to make the trip to Fort McMurray last year, and we had the privilege of him staying with us, it was a gift that the Lord gave us. Precious memories. Thank you Phil for your friendship and influence in my and my husband's life. We love you. Mary-Anne and Murray Esau

Murray and Mary-Anne Esau - September 24, 2020 at 01:41 PM



“ I well remember Phil and Sandy's gracious hospitality to us on several occasions, in Canada and Goshen. One most memorable one was in Ft. McMurray, Alberta, Canada, when we were staying with them and they introduced us to moose meat for my first time. It was sort of like a sweet beef and was quite good. They were always very gracious hosts when we visited them.

Brother David

David Hartzler - September 24, 2020 at 01:35 PM