

In loving memory of

Gerald Ray Pfaff

February 16, 1954 – September 16, 2021



Order of Service

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Prelude

Ben Quine

Welcome

Matthew Pfaff

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Rejoice the Lord is King

Memories and Reflection

John & Bonnie Nystrom

Nali Scripture Reading

Thomas Pohonum

No More Night

Ben & Julie Quine

Message

Pastor Doug Ley

Memorial Video

Nathan Pfaff

Hallelujah Chorus

Closing Remarks

Matthew Pfaff

The Pfaff Family thanks you for your love and support.

Gerald Ray “Jerry” Pfaff graduated into Glory on September 16, 2021 in Mt. Holly, New Jersey.

Jerry was born in 1954, in Washington D.C. and raised in Camp Springs, Maryland. He graduated from Crossland High School in Temple Hills, MD, class of '72, and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, receiving his Bachelors of Arts in Education in 1976. Jerry taught high school math and attended Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, graduating in 1982 with a Masters of Divinity, in preparation to go to Papua New Guinea as a Bible translator with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

When Jerry was 18 years old at Greenwood Hills Camp he met his future wife, Susan, and the two of them married on August 18, 1979. They joined Wycliffe Bible Translators in 1985, and after linguistics training in Duncanville, Texas, moved overseas in 1987 to Papua New Guinea, where they began a 34-year ministry of Bible Translation among the Nali people of Manus Island. In March of 2020 they held a dedication celebrating the publishing of half the New Testament, as well as the release of the Luke video and Scripture audio recordings, all in the Nali language.

During his tenure with Wycliffe, Jerry served the Papua New Guinea Branch of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) in various roles and capacities, and led the Nali translation team as trainer and advisor. At the SIL Ukarumpa Centre Jerry was known for his abounding hospitality, his musical giftedness with vocal, guitar, piano, and musical theater performances, and his leadership aptitude. He was also an incredibly gifted preacher, with one of his most notable sermons being a full recitation from memory of the Sermon on the Mount, from the Gospel of Matthew, chapters five through seven. One of Jerry’s favorite pastimes was playing rounds of Frisbee golf with his sons and friends at Ukarumpa.

Jerry had a deep love for the Word of God and the souls of men, devoting his life to both in his 34 years of tireless service to the people of Papua New Guinea. He also loved to travel, and would drive extensively on his furloughs in the United States to visit friends, family, and supporters. In his later years he took great pleasure in sharing a meal with as many of his friends as possible and telling them about the work God was doing among the Nali people. He also delighted in reading the Hardy Boys books aloud to his grandsons every evening before their bedtime, often over FaceTime. He is leaving a massive godly legacy.

Jerry is survived by his beloved wife, Susan Pfaff of Mt. Holly, NJ; his cherished mother, Juanita Pfaff of Rosemont, PA; his daughter and husband, Julie and Ben Quine of Dallas, TX, together with their three sons Andrew, Luke, and Peter; his son and wife Matthew and Callie Pfaff, expecting baby, of Los Alamitos, CA; his son and wife Nathan Pfaff and Keely Vedanayagam of Los Angeles, CA; his brother and wife, Dale and Kippy Pfaff of Chambersburg, PA; his sister and husband, Terry and David Hosan of Havertown, PA; his brother and wife Bruce and Sherri Pfaff of Owings, MD; and his father-in-law Richard Amber of Mt. Holly, NJ.

Independence Day

On a day of independence,
What a moment to attain
A far greater, lasting freedom –
Free from sorrow, sin, and pain!

In the presence of your Savior,
You are finally, fully free
In a way that those who love you,
While we live, will never be.

As you lived the love of Jesus,
As you served and sacrificed,
It was all so more would join you
In the freedom found in Christ.

We feel deeply our dependence
As we look to God for grace,
For His peace and strength and comfort
In the sudden loss we face.

We find hope despite our sorrow
In the promise that we share
Of that day of perfect freedom
When through Christ we'll join you there.

This poem was written by Krista Besselman in recognition of Jerry passing away
on Papua New Guinea Independence Day.

