

Kylee Walker Celebration of Life, September 14, 2024

Welcome

I would like to welcome each of you to this celebration of Kylee's life. A service like this gives us an opportunity to come together as family and friends to be reassured that Kylee has been taken home. To a home of love, joy and peace with her Father in heaven that we can only know when we go there ourselves. This is also a time to share fond memories and most importantly, it is a time for friends to comfort and encourage the family as they face the reality of a life without Kylee's presence.

John 14:1-3, Jesus said "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am."

Prayer

Please join me in prayer: Lord, we ask that your Holy Spirit guide this service today. Let your love, joy and peace manifest itself in each of us. We thank you for Kylee. A wonderful saint who has blessed each of us and we take comfort in knowing that she is with You. Amen.

Obit (read by Keira)

Song - " _____ "

Message

At times like this we experience a myriad of emotions. We all know there are really no words to express the reality of knowing that life as we have known it has changed in an instant. Depending on our faith, the sadness, confusion, pain and despair are inevitable and each one of us will need to heal in our own way and in our own time, if we choose. As Christians, we are encouraged through our faith that God Himself knows and understands what it is to experience the loss of someone that He loves. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." That truth gave Kylee and all believers two things – an assurance that God cares about every-

Kylee Walker Celebration of Life, September 14, 2024

one, no matter what the circumstances might appear to be like, and secondly, that death itself is not the final chapter.

You may say to yourself, “I don’t believe that” and that is your choice, I am only sharing the testimony of what changed in our lives to give us the faith and the grace to endure in circumstances like the ones that we are in now. In times like this, we can be over-whelmed physically, mentally and emotionally, as if we have nothing to really lean on. It is during these times and sadly for many of us, only during these times, that we consider the importance of our spiritual needs. Without spiritual help, it is impossible for us to overcome these situations without lingering anger, bitterness, loneliness, fear or hopelessness. On behalf of Kylee and all of us that believe in Jesus Christ we would encourage each of you to please open your hearts and reach out for that help.

Testimonies

Obviously, after 33 ½ years with Kylee as well as the other kids, we have lot’s of memories and I wanted to share just a few and remind you that this is a joyful, celebration of Kylee’s life. When Kylee was in grade school, she spoke to schools, churches, Rotary Clubs, Chambers of Commerce and other groups about the ministry in Mexico. After a meeting with a Girl Scout troop in LaConner, we came back from our mission trip to find that the whole community, police & fire depts, schools, business and Chamber of Commerce had donated so many school supplies it took us four months to take it all to Mexico. She would invite her friends from school to go on mission trips and I had to go and talk to the parents, and even though some identified as not being Christians, they all said yes.

During her last month of pregnancy with Madilyn we were on mission in Mexico and when Madilyn was 5 weeks old she traveled with us on mission back to Mexico, then Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri to visit family.

When Madilyn was a little over 2 years old Kylee stayed by herself in Mexico and was there when the earthquake struck in Mexicali. Kylee and her friend, Katie, with her child the same age as Madilyn spent a week traveling back and forth to those living in the center of the earthquake to deliver supplies. When she was 15, she flew to Mexico for her quincinera that she had been planning since she was 12 years old.

Later, she and Hailey were inspired to follow Madilyn’s vision to get a bed for the girls in Africa. Then Madilyn’s House was completed, Harvest Kids

Kylee Walker Celebration of Life, September 14, 2024

was started and the adopting of Peace, one of the orphans, came into her heart and family.

Harvest kids – 9 year old girl cutting herself, crushing cans for less fortunate children in Africa and he asked, “but what are you doing to help kids here in America?”

Jim Kager frisbees

Children are attending the Fountains of Hope and Harvest Doves primary schools and the girls living in Madilyn’s house the last 11 years, learning to farm on their own farmland, with clean water and school supplies. Kids living in the garbage dump in Mexico picking up plastic bottles to recycle and sending the money to help less fortunate children in Africa 10,000 miles away.

The motor to repair the well in the desert of South Sudan serving a community with many children \$2,500 was wired to Africa 10 days ago.

This morning kids are crushing aluminum cans at Harvest Kids in Mount Vernon, and a truck full of sweet corn that a local farmer grows every year to raise funds for HK is outside and available for donations to continue the work. The pastor of the church where Madilyn’s House was built called and asked to bring Kylee’s body back to be buried in Africa because all the kids, including the ones that had already gone to heaven, considered Kylee as their mom. In February 16th HVM annual board meeting

I also want to thank Kylee’s many friends and co-laborers from the different areas in the USA, Mexico, Australia, Central and South America and the different countries in Africa that have been praying for her during this time and who are not only praying for the family and everyone here but have joined us today on zoom.

Now everyone here has been affected or infected by Kylee in our own special way, so we are excited to have you share your thoughts and memories with us and especially to encourage and bless the family.

More testaments

At this time I would like to thank everyone on behalf of our family for everyone that has taken the time to share on the on-line guestbook available on the Schaefer-Shipman Funeral Home’s website and if you didn’t have the opportunity to sign the guest book at the table, we encourage you to take a few

Kylee Walker Celebration of Life, September 14, 2024

moments and do that so the family will have that for another memory of this day.

We want to thank each of you for sharing with us whether you shared anything verbally or not.

We know that in these next few moments, hours, days or weeks, you may be prompted with a thought or memory that might encourage you and we would pray that you would take a moment to share them this afternoon as we fellowship together or later through a phone call or write a note to the members of the family and share it with them.

Song - “ _____ ”

Video

Closing

When I accepted the truth of who God really was, my faith helped me to see that every human being was someone that was beautifully and wonderfully made. Like Kylee, I am sure I am never going to be able to practice that perfectly, but I know that because we both knew and loved Jesus that her eyes were opened to a more precious and truthful way to relate to God and everyone she knew. I know that is what she wanted for everyone. She never had a relationship with her biological father – but God opened her eyes to a Father in heaven that loved her.

Even as a child, she would find the kids or adults that needed ‘a little child’ at that time of their life. In Mexico, in cardboard city she would find the kid that was off to the side and unnoticed by the other children. In the rehab or prison, she would sit by the man or woman that had chosen to sit alone from the others. Her goal in Harvest Kids was to make sure no one gets left out. On our first trip to Africa, she had sat with the girls on their mat on the floor as they shared about a rock or stick of wood they had found and kept for their own because that is all they had. When Kylee arrived to celebrate the opening of Madilyn’s House she knew each girl’s name and the Lord had impressed on her and the kids, that an orphaned girl named Peace would become a part of their own family. Because of her love, especially for those that were broken hearted and crushed in spirit, she would want each of us to see that the colors are a little brighter. That it is easier to understand what Mother Theresa meant when she said, “There are no really great things, just many little things with great love.” The change that makes us better is when we not only appreciate this world and its beauty, but the beauty of ourselves and the others that we share this journey with. Maybe we can understand in a deeper way what was in the heart and mind of Augustine, a great man of faith, when he said, “Men go abroad to wonder at the height of mountains, the huge waves of the sea, the long course of rivers, the vast compass of the ocean, the circular motion of the stars...but they pass by themselves and don’t even notice.” We can

Kylee Walker Celebration of Life, September 14, 2024

be assured that our renewed appreciation for how precious each person is will make us better. By receiving forgiveness...we then can give forgiveness.

I also want to ensure everyone that is with us today, that the vision and the dreams that have guided Harvest Vision will continue to direct our steps, including Kylee's dream to have Madilyn, Hailey, Clara and Peace be together so we may be closer to our Father and with the help of Jesus and the Holy Spirit that will help us to reach vulnerable and orphaned children locally, in Africa and wherever the Holy Spirit leads us. We invite you to pick up a memorium and a photo that capture's Kylee and the kids vision. We will also be having a Celebration of her life in Mexico in October and in Africa on our next visit.

Song – “ _____ ”

On behalf of the family, I would like to invite you to:

Join the family at the Celebration of Life reception following the service at the Tulalip

The address and time is on the program that you were given you first arrived.

Prayer

In closing I would like to share this familiar scripture that David wrote in Psalms 23.

“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk

Kylee Walker Celebration of Life, September 14, 2024

through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

We would be remiss if we didn't ask anyone that has not accepted Jesus into their life to consider doing so before you leave today.

Please join me in prayer:

Lord Jesus, we offer in prayer for those that may have never received the eternal life and promise that Kylee received these words: Jesus, we accept the gift of forgiveness for our sins that you paid for by dying on the cross and the new life that we know is real because You were raised from the dead and are now with our Father in heaven. Fill each one that has opened their hearts with the precious Holy Spirit and protect them as they grow in their faith.

We thank you for the beauty of your creation. Give us hearts to see you in everything around us. We ask that you hold this family together through the power of your Holy Spirit. Comfort those that need to be comforted. Let the love that Kylee has poured into the lives of her family and friends be extended to everyone that they meet and that it would be a witness to the love she even now gives to us. We thank you again for Kylee and we surrender her to You. Be with us as we go our ways and bless the food that we will be sharing as we continue our fellowship this afternoon.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray and believe.