



Bro. Thomas

October 27, 1947 - October 28, 2011

A memorial service for Bro. Lou Gary Thomas, 64, Flint, will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 3:00 PM at Lanes Chapel United Methodist Church with Bro. Jabo Thomas officiating. A private burial will be held prior to the service under direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Bro. Lou passed away, Friday, October 28, 2011 at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler. He was born October 27, 1947 in Jacksonville, to Billie Murry and Emma Joe Muse Thomas. Bro. Lou was the Salutatorian of the graduating class of 1966 from Burkeville High School. He served as Vice President of the Future Farmers of America on the National Stage. Lou attended Lon Morris Junior College, Stephen F. Austin State University and Perkins School of Theology at SMU. Bro. Lou taught and coached in many different elementary, Jr. High and Sr. High Schools throughout East Texas. He was dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ in ministry for over 40 years. On 3 different occasions his church received the Kenneth Copeland Award for Evangelism which is given for church growth through new believers. Bro. Lou served in many churches including, Spurger UMC, Fairview UMC of Nacogdoches, Bonita UMC of Central Heights, Laird Hill UMC of Kilgore, First United Methodist Church of Harlingen, St. Marks UMC of Center, St. Andres UMC of Carthage, First United Methodist Church of Mt. Enterprise, Concord United Methodist Church, Bethlehem UMC of Hudson and the final 22 years at Lanes Chapel UMC of Tyler. Bro. Lou was a very well known member of the Tyler community and served on many different committees and boards for various charities and

organizations. He was a very beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Son, Brother, Pastor and Friend. Lou was an example of Jesus Christ to all whom met him. He was an inspiration to all and he showed what it meant to really live what you believe. Bro. Lou was preceded in death by his father. He is survived by his loving family including his mother, Emma Joe Thomas of Cushing; wife of 21 years, Brenda Ann Thomas; daughter, Janae "Nae" Henderson and husband Darrick of Lufkin; son, Jabo Thomas and wife Stephanie of Tyler; siblings, Gayla Sitton and husband Danny of Cushing and Melody Hughes and husband Richard of Tyler; and grandchildren, Matthew Henderson, Jarrod Henderson, Jake Thomas and Avery Thomas. Visitation is scheduled from 6:00-8:00 PM, Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at Lanes Chapel UMC, 8720 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler. In lieu of flowers, memorials in honor of Bro. Lou Thomas may be made to Lanes Chapel UMC "Building Fund" or the "Benevolent Fund", 8720 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler or www.laneschapel.com and click on Bro Lou's Corner.

Tribute Wall

KM

“ I have not been to church in a few years but Bro Lou was the reason I chose Lanes Chapel. He was an awesome preacher n man. I always felt like when he was preaching that he was talking only 2 me. He was a special man. My prayers are with the whole family.

Kay Mullenax - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ I was saddened to learn of Bro. Lou's passing. He was truly a man of God who will be missed.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to both the Thomas Family as well as the Lane's Chapel UMC Family.

God is good all the time! RIP Bro Lou.

Bill Avera - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Brenda,
I wish we could be there with you. I know you understand and we will have to get together soon. You are in our prayers.
We love you,
Harry and Monica

Monica Barogh - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Dear Brenda

My heart aches for you. To see you two together let you know how love between two people was suppose to be. He touched so many lives and so thankful how he touched mine. My prayers are to you and to Lanes Chapel Methodist as you celebrate and honor this wonderful man. But know your work family loves you so very much and we are here for you in anyway you will let us be. God Bless you and the family. We love you.

Margaret Waller - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

VH

“ Bro. Lou entered our lives when i was about 8 months old and has never left our hearts. He has helped me and my family through all of our lives. I always looked up to Bro.Lou and admired and loved him so much! The impact he has had on me and my family and anyone he met is so wonderful and gracious. He will be missed and is truely loved. I have enjoyed all the years i got to spend with him Jason, and Janae and the rest of his family. There will never be another man like Brother.Lou, he is where he is supposed to be! Love to all the family and friends!

valerie hatcher - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *The Thomas family have always been very special to us! They were with us in good times and bad. We feel so blessed that God allowed our paths to cross. Our prayers are with each of you at this time. But as God's children we will be looking forward to the same place Lou is today with His heavenly father and earthly father. God bless all of you. See you Tuesday!*

Charles and Marilyn Bell and family

482MC227

Texarkana,AR.71854

Charles and Marilyn Bell - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ *Dear Thomas Family,
I would like to send my sincere condolences at the passing of Bro. Lou. May your faith sustain you and may God in Heaven show his Grace and Mercy to you fully in these days. You remain in my thoughts and prayers.*

Love,

Alden

Alden Carver - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Bro Lou was one of the most kind, caring, & loving men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. He was there for me thru the tragic loss of my dearest grandmother, he & Brenda paved the pathway for my family that led us to Christ, as well as love & support thru all areas of our life since meeting him. He has softened my heart & taught me that I my family is worthy of love & prayers from him & my church. I know he is dancing in heaven with our father, but my heart is still breaking as I will never again receive one of his special hugs & kisses on Sunday morning telling me how special I am, he is proud of me & he loves me. I love you Bro Lou & thank you for everything you have done for me & my family. You saved me, when I thought I could never be saved. Love & Prayers for brenda & the rest of The Thomas family.

Brandy Brown

Brandy Brown - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Bro Lou was one of a kind and touched me and my family's lives in so many ways! He was there during the great times and difficult times. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his entire family.

Sincerely,

Nancy Miller, Travis Reed, Stephen and Heather Welch and Lily and Logan

Nancy Miller - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ I worked with Lou at Gary years ago and he was a wonderful friend and awesome example and roll model for many children that need one. I am so sorry he is no longer with us and I pray for the family but I know he is resting in the arms of Jesus. Hold tight to your memories!

Cindy Connally Grimes - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *What a great man, I loved to visit with him. I know yall will miss him and our prayers and thoughts are with you.*

Scott Crawford

SCOTT CRAWFORD - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *I love Brother Lou and will miss him, but in the twinkling of an eye we will meet again. If you want to know somebody really well, go golfing with them and you will see their true nature. It was a joy to watch Lou hit the golf ball. I never saw him boast, but was always humble about his golfing skills and other success. Most of his shots were similar to those of a professional. The few that were not, Lou would just say, "that'll work." Lou used golfing as a tool and never missed a chance to plant a seed for salvation and then reap the harvest. He had a deep, sincere love for lost souls and the results are evident. I pray that God will be with Brenda and the rest of the family during these difficult times.*

Dean Stenberg - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ The first time I attended Lanes Chapel (the little church on the corner) as I was leaving Bro Lou shook my hand and said, "Welcome home." That little church did feel like home - just like the church I grew up in. While I was a member there Bro Lou was always available no matter when or where or for what. I remember one time he even came to have lunch with me at work because I had a problem to discuss and didn't have time to get to his office during my lunch break.

Although I moved on to another church several years ago, Bro Lou remained my friend and I am a better Christian from having known him.

My prayers are with his family and Lanes Chapel. He will be missed.

Sue Forgy - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ I love Bro. Lou. He helped me and my whole family when my Dad was sick. He was also there when my brother had surgery. They didn't even attend Lane's Chapel, but he was still there. I will never forget him. God Bless your family.

Debbie Oliver - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ Bro. Lou touched so many folks, me included during the past few months. He was a great inspiration to me and he will be missed by many. May God give you peace during this time. With Love, Freida

Freida Byrd - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ Bro. Lou will truly be missed in mine and the girls life. He is an amazing christian man whom helped me thru trying time and helped me find inner beauty of gods love and to give unfailing forgiveness. I will truly remember him always and have a place in my heart for him. My heart felt love for Brenda and the family and pray that God helps you thru such a loss. He was an amaging man who knew how to teach the word of God to others and again he will be truly be missed but NOT forgotten. Thank you Brother Lou for your unending love and encouragement!!!

Sincerely,
The Barber girls

Patricia Barber - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Melody and family,

I am so sorry for your loss. May you feel the Lord's hands holding you extra close during this sad time.

Donna (Jordan) Lightfoot - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ Our prayers go out to the Thomas family and the Lane's Chapel family. We know that Bro. Lou will be missed by all. We all know that Bro. Lou gave all of us comfort when we needed it. I know his presence with Jesus can give us comfort now.

Love to all,

Tina and Braxton Lewis

Tina Diamond Lewis - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ Bro. Lou, Thank you for all the smiles you put on my face. Thank you for changing my life and for teaching me to be a better person. You are truly a gift from God in my life. I will always love you. Nina

Nancy Bodeman - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Brenda,
Ken Gire wrote, "There are songs that were never meant to be sung alone, valleys that were never meant to be walked alone. Grief is one of those valleys. And weeping is one of those songs." Please know that you are not alone and may you be comforted by those around you. I am praying for you during these most challenging days. I send heartfelt condolences.

Marj Miller - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ I did not know Bro. Lou well, but had met him a year ago @ Lanes when my grandchild was attending a camp & then again this past August when he married my son & daughter-in-law. He was one of the kindest people I have ever met.....you felt like you had known him your whole life! I was so heartbroken to hear the news of his passing. My thoughts & prayers will be with you & your family during this difficult time.

Brenda C. White - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KL

“ I worked with Lou at Gary Elementary and have kept in touch with him through the years. We chatted via email just a few weeks ago. I told him I was moving back to east Texas after 17 years of being gone and he invited me to come see him and the new church. I am so sad that I did not get to see him, but am glad I was able to talk to him recently. He was a great man with an even greater sense of humor. He will truly be missed. My prayers go out to his family.

Kerry Long - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ To the Family of Brother Lou Thomas:

I wanted to tell you how sorry I am for loss Brother Lou. I am grateful for the privilege of having known such a great man. He was someone whose opinion I valued highly, and eventhough I was not a member of Lanes Chapel, he took the time to help me with a difficult situation I was dealing with a few years ago. I know you will receive many tributes like mine, but I just wanted you to know how much I thought of and liked Brother Lou. He was a great man who really cared. Your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

*D. Matt Bingham
Criminal District Attorney
Smith County, Texas*

D. Matt Bingham - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Bro Lou Thomas was larger than life and the most wonderful, spiritual, and religious man of God I had ever had the pleasure of knowing. Nearly 5 years ago he ultimately became by life savior as he bridged the gap between me and my Lord that I had grown apart from. He and his saving grace and love brought me home....home to God's forgiving and loving embrace! For that and my life that was saved from Intensive Care that week, my heart and my family lift you Bro Lou! You never gave up on me and who I could become and together, with together with Brenda and the church family...you lifted me high and these broken wings were healed and I learned to fly again! Now you soar Bro Lou! Spread your golden wings and fly in the right hand of Jesus!! I was so lucky to have had the honor of you in my life! I will always love you so very much! I love you Brenda and Jabo!!!

Melissa Richardson Dalrymple - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ Bro. Thomas

Errol and Charlotte Ray - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ Brenda,
I am so very sorry for your loss. I pray God's comforting arms will continue to hold you up as only He can do. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Lynn Jones - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GT

“ Brenda,

I am so sorry. I always felt so close to Lou even though we did not get to church regularly. Everytime we ran into him he was always just Lou. It was as though we had just seen him. No loss of time whatsoever. A great guy and a "Good Man". We love you and hope that your days are easy. If ever you need me, please call. I am only a phone call away. Gaylan

GAYLAN TURNER - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Dear Brenda,

*I was fortunate enough to see Lou just a couple of weeks ago at the golf course when he was finishing up a round.
So happy and smiling. It was always great to run into him. He was a true friend and a blessing to know. God Bless You and Be With You.
Doris*

Doris Hardy - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Lou was a very good friend to me in the years we worked together at Gary Elementary. It was a blessing to have a coworker who would share things of the Lord and pray with me. God bless you all.*

Johnny Ray - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Please accept our condolences. Bro Lou had a real impact on us during our time in Texas each winter with his excellent people skills thought provoking sermons. Dallas always appreciated Lou's telephone call on our way home from Texas on the occasion of Dallas's mother's passing. He gave Dallas alot of comfort and offered a prayer, which was deeply appreciated and not forgotten. He will be missed.

Dallas Winslow - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Emma Jo,
I was so sorry to hear of the loss of your son. I know you had good times and I also know that your faith will get you through the hard times. I miss getting to see you. That year I worked with you was wonderful. You are a great lady. I love you . Mary

Mary Greer - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Janae and Jason,
You are in our thoughts and prayers...may God give you comfort and strength in the days ahead!
Love,
Joe and Sandy Penn

October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Your family is in our prayers. We pray for the Lord to give you comfort and peace during this time of sadness.

Charles, Sandra and Haley Willson - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ Bro Lou will always hold a very special place in our spiritual development. God used an ordinary, yet extraordinarily radical & mission oriented, disciple to change lives and THAT he did for us in our young marriage. Brenda and Bro Lou let their lights shine, boldly yet humbly embracing fellow believers as well as unbelievers, in all circumstances and truly impacted and redirected our focus as immature Christians. I can't help but question God's plan with expanding his Heavenly kingdom with someone so special on His earthly kingdom but I know Bro Lou's legacy will continue to rock the world for God!

Steve & Melissa Little - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ He will be missed very much in the East Texas community

Carl Shine - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Dearest Brenda Thomas and Family

I am so sorry for your loss and wanted to let you know that you all are in our thoughts and prayers. I love you all so much. Bro Lou was a special man and helped me through a lot. I know he is rejoicing with the angels and will always be looking after everyone.

*With all our love and prayers,
Mandi and Tony Lara*

Mandi Bever - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ Great Friend and Great person. I will miss him.

Pete Thompson - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Bro. Lou and Lanes Chapel UMC helped to bring me out of a dark place several years ago. He was there for me when I needed him most and he listened to me when I had concerns and wanted to talk with someone I could trust. He will always be an important part of my life, both personally and spiritually. I will miss him greatly. My heart goes out to all who knew him and loved him.

Sheila McDonald - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TZ

“ Coach "T" along with "Popsy" coached me at Troup High. He taught me to shoot a jump shot and to follow through. He called me "Pistol" for Pistol Pete Maravich. He gave me the confidence that I needed at that time in my life. He was a mentor, an idol, a supporter, and an open ear. He touched so many. I am so proud to have known him and for him to be one of the lights that shone on my path growing up. I admired and loved both Coach "T" and his father. I will be thinking of the Thomas family today and prayers are being sent your way.

Tina Peiskee Zan - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JY

“ Brenda, my thoughts and prayers are with you. May God wrap his loving arms around you and comfort you.

Jane Ann Young-Maloney - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ We are so sorry about Bro. Lou. Our prayers are with the Thomas Family.

Ronnie & Margie Fite - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ *Daughter of Jane Baker, and sister of Johnny Baker.*

It is of deep regret that we learn of Bro. Lou's passing. He was appreciated by Jane Baker and her family.

Our prayers are with his family, and the Lane Chapel Congregation.

Sue Baker-Blakely and family

Linda Sue Baker-Blakely - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *My parents, Jane and Earl Swindell were members of Lane's Chapel for 5 years before my father died. When my father was in the hospital and we removed his life support, Bro. Lou came to the hospital and stayed with us until my father took his last breath. This compassion for my family impressed me so much. Not only did he say comforting words but he walked with us through that very difficult moment. I saw the Love of Christ flow through him at this time.*

Karen Merriman - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ We rejoice with and for Brother Lou.
Brother Lou Thomas is an example to follow.
Truly inspired, Brother Lou is blessed with an "ample" portion of the Spirit. He cared for, counseled and prayed for my family for which we are truly grateful.
Our hats are off to him and we salute Brother Lou, his family and the church family at Lanes Chapel.
My family thanks him for his leadership and devotion to the Lord.
His physical presence will be missed but our memory of him and our gratitude and the training he gave us continue.
The Blake Stowe family.

Blake Stowe - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ Brenda,
I was so sorry to hear last night about Lou's passing. I have thought of you often over time and I want you to know how deeply sorry I am for you. I wish that I had known so that I could have been there for you. If ever you want to reconnect just call. You are in my prayers and the prayers of my family.
Pam Gould

Pam Snyder Gould - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Brenda,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time. Know that God has called one of His own to be by His side and Lou will be missed by all. God bless you all.

Steve & Caye Sullivan - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ *What a joy to have known and been a friend to Lou. He was a great inspiration to me and to many others. Words can't express how we will miss him but realize that it is only a fraction of the missing you will bear.*

Knwo that you are in my prayers always.

Love

Rittie

Rittie Roeder - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Coach Thomas as I always know him was a kind and spiritual fill. I worked as a Substitute Teacher in his class for several times. We always start off with our exercise and the kids they always Ms. Haggerty will you exercise with us. Each students they love Coach Thomas he gets on them when they start acting up. I knew their was something special about Coach. I enjoy working him also as my son Theron (TJ) teacher. He will be miss dearly. Everytime you see him he always deck down clean and looking fly. Mean he was a sharp dresser. Smile. I always love his quotes that he use too put upon the biiboard outside his church on old bullard road. I just like to drive by just to read the board and wirtes the quotes. Here one of my quotes: Sometimes we are so busy complaining by others mistakes. Not taking responabilty by our own. Dinah Haggerty. Faith is the key our heart.

Never give upon God and he will never give upon you. God will give you direction and a plan with it we just have to follow him. We as a christian take off like an airplane fly by faith and hold on to jesus hands in don't let go. Bro Lou is like an angel who took flight by faith and holding on to Jesus hands. He will always be in my heart I love him dearly as a coach and brother in Christ. Hope you enjoy the quotes. Remember he's looking sharp in heaven dress up in his fancy suit and matching shoes. Take care and God be with you always. Soon in very soon we are going to see the king (Song).
Love in Christ Dinah Haggerty

Dinah Haggerty - October 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM