



Kurt Whattoff

February 11, 1962 - December 31, 2006

"For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

Services for Kurt Whattoff, 44 of Tyler, will be held on Friday, January 5, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. at Stewart Family Funeral Home with Pastor Dan Tarno officiating. Mr. Whattoff passed away in Van Zandt County, Sunday, December 31, 2006. Kurt was born in Ames, Iowa. He graduated from Ames High School in 1981. He attended Iowa State University and the University of Dubuque where he played football. He had a passion for sports, reading, and working out. Kurt's love for life and people was contagious. Kurt was a member of Grace Bible Fellowship Baptist Church and was a partner of Merchant Payment Systems in Tyler, Texas. Kurt is preceded in death by his mother, Sharon Catherine Whattoff. He is survived by his loving family including his father Jon Whattoff of Tyler; brother, Kevin Whattoff and wife Leiala of California; grandparents, Murl and Wanda Whattoff, and many loving relatives. Honorary Pallbearers will be Tom Jenkins, Jim Dillard, and Jim Cornette. The family will receive friends from 5:00 - 7:00 P.M. Thursday, at Stewart Family Funeral Home 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler, Texas 75703. Memorials in honor of Kurt Whattoff may be made to Grace Bible Fellowship Baptist Church to the Ministry of Celebrate Recovery, 17897 FM 1255 Canton, TX 75103. For more information or to express condolences, visit www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com. "My thoughts are completely different from yours," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are

higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts
higher than your thoughts.? Isaiah 55:8-9

Tribute Wall



“ To Kevin and the Whattoff family. I was truly saddened to see the news in our local Ames paper. Although I didn't know Kurt as well, I shared enough times with Kevin ("watty") back in the High Schools days that I felt compelled to at least write a quick note. I immediately had memories of the Whattoff family, the humorous Kevin, and the Amalgamated restaurant. I couldn't imagine if my brother's life was taken. It is so said to see such young people pass. I feel for you all, and have already said a prayer or 2 for you. Take care, Scott

December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Wednesday, Jan. 10, '07

-Kevin

I was very sorry to hear about passing of your brother Kurt. I found out about this tragedy from Mork this past Friday (Jan. 5th) and sent a note via funeral home. Unfortunately my message didn't "transmit" so I'm trying again today.

Although I didn't know Kurt as well as you, I do remember him having the respect and admiration of other students and classmates in school both at Welch and Ames High.

He was a person that other kids looked up to.

I know this is a terribly hard time for you, your family and your Dad. My wife and I and our family experienced a very similar loss almost a year ago in February.

In times of anxiety, sadness and despair this simple passage from Matthew 11:28 has helped me...

"Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden and I will refresh you."

Feel free to contact me...I'd love to talk to you.

You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

-Todd

Todd J. Stilwell - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ Kurt we will miss you.

Jon please know that I am praying for you and your family.

Fran

Fran Shenberger - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with your family in your time of sorrow. I have many fond memories of Kurt from Ames High.*

Sara Durlam Westemeyer - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ *May the Lord be with the Whattoff Family at this great time of need.*

LeaAnn Johnson - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I was walking down a Golden Path
And a stranger caught my eye
His joy radiated through his smile
I had to stop him for awhile

He emanated a sense of peace
That could only come from God
He could not contain his bliss
His story I didn't want to miss

I asked him about this serenity
He gracefully shared with me
When he was done I left in awe
Keep reading, you will see

This story is not a sad one
It is smothered with God's love
The year was drawing to a close
God watched closely from above

On the last day of the year
God had some surprises left in store
He saved them for some special souls
He was going to open Heaven's Door

One of his children was sometimes unwell
His mind haunted by a bipolar spell
He fought hard with his inner self
Sometimes his hurt he wished he could sell

God saw his pain and suffering
Showered him with compassion
Tried to shelter him from the storm
Filled his life with family affection

But God still felt his pain

*Wanted his sorrow to end
His bipolar disorder He wanted to mend
This precious child God tried to defend*

*God finally decided
He would bring him Home
But not until his child was ready
Not until his head and heart were steady*

*So God watched and waited
As he got his life together
His child was content
His soul was better*

*God gave him time with family
And on the last day of the year
It was decided the time was near
God's gentle voice, His child would hear*

*Without pain and a lengthy passing,
An Angel's wing swept His child away
He brought him through the clouds
A brand new life, a brand new day*

*Upon entering the Pearly Gates
His disorder evaporated
Hurt emptied from his heart
It was a breathtaking new start*

*This stranger that I met
Said that everything was perfect
There were no regrets
From heaven, his family he would protect*

*But, there was one thing left to do
That was to send this note to you
He wanted to let you know*

His life was now aglow

*?Do not be sad, do not weep
My life is now complete
I?m doing cartwheels in the sky
There is just no reason for you to cry*

*This is God?s astounding plan
Live fully and with joy, my family
With time do not compete
At Heaven?s gate, again someday we shall meet.?*

Jeanie Lee - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ **Jon & Kevin:**

I can remember when we all lived in simpler times, when there was not a care in the world other than when was the next pick-up football game, or whose house we would sleep over at this weekend. All that does not matter now. The world is not the same way it was a few days ago without Kurt. A great person, friend, and brother / son has been taken from us. Paula and I wish to send our deepest condolences. Our thoughts are with you at this most saddened time. Kurt was a great gentleman, and he will always have a place in our hearts and soul. Paula and I will always consider the Whattoff family some of our closest friends and allies. Please give our do respect to Kurt and his immediate relatives. GOD BLESS!!!!

Chris Rudi - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ I know that words can't take away your suffering but after lossing my sister knowing the concerns and caring of everyone around you can help give you some strength. I want you to know that Kurt's classmates from Ames High are thinking of you in this time of sorrow. Jodi

Jodi Peterson Nelson - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ Dear Kevin & Leiala,

*For me, I choose to believe that Kurt is in heaven with his Mom free from any pain or suffering. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and Kurt's family.
May the many happy memories of Kurt sustain you through this time.*

Mona

Mona Moore - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ Dear Jon and Family,

It is with saddened hearts that we read the news tonight of Kurt's untimely death. We remember a darling little boy with big eyes running around the restaurant. It is so sad that we loose contact. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May you soon remember only the good times with a warm heart and smile thinking of the good times you had together. One never thinks of loosing their children, and what a horrible loss it must be. God Bless.

Tracy Nowlin - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BE

“ I am deeply sorry for the lost of your son and brother. I have never met Kurt but he must have been someone very special. I am sorry for the way that I had to first have contact with him was to witness the accident he had but he has been on my mind every day since this has happen and I haved prayed hard for his family. I know that the Lord will be with you the family thru this trying times. May God Bless you the family.

Beverly and Charles Emerson - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Dear Jon, Kevin and family,

We heard the tragic news of Kurt's passing from my brother back in Ames. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this very difficult time. I think back to high school and all of the great times I had with Kevin & Kurt. The foosball and pool in the basement, badminton & climbing trees at Lake Okoboji. We will always be here for you if there is anything you might need.

Sincerely,
Kurt & Trixie

Kurt and Trixie Morken - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ Jon and Kevin,
Although I didn't know Kurt well, I do know how much he was loved and cherished as a son and a brother. My deepest sympathies.
--Suzanne Audiss

Suzanne Audiss - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RA

“ Jon,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and Kevin. During a time like this, we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us.

Kurt will be sadly missed by all of us.

--Raima

Raima Audiss - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family in this time of such a tragic loss. May God be with your family. Lynn and Debby.*

Lynn and Debby Marvel - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Dear Jon and Kevin, We are so sorry to hear about the loss of your son and brother. I had the privelege of calling Kurt my best friend for 2 years in Jr. High School, we had some great times together. Although, Kurt and I did not stay in touch, time tends to put distance between friends, I highly valued his friendship and learned many valuable life lessons from Kurt. Please know that we are praying for Gods Peace that surpasses all understanding for your family during this very difficult time.*

Jeff and Stacy

Jeff Sturdivant - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *With our deepest sympathy in your loss, Kurt will be truly missed.*

From all your friends at Retriever Select Services.

Retriever Select Services - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ *I am truly sad for your loss. I thought Kurt was a wonderful person and he will be missed by many people.* ”

Chris Berry - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Jon, Kevin, and family~

I tried to send a message earlier, so please forgive me if this is a duplicate. I wish I was there to give you all hugs. Though the miles have divided us over the years, your family is still very special to me and I will always be indebted to the kindness you have shown me and the opportunities you provided me. There are so many fond memories of "taking care" of the boys ~~ most of which we can laugh at now!! After Andrew chose to take his life, people consoled us by saying we did everything we could for him--we talked to him, took him to counseling, prayed for him, supported and loved him... But even with these words of encouragement, we had our doubts and felt we should have done more. We had so much love to give him and that should have been enough. But now I am on the other side. Seeing how your family did everything to help your son/brother and knowing you should NEVER have any doubts or "what-ifs". We must now find comfort in our hearts to know that God had a plan for Andrew and Kurt, just as he does for us. Perhaps Andrew and Sharon were waiting at Heaven's gates anxiously awaiting to introduce Kurt to the Heaven's beauty and eternal salvation. They are no longer suffering. We must also call on Jesus to "please answer the door" when Satan knocks and tries to make us feel that we failed our loved ones. Our faith has definitely been tested over the last few months and I have come to question the statement "God never gives you more than you can handle." I must remind myself often that Andrew is now free of pain and suffering, as is Kurt and Sharon and they are preparing the way for us to one day join them. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. God bless Kurt.

Love

Jayne

Jayne Christian - December 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM