



Donald Edwin Ramsden

October 20, 1926 - March 23, 2016

Donald Edwin Ramsden, 89, of Rockford went to be with his Lord and Savior on March 23, 2016, surrounded by his loving family. Born on October 20, 1926 in Ontario, Canada, son of Charles and Sarah Ramsden. Donald left his home in Canada at the age of 14 to work on a fishing boat. He joined the Canadian Army to serve in WWII. His travels in life later took him to Detroit, MI, where he was introduced to the Lord. Donald accepted Christ as his Savior on Easter Sunday in 1954. He met the love of his life, June Bell, at Temple Baptist Church. They were married on July 9, 1956. Donald attended Baptist Bible College, and served as an assistant pastor in several churches in Illinois, New Mexico, and Wisconsin. Donald lived out the tenets of his faith on a daily basis, his greatest desire was that people would know the truth about Jesus and accept God's great gift of salvation. He had a way of making people understand that they were important to both him and to God. Donald had an outgoing personality, was an excellent listener, and excelled at making people feel loved and treasured. He was a member of Community Bible Church for 27 years; a church planted by his sons in Rockford. Donald enjoyed his annual trips with his extended family to Canada. He was a hockey fan and never missed the Stanley Cup Finals. Survived by his wife, June; children, Pastor Stephen (Cindy) Ramsden, Pastor Timothy (Debra) Ramsden, Nanette (Thomas) Brown, Suzanne (Mark) Poffenbaugh; grandchildren, Stephen (Elizabeth) Ramsden Jr., Sarah Ramsden, Matthew Ramsden, Jesse Ramsden, Jared Ramsden, Luke Brown, Daniel Brown, Timothy (Abiah) Brown, Zachariah Brown, Samuel Poffenbaugh, Micaiah Poffenbaugh, Ana Poffenbaugh, Lydia Poffenbaugh; great-grandchildren, Katherine Belle Cropper, Liam Ramsden, Imogen Ramsden; brother, Wilmer (Connie) Ramsden; sisters and brothers-in-law, Lousie (Jack) Zimmer, Betty (William) Smith, Bill (Faydene) Bell, Pat (Arnie) Todd, John (Linda) Bell, David (Robin) Bell; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and two sisters. Celebration of Life will be on April 2, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. at Rock Church, 6732 Harrison Ave. Rockford. Memorial Visitation at 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Pastor John Bell officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Gideons International, PO Box 140800, Nashville, TN 37214-0800. Grace Funeral & Cremation Services assisted the family. Visit www.graceFH.com to share a memory or condolence visit www.graceFH.com.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 2. 12:00 PM (CT)

Rock Church
6732 Harrison Ave.
Rockford, IL

Memorial Visitation

APR 2. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Rock Church
6732 Harrison Ave.
Rockford, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Edwin Ramsden.*



April 01, 2016 at 04:02 PM

TA

“ *Remembering so many good times with Don, June and family in Erieau, Ontario. You will be missed, Don. My spouse, my mother Margaret and I extend our sincere condolences to June, Stephen, Tim, Nanette, Suzanne and families. We know that your faith and memories of Don will help you at this time. Twyla Atchison*

Twyla Atchison - March 30, 2016 at 02:20 PM

SL

“ *Scott, David, Sandy, Amy, Melissa, Bianca, and Lori purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Donald Edwin Ramsden.*



Scott, David, Sandy, Amy, Melissa, Bianca, and Lori - March 29, 2016 at 02:54 PM

GA

“ *I remember Mr Ramsden as an encourager and friendly brother in the Lord. His life was a testimony to his faith, seeing that his two sons became ministers and his wife and daughters are also involved in ministry at Community Bible Church. Mr. Ramsden loved God's word and enjoyed spending time in prayer. I enjoyed his laughter and his listening ear.*
Mr Ramsden enjoyed hockey and the Stanley Cup. Now he has won the "Donly" Cup and has received his eternal Trophy from his Lord.
Now, it will be smooth sailing and skating throughout eternity!
Greg Ayers

Greg Ayers - March 27, 2016 at 09:27 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Edwin Ramsden.*



March 27, 2016 at 06:16 PM

DS

“ *As Gwen said in her post, [Cheer up ye Saints of God](#), is just one of the memories I have of Don Ramsden. I was also in his Sunday School class at Kishwaukee. I remember having lunch with the family on a Sunday afternoon and watching hockey on TV. I was blessed to have known Mr Ramsden in those teen years of my life.*

Dale A Smith - March 27, 2016 at 09:32 AM

“ Many memories of Don and the Ramsden family. I guess I can say I grew up with his kids in church. I remember when he was the youth leader and Sunday School teacher. I still remember one particular illustration he gave one time during a lesson.

Another memory is a song/chorus the congregation sang and he was asked on occasion to lead it Scottish style. That sounded so cool. The song was "Cheer Up Ye Saints Of God".

*Cheer up Ye saints of God
There's nothing to worry about.
Nothing to make you feel afraid,
Nothing to make you doubt.
Remember Jesus never fails,
So why not trust Him and shout?
You'll be sorry you worried at all
Tomorrow morning.*

Scottish style:

*Cheer up Ye saints of "Güd"
There's nothing to worry "aboot",
Nothing to make you feel a fear,
Nothing to make you "doot".
Remember Jesus never fails
So why not trust Him and "shoot"?
You'll be sorry you worried at all
Tomorrow mornin'.*

My condolences to the family.

Gwen (White-Bartholomee) Schrammel

Gwen (White-Bartholomee) Schrammel - March 27, 2016 at 06:13 AM

MH

“ I remember Mr. Ramsden being one of the first people to greet me the first day I stepped into Community Bible with Naomi and Rachel. I was nervous to visit a new church, and he made us feel so welcome. He kind of reminded me of my Dad. He had such a gracious friendly way about him and made me feel welcome because he would just start talking about anything and often it was something funny. Years later I remember how he and Mrs. Ramsden came over to my Mom's house to do a Bible study with her and I was blessed to be able participate and learn from him. It was special to me that he and June would take the time to spend with my Mom that way. Then Mom would invite them to go to lunch and they would usually go. My girls and I will miss him a lot, but I'm sure Jesus is saying to him, "Well done good and faithful servant." because that's exactly what he was.

Mary Hanford

Mary Hanford - March 26, 2016 at 10:58 PM

TB

“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



Tom Brown - March 26, 2016 at 10:28 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Edwin Ramsden.



March 25, 2016 at 08:29 AM