



## Paul William Dawson

July 5, 1971 - February 17, 2010

Defined by his faith, wisdom and wit

Paul William Dawson, 38, of Rockford went home to be with Jesus on Thursday, February 17, 2010, after a 6 year journey with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Paul was defined by his unshakable faith, immense wisdom, and uncanny wit. Paul married his best friend and life partner, Melissa Irwin on March 22, 2003 at Heartland Community Church, the place they met. Paul was an amazing partner, who cared deeply about his wife's interests, hobbies and passions. Paul encouraged and supported his wife in pursuing her dream of owning a music studio. Working together to make the dream a reality, he designed and drew the blueprints for Forest City Music Studio. Paul was the son of James and Martha Dawson of Rockford. He was born on July 5, 1971 in Lakeland, Florida. He graduated from Streater High School in 1989, and obtained his Aircraft Mechanic Certificate. Paul loved anything having to do with Jeeps, camping and playing Scrabble. Ever since childhood, he enjoyed installing car audio systems. Paul was a talented and creative designer; among other things, he designed his backyard fire pit where he spent many nights making memories with family and friends, quilt patterns on his computer, and lighting designs while serving on the Heartland Tech Team. He also participated on the Worship Team, and served as a Growth Group Leader and Host. Paul is survived by his wife, Melissa. He was eagerly anticipating the arrival of their baby boy, who is expected July 23, 2010. Paul is also survived by his parents; brother, Keith (Deb) Dawson of Rockford; sister, Nancy (Chun) Seow of Vancouver, BC; in-laws, Ken and Paula Irwin of Rockford; sister-in-law, Michelle (Jason) Gautier of Rockford; nieces and nephews, Kathryn Seow, Oliver, Ophelia, Zion, and Zebedee Gautier; aunts and uncles; several cousins; and pet beagles, Teegan and Libby. Paul's family would like to extend a special thanks to the many CNA workers who cared for him. Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 21, 2010 from 3-6 pm at Heartland Community Church, 1280 South Alpine Rd. Rockford. A Celebration of Paul's Life will be on Monday, February 22, 2010 at 11:00 am, with a visitation at 10:00 am. Pastors Doug Thiesen, Mike Breaux and Bill Allison will officiate. Cremation rites will be accorded. Grace Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements. Please share a story or memory of Paul online, at [www.graceF](http://www.graceF)

H.com. Memories and stories will be shared with his son. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in Paul's name (to Melissa Dawson).

# Cemetery Details

**Cremation Rites will be accorded**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**FEB 21.** 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Heartland Community Church  
1280 South Alpine Road  
Rockford, IL

### Service

**FEB 22.** 11:00 AM (CT)

Heartland Community Church  
1280 South Alpine Road  
Rockford, IL

### Visitation

**FEB 22.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Heartland Community Church  
1280 South Alpine Road  
Rockford, IL

# Tribute Wall



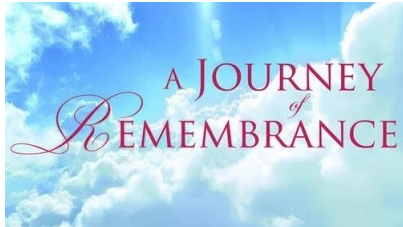
“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Paul William Dawson



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - November 04, 2014 at 11:11 AM



“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Paul William Dawson



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - November 04, 2014 at 11:11 AM

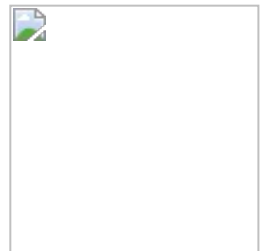
LG

“ We are sorry we couldn't make it to the funeral. We are so sorry for your loss, but we know Paul is with Jesus and healthy! I know he must be up there singing away, probably with my nephew Chris, who went to be with the Lord 2 years ago. Paul was a great guy and we have wonderful memories from our Growth Group at the McAdoos. Lots of laughter there! You will be in our prayers! Love you. Felix, Linda, and Kimmie Gooding

Linda Gooding - February 24, 2010 at 08:20 PM

DD

“ Deb Dawson sent a virtual gift in memory of Paul William Dawson



Deb dawson - February 23, 2010 at 11:29 AM

JB

“ I said this on the Register Star site too, but just wanted to say God bless. Paul was such a wonderful guy and I know he's having a great time with Jesus right now!

Jeff Bergstrom - February 22, 2010 at 10:30 PM

BZ

“ You never know what to say when you hear of a friend or a loved one passing away, but find comfort knowing they have moved on to a better life. Paul was a great childhood friend of mine and I feel lucky to have known him. I still live close to the old neighborhood and every time I drive past Kent street I remember Paul and the family. I'll keep you in my thoughts and prayers.  
Bill Zadkovich and family

Bill Zadkovich - February 21, 2010 at 01:18 PM

BD

“ Candle lit by



Brad and Lisa Dyer - February 21, 2010 at 10:04 AM



“ I am so sad to hear about Paul passing away. I knew him through Heartland Community Church through Growth Groups and my friends Keith and Debbie. He was a wonder person- funny, caring and loved Jesus so much. I will miss seeing Paul but I am happy is now forever Home with Jesus. What a perfect place to be!



Kathy Nelson - February 21, 2010 at 08:47 AM

MF

“ Candle lit by



Martha Frang - February 20, 2010 at 11:07 PM

MF

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Paul will not be forgotten. His faith and love of the Lord was a witness to all he met. I am so happy that a part of him will live on. What a gift from God as well as Paul.  
My thoughts and prayers go out to you at this time.  
Martha Frang

Martha Frang - February 20, 2010 at 11:04 PM

CE

“ Candle lit by



Chris, Kelly and Cameryn Eickstead - February 20, 2010 at 10:01 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. I didn't know Paul well, but when I did see and talk with him at HCC he was always smiling and without complaint. He no longer has to deal with pain and suffering. May God bless you all. Dee & Dave Bainter

Deanna & David Bainter - February 19, 2010 at 09:54 PM



“ Candle lit by



Deanna & David Bainter - February 19, 2010 at 09:52 PM