



Joseph Allan Register

January 12, 1939 - September 1, 2017

Joseph Allan Register, 78

The adventure began on January 12, 1939 when Joseph Allan Register was born at home, in Valrico, Florida, in the same bed his grandpa had passed away in just two weeks earlier. Joe was the middle one of three boys born to Lillie Belle and Alvin Ray Register. Joe admired his big brother, Kenneth, and tried to babysit for his mischievous little brother, Claude (Cash).

After graduation from Brandon High School in 1957, Joe continued his studies and received his B.A. from Southeastern University, Lakeland, Florida, where the adventure continued. There, during Hurricane Donna in 1960, Joe met Margaret (Maggie) Arnold. The following year they were married and became Pastors of Youth and Music in Beckley, West Virginia. During that period of ministry, both Crystal and Timothy were born—mountaineers who would soon become “Missionary Kids.”

Then, the adventure grew by leaps and bounds when, in 1967, following a two-year pastorate in Tavares, Florida, Joe and his little family headed to Mexico to study Spanish in 1967, as fully appointed Assemblies of God missionaries. Chile, South America came next: the cold of Temuco and the beautiful climate of Viña del Mar. Then, furlough and a Masters Degree in Cross Cultural Communication. And after that, ¡adelante! to Paraguay, South

America. (All these adventures unfold in Margaret's books, *No Place for Plastic Saints: Earthquakes, Chicken Feet and Candid Confessions of a Missionary Wife* (2009) and the sequel, *A Place for People, Puppets and Cockroach Soup* (2012).

Returning from South America, Joe gained permission to "try" to produce television programs in Spanish for all of Latin America. Within a few years, the shows, especially *Secret Place* (*Lugar Secreto*) were so well received that Joe's home church, Pleasant Grove Assembly of God, Durant, Florida, gave him a place to construct a building. There, for years, STAR Ministries (Spanish Television And Radio) and the missionary team God put together, produced television and radio shows for adults as well as children.

To daughter Crysti and her husband, Douglas Porter, were born two delightful daughters: Jennifer, who married Wesley Morris and produced two great great-grandsons, Caden and Benson; and Kyndal, who married Caleb Morris and brought into the family two wonderful great-granddaughters, Kaybree and Caralynn, and their newest addition, a son, Cohen.

To son Timothy and Regina Arndt Register was born a precious granddaughter, Tessa, now a "Florida Gator" and a budding architect.

The last of Joe's adventures came pummeling down in the form of Parkinson's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia. Yet, in the middle of his delusions, Joe continued to give biblical counsel to "all the people" (visible only to him) in both English and Spanish. The biggest adventure of all began on Friday morning, September 1, 2017, when Joe was welcomed into his Heavenly home.

A Memorial Celebration of Joe's life will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2017, at Victory Church Chapel, 1401 Griffin Road, Lakeland, Florida.

Visitation to begin at 10:00 a.m. with services following at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Bay Chapel to benefit foreign missions. Donations may be mailed to 1936 Bruce B Downs Blvd #86 Wesley Chapel, FL 33544 or through the website at baychapel.com

Cemetery Details

Serenity Gardens - Cemetery

3350 Mall Hill Drive
Lakeland, FL 33810
(863) 853-5959
t.hall@gentry-morrison.com
<https://serenitygardensoflakeland.com>

Tribute Wall

NR

“ Joe made an incredible, lifelong mark on my life and many others who are serving the Lord in missions and ministry. His example, exhortations, and encouragement allowed us to follow our dreams and God-given abilities. So often in recent years I have remarked to others that because of the seeds sown in our lives when we were young (those around my age) by men and women like the Registers, Blounts, Hultgrens, and others, it was now our turn to do the same. So your legacies continue on again in the lives of a new generation of young people eager to serve God. God bless you, Registers, Porters, and Blounts as you grieve the loss of your life mate, father, grandfather, and uncle. You've been in my thoughts and prayers. --Neil Ruda

Neil Ruda - September 07, 2017 at 08:37 AM

JD

“ We are so sorry to hear about Joe. One of our most cherished memories is having him marry us in '65. Long ago. (His first wedding). It really took.
I have been reminded of so many great memories. Especially of Christy and Beckley. I know you know he is with our Lord. Perhaps he will see our Sundee. She passed July 11th...just before her 50th birthday of liver cancer. She was very special and knew the Lord. Please give the family my love. Grieving is so hard, but we know the end of the story. Love, Judi

Judith A. Dunbar - September 06, 2017 at 03:01 PM

DR

“ *Praying for Margaret & all the Family. Remembering him fondly with his musical talents and other abilities. We wanted to attend the memorial but we're in Ga and with Hurricane Irma coming to FL, we decided not to return to FL.* 🙏💕

Dairoid & Bettye Rushing - September 06, 2017 at 11:54 AM

JG

“ Joe -- what could possibly describe such an amazing person? He, the sweet Margarita and the oh-so-talented Cristina changed the course of our ministerial lives. In the early eighties, from Bogota, Colombia, I and my two Colombian sisters (Maritza and Sarita) travelled to the Register home to begin an amazing journey of many years, called "Lugar Secreto" -- one that continues today through television broadcasts, you-tube videos and DVD's in countless homes in Latin America and the Caribbean. Joe, through the beloved yellow mascot "Bobo", affected a generation of children. And today, the next generation also loves him. At many events throughout Latin America, the "children", young and old, will still run up to me sending Bobo and Cristina hugs, kisses, love and "roaches" for Bobo's favorite soup.

Along with Margarita, Cristina and Tim, it was through Joe's love of Jesus, tender heart toward missions, team spirit, laughter, creativity, mischievous pranks, musical and puppeteering talents, seeing life as a child would, set-building skills, initiative, fierce perseverance, loyal friendship (and so much more) that we became family. That family has grown to include many other missionaries and international volunteers. STAR Ministries (under Joe and Maggie's direction) flourished and grew beyond "Lugar Secreto" to other media endeavors felt around the world.

I can't help but believe that in heaven there is a place for Joe (and others like my precious husband, Steve) to continue to use their talents in praise to the Risen Lamb!

We miss Joe, but his legacy is strong and there is fruit that will remain for generations to come. And to Joe's dear family, my sister Maggie, darling Crysti, Tim, their spouses, kids and grandkids -- may our Father's grace and comfort embrace and sustain you -- until we all meet again singing praises around the throne!

With much love, Judy (Bartel) Graner - Colombia, So. America

Judith Bartel de Graner - September 05, 2017 at 01:53 PM

MR

Judy, what a beautiful tribute! Love you dearly. Maggie

Maggie Register - September 05, 2017 at 04:14 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joseph Allan Register.*



September 05, 2017 at 01:43 PM

HN

“ *Maggie and family: I'm so very sorry to hear about Joe's passing and, while knowing that he now walks the streets of gold, he was such a loved and cherished man and will be greatly missed here. We'll always remember the tour of Star Ministries and enjoyed him so much on our visits to Florida! Praying for the greatest peace and comfort for all of you!! Heidi Blackburn Nelson*

Heidi Nelson - September 05, 2017 at 07:50 AM

LN

“ *Margaret & Family.*

Sharon & I were saddened to hear about Joes passing. He was a cousin I looked up to as a boy and young teenager.

I'm sure there has been a Garner reunion in heaven and Joe served as the master of ceremonies.

Our memories of the late night knocks on our door of him wanting to stay with us, during your itenary times, were joyful occasions for us.

And by the way, Sharon did learn to cook his eggs the way he liked them.

He introduced me to the game of golf but I was never able to beat him.

Our Love an Prayers go out to you an the family.

Layne Noble - September 05, 2017 at 06:55 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Allan Register.*



September 04, 2017 at 03:42 PM

The first
forty years of
parenting are
always the
hardest.

“ *Maggie and family:*

We are sorry for your loss. We had many good memories with Joe, and you, over the years. May you find comfort in the Lord during this time of loss and adjustment.

Love,

Jeff and Penny Blackburn

Penny Blackburn - September 04, 2017 at 03:26 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph Allan Register.*



September 04, 2017 at 03:22 PM



“ *There is no way we can describe what it has meant to have Joe and Maggie as friends and fellow ministers. Joe and I were friends during SEBC days. I enjoyed being invited to his home in Pleasant Grove for a weekend and getting to taste his mothers delicious fried chicken. We love you Maggie and thank you for the shared memories. Mary and I are thankful for the ministry we have had together at Chapel at Victory. Jack and Mary Wise.*

Jack and Mary Wise - September 04, 2017 at 10:23 AM



“ *Ms. Margaret, Crysti and family, I am so sorry for your loss. My family and I first saw you and met you, Joseph, and Bobo at Carpenter's Home Church several years ago, when you were one of several ministers that came to CHC to share about your ministry. My then-two sons and I had also once visited STAR Ministries on a field trip with a home school support group and remember meeting Crysti. I pray the the Lord grant all of you comfort at this time. God bless you.*



Judith Stewart - September 03, 2017 at 11:03 PM

CS

“ Our condolences to the family of Rev. Joseph (Joe) Register. He was a giant in his field. He touched the hearts of children and adults. He and his wife, Margaret, blazed a trail that few would tackle. He motivated others to "jump in" and do their part to make STAR a success..... and it was a huge success. Only heaven will reveal the many lives that were touched and changed by this man. If you want a greater insight to the heart of this man and his family, read the two books that Margaret wrote. The first one, "No Place For Plastic Saints", moved me to tears. We will all miss this wonderful man. Heaven has welcomed a fun filled, dedicated man of God. Our love and prayers are with the family.
Calvin and Donna Streetman

Calvin and Donna Streetman - September 03, 2017 at 10:15 PM

HJ

“ Margaret, sincere condolences to you and the family. When my mother, Aline Johnson (Mrs. J. Foy Johnson), died from Parkinson's and dementia a few years ago, it was devastating to me to watch her body and mind waste away. Having known you guys most of my life, I was saddened when I learned a few years ago that Joe had developed Parkinson's and dementia. Since that time, so many friends and acquaintances seem to have come down with Parkinson's and/or dementia, and I've watched several more go. I, myself was diagnosed with Parkinson's six years ago, and it's been a roller coaster ever since. Then, if that wasn't enough, two years ago, I just had to copy my dad and have an aortic dissection and stroke. It certainly makes you thankful for any good days, knowing how bad the bad days can be.

I hope that however my journey goes, whether I'm healed or not, my family and I can face life's uncertainty as well as you and Joe have. God bless you.

Howard G. Johnson - September 02, 2017 at 10:55 PM

IW

“ I first remember Joe and his flashlight when he was a "hall monitor, etc." at SE during Hurricane Donna. No one else could have handled a potentially serious situation like this with such wit and aplomb. I quickly learned he was multi-talented and an excellent musician as well as a comedian. It was my privilege to be a member of Margaret and Joe's wedding party in 1961 at Brownsville Assembly of God. Joe and Margaret's ministry has been a revelation of just how far God will take willing persons. Margaret, Crysti, Tim and family, I send my sympathy for your loss and rejoice with you that Joe now rests with the Lord. My prayers for God's special blessings for you continue. Ingrid Black Whigham

Ingrid Black Whigham - September 02, 2017 at 06:36 PM

TG

“ The Missions Gang purchased the Rose Romane sque Bouquet for the family of Joseph Allan Register.



The Missions Gang - September 02, 2017 at 03:41 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Paul Garber - September 02, 2017 at 02:19 PM



You are our Sunshine1

Paul Garber - September 02, 2017 at 03:55 PM

TB

“ When I think of Joe I think of two things... His beautiful incredible saxophone playing! I could listen to him play all day! Such a beautiful tone and spirit behind it... The other thing I think of is his quiet manner but quick and dry wit!! He was Such an integral and valuable and loved part of our seniors chapel worship time and is greatly missed! Not just your talent but your spirit.
I know that Heaven has welcomed you with open arms and you are basking in the Saviors love right now! You will be sorely missed here !!

Tamera Brock - September 02, 2017 at 02:14 PM

“La primera vez que al hermano José (así era como yo le decía), me cautivaron su dulzura, su sonrisa franca y su extraordinario sentido del humor.



Estaba frente al líder de un hermoso ministerio: Lugar Secreto. Era mi jefe, pues yo comenzaba a hacer parte como voluntario de ese inolvidable proyecto, y no tuve más que cruzar un par de palabras con él para descubrir ese corazón sensible por las necesidades de nuestros niños latinoamericanos.

Lo vi reír con sus ocurrencias inocentes y graciosas. Lo vi llorar cuando se conmovía conociendo noticias de lo que el programa de televisión y su personaje títere, BOBO, hacía en la vida de muchas personas que conocieron de Cristo a través de su talento.

Tuve la gran bendición de compartir con él y su familia hace dos años en la Florida, y aunque ya estaba un tanto mermado por la enfermedad, eso no fue impedimento para que nos demostrara su amor, e hiciera su mayor esfuerzo para recordar un chiste que nos arrancara algunas carcajadas.

Vamos a extrañar a este auténtico hombre de Dios, sencillo, íntegro, amoroso y apasionado por la obra del Señor.

Espero el día en que, en el cielo, podamos volver a reír juntos, porque de seguro, tendrá un nuevo chiste para contarnos.

Hasta entonces, querido hermano José. Gracias por tocar nuestras vidas con tu infinita sencillez.

“My first real memory of Joe happened one day around 12 noon. I was a PreK-4 teacher at the preschool for which Margaret was the Director. We also had a school for kindergarten through 8th grade, for which Joe was the Principal. Prior to this year, I knew of the Registers, but had not really made their acquaintance. On this particular day, I had just gotten my charges down for their daily nap and heard a quiet knock on my classroom door. When I opened it a crack, Joe was standing there. He said, "Hey Jude, I need a secretary and was wondering if you would agree to be it?" My first reaction was, "Don't you think Margaret should have something to say about this?" (I knew how hard it had been for the preschool to find teachers.). He said, "She said you should take the job." I took the job! It was my joy and privilege to work with both Joe and Margaret, as Margaret and I shared an office.

When they left to go to Colombia my heart was broken, but so grateful for the short time we had to get to know each other. Joe and my late husband, Mike, were great "cut-ups" and fed each other's silliness, keeping anyone around in "stitches"!

Once they returned from Colombia, and after many changes in all our lives, I was at a different place of employment and received a call in the middle of the day. It was Joe saying, "Hey Jude, I need a secretary. Will you come?" Needless to say, I resigned my position and was able to join the staff at STAR. Blessing upon blessing, so was Mike!!!

On our first day of work, Crysti and Margaret came to me and said, "Judi, we really need a production assistant and we have talked to Joe who has reluctantly agreed to let you go so you can do it." So. I went to STAR as a PA, not as Joe's secretary.

In 2002, Mike and I moved to Massachusetts, where I currently reside. Following Mike's death, two of my children and I had the privilege of visiting Joe and Margaret in July 2014 and December 2015. Joe was struggling even then, but both times he managed to

say to me, "Jude, you were supposed to be my secretary." So, Margaret and Crysti, I'm not sure he got over that!

So many wonderful and comforting memories! The one I have returned to time and time again was when after venting to both Joe and Margaret, about a particularly difficult superior at a place of employment, Joe said, "Jude, stay sweet." It was not what I wanted to hear at the time, but Joe spoke words of wisdom under the anointing of the Holy Spirit that have remained with me and have guided me through many difficult circumstances.

Our family is blessed to have had Papa Joe in our lives. He was faithful to His Lord and call, and ran a good race! Thanks for the memories! Much love to, and prayers for Maggie, Crysti, Tim and all the beautiful grands and great-grands.

Judi Pinkerton

Judi Pinkerton - September 02, 2017 at 10:44 AM

JT

“ I have two special memories from life with Joe. The first is that day I first met the Registers in the annex building at First A/G. That was the beginning of a relationship that brought into my life four of the most precious gems in my treasure chest. It is also one of the most humbling and precious events of my entire ministry.



The second is the time Joe, hiding behind security guards, brought Bobo personally to the children of Guatemala. I can see that event still in my mind, and I can hear the joyful cheers of the children. That is one of the proudest moments of my life, seeing Joe and his family amidst those for whom their lives and ministry arose.

John Taylor - September 02, 2017 at 09:36 AM