



## J W Walker

September 22, 1931 - January 12, 2010

Escaping the confines of his mortality, JW Walker departed this life from Northwest Medical Center in Springdale, Arkansas January 12, 2010, transported as he believed, by heavenly escort into the presence of "The Author and Finisher" of his Faith. A gift of faith, compassion, love and strength to family and friends alike, he was born September 22, 1931 near Cameron, OK to Jack Walker and Neomi McConnell Walker, the last of nine children. Soon the family moved from Oklahoma by covered wagon to West Fork, Arkansas where he began the first grade in school. Taught by his oldest brother, he became an accomplished pianist of unusual talents, but found the greatest delights in hymns and songs of the church.

While at West Fork, his academics kept pace with an interest in sports. He led the Tigers

to State Championships in basketball and baseball earning a full scholarship to the

University of Arkansas. While pursuing two degrees at the University of Arkansas

"Shake Walker" led the Basketball Razorbacks to their first South West Conference Title.

He earned his Masters Degree in Psychology and at its completion departed to fill a

teaching position in Globe, Arizona. However, he fixed his sights on a higher

calling

to ministry, changed vocations and never looked back, staying focused on eternal things.

After marriage, the musical duo continued to itinerate while fulfilling "The Great Commission." They accepted the pastorate of Northside Assembly of God Church

in Fayetteville, Arkansas and later they also pastored churches in Commerce, Oklahoma and

Siloam Springs, Arkansas. In subsequent years JW served hospitals in Northwest Arkansas

as Chaplain. At death, he was chaplain for Hospice Circle of Life in Springdale.

His parents and siblings precede him in death except for one surviving sister Esther Vocke of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

JW is survived by his wife Ava Smothers of Fayetteville, Arkansas whom he married June 30, 1960. Nephews and nieces survive him as well as their extended families, along with countless friends and acquaintances.

JW celebrated this past year with the Assemblies of God Fellowship, fifty years of Ordained Ministry. His absence in our lives leaves a void, but his presence with the Lord beckons us onward to the finish where mortality is swallowed up of Life Eternal.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations are requested to

The Circle of Life Hospice, 901 Jones Road, Springdale, AR 72762.

Funeral services will be Friday at 1:00 PM at First Assembly of God Springdale

Church 1605 W. Robinson Ave. Springdale, Arkansas.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **14**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Westfield Chapel Funeral Home  
3236 West Huntsville Avenue  
Springdale, AR

## Service

JAN **15**. 1:00 PM (CT)

First Assembly of God of Springdale  
1605 W. Robinson Ave.  
Springdale, AR

# Tribute Wall



“ Dear Family,  
I can only imagine the depth of your loss, because the depth of ours  
it so great.  
May the Lord of Life who J.W. loved and served so well comfort you  
at this time.  
The funeral service was outstanding.  
Sincerely,  
Barbara Merritt##imported-begin##Barbara Merritt##imported-  
end##

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January 20, 2010 at 09:35 AM



“ JW: You were a blessing to everyone you met, me included. Your  
courtesy, your smile, your interest in others were joys to behold.  
May God welcome you into a very special place in the Kingdom  
Eternal.##imported-begin##Judith Lund##imported-end##

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January 19, 2010 at 05:00 PM



“ I have not known Jay, as he was known at Circle of Life Hospice,  
very long, but long enough to know of his caring, kindness and  
professionalism. He tended my wife, Ada both at Circle of Life and  
in private homes until her passing on August 9th, 2009. We both  
had the utmost respect for him and am SO sorry and surprised to  
hear of his passing. Our blessings go with his wife and family in  
their time of sorrow.##imported-begin##Bill Shook##imported-end##

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January 17, 2010 at 08:27 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you, Ava, as your beloved JW takes his place in heaven. He was very special, as are you and he will be missed. I love you!*

*Terri###imported-begin##Terri Smothers Niccum###imported-end##*

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January 16, 2010 at 05:57 PM



“ *Ava--The service for J. W. was really nice and befitting a man who had served our Lord faithfully so many years. I was not able to attend the interment due to time constraints but would have liked to see Don &*

*Peggy and others. We appreciated your returning my phone call, Florence told me when you called.*

*Please know that we are available if we can assist in any way. We will see you about and will miss J. W.*

*Many, many years of friendship.*

*God's richest blessings on you.*

*Ken & Florence Stewart###imported-begin##Kenneth M. N. Stewart###imported-end##*

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January 16, 2010 at 12:34 PM



“ Ava, we were saddened to learn of Brother Walker's home going. We were truly blessed to have had J W and you as our pastors and spiritual mentors for a brief time. We have a lifetime of memories and the impact you guys had on our lives is immeasurable. We especially appreciated Brother Walker dedicating our sons, Burl and John to the Lord.

May God bless and comfort you during this time of sorrow.##imported-begin##James & Blanche Dickey##imported-end##

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January 16, 2010 at 12:09 PM



“ Ava:  
Words cannot express my true feelings for our dear J.W. You two have always been so special to us! I especially appreciated working closely with J.W. during the years I had the funeral homes. He was truly the most compassionate person ever.  
We pray for God's peace for you....  
Harold and Barb##imported-begin##Harold McCartney##imported-end##

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January 16, 2010 at 09:17 AM



“ Very Sorry...Sorry...Sorry...Sorry##imported-begin##Gordon Martz##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 11:00 PM



“ Dear Mrs. Walker - I had the privilege of working with your husband in the Community Health & Wellness Building on Emma Ave. JW was truly an Angel here on Earth. I would compliment him on his shirts & ties & he would reply what a good job you did picking those out for him. He was a great comfort to me during my mom's & dad's last years and to our family when my mom was in Circle of Life Hospice last year. He touched so many lives and we are all blessed to have known him. Hugs & Prayers to & for you.##imported-begin##Becky Zajicek##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 10:58 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. God bless you and comfort you in your sorrow.

In Christian Love,  
Donald and Louise##imported-begin##Donald and Louise  
Ferguson##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 07:28 PM



“ Thanks for being a wonderful minister.  
your friend. love Pearl Parker##imported-begin##Pearl  
Parker##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 03:56 PM



“ THINKING OF YOU, WE HAVE KOWN JW FOR 74YEARS. GOD BLESS .##imported-begin##MELVIN & MILDRED PARRISH & LAMBERT PARRISH##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 02:12 PM



“ J, you were so nice to be around. I have many fond memories and discussions with you that I will never forget. You are such a delight!##imported-begin##Jessica Moyers##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 01:02 PM



“ Much love and many prayers.##imported-begin##Fred and Bernice Allen##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 12:26 PM



“ Dear Ava:  
You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers during this time. We are happy for his glorious home going, but sad for our great loss of a wonderful man and minister of the word of God. Both of you have been such blessings to our family. My prayer for you is God's peace and comfort.##imported-begin##Joy Sharp##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 12:21 PM



“ Ava:

*Glenda and I share your grief. J.W. was a personal hero of mine. I enjoyed his preaching and piano playing as well as your singing. I reflect with great fondness of our times together.*

*As you know, I tried to recruit him to be our pastor when our church had a pastoral vacancy.*

*One of my favorite memories of him was at the Arkansas District Council one year, while other ministers were visiting and laughing in the auditorium, J. W. was alone praying and worshipping. My Hero!*

*We'll all miss him, but happily we'll see him again in a few months.*

*Elvis Grigsby##imported-begin##Elvis Grigsby##imported-end##*

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January 15, 2010 at 12:12 PM



“ Ava, our prayers are with you. I tried to call but got no answer.

*We loved J W very much. Let us know if there is anything to help.*

*Love, Roy & Louise##imported-begin##Roy & Louise Baker##imported-end##*

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January 15, 2010 at 12:09 PM



“ Dearest Ava: We were all shocked and so saddened to learn of Brother Walker's passing. I know there was rejoicing in Heaven when another saint came home! He's resting in the arms of Jesus now and rejoicing around the throne with Mom and Dad! We love you both so much. You and J.W. have been such a vital part of our family history. His passing has left such a great hole in our hearts. However, soon we'll all be together again and God will wipe away all the tears from our eyes! May our Lord bless you and your family and give you peace and rest!##imported-begin##Betty Sharp##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 11:50 AM



“ Pastor Walker was so very precious to us. We will miss him greatly. Our prayers are with you Ava.##imported-begin##Chuck and Donna Ryter##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 11:28 AM



“ Ava, I am so sorry for your loss. Not only is this a loss to your family but to everyone who knew Brother J.W. He was so kind to me when I lost Ben and Mom and to just have him walk into the room gave you a feeling of peace. He was the most comforting person I ever knew.##imported-begin##Sharon K. Hendrix-Memorial Funeral Home##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 10:35 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss Mrs. Walker, I've never met you, but met JW when we worked in the Community Health & Wellness Building. It was an honor knowing such a fine man of the Lord. I have fond memories of smiles we shared. What a wonderful legacy he leaves. God Bless You!###imported-begin##Tina Storm###imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 09:53 AM



“ We want to extend our heart felt sympathy for your loss.

We will keep you and your family in our prayers.###imported-begin##The Resident Care staff###imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 09:48 AM



“ Knowing Bro. JW is in Heaven brightens my day even though I am sad at his passing. My memory goes back about 45 yrs ago when Bro. JW was paster at Fayetteville. Being a very accomplished musician, who I higly admired, he had a very unique ability to play the piano and direct the church's chior at the same time. As a piano player myself, I can truly say he will always be considered one of my mentors.

I think the first time I heard the song, "Highway to Heaven"; it was performed on a Sunday night by his chior with him directing. Again, what a memory! Now, that he has faithfully walked that "Highway", we are encouraged to walk it as well. My prayers and with Sister Waler, Family and Friends.###imported-begin##Ron McLaughlin###imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 09:26 AM



“ We will miss his presence; but we will soon be united again, in that heavenly circle.##imported-begin##Dennis & Linda Tackett Price Hinkle##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 09:22 AM



“ Ava, we are thinking of you and praying for you. Shakey was such a special person and we enjoyed seeing you at Bud's funeral.

Beverly and Jack B Carter##imported-begin##Beverly Spratlin##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 09:07 AM



“ Hi Cuz: We were shocked to hear the news of J.W.'s passover. Nita has been telling about J.W. coming to their house when she was a kid and eating Jean's Pineapple Cookies. Even as a youngster, she always said that she would be related one way or another. That prophesy was fulfilled and even though we have lived many miles apart, it has been wonderful to hear of the blessings that both of you have been to so many people through the years. Our prayers are with you during this time of sorrow and celebration.##imported-begin##Paul & Nita Baker##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 06:44 AM



“ You will be missed##imported-begin##Margie Thurman##imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 03:12 AM



“ Ava, Pastor Walker will be remembered here and rewarded in heaven for his gentleness, his graciousness, and his genuineness, just to name a few of his qualities that always stood out to me. I love you both, and my prayers are with you. I always have and always will consider you as treasured dear friends.###imported-begin###Rick Dimmitt###imported-end##

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January 15, 2010 at 02:33 AM



“ So sorry about your loss. I will be praying for you. God Bless###imported-begin###Neal A. Carter###imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 09:43 PM



“ Ava, we are so sorry to hear about Bro J.W.'s passing. He was such a blessing to everyone he came in contact with and touched so many lives with his word. He was a special man and we were so priviledged to have known him. Our love and prayers are with you and we rejoice just to know that soon we will all have a grand campmeeting in heaven! We love you!###imported-begin###Rev.J.D. and Margaret Tackett###imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 09:11 PM



“ JW was a true gentle man, full of compassion and a gentle humor-- we will all miss him greatly!###imported-begin###sandy bauer-ammons###imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 06:56 PM



“ JW will long be remembered for his intergral role at Circle of Life. He loved the Circle and the Circle loved him. He embodied the mission of our organization by the way he lived his life.##imported-begin##Pam Falcinelli##imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 05:50 PM



“ Sis. Ava, Wow, what an impact you and Pastor Walker had on our hearts and lives. I remember coming to the church as a teenager and being in awe of this man who taught the Word of God with such love and compassion. Dad (O.D. Baker) and I still talk of Pastor Walker often and about the many things we were fortunate enough to learn from him. I remember when Donny and I were to be married, Donny commented that having to be married in front of Pastor Walker would be as close ss you could get to standing before God himself. I believe he was right. We were so blessed to know him and can't wait to see him again in our heavenly home. OUr thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Donny & Wadonna Jorgensen##imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 05:45 PM



“ Remembering Pastor Walker and all that he invested into so many lives. His teaching on Romans 5:5 expressing how the love of God is gushed out and poured out of our hearts is forever imprinted on my heart. We send our love and our prayers to you, Ava.##imported-begin##Mary Jane and Charles Blackburn##imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 03:32 PM



“ JW was a blessing, He was with our family at Circle of Life when my brother in law Jim Fulfer was there,he to has gone home to be with the Lord. JW would pray with us. and just sit and talk, I know JW from the many times he visited his sister Esther here at North Hills Life Care & Rehab. He would also stop by and visit & pray with many. and for that I am forever grateful. Our Love & prayers are with you. And Thank You God for blessing us with JW.##imported-begin##Shirley Fulfer,##imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 03:23 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Don't worry we will take special care of Ms. Esther.##imported-begin##North Hills Lifecare & Rehab Staff##imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 03:05 PM



“ J.W. and I had some wonderful conversations about our Lord and Savior.

*J.W. was a beautiful ambassador for Christ and his legacy will last for eternity as the numerous lives he touched, reach out to touch others lives for the cause of Christ.*

*Lifting your family in prayer -----*

*Debbie##imported-begin##Debbie Lockhart##imported-end##*

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January 14, 2010 at 01:38 PM



“ Thank you for the years of ministry for my family and my home community. Our family has always had the highest respect and gratitude.##imported-begin##Zachary Tackett##imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 01:02 PM



“ I will miss you ,but I truly will always remember the smiles we shared and are talks. you are with the lord now. enjoy J you always said the day will come for all I will remember you always,thank you for all the times we shared..##imported-begin##Roy Jennings##imported-end##

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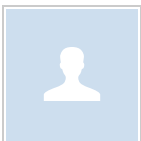
January 14, 2010 at 12:54 PM



“ What great memories we both have of Pastor Walker. For Jan, the memories go back to “before Ava” days when JW traveled with his bass, played the piano and preached revivals. I was a 4 or 5 when I first remember JW and thought he had to be the tallest man in the world! For Waymon, Pastor Walker was the wonderful man of God who baptized him, disciplined him during his early Christian years, and ministered to his family. He was a great man. We are praying for the peace of God to cover you, Ava.##imported-begin##Waymon and Jan (Jech) Reed##imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 11:48 AM



“ Ava; Sorry to hear about Pastor Walker. We thought so much of both of you. He was the kindest and gentlest man and always made you feel special. we enjoyed listening to him play the piano. I always got such a blessing listening to him. He will be greatly missed, but we know he is with our Lord . Just wanted you to know how special he was to us. and how special you are . We are praying for you and your family. God bless you all , Tony and Sandy Parris.##imported-begin##Sandy Parris##imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 10:47 AM



“ I'm grateful to JW for making me feel so welcome as a new employee here at COL.##imported-begin##Cat Swenson##imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 10:34 AM



“ AVA, YOU AND J.W. WERE AN INTEGRAL PART OF MY FAMILIES LIVES OVER THE YEARS. REVEREND J.W., AS MY FATHER REVEREND ROBA HARRISON, BOTH SERVED AS MINISTERS FOR THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD ARKANSAS DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR YEARS. WE ALWAYS CHERISHED YOUR FRIENDSHIP, STEWARDSHIP AND MINISTRY. MAY GOD KEEP YOU AND COMFORT YOU. PLEASE KNOW YOU ARE AND WILL REMAIN IN OUR PRAYERS. WE LOVE YOU.##imported-begin##Rondell "Ron" Harrison##imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 01:08 AM



“ Dear Ava know that my prayers are with you .We loved Pastor walker very much. Ronda##imported-begin##Ronda Sisk##imported-end##

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January 14, 2010 at 12:11 AM



“ We just learned of Bro. Walker's passing and our hearts are heavy. We have such wonderful memories of him. He married us 45 years ago at Old Northside Church in Fayetteville. The good times at your home and the building project at Calvary. Our first son, Steven's birth. He was always there for us as a young couple in church and the choir. So many great memories. He was an excellent pastor and could say more in 15 minutes than any one else in an hour and you understood what he was preaching. I could go on and on about him. He is at home with Jesus and we will miss him. Our Love and Prayers are with you, Ava###imported-begin###Frank and Linda Doss###imported-end##

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January 13, 2010 at 11:21 PM



“ Dear Ava,  
Our hearts are hurting with yours for your loss. We never knew a kinder, wiser, sweeter man than JW. I will never forget the time you all went to Little Rock with us when Emily was 3 and had to have eye surgery. When she came out of surgery, she didn't ask for her mom or dad, she asked for Pastor Walker! She said "I want Pastor Walker to pray for me!" And then it was a special moment for him to join Emily in marriage with Cie-J nearly 5 years ago. You both have been such a blessing in our lives and you hold a very special place in our hearts, and you always will. Please know that our love and prayers are with you now and in the days and weeks ahead. May God surround you with His peace and love as only He can. We love you!###imported-begin###Steve and Ann Woodruff###imported-end##

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January 13, 2010 at 11:08 PM



“ Ava our love and prayers are with you. J W was one of a kind friend and we thought so much of him.

Rodney###imported-begin###Rodney and Linda Weeks###imported-end##

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January 13, 2010 at 11:03 PM



“ J W was a friend of many years and a wonderful servant of God. A member of his church in Fayetteville once remarked to me "why would you ever want someone else when you already have the best!" I'm sure we all share those feelings; he was indeed the best. My heart and prayers go out to you in this time of sorrow.###imported-begin###Virginia Tackett Laughlin###imported-end##

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January 13, 2010 at 10:06 PM



“ Dearest Ava~We're SO sorry for your loss. Pastor Walker was a wonderful Man of God, and he touched our hearts with his kindness & love. My dad is there to meet him at Heaven's gate. We love you, dear friend, and pray for God's peace to surround you in the days to come. Wish we were there to give you big hugs!###imported-begin###Garry & Angie Scott###imported-end##

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January 13, 2010 at 08:30 PM



“ Ava,  
*Our prayers are with you. Pastor was the kindest man that we've ever known. When I think of him, I think of the gift of Wisdom. I bet that he's in a Mansion right beside all the wonderful pie bakers! We know that he's getting his crown, full of jewels, for living a life that surely makes our Lord proud. Love, Leon & Joyce*###imported-begin###*Leon & Joyce Eubanks*###imported-end##

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January 13, 2010 at 06:14 PM



“ *I'm so sorry about your loss. Sorry that J.W. was unable to play the piano at Jim's funeral, but I know they are together now. Maybe he is playing music for Jim. Love*  
*Jeanie*###imported-begin###*Jeanie Fulfer (Mrs. Jim)*###imported-end##

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January 13, 2010 at 06:01 PM



“ Ava,  
  
*We are very sorry for you loss. JW will be missed, but we know that when he stepped into heavin, Jesus was there and opened his arms to welcome him home and say "Well done good and faithful servant."*

*God Bless,*

*Jackie Williams*###imported-begin###*Jackie Williams*###imported-end##

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January 13, 2010 at 05:05 PM



“ Ava, I've known JW longer than Leon did, but both of us enjoyed him in our Sunday School class. His comments were always so easily understood and fit into what was being taught by our teacher, Mary. I've always been blessed by JW's piano playing and longed to hear him play again. Well, Ava, I'll have to wait until I get to Heaven to hear him play again. What a wonderful thing to look forward to!###imported-begin##Elizabeth & Leon Estes##imported-end##

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January 13, 2010 at 04:54 PM



“ Ava,  
So many memories!! What a great difference you and J.W. have made in this world. Such a nice legacy. I know of the great love that Mom and Dad had for both of you, Don, and Peggy - and all of their "kids" from West Fork. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Much love,  
Beverly Woods Elliott (Pud)###imported-begin##Beverly Elliott##imported-end##

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January 13, 2010 at 04:44 PM



“ Farewell my dear, dear friend. I value all the years and memories of being friends and colleagues. We had some fun times together with Jean and Ava. Until we meet again...###imported-begin##Jim and Jean Huffman##imported-end##

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January 13, 2010 at 03:39 PM



“ Ava,

*I am so sorry for your loss of Bro. JW. He was a great man. I have so many fond memories of you and JW starting some 44 years ago in 1966 at Calvary Assembly in Fayetteville. JW and you were my very first Pastors. I appreciated his leadership while I served as a young leader of the youth group there at Calvary. Barbara and I will always remember going to your house on Sunday afternoons along with other young people. I have enjoyed your and JW's friendship over these years. JW will be greatly missed. I pray and know that God will give you the peace and strength you need during this difficult time. With Love.##imported-begin##Gary L. Denzer##imported-end##*

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January 13, 2010 at 02:55 PM