



Rev. Roland Jennings

June 3, 1930 - May 17, 2020

Reverend Roland Jennings, age 89, of Little Falls, Minnesota passed away peacefully into the arms of His Savior, Jesus Christ, on May 17, 2020 at St. Otto's Care Center in Little Falls. Born in County Cork in the Republic of Ireland on the third of June in 1930, Roland was placed in numerous orphanages in Dublin, Ireland and throughout the surrounding countryside until ten years of age. While there were not a lot of pleasant memories of his early childhood, Roland grew up attending the Church of Ireland which is where he learned and memorized numerous Bible verses. As a teenager, the Lord used these verses to draw Roland to Himself.

On the fourth of October in 1940, Roland's "day of release" from the orphanage finally arrived, and he was taken to County Armagh, Northern Ireland to live in the home of Dick and Maria Reilly, a kind-hearted family with two children, Dick and Hawthorne, whom he fondly considered his brother and sister. He enjoyed singing hymns along with the radio, attending church and Sunday School during these "war years", and worked at a local farm earning enough to buy his first bicycle. It was at this farm where Roland discovered his love of gardening, planting his first strawberry patch. Roland continued his vigor for bicycle riding and delight for his vegetable garden well into his late 80's.

On the third of March in 1948, a day Roland remembered every year, at Derryhubbert Mission Hall, under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, Roland

surrendered his life to Jesus Christ. "Oh, what a relief and what peace and joy to know my sins were forgiven and I could testify that God had saved me and given me eternal life," Roland recounted. For the next number of years, Roland took part in revival meetings at Derrycrew Mission Hall, praying, singing, preaching, and sharing salvation through Jesus Christ to everyone he met. Feeling the call to become a missionary, Roland obeyed the Lord and attended Lebanon Missionary Bible College in England for two years. Soon after, Roland applied to Worldwide Evangelization Crusade in London, England and was accepted to work with Christian Literature Crusade in Brazil.

Arriving in Brazil in 1958, Roland opened a Christian bookstore in Porto Alegre and delivered books to the remote interior. After a few years, he met and married the love of his life and fellow missionary, Rachel Ruth (Schrage) Jennings on November 16, 1963, in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Soon after, they planted a church in the small village of Pequi, where they raised two of their three children, Elisabeth (Jennings) Loving and Daniel Jennings. The thriving church remains till this day. Roland's third child, Samuel Jennings was born in Northern Ireland while home on furlough.

In 1976, Roland moved his family to Minnesota and became a licensed worker with the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA). Roland became the pastor of the C&MA church in Onamia, MN in 1978. In 1986, Roland began pastoring the C&MA church in Swanville, MN and driving bus for the Swanville school district until he was 71 years of age. After nine years in Swanville, Roland and Rachel retired to Little Falls, MN where Roland became the visitation pastor of the C&MA church in Little Falls where he served the Lord faithfully well into his 80's and continued his life-long devotion to prayer until his final days.

Roland is survived by his loving wife and constant companion, Rachel Jennings of Little Falls, MN; his three children, Elisabeth (Jeff) Loving of Arvada, CO; Daniel Jennings of Little Falls, MN; and Samuel (Mindi) Jennings

of Colorado Springs, CO. He is also survived by his eight grandchildren, Jesse (Alyse) Loving, Peter (Jenna) Loving, and Josiah Loving; Shanda, Joshua and Hannah Jennings; and Caleb and Jacob Jennings. He is also survived by Hawthorne (Reilly) Hynds, whom he considered to be his sister; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Roger (Esther) Schrage; and mother-in-law, Elaine (Johnson) Schrage.

Roland was preceded in death by his birth mother, Emily (Jennings) Hingston, whom he discovered after her death while searching for his roots in 1982. He is also preceded in death by his daughter-in-law, Darla (Wessels) Jennings; sister-in-law, Alice (Brubaker) Schrage; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Kenny and Clarice (Schrage) Craven; mother-in-law, Florence (Booher) Schrage; father-in-law August Schrage; and Dick Reilly whom he considered his brother.

“As I look back down the years, I am amazed at the goodness and faithfulness of God. He has been awesome, great, and wonderful. I can only give Him praise, glory and honor for His calvary love for one so unworthy.” – Roland Jennings

Due to the ongoing health pandemic, a memorial service will be held at a later date. Information regarding donations in lieu of flowers will be announced at that time. Roland will be buried at the Springbrook Cemetery, Swanville, MN, with a graveside service, surrounded by his loving family.

Cemetery Details

Springbrook Cemetery

Swanville, MN 56382

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall



“ *Rev. Roland Jennings*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *He was the best rev in onamia mn we wish he was still there as I miss him on sunday school best wish terry olson*

Terry olson - November 27, 2020 at 08:23 PM



“ *Our hearts go out to Rachel and the Jennings families. We were so blessed to know Roland and have him as a part of our family. We will miss his caring personality and his wonderful sense of humor.*

May memories of Roland bring peace to all that had the opportunity to know him.

Jerry and Tammie Craven

Tammie Craven - May 23, 2020 at 08:50 AM



“ *Roland was the sweetest neighbor that Jason and I had. He would tell us of our travels, give us gardening tips and life advice. He will be missed by many. My deepest sympathies to Mrs. Jennings and family.*

Bea Majeski - May 21, 2020 at 04:16 PM



DP

“ *My deepest sympathy to Rachel and family. I always enjoyed our visits comparing gardening ideas & of course our discussions on what vehicle was the best to drive. I will miss these times.*



Darlene Palm - May 21, 2020 at 10:38 AM

RM

“ *Condolences to Rachel and family from Robin and Thelma McCready
Great memories of Roland

God Bless*

Robin McCready - May 19, 2020 at 07:12 AM

P(

“ *Pam (Palm)Czech lit a candle in memory of
Rev. Roland Jennings*



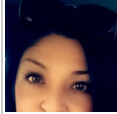
Pam (Palm)Czech - May 19, 2020 at 12:10 AM

CL

“ *Roland had a wonderful personality, he drove sub for me when I had the bus route for many years, always had a smile & kind words for everyone, wouldn't the world be a wonderful place if everyone was like him & look foreword to seeing him in heaven.*



cheryl Lambrecht - May 18, 2020 at 04:21 PM



I'm sorry to hear of your loss, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.

Angela Dooley - May 21, 2020 at 05:49 AM

KK

“ *Karen Koester lit a candle in memory of Rev. Roland Jennings*



karen koester - May 18, 2020 at 11:56 AM

KM

“ *We are saddened to hear the news of Pastor Jennings's passing. He was a wonderful pastor and person, and we felt blessed that he presided over our wedding just over 30 years ago. Our sympathy to all of his family members, Rachel and children and grandchildren. You are in our prayers. Luke and Kay (Staricka) Maher, Sauk Centre, MN*

Kay Maher - May 17, 2020 at 10:08 PM

WW

“ *Wendy Waltman lit a candle in memory of Rev. Roland Jennings*



Wendy Waltman - May 17, 2020 at 10:07 PM

RW

“ *Richard And Tamie Wimmer lit a candle in memory of Rev. Roland Jennings*



Richard and Tamie Wimmer - May 17, 2020 at 08:47 PM

MO

“ *Michael And Michelle Olson lit a candle in memory of Rev. Roland Jennings*



Michael and Michelle Olson - May 17, 2020 at 04:09 PM

RR

“ *i knew roland as my neighbor going to miss him loved to see him in his garden every and talking wti himhe always had a kind word to say prayers to you all.*

roger rebischke - May 17, 2020 at 12:19 PM

NK

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Pastor's passing. I will never forget his many visits I had with him as he rode his bike passed out house and his many visits with my parents. A truly caring man will be greatly missed. My sincere sympathy to all of his family.*

Nona Koester - May 17, 2020 at 10:49 AM

DB

Roland was a kind, gentle man.He captuted your heart with his smile and Irish accent. My deepest sympathies to Rachel and his family.

Dorothy Bernardy - May 17, 2020 at 11:58 AM

PY

Rachel so sorry to read this. You had a beautiful journey together. What a wonderful man to be blessed with. He always seemed like a gentle man. Thoughts of you and your family thru this difficult time.
Paulette

Paulette Yorek - May 17, 2020 at 01:14 PM



Rachel my deepest sympathy to you and your family at this time. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Karen Haaland - May 18, 2020 at 11:26 AM