



## Joshua Vance Bates

October 13, 1986 - April 7, 2014

Joshua Vance Bates, age 27 of Chickamauga, went home to be with his Lord, Monday, April 7, 2014. He was a lifelong resident of Chickamauga and was a member of Oakwood Baptist Church. He graduated in the top 10 percent from Gordon Lee Memorial High School in 2005. He was scheduled to graduate with a bachelor degree in 2015 from Dalton State. Josh worked at Humbuckers in Ringgold, as the Internet sales manager. He was an intelligent, polite, generous young man who will be missed by all. The world was blessed by the birth of Josh Bates on Oct. 13, 1986. He brought joy and a smile to all he encountered. He loved Christian music, played the guitar and also taught music lessons. He played music at local venues and local churches. He was a good listener and a good friend to all who knew him. He was an angel on earth. He will be playing music among angels now.

Josh is survived by his parents, Tracey (Robert) Barnett and John (Amy) Bates; siblings, David Long, Jessica Bates, Haley Barnett, and Jennifer Dickson; grandparents, Tom & Judy Owens and Darlene Halverson; step-grandmother, Sandra Faye Reeves; several aunts & uncles; and numerous cousins.

The funeral service will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, April 11, 2014 at Chattanooga Valley Baptist Church, with Rev. Joseph Hardin officiating. Interment will follow in the Chattanooga Valley Baptist Church Cemetery. The

family will receive friends from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Thursday and prior to leaving for the Church on Friday. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Wounded Warrior Project at [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org) or for [www.oakwoodbc.org/JoshBate](http://www.oakwoodbc.org/JoshBate) support of our local homeless population. Arrangements by Wilson Funeral Home-J. Avery Bryan Chapel.

# Tribute Wall

TF

“ It's been a year. I wanted to let the family know that we have not forgotten Josh. He was an incredible man. I know my words are not enough to cure your aches for his loss. But I do hope you have found God to be your hope and you will continue to know He is there. If I can help in any way, don't hesitate to contact me.

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**Tommy Vowell - Flintstone, GA - Friend of family** - April 06, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ I will always remember his beautiful brown eyes and sweet, sweet spirit. My sincerest condolences to the family.

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**Jody Tallent Hartley - Soddy Daisy, TN - friend of my son, Jamey, and I** - April 25, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ I will always miss you Josh! You will forever be in my heart.

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**Caleb Deaton - Chattanooga, TN - Cousin** - April 15, 2014 at 12:00 AM

HJ

“ My heart goes out to you. Peace to you with time.

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**Harmony Edwards - Rossville, GA - friend of Jessica.** - April 14, 2014 at 12:00 AM

G(

“ TO DARLENE, JOHN, TRACIE, FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

MY CONDOLENCES TO YOU AS YOU MOURN THE LOSS OF  
YOUR SWEET ANGEL, JOSHUA.

MAY OUR LOVING LORD COMFORT AND CONSOLE YOU.

MAY YOU CHERISH THE MEMORIES AND THE LOVE JOSHUA  
LEFT IN YOUR HEART.

HE WILL BE MISSED.

WITH DEEP SYMPATHY.

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**GWEN BONNER - RAINBOW CITY, AL - friend of the family (HALVORSON) -**  
April 12, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *Josh lived a rich, full life as evidenced by all his friends and family.  
We are praying for all of you as you adjust to his physical absence.  
You are all dear to our hearts and family.*

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**Maurice and Shirley Randall, - Cedartown, GA., GA - friends of Tom and Judy  
Owens an - April 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

FT

“ Upon first meeting Josh you could not help but fall in love with his kind, caring eyes and sweet smile. He had a precious gift of sincerely caring for everyone that crossed his path. He has always been a special young man that gave generously and happily to all. One always left Josh feeling better about themselves and life. This was one of his many gifts and talents.

He was the kind of young man that you could only dream of having for a son. He touched my life personally and all that knew him. One did not see Josh that you did not see the love of Jesus Christ through his eyes and his actions.

I always felt that Josh would accomplish many great things. Possibly he would be a well known musician or have a music ministry winning souls for the Lord. Whatever path he chose you knew that Josh would always be touching lives. Now by looking at all of the Facebook postings and tributes I realize that Josh has accomplished that and so much more. The best way I know to honor Josh is to try to live life more like Josh.....

Well done, good and faithful servant.....

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Fan of Josh - Chattanooga, TN - April 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ I'm not sure what to write here. I know that you had the most beautiful contagious smile, a huge loving heart, a true Christian spirit, talent that made us move... I thank God & Allison for bringing you into my life. You are loved by so many....I know you're with Jesus.... We will see you again Josh. Love you always.

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Missy Hall - Ringgold, GA - Friend - April 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ It is hard to find words strong enough to describe the impact Josh Bates made on the lives of all he encountered. Referencing the countless messages left by family and friends since his passing only proves that his positive influence is strong enough to survive death.

When I think back to my grade school days, it's hard to find a story or memory that does not include Josh Bates. While voted "Most Talented" for his tremendous musical and artistic skills, Josh had skills that over shadowed the guitar and sketch book. Josh was a friend to all. He was not only compassionate, hilarious and brilliant but most of all, Josh Bates was Godly.

To Josh's parents- you raised a great man. He was loved by many and will be missed by all. I am thankful for the memories I have of Josh and will never forget his contagious smile and loving personality.

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Allie Watts - West Chester, PA - Friend - April 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FT

“ I am so grieved to hear of Josh's passing. I remember him as a stand-out student even in middle school. I saw all of the traits that are mentioned in the obituary, the combination of which is so rare, especially in 7th graders. He and Jessica were very important to me during that year, and I thank God for the remembrances that I have of both of them.

Please accept my deepest sympathy for all his family and friends during this time to grief. May the presence of the Holy Spirit be strong in your hearts and lives as you take these first difficult steps that follow. We all must try to remember that while we do not have all the answers to our questions now, one day we will, as we greet God and Josh in Heaven.

With sincere sympathy,  
Frances Dickerson

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**Frances Dickerson - Chattanooga, TN - Josh's 7th grade English teacher - April 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

KM

“ Josh was kind, polite, generous, loving, gifted, always respected others and himself. He was has beautiful as the music he played. He had a heart as big as his smile. And I know Heavenly Father as a special place for him in His heart, just as we will carry him in ours forever. Sweet Josh, "A heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others." Our whole family loves you and will miss you during this short earthly stay. Until we meet again---The Collins Family

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**Karen Collins - Ringgold, GA - Noah's Mom - April 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

MF

“ I've been in school with Josh since 3rd grade. Unless Daniel Angel was in class with us, Josh always sat behind me in "alphabetical order". Even up through high school, he always found a way to pick at my shoulders or hair or whisper funny remarks under his breath to try to get me to laugh aka get me to laugh out loud so I'd get in trouble. Josh was always trying to get everyone around him to smile and laugh and he could because he was HILARIOUS. Even if you were in the midst of your worst day, Josh could find a way to make you laugh while encouraging you. It was a joy to be around him and he lifted your spirits immensely, all the time. And he was so funny. Don't ever plan on being in class with him and expect to get anything accomplished. One of my favorite memories which I still laugh about today is Mrs. Smith's 11th grade Literature class. While Mrs. Smith wasn't looking, Josh would climb out the window of the classroom, be gone for a while, then walk back in the classroom through the front door. Mrs. Smith could not comprehend what just happened. She wanted to get him in trouble but couldn't figure out what happened. Or when we were in college English and Josh would lay his head down and Scotty would raise his hand to ask the teacher a question, but Scotty only mouthed the words that Josh was really speaking-in perfect sync. Josh was so genuine and caring, he had a heart of gold. He was an angel on earth and we were blessed to have him with us for 27 years. I know that I will see him again someday.

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Megan Afman - Columbia, SC - friend/classmate - April 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Josh,  
You are such a wonderful and sweet person. You have a light about you that is contagious. You were such a beautiful friend to my brother for so many years. He loved you dearly. You are loved by so many and I know you'll be on the other side waiting for us when He calls.

*Rest well sweet Josh.*

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**Laura Kell Mullinax - Baumholder, Germany - Friend** - April 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Sweet sweet smiling Josh. If you only knew the ripple effect your leaving us would have on so many - literally hundreds. Thank you for being Aaron's "brother". You had untold adventures together that Aaron will carry for the rest of his life. We loved you and we mourn you, and as a mother, I am in continual prayer for your mother Tracey, your grandparents, and the rest of your family. Love you always sweet boy.

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**Donna Hill - Chickamauga, GA - Mother of Aaron Morris** - April 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ When my husband and I moved to Georgia in 2010, we had been praying for a church family for 4 years. We had been visiting different churches on Sunday and then someone told us about the band at Oakwood. When we walked into the building, we thought the place was on fire...it was just the "fog machine"...but we soon discovered that it was on fire...for the Lord! When we heard Robert Streets singing and Josh playing (the best guitar player ever) we knew we had found our church home! Our hearts go out to you...your son touched our lives.

*Bill and Beth Gist*

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**Bill and Beth Gist - Ringgold, GA - Church Family** - April 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ *Josh was a smart, sweet young man. I feel fortunate to have taught him and known him.*

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**Carol Free - Teacher** - April 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *My Heartfelt & Deepest Sympathy for All Feeling the Loss of Such a Precious Young Man. May God Comfort You.*

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**Jamie Lynn Morris - Chickamauga, GA - Oakwood Gateway** - April 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“*Man, this kid was special. Josh was one of the very few people I encountered as a kid that I thought could get more creative than I could. We played with Barbies and Kens, not in the Barbie and Ken way, but in our own hour-long dramedy type way. He always had another witty line and was extremely funny. We once froze a Homer Simpson doll and were absolutely sure that when we threw it in the ceiling fan (on high) that it would shatter. It never did, but we put it back in the freezer to try again thinking it just needed to be colder. I became a huge hip-hop fan in my lifetime and I still am. This is a bit against the grain from some of the other comments I've seen that speak of Josh's musicianship and his love for Christian music. However, I remember the days when Josh labeled "Ghetto Cowboy" as country and Wyclef's "Gone 'til November" as gospel so that grandma would allow us to continue listening. He introduced me to what would become one of my favorite all time albums. One day, for some reason, we decided to breath heavily and spin in circles and race across the yard, but we only ever made it like 10 ft but it was fun. We played baseball together in Chickamauga. That's how I met Josh. I lost touch with most of my Gordon Lee friends when I went to Middle School to become a Rossvillain, but I talked with many of them now and then. I'd give a lot to have spent more time with this kid. I know people say that those who have passed are special and so on and they were a true gift and they were one of the best people they'd met. Honestly, most of those are exaggerations and words of kindness in times of pain, but if you say those words about Josh Bates, you're probably understating what he was. I can't help but think that it may be the reason this whole thing is happening. He probably always knew something we didn't and he probably has a higher calling. It's just tough to lose one of the few that seemed to "get" things. At the Crossroads, my friend.*

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**Ben Greene - Atlanta, GA - Old Friend - April 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

SG

“ Tracey, We were very devastated to hear the news. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. Josh was a great guy! We always enjoyed seeing him at the office.  
Sherry and Dr. Kimball's staff

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**Sherry Wofford - GA** - April 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

VC

“ Tracey, I m so very sorry for your son's passing. Having read many of the posts, he sounds like he was loved and will be missed by many. My prayers are with you and your family. - Vicki

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**Vicki Blair - Hixson, TN - Co-worker** - April 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KG

“ Tracey, Tom, Judy and family,  
My heart aches for all of you. I'm so very sorry for your loss. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Kay Harper - Ringgold, GA** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ So sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you.

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**Penny Sellers - Clinton, TN - friend of a friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Josh,  
You will be missed TREMENDOUSLY! YOU always put others and their needs ahead of yours! You blessed us all with your presence for 27 years and now you have gone home to be with Z God forever! I miss you my friend and my Prayers go out to your family and numerous friends!

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**Joe Nance - Austin , TX - Friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Though I only met Josh a few times while Visiting family (Natalie/ Lauren Gamba) in Georgia I remember Josh very well. We talked on the phone a few times after I had left as his friendship was very genuine even with the little we knew each other. In meeting him he was kind, loving to all around and a gentleman. He was always thinking of those around him and cared the care for people shown in his eyes when you met him. I will forever remember Josh as a friend to those around and one who loved the Lord very much! You will be missed deeply but thanks be to God that you are in heaven with him now.

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**Jodi Brito - Westminster, CO - Friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Praying for family!

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**Candace - Chickamauga, GA - friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ Josh was so talented, funny, and kind hearted. He was truly a wonderful and and inspiring person. Heaven has gained an amazing soul.

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**Ashleigh Watts-Lamb - Chickamauga, GA - Gordon Lee classmate** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ Thoughts and prayers to Josh's family and close friends.

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**Jonas & Paige (St.John) Holcomb - Rossville, GA - friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ I will always remember Josh as a sweet, kind and very intelligent young man. He had the sweetest smile that would melt your heart. Heaven has gained a true angel and I know he will be looking down and watching over his wonderful family. My thoughts and prayers are with you Tracey and the rest of the family. Love you - Kathy Cawood.

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**Kathy Cawood - Hixson, TN - Friend of family** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Josh always had a kind word and a smile for everybody. He will be missed. The family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Joanna Kellogg Nieves - Dalton, GA - former classmate at Gordon Lee H** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NG

“ So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

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**Nicole Fitzpatrick - Chickamauga, GA** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Tom & Judy we are so sorry to hear of the loss of your grandson we pray that the Lord will give you & your family strength & comfort during this difficult time. Steve & Anne Medley

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**Steve & Anne Medley - Rossville, GA - Friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ Josh made an immediate and positive impression on me from the first time I stepped into the church at Oakwood Gateway. Not long after I started attending, Josh moved on to other musical projects. From the congregation, you could truly feel his absence from the band.

*I ran into him around town & spoke with him a couple of times in the interim. I well remember the kindness of his demeanor. He seemed to be the kind of guy who left a positive impact wherever he went.*

*Then, one Sunday morning at Gateway, there was Josh on stage once again. My smile grew from ear to ear as Josh poured his energy into his performance. Things just seemed a little more "right" that morning.*

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**Michael Maddox - Ringgold, GA - Acquaintance** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MO

“ Young Man U will be highly missed

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**Michelle Strickland - East Ridge, TN - Church Oakwood** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Tracey and Robert and family , So very sorry for your loss .

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**Brenda Barnett - Old Fort, TN - Robert's Aunt** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Sunday morning hugs at Gateway...and always a smile on his face. Such a sweet spirit. Breaks my heart to know he was hurting so. I take comfort in knowing that he is now whole and complete, surrounded by the greatest Love ever known. See you later, Mr. Bates.

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**Ginger Battles - Ringgold, GA - Friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ It never failed that every time I ran into Josh a handshake would never do, he was much more personal than that, he would always give me a hug. I had the privileged to share the stage with Josh a few times and we always had a blast. I was in shock when I heard that he had passed and still cant believe he is gone. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

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**Chad Baker - Rossville, GA - Friend - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

DM

“ Tracey, you are in my heart and prayers.

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**Denise Hardee - Hixson, TN - Friend of mother - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

DK

“ Tracey, Tom & Judy, and family, my heart goes out to each of you during this time of your loss. What a fine young man that Heaven has gained! Each of you will be in my prayers as you endure this loss. Sending hugs, love, and prayers! Debbie Kay

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**Debbie Kay - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

JF

“ Josh was such a blessing to us ! We sat on the front row at gateway watching how gifted he was ! God used him in a mighty way ! I think more than he realized ! When my daughter Ashley duke got married josh and Robert streets saved the day with their music ! A storm came thru and knocked out the sound equipment but josh played his little heart out ! We loved him ! My prayer is that god will hold u in the palm of his hand and carry u thru and give u the peace that passes all understanding ! Josh we will see u soon!!!

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**Jim and Debbie Huntton - Harrison, TN - Friends - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

TF

“ So sad & shocked to learn of Josh's death. He was such an incredible young man. I always thought he was among the finest young people I've ever worked with in some twenty years of church work. Please know that Jenny, Peyton & I are praying for you.

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**Tommy Vowell - Flintstone, GA - Family friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ To Tracey and family- There was never a time that I spent with Josh when I did not see that smile or those eyes sparkle. Josh was such a well-mannered, kind and respectful young man that always shared these qualities with everyone he encountered. Whatever was his pain, he is now free and I am convinced that he is glorified with peace and happiness with our Lord- playing music for the angels.....and maybe showing off his track skills as well! May you find the strength and comfort during the days ahead. Praying for you all.

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**Jan Wright - GA - Former Teacher/Track Coach** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Josh we will miss your sweet smiling face. We love you and can't imagine this world without you in it. Prayers go out to your family.

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**Danny & Terrie Goss - Rossville, GA - Friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ I'll never forget in 10th grade, we asked Mr.Underwood so many questions, he didnt get to teach at all that day! You had the biggest smile! Thats one small of many memories! Praying for all your family and friends. Thank you for everything, until we meet again brother....

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**Erin Parker - chattanooga, TN - friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ Josh was a wonderful person and I know he will be missed greatly. He was one of the first people to accept and befriend me when I came back to America after a period overseas. His friendship meant so much to me and I will cherish the memories we had together. I wish blessings for his family and all of his friends.

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**Elle McFarland - Calhoun, GA - Friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Josh was one of the kindest, humble, and talented people I have ever met. He was constantly encouraging me, with just a smile he was able to deliver his own brand of comfort. Anyone who met him, even for a short time undoubtedly experienced the warm, welcoming presence that he was. I used to work a few doors down from him and would stop in from time to time when I was having a bad day, it was nice just to talk to a friend and be at ease for a while. Josh was just that way, and consistently so. I left that job several years ago, but everytime I would think of Josh, I would smile. I'll be sure to keep passing those smiles on, buddy.

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**Malachi Nimmons - New York, NY - Friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

WF

“ Josh was a precious young man! Always had a beautiful smile when we would see him. Precious spirit, precious heart. He will be greatly missed.

*Walter and Darlene*

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**Walter and Darlene Rankin - Ft. Oglethorpe, GA - friends/church family** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Oh my dear sweet Josh. It breaks my heart to know that you were hurting so deeply and we could not help you. Only God knows what you were dealing with and we have to have faith in His master plan. You were such a wonderful young man who had the greatest and sweetest smile I have ever known. I will never be in Chattanooga or Fort Oglethorpe that your sweet smile will not come to mind and bring a smile to my face. The world is going to miss you. Your life here ended far too quickly but I know that you have peace now and I look forward to seeing that smile of yours again one day when I come home. I love and will miss you.

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**Kathy Williams - Newark, DE - friend** - April 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Josh was a genuine person, an amazing musician, and had a smile that could light up any room. This is a huge loss for the community. We all loved him very much. Chris and I are praying for the family as well as our group of friends from Oakwood. We love all of you.

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**Beth O'Neil - Chickamauga, GA - friend** - April 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Tracey,  
My heart breaks with yours. As I read all the posts on Facebook I realize how many people Josh touched. Each time I met him he was always smiling and always courteous. I remember asking him once if he knew how great his mom was and he smiled and said "yes". I can't take the hurt away but know you are in my thoughts and my prayers. Love you...

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**Darlene Stone - Ringgold, GA** - April 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

VG

“ *Josh touched so many lives with his gentle spirit. Our love and prayers are with all of you.*

*Larry and Vicki Garner*

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**Vicki Garner** - April 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *Our love & prayers go out for Josh's family & friends.*

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**Joseph & Tammy Hardin - Chickamauga, GA - Pastor** - April 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ *I grew up with you and your sister Jessica. You were so talented and brought smiles to everyone that knew you with your humor. You will be missed by all who knew you and many whose lives you touched. I spent many a night at your house with your family and you will be missed by everyone. We love you and hope to see you again some day!*

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**Natasha Anderson - Lafayette, GA - friend** - April 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM