



Mr. James Samuel Parrish

May 6, 1938 - September 14, 2013

James Samuel Parrish, 75, of Vista California, passed away September 14, 2013. James Samuel Parrish was born to Kathleen Hood and James Parrish on May 6, 1938 in Detroit Michigan. He was the youngest of five siblings. Besides being the baby of the family, he was the only son; can you imagine how much he must have been spoiled. Two of his sisters, Mae (3 years old) and Betty Ann (10 months old) died in 1931 from Polio and Scarlett Fever. The family was devastated. James' older sisters, June and Maurice, spent a great deal of time caring for their younger brother whom everyone affectionately called Jimmie. From what I understand, Jimmie, the adolescent, was quite a handful. He had a slight truancy problem, and was the go-to person on the block if anyone was in trouble. Those early difficult years formed the perseverance, character, and resilient spirit that later in life served to forward his career, establish lasting bonds of friendship, and developed a love of family and God beyond compare. The family moved from California to Texas in time for Jimmie to attend high school at Southwestern Bible College. Having just recently giving his heart to the Lord, he intensely followed the calling on his life to preach the gospel. His first sermon was at 16 on the front steps of the college dormitory. His love for the Lord was so strong that he and three other boys formed a quartet and traveled the South hosting tent revivals and relying on the kindness of Godly people to sustain them. One of the gentlemen he traveled with, Dan Robinson, had a son whom Dad mentored; that's how long he would hold a friend. With all that preaching, Jimmie still

found time to cause an uproar now and then. His humor, quick wit, and infectious laugh made him the life of the party even if he wasn't there yet. Stories have been circulating about times when he drag raced his 1957 Chevy Bel Air with fellow school mates in the car, and still beat that brand new Plymouth by three car lengths. Or the time, while living in the dormitory, he and a friend tied all the across hall door knobs together preventing anyone from exiting their rooms and setting off the fire alarm. And though it sounds hard to believe, he and a group of friends somehow carried a small foreign car to a set of pillars on campus and balanced it on top. It was a good thing Jimmie was so close to the Lord, because he certainly tested his patience. He worked several jobs and put himself through college at Southwestern studying theology. He recalled one job where he had to clean, in the Texas heat, the inside of huge metal containers, or another where he machined dyes. He also attended Texas State University and would frequently drive groups of his friends from Texas to California and back again during Spring and Winter breaks. One particular Winter, Dad, who was driving four young ladies back to college, (what a gentleman) found themselves trapped in a sudden blizzard on the Texas border. It became so treacherous that the ladies became spotters for him while he was driving, two perching themselves on the hood of the car to try to keep him on the highway. They made it to the next town, and were graciously housed by a church family whom Dad spoke to at a small café where the group was having dinner. He was often offered room and board on his many escapades after a total stranger became a dear friend. Jimmie moved back to Los Angeles to be close to family and established an Assembly of God church in Corona California. He also helped establish several churches up the West coast. At this time he also held a career as a machinist where he worked at Rocketdyne, building parts for the F-1 engines that powered the Saturn V first stage rockets, and the J-2 rockets that powered its second stage. He also machined all the injectors on the rocket engines that took the Apollo 7 space shuttle into space. Apollo 7 was the 1st manned shuttle to make a lunar orbit. During this time he met Janet

Clemmons, they fell in love and were married. In 1967 he was given an opportunity to work overseas where he helped establish light industry for the Saudi Arabian Government, and then returned to the states where he accepted a position as Vice President of Operations for Armorlite in San Marcos California which later was sold to 3M. He focused on his career, and attended San Diego State University and studied Finance. In 1973 his first daughter, Leanna, was born, and in 1978 his second daughter, Eden, came along. James adored his family and strived to always provide financially and spiritually for them. He would often pull the girls out of school and take them to far-away places: Africa, Brazil, France, Germany, and England to name a few. While on one of these trips, he came close to purchasing a large hotel in France. Instead, he bought a Peugeot, which he later shipped back to the United States where it became his main means of transportation for many years. He also taught a bible study at Vista Assembly of God where members affectionately recall him rolling up in his white Cadillac with red leather interior, always dressed to the nines. Later he was contacted by the U.S. State Department to lead the Defense Conversion Program of heavy industrial military installation for the Czech and Slovak Republics. He became the Country Director for Slovakia, supervising the United States Foreign Aid investments into Slovakia's industries, municipalities, and university systems. Throughout his career in Eastern Europe he worked on projects in Lithuania, Bosnia, and Macedonia. Dad eventually retired from the business world in 2001 from the interim CEO position of the largest chemical facility in Romania so he could pursue his true love, ministry. He had many hobbies. He loved to sail and eventually joined the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He rode horseback and loved to ski. He was a private pilot and would fly passengers for the cost of gas and plane rental. He was so proficient at baking and took first place in the La Mesa Assembly of God bake-off much to the chagrin of the long standing matriarchal winners for his triple layered espresso hazelnut chocolate torte. Above all James had a passion for ministry. He joined the Peace Corps where

he traveled to Africa helping others and also helped develop a community's hospital, water system, and housing facilities. He was heavily involved in ministry and after retiring from finance became a fully licensed minister with the Assemblies of God. He was the associate pastor for Palomar Heights Church and helped revive a struggling church in Ramona. Dad passed his passion for life on to his family and friends. He was an exceptional father and an amazing grandfather. He always supported his family and attended every practice and every game, whether it was baseball, football, cheer, dance, soccer, or basketball, Dad was there. He helped the kids learn how to swim and ride a bike and taught them the value of hard work and education. His greatest legacy was his love of the Lord which he passed on to his family. He was our pillar and we loved him greatly.

Tribute Wall

VI

“We were so sorry to hear that James passed away. We had known James for about 39 years, he was always such an encouragement to us. I loved his smile and he always had a bubbly attitude. He would always tell me how he loved to hear me sing and everytime I would see him he would ask me "Are you going to sing today"? He was a great man of God and such an inspiration everywhere he went. We will certainly miss him and we pray strength and peace upon his daughters and the family.”

Vickie - October 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GL

“James was one-of-a-kind! An inspiring and inspired man that seemed to be so complete: handsome, brilliantly intelligent, wordly, charming, spiritually deep, funny, human and so compassionate. I don't even

have words for how helpful he was during our tough times as a family. He and my mother were great friends and in the brief time I met him he left such a fantastic impression on me---here was a complete man. His words for when my mom passed away 1 year ago were the story of Elijah and Elisha and the passing of the mantle, and so it is with you now. There never seems to be an easy way to say goodbye, or enough time, but #1 having the faith that your dad passed on to the next and even more amazing life, #2 is always there for you in spirit when you reach out to God and #3 lived his life committed spiritually to instill in you the faith that is the most powerful assistance that gets you through times likes these is his ultimate gift to you!

Lots of love to your family and God bless you,
Giulia Loli and family

P.S. this is something he wrote in an email to me a year ago after my mom passed:

"I hope the pain of loss softens but that the memories become richer."

I wish that for you too!"

Giulia Loli - October 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MA

“*"The sudden death of father, I regret it heartily. I remember, he had a dream to live on the ship when I meet him for the first time in San Diego. I stayed in his house in Slovakia, went to Japanese restaurant together. It is my good memory. I just thought shall be able to meet him at any time if I go there, this obituary is a shame. My father traveled already and cannot speak English, but both of them became a friend in heaven. All of your families, please get over this sadness and take hands with each other. Deepest sympathy from Masahiko"*

masa - October 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MA

“*"I CAN'T BEGIN TO EXPRESS THE SHOCK AND SORROW THAT I FEEL FROM THE LOSS OF MY GOOD FRIEND AND YOUR DAD. ALTHOUGH WE HAVEN'T SEEN AS MUCH OF EACH OTHER THESE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, WE STILL REMAINED CLOSE FRIENDS. IN YEARS PAST, WE SHARED MANY ENJOYABLE HOURS TOGETHER. I HEARD SHEILA SAY ONCE THAT JAMES WAS THE SMARTEST MAN SHE KNEW AND I WOULD SECOND THAT! I WAS HONORED WHEN JAMES ASKED ME IF I WOULD HAVE ANY RESERVATIONS ABOUT HIS ACQUIRING HIS PAPERS TO BECOME A PASTOR. I, OF COURSE, HAD NONE. HE WAS A VERY GODLY MAN!"*

Mac - October 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DI

“My heart is grieved at this sad news. I know how close you and your dad are/were. I know the pain and loss you are feeling right now and I truly share in your grief. I too miss knowing James was only a phone call away.
He was and always will be one of my most favorite people on earth now in heaven. We loved each other and shared so much in common. Jim is heartbroken too. He was a man of God who Jim shared heartfelt fellowship as co-pastors and brothers in the Lord. When James left PHC, Jim never felt so alone because he and James could always meet and talk of the things of our Lord. Your news brought deep sadness in that we shall not meet again until Heaven. I wanted to have him over for beef bourginon again. He was such a connoisseur of fine foods and beauty. I truly love your Dad, Leanna.
My last visit with him at Mac's bday party, I will always treasure in my heart.
We talked about Provence and other wonderful things. I got to share a testimony with him and was so fulfilled by his response.”

Dianne - October 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LU

“I am so sorry to hear about James. I met your father at the party of US Embassy in Bratislava. We had a nice talk and I told him that I wanted to go for a fellowship to Children's Hospital in Boston. Because of lack of finances it did not happen. Little bit later, James contacted me and told me that he organized for me an observership in Children Hospital of San Diego. He arranged that Rotary club sponsor me and that in the hospital they treated me almost like a queen. Dr Kauder, Vicepresident of the hospital, was so helpful to me because James asked him to take care of me. I have been very grateful to James for what he did for me. My stay in San Diego was unforgettable and influenced my life in very positive way. I will keep James in my heart forever.”

Lubica - October 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MA

“I don't have all the words but my heart waits with you. You had an awesome father and we will miss our dear friend James. I can still see his smiling face with my mind's eye. He's probably chatting with Jesus now regarding all those unanswerable questions he had down here.”

Marlene - October 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SH

“Your dad was like another dad to me and so wise and so generous with his compliments/encouragement to me while growing up. He had a way of making you feel special. I'm holding onto the precious memories.”

Shannon - October 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *I just wanted to say that James was one of Best Men I have ever met. He was a strong man of God and a great friend, A true friend. He devoted his life to God and mentored me on many occasions with solid advise, both Godly and with good wisdom.* ”

Scott - October 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WO

“I met James when I was presenting a project management seminar. I noticed one guy laughing a lot, with a ridiculous mustache. I asked him about his source of humor. James said he enjoyed watching me make so many guys uncomfortable, and I discovered that we shared this common delight. I met his daughters and had dinner with James and his elegant wife. I was impressed with my new friend who had it all and then he didn't. I'm certain that on the day he died, he regretted the loss of his marriage and don't think he ever understood how his enormous love and affection could have been translated into his most grievous personal loss. I was honored when he asked me for a letter of recommendation to support his petition to become a pastor. I rated him as one of the most dedicated Christians I had ever met and was certain that he would serve the denomination with distinction. However, I believed that was a poor choice for him. When he joined Armorlite, the wholesale cost of their plastic contact lenses was \$30, under his leadership, the price dropped to \$2; an amazing achievement. I will always remember the day when I was sitting on a bed in a friend's guest room, with my computer and a few clothes, my home lost, most of the prize possessions in it gone, and James called to ask if I wanted to come to Slovakia to help him on a project! What an unexpected, wonderful call! My job had been abolished 30 days after my wife had been diagnosed with terminal cancer, and after being her primary care giver for over 4 years, she decided that she couldn't get well living with me. James and I succeeded on the project in Bratislava and I have lived in Europe ever since. Not a day has passed or will ever when I am not thankful for the gift of a new life James gave me. We have corresponded many times, in which I begged him to preach the gospel of economic effectiveness and he told me about his Biblical research. Oil and water, but committed friends. I will miss him for the rest of my days.”

Woody - October 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

HW

“To hear that James has passed away is a great surprise to us, We have him in vital memory only three years ago when he spent some time with us in Lesotho. Not having knowing him before, we learnt to appreciate his serious, upright and helping heart to know each other in the eyes of the Lord being individuals and precious!
We send you our heartfelt condolence and sense how much the loss of your Father means to you. Comforted in knowing he is with the Lord, he has reached the destination he has been living for!”

Helene and Werner - October 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BW

“My mother and I had the privilege of meeting and traveling with James through China several years ago. He was delightful and was very kind to Mother who was 80 at the time of travel. I can understand the feelings of your loss and the pleasure of your memories.”

Betty Wilson - September 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM