



## Gary Routon

May 29, 1953 - September 28, 2016

Gary L. Routon was born May 29th, 1953, in Fowler, Kansas. Life in heaven began on September 28, 2016 from accident related causes.

Gary and his wife, Debbie, met as young children growing up in the small community of Beaver, Kansas where Gary's dad pastored a church. Growing up in a farming community, Gary and his brothers learned the value of hard work. His youth and young adult life included many hours of laboring in the wheat harvest, driving farm equipment and many other aspects of life on Kansas farms.

Gary and Deb attended Barclay College in Haviland, KS, and married during their junior/senior year. After receiving their bachelors degrees, they immediately felt called into ministry and served as youth leaders and pastors for twelve years at Lone Star Friends Church, a country church outside of Hugoton, KS. While there they became parents to son Ben and twin sons, Aaron and Micah. In 1987, they were called to Oregon to pastor West Chehalem Friends Church outside of Newberg. From 1992 to present they have been leaders in a marriage ministry called Covenant Keepers. Gary's dad, Kenneth Routon, had been trained in auto mechanics by his father. He passed that knowledge to his sons. Gary used those skills on many occasions, not only for his personal vehicles, but worked for local car dealers when money was needed to support his family. For 12 years those skills were valuable as he worked for American Family Insurance as an insurance adjuster. He worked for Kuni Cadillac in Beaverton for many years before American Family Insurance and most recently was asked to return to the job at Kuni as a Body Shop Estimator. He was on his way to Kuni when the accident occurred.

Gary's hobbies included playing guitar, singing, working on and driving his 1955 Ford Crown Victoria dream car, riding motorcycles, and people. He invested in the lives of his family and friends. Their home is a veritable "Grand Central Station" for people of all ages. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Debbie, three sons, Ben of southwest Portland, Aaron and Emily of Sitka, Alaska, and Micah and Marla of Recife, Brazil. Also surviving Gary is his mother, Phyllis Routon of Pratt, KS, brothers Rodney Routon of Wellman, IA, Martin Routon of Derby, KS, Tracy Routon of Pratt, KS, sisters Denise Dove of Elgin, OK and Carrie Dingman of Urbandale, IA. In addition, Gary has four granddaughters, one grandson, and a wealth of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews who will miss him

greatly. Gary was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth Routon.

A celebration of life will be held on October 5 at 3 p.m. at the Newberg Red Hills Church (Foursquare), 115 W. 3rd St., in Newberg. A reception will follow. Location will be announced at the celebration service which will include shared stories of Gary's life.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Gary's name can be made to Barclay College, 607 Kingman Ave, Haviland, KS 67059, or Covenant Keepers, PO Box 38238, Charlotte, NC 28278

# Events

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**OCT**   **Memorial Service**   03:00PM

**5**

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Red Hills Church

115 W. 3rd St., Newberg, OR, US, 97132

# Comments

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“ Sending prayers and lots of love. Uncle Gary was an amazing man and will be greatly missed. In every one of my memories, God's love radiated through him. My heart is heavy and I wish I could be there with you all.

**Phyllis Pllana** - October 05, 2016 at 04:22 PM

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“ Gary was a dad to all of the "kids" around, even when we were grown. The thing that sticks out for me the most is how he would help us take care of things if we needed it... whether we were stranded in our car or needed help figuring out something in Newberg, he was like a dad to all of us. We knew we could go to him and get the help we needed. Especially those of us who had family far away, he provided a home to hang out in and have Thanksgiving in. He listened quietly and smiled graciously. Gary will be truly missed in this life and hugged in the next, when all the kids finally come "home". Love to my Routon Family!

**Kim Grime Porter** - October 05, 2016 at 02:45 PM

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“ Dear dear Debbie. My heart hurts with you and I have been praying since I read Rodney's post on Facebook about Gary's accident. Know that I will continue to pray in the weeks and months to come. I wish I weren't so far away. Know in my heart I am hugging you and weeping with you. You and Gary were incredible friends to Paul and me. Sharing life with you, no matter how long it had been between visits, was always a hoot!! I imagine Paul and Gary are having a blast in Heaven right now. I will email my cell number to you and please know you can call any time of the day or night. I love you and I know that God will hold you in His mighty arms of Love and Comfort. Bless you my friend.

**Linda Snyder-Patterson** - October 04, 2016 at 10:37 PM

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“ Gary and Debbie were and are mentors to Marreta and I. But most of all they are family to us. They were at our wedding sitting up in the balcony with twin babies, Aaron and Micah. Debbie was at the hospital with us when our first son was born. Our baby boys grew together into young boys as Marreta and I sat under Gary's pastorship at Lone Star Friends Church in rural Hugoton, Kansas. I didn't see Gary as a preacher. I saw him as a teacher. I can still vividly recall many of his teachings as only he could convey a point in his messages. And as memories flood over my heart and mind, the one thing that I will always treasure is that Gary was a dear friend of mine and that he considered me a dear friend to him. One of the things I remember that Gary said during one of his teachings was, " A true friend is someone who really knows what you're like deep down inside but loves and accepts you anyway"! Sometimes Gary could be very blunt and you wished you had worn your steel toed shoes to church! But he spoke the truth in love. You knew where he stood in the truth and perhaps that is where God wants us to stand. Gary was able to pierce my heart and soul with the word of God and I'm forever changed because of that. And that was the friendship we had. Even when Gary and Debbie moved to Oregon almost 30 years ago, our friendship stayed strong and true. We didn't get to see each other much over the years because of the distance but in the last several years, Gary would ride his bike to Kansas and we were honored that he would spend several days at our home before he would ride on to central Kansas to see his mom. May of 2015 would be the last time we would get to spend time with Gary. And whenever we got together it was always an intense time of visiting and sharing what was going on in our lives. We were going through some struggles at the time but Gary was always the loving pastor and close friend. Each night before we went to bed he would wrap his arms around us and pray for us. I will treasure that memory forever! And that's Gary in a nutshell! Debbie, we are so sorry for your loss and we wish we could be there with you. But we know you are surrounded by a host of family and friends. We will be praying for you and your boys and Gary's extended family in the days to come. We love you! May God Bless You!

Kris and Marreta Campbell



Kris Campbell - October 03, 2016 at 09:39 PM

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“ When I think of Gary, I think of the time I "flirted" with him in front of Debbie (Debbie and I worked in the kitchen) during breakfast when we were in college. He and I conspired against Debbie to make her think I was flirting with him because anyone who knows me knows I do NOT flirt with anyone!!!! I think we had her going pretty good because it happened over several days. I finally came clean with her and I think all was forgiven. At least I hope so!!!! For ME to even be able to pull that off shows what kind of a guy Gary was. Love you, Debbie. So sorry for your loss. Your time here on earth together was only a drop in the ocean compared to eternity together you will have in heaven!!!! Just keep reminding yourself of what you have to look forward to. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

**Carolyn Hinshaw** - October 03, 2016 at 04:28 PM

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“ Marci Arold lit a candle in memory of Gary Routon



**Marci Arold** - October 03, 2016 at 03:46 PM



“ Gary was funny, smart, caring and Loved his family and God. I have known Gary for almost 20 years, and he will be missed dearly! Some of my fondest memories were of Gary driving me home after work on the back of his Gold Wing, which he loved. He would crank the music and we would enjoy the open air, which he loved. I even stalled walking down the aisle at my wedding as Gary was late, and I wanted him to be present and share in the fellowship. He had been there for me so many times emotionally with his guidance and friendship and he will be missed dearly!

**Marci** - October 03, 2016 at 03:53 PM

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“ Our hearts and prayers are with Deb and all the Routon family in this difficult time. We grieve his passing but rejoice that he is with God giving praise and hallelujahs to our Lord. I have this mental image of Gary in his black cowboy boots, jeans, shirt and with that hat on his head as he strums along on a heavenly guitar to a host singing hymns. We had fun together on so many occasions and will have fond memories forever of having connecting balconies on our June cruise with Gary and Deb and a lot of covenant keepers. We met each morning at the ship's rail to drink coffee and talk about plans for the day.

Rex and Carolyn Johnson



Rex N Carolyn Johnson - October 03, 2016 at 02:15 PM

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“ I worked with Gary for 10 years at American Family. He was always so kind and generous with his time, experience and knowledge. I truly enjoyed working with him; he was always willing to help and I will be forever thankful to him for that.

Kevin Bradshaw

Kevin T Bradshaw - October 02, 2016 at 01:51 PM

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“ Uncle Gary with his wife, parents and siblings (80's).



Ken Routon - October 02, 2016 at 08:36 AM

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“ Uncle Gary presenting at his mothers 80th.



Ken Routon - October 02, 2016 at 08:22 AM

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Fred Southwick - October 01, 2016 at 06:11 PM



“ He did a great job of picking the turkey apart.

Fred - October 01, 2016 at 06:16 PM

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Fred Southwick - October 01, 2016 at 06:10 PM



“ There is love in this picture!

Fred - October 01, 2016 at 06:16 PM

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**Fred Southwick** - October 01, 2016 at 06:08 PM



“ White elephant party

**Fred** - October 01, 2016 at 06:16 PM

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“ Many memories with my Uncle Gary. My earliest memories, recall him trying to save my sisters life. Years later when my parents needed to ensure their children had a second home, my Uncle Gary and Aunt Deb selflessly offered to step up as parents. Although he never had to take responsibility for me as a father, he was always willing to offer words of advise. What a honor it was years later to introduce him to my wife. He embraced her and continue to extend himself to us. He was a faithful and humble servant of our Lord. He was transparent with his struggles and allowed Christ to shine through his weakness. He loved his family, loved his Jesus and will always be remembered for his years of service.

**Ken Routon** - October 01, 2016 at 04:50 PM

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“ I think my favorite memory of uncle Gary was when we were stationed in Washington. I would travel down to uncle Gary and aunt Debbie's house. This was the first time i really got to know my uncle. He took us to the beach and parks. But he knew how much i missed riding on the motorcycle so when i came down he would put me on his gold wing and just drive around the hills. I love my uncle very much and i am so glad i was able to have some great memories with him.

**Dawn Simpson** - October 01, 2016 at 10:50 AM



“ Many memories with my Uncle Gary. My earliest memories, recall him trying to save my sisters life. Years later when my parents needed to ensure their children had a second home, my Uncle Gary and Aunt Deb selflessly offered to step up as parents. Although he never had to take responsibility for me as a father, he was always willing to offer words of advise. What a honor it was years later to introduce him to my wife. He embraced her and continue to extend himself to us. He was a faithful and humble servant of our Lord. He was transparent with his struggles and allowed Christ to shine through his weakness. He loved his family, loved his Jesus and will always be remembered for his years of service.

**Ken** - October 01, 2016 at 04:48 PM



“ I remember Gary and Debbie sharing their lives at one of our Covenant Keeper Conferences. I was always so blessed by their Godly words and character. Although I didn't know them well I praise the Lord for their lives and testimony. I'm sad for the family and pray God's special love and comfort on each of them during this sad time. I remember Gary as a Godly servant of our Lord.

**Jo Hurst** - October 03, 2016 at 05:38 PM



“ Deb, I'm shaken. Although I haven't seen you guys since 1994, I know that the three of us would easily begin a conversation as if we had seen each other yesterday. Our first three days as roommates, freshmen at Barclay, got off to a rocky start. Didn't see him except when he stopped by to sleep. Lol then I came back to the dorm after class, only to find matching bedspreads and sheets on our bunk beds. Us two Quaker boys had a loud discussion concerning personal space and communication, which escalated to the point of each of us sitting on the floor in front of our closets and tossing randem items at each other. At some point we both found this sight so hilarious that we would throw an item, then burst into laughter. After that, we were almost inseparable, except for time spent with some girl we called Ebert!! I feel that some bit of light has left my soul and gone on to a glorious adventure. Sending you my love and prayers for peace. LeRoy

**LeRoy** - October 05, 2016 at 03:15 AM