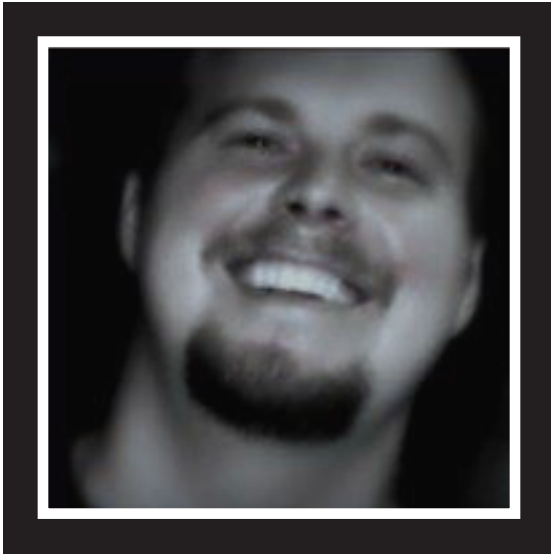


In Loving Memory of
Jonathan Campbell Hamilton

January 18, 1979 – May 12, 2013



Calvary Baptist Church • Simpsonville, South Carolina
Saturday, May 18, 2013 • 11:00 am



PRE-SERVICE: MEMORY LANE WITH JONATHAN

All music backgrounds written by Jonathan Hamilton

Lord, I Need You Ron Hamilton
Christiane Emory, Matthew and Rachele Whitcomb, Philip Emory

Video Jonathan Playing Songs He Recently Composed

Greeting and Opening Prayer Pastor Dean Taylor

Congregational Song – Page 165 *How Can I Fear?*
By Ron Hamilton

Thoughts from a Grandfather's Heart Dr. Frank Garlock
Read by Dr. Steve Hankins

Congregational Song – Page 176 *The Secret Place*
By Cheryl Reid and Jonathan Hamilton; Sarah Barker, Soloist

Thoughts from a Father's Heart Ron Hamilton

Congregational Song – Page 680 *Rejoice in the Lord*
By Ron Hamilton

Thoughts from a Doctor's Heart Dr. Jeffrey Craddock

I Am Weak, but You Are Strong Calvary Choir
By Ron and Jonathan Hamilton; Jason and Megan Hamilton, Duet

Memories and Message of Hope Evangelist Ben Farrell

My Hope Is Jesus Calvary Choir
By Ron Hamilton; Ben Farrell and Sarah Barker, Soloists

Closing Prayer Major Ron Brooks

Postlude *God is Good*
By Ron Hamilton; Christiane Emory and Rachele Whitcomb

GRAVESIDE SERVICE: PASTOR ROBERT GRAZIANO

Woodlawn Memorial Park, 1901 Wade Hampton Boulevard, Greenville





PALLBEARERS

George Clements, Philip Emory, Daniel Hendrix,
Nathan Leupp, Dwight Reid, Matthew Whitcomb,
and Jason Hotchkin

ABSENTEE PALLBEARER

Evangelist Ben Everson

It is a special thing to find a friend you can belly laugh with. Jonathan was that kind of friend to me. We could talk about anything without fear of what the other person thought. That was something special.

I travel for a living, so we were never able to just “hang out” all the time. But we would always pick up where we left off, share some music, share some thoughts, and share some laughs. I’m going to miss you my friend; I’ll think of you each time I sing *Shadow of the Cross*. This life is just a quick cloud of vapor; I will see you soon.

Your friend, Ben Everson

IMMEDIATE FAMILY

Ron Hamilton, Father	Clayton Farrell, Nephew
Shelly Hamilton, Mother	Chloe Farrell, Niece
Ben Farrell, Brother-in-Law	Frank Garlock, Pop Pop
Tara Farrell, Sister	Flora Jean Garlock, Nana
Alyssa Hamilton, Sister	Leota Hamilton, Grandma
Megan Hamilton, Sister	
Jason Hamilton, Brother	

Beloved Uncles: Dan, Randy, Terry, and David

Beloved Aunts: Marty, Nancy, Holly, and Gina

Beloved Cousins: Jeff, Reagan, Blythe, Torie, Gareth; Taylor,
Chandler, Connor, Spencer; Jenna, Katie, Kristen, Ali; Jordan,
Seth, Moriah, Micah, Cherith, and Ethan



My dear precious son, Jonathan,

I remember the day you were born. I felt I was going into the valley of the shadow of death to bring you into this world, but what a joy as we first saw our “gift from God” – our Jonathan.

You were a very active child, loving to be funny, and loving to annoy your sisters, Tara and Alyssa. But our family had many wonderful times together with you and because of you – memories that we will always cherish.

In high school you went through several tumultuous years, but you came out on top. I loved your fervent witness to others for our Lord. I loved going to all your soccer games and taking you to your piano lessons.

Jonathan, God gave you a priceless gift of writing beautiful music. I remember the first contest you won in elementary school for the three short piano pieces you composed: *The Turtle’s Last Dance*, *The Donkey Two-Step*, and *The Baby Chick Shuffle*. The titles alone display your great sense of humor.

I wish you could be present to hear what your family is having the privilege to hear: You are greatly loved. There has been an outpouring of love from neighbors who observed you, friends who had contact with you, and family members who knew you intimately. Common descriptions that we are hearing over and over are: kindness, cheerfulness, always smiling, funny, generous, unselfish, etc.

You made our world a better place.

Thank you for making my days easier by going on numerous trips to the grocery store for me; cooking delicious gourmet dinners every night so that all I had to do was come home from work and sit down to a feast – which almost always included homemade bread; doing everyone’s laundry every Saturday, although you were never asked to do it; not allowing me to clean up the kitchen and insisting on doing it yourself; cleaning the house; and more.

I will forever remember our countless evenings together watching our favorite movies or just “philosophising.” I will forever remember the countless hours you spent listening to Pastor Mark Minnick’s preaching CDs. I will forever remember your love for Evangelist Tom Farrell – and we will be forever grateful for the love he poured into your life.

I will forever remember the weekly calls from your Uncle David Greene inquiring after your well-being and assuring us of his daily prayers in your behalf. I will forever remember the good times you and Randy had together working on all of our cars.

My heart has ached for the constant mental tumult you experienced with your mental illness over the last 16 years. You were very brave, my son! Much of the time your family had no idea you were suffering inwardly as you cheerfully served each one of us. You are dearly cherished and remembered.

Your pain and suffering are now over. Our pain is great with your loss, but the relief from knowing that your pain is over is greater. How can we not be grateful?

I miss you so much already; you were such a part of our lives. My greatest comfort is that now you are whole and well – safe in the arms of Jesus.

I will always love you with all of my heart. I will see you soon.
– Mom



In 2008, Jonathan wrote a beautiful tune. He asked our friend and co-worker, Cheryl Reid, to pen some lyrics on the theme “I want to stand on higher ground.” The resulting song, *Higher Ground*, has already been recorded multiple times and has been a blessing to many.

HIGHER GROUND

Music by Jonathan Hamilton. Lyrics by Cheryl Reid.
Dedicated to a close friend, George Clements.

*I want to stand on higher ground –
to know His voice – the sweetest sound.
No turning back, I'm heaven-bound.
Lord, lift me up to higher ground.*



THINKING OF JONATHAN

Jonathan was such a special brother to us. We will always cherish the sweet memories we have with him – from his contagious laughter and determination to his obvious love for us and others.

Not only was he a great older brother, he quickly became a favorite uncle as well. In the past few years, especially, he was such a selfless servant to our family.

We will miss him so much.

– Tara, Alyssa, Megan

Jonathan was the sweetest and kindest brother anyone could ask for. He had the gift of being able to look past his own suffering and show the love of Christ to everyone he met.

I wish I could have known him before his illness began, but God has given my family and me so many blessed memories. I loved him with all my heart and soul, and I just wanted his suffering to be over.

Now he is rejoicing in heaven with our Lord and Savior and is finally healed! I will miss him every moment of every day. God allows horrible circumstances in our lives for the sole purpose of making us stronger and able to have more of an influence for good in the world.

I pray that I will learn to be as genuine as my brother was and always remember to look outside my own pain to see the suffering of others.

– Jason