

Joshua J. Thomas

First Breath: December 20th, 1978

Re-Born in Jesus Christ: Fall of 1982



Now living on and worshipping
in the very presence of his Savior,
Jesus Christ

Celebrating the life of
Joshua J. Thomas

September 25th, 2022, Woodland Christian Church

Order of Service

Welcome and Prayer - Adam Fischer

Scripture Reading: II Corinthians 4:6-10,16-18 and

Psalm 40:1-3 - Andy Smith

Congregational Singing: *Look Ye Saints The Sight is Glorious*

Memories of Joshua

- ◆ Scott Kirkland
- ◆ Craig Piguet
- ◆ Mical Merkwan
- ◆ Elijah Merkwan
- ◆ Keon Pendergast

Joshua and the Gospel Call - Pastor John Thomas

Instrumental: *The Ninety and Nine / All the Way My Saviour*

Leads Me - Corrie, Caleb, and Christiana Thomas

Congregational Singing: *Near to the Heart of God and*

Nearer, Still Nearer

Memories of Joshua

- ◆ Adam Fischer
- ◆ Paulette Morris
- ◆ Forest Teele
- ◆ Scott Smith
- ◆ Pam Merkwan

"But God..." - Joshua Thomas, January 30th, 2022

Psalm 134: A Special Presentation...By Many and All

This song became one of Joshua's favorites to both teach others and sing together in groups, large and small. He loved to emphasize that as we first give praise to God, it blesses Him and then becomes a blessing to those around us.

Fully Following Christ - Pastor Calvin Blom

Congregational Singing: *Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me*

Joshua, In One Word - Rebecca Thomas

This, My Light - Keon Pendergast

Benediction - Pastor Calvin Blom

Congregational Singing: *When We All Get to Heaven*

Light Reception Following in the Fellowship Hall - Join Us!

Help Us Remember...

A Big request: A point of great sadness for me is knowing that some of our younger children won't have the chance of knowing or remembering their daddy as well. Although they will have the stories of those here in our family, it still doesn't provide a fuller picture of who Joshua has been. I wondered if you could help us out...

If you have a memory, interaction, thought or encouraging word about Joshua that you could share, please write/type it out and send it to me: 3yellowdormers@gmail.com or: 77651 Baldwin Rd. Rainier, OR 97048

If you brought a written copy to the service today, there is a basket provided in the foyer for your notes. I will compile everything I receive into a binder to be shared with our children over and over into the future.

-Rebecca Thomas

Memorial Gifts...

Joshua's request was for memorial gifts to be made to Shepherd's Heart International Ministries (SHIM). You can learn more and make a gift here: globaloutreach.org/giving/project-details/smith-shim. To give, enter the amount under "Smith SHIM" and enter a notation of the reason for your gift.

Joshua Thomas was born on December 20th, 1978 in McMinnville, Oregon. He grew up as a pastor's son, and after giving his life to Jesus at age 3, spent his whole life serving the Lord in ministry, outreach and in his daily life. At the age of 15 he preached his first sermon at Mayger Church. This was the first of hundreds of preaching opportunities in the years to come.

In his late teens, Joshua attended ALERT (Air Land Emergency Resource Team), an intense physical and spiritual training ministry equipping young men for a life of living for the Lord and serving others. He was part of an ALERT men's ensemble that traveled all over the country, even singing in the White House! At his home church, Joshua enjoyed working with young men, leading youth in music ministry and apprenticing under his pastor dad.

On September 22nd, 2001, he married Rebecca Fischer, who he met through Mayger Church, and sister of his best friend, Adam. The two spent the first several years of marriage, busy in music and children's ministries, welcoming Corrie, Christiana and Caleb into the family while living in a travel trailer and building a new home nearby. Joshua started Jj's Cornerstone Construction, working alongside admired local friend and contractor, Randy Trass. In 2007, he became a Nalco Chemical employee, servicing Wauna Mill for about ten years.

In 2006, Joshua and Rebecca helped lay the foundations for Heritage Bible Church. And for the next twelve years, if work and home didn't keep Joshua busy, this did! He was an instrumental part of leadership, serving, and preaching.

In 2017, Joshua again started his own business, Generation Builders, which was the fulfillment of his love of designing and building. Joshua and his sister, Pam (with some kids on call when needed) have worked together to build houses, additions, outbuildings and more.

Joshua and his wife Rebecca have been loving and encouraging parents to their ten children, ages 19 to 4. A baby girl is due to be born in late November.

Joshua has been a fantastic daddy, loving match-box car races, baseball on Sunday afternoons and making forts in the woods. He has happily welcomed the myriad of animals that have moved in on the property, building sheds and putting up fencing as needed. His "play projects" have been numerous: a life-sized teepee, a double-decker platform in a tree, a reading loft, a 300 ft. zip-line and just last summer, a 200 ft. slip-n'-slide too!

Never a dull moment, time has been filled with homeschool, work "around the farm," family music-making, hunting, backyard games of soccer and Ultimate Frisbee, church ministry, community outreach, Bible study and prayer, fellowship with others...and a readiness to lend a helping hand.

Currently, the Thomas family enjoys fellowshiping at Grace Bible Fellowship, in Kelso, Washington.

The theme of Joshua's life has always focused on knowing Christ and making Him known. It's a life goal that one can confidently say that he met. He has impacted many, many people on this earth for Jesus, including family, friends, coworkers, clients, employees, people on the street or in the Home Depot line.

On September 1st, 2022 Joshua transferred locations to heaven-side, where we know he continues on "being Joshua", living out the greatest adventure ever, and looking forward to when we can share in that adventure together again one day.