

## **EULOGY FOR IVAN SPENCER**

Ivan Kirklin Spencer entered the Life Triumphant December 1, 2013. He was born to Lloyd and Nellie Spencer on August 12, 1935 in Trinidad, CO. He was the youngest child in the family.

In his childhood the family lived in many small southern towns in CO before moving to Denver where Ivan attended Jr. and Sr. High school. Throughout his childhood Ivan was a bit of a trouble maker. Since his parents were friends with the teachers, Ivan knew that getting into trouble at school was a bad idea because he would get in trouble at home as well. But that did not stop him from finding other ways to get into trouble. He would often swim in the Purgatory River even though his mother forbade it. He used to tell about the time he had been out by the rail yard picking up spikes to use as a gun to shoot the bad guys. Then he would stick them in his pocket. He came home late one night and his dad swatted his iron-shod behind one time with his hand. It about broke his hand so after that he used a belt.

Several times Ivan stole cars. When he was 13 and decided it was too cold to deliver paper on his bike so he stole his brother Keith's car. While he was out he backed into a fence, putting a crease in the trunk. When he got home he parked the car where it had been and quietly went back to bed. Keith turned it in to the insurance as a hit and run. Later when their dad discovered it was Ivan's fault he made Ivan reimburse Keith the \$50 deductible. Another time Ivan and some friends stole a car and were arrested for it. His dad left him in jail overnight to teach him a lesson. The only time he tried to take his dad's car he got caught before he could steal it. He thought his dad was asleep but as Ivan got to the car, here came his dad taking off his belt along the way. But his antics did not stop there. Ivan and his friends decided to run away from home one time. They hitchhiked out of town one night and an officer stopped them and told them it was illegal to hitchhike in Denver. This time the officer only drove them back into downtown and let them off with a warning. Then there was the time the youth group went on an organized hayride in Denver. They were going down Broadway and Ivan and others pitched pumpkins off the back of the flatbed truck at the passing cars.

By this time most of you are probably thinking Ivan was not who you thought he was. But remember most of those trouble years were when he was younger. And as we know he did finally begin turning his life around. When he graduated from High school he decided he wanted to be a preacher. He was going to go to Texas Christian University but one of his high school buddies was also going to be a preacher and talked him into going to Nebraska Christian College. After he got there he discovered it was the fundamentalist side of the Christian Church where there was no smoking, drinking, dancing, etc. He decided that was not for him and left after only one semester.

Ivan held several jobs throughout his life. He served in the Army at the end of the Korean War. He was an instructor for Arthur Murray's Dance Studio. He was a clerk for the Mine and Smelter Supply Co. when he met Leola. Ivan was friends with Leola's brother Lyle. One

day when they were going to the movie "Oklahoma" Lyle mentioned his sister was at home so Ivan suggested they pick her up and take her along. After that they spent a lot of time together and finally Ivan proposed. He said he asked several times before she finally said, "Yes." They were married May 30, 1957. Shortly after that Ivan came home and said, "Guess what honey, I quit my job." Leola's response was, "Guess what honey, tomorrow you are going to get another one." Ivan ended up going to trade school where he learned about the airlines. From there he went to work at Central Airlines which then merged with Frontier Airlines. When Frontier went bankrupt he worked for a season with H&R Block then he went to work for the IRS.

Ivan and Leola had four children: Kirklin, Jefferson, Susan, and Daniel. They raised them with much love and support. But perhaps the best gift they give their children was a strong faith. Ivan was raised going to church and living his faith was a big part of his life. He taught Sunday school classes, and sang in the choir in most every church he belonged to and served as a deacon in the Presbyterian Church. Some of his favorite memories were of spending Easter in Pueblo where the family would attend sunrise services then return home for breakfast and a day full of hunting Easter eggs and other activities. While Ivan regularly attended worship and other church activities he lived his life as a clear reflection of his belief in Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Ivan and Leola were always giving to those in need. One time they even opened their home to a young man who had been living in his car. The young man stayed with them until he got ahead enough to move into his own apartment. If anyone needed a ride someplace they could count on Ivan offering his services. He often was Leola's transportation to her various volunteer projects.

His faith even showed up in his workplace. While working for the airlines many people would come to him for support knowing he had a caring heart. After working for the IRS for a couple of years he had the opportunity to be an auditor. Within a few weeks he resigned from the training because he couldn't be hard enough. He always felt bad for the person he was to audit.

Ivan knew that he was a child of God and as a follower of Jesus he was called to serve God. He faithfully served God all his life and we know he has claimed his eternal reward. Someday we will all be united with him in the presence of God.

Ivan is survived by his wife, Leola; Sons: Kirk and wife Evelyn of Houston, TX, Jeff and wife Janet of Colorado Springs, CO, and Daniel of Houston TX; Daughter Susan of Akron, CO; Granddaughter, Veronica of Atlanta, GA; Step-Grandchildren, Matt and Mandy Omasta of Goffstown, NH and Ben Omasta of Bluffton, SC. He also has 3 step great grandchildren; One sister, Helen Scherr of Wheat Ridge, CO, and one brother, Keith Spencer of Hayden, CO; many nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Sent by his daughter Susan Spencer