

National Youth Ministries' Mark McGrath dies **Mon, 28 Jun 2004**

The Assemblies of God national headquarters and the national Youth Ministries office received shocking news Sunday morning as word that Mark McGrath, the global ministries director for the national Youth Ministries office, passed away Saturday evening. McGrath was 47 years old.

McGrath had been ministering at the Louisiana District youth camp during the past week, had traveled to San Diego Friday for an AIM commissioning service and had just returned on Saturday. When he arrived home on Saturday evening, he held a counseling session, then explaining that he was not feeling well, he went to bed. Later that evening, he passed away from an apparent heart attack.

Before leading the Arizona district as the district youth director (DYD) for 7 years (1993 - 1999), McGrath had worked with the youth in his home church, Victory Assembly in Tucson, Arizona. In 2000, he accepted a position at the A/G national Youth Ministries office in Springfield, Missouri. At the national office, he was known for his sense of humor, optimism and dedication to Christ.

"Mark was a man of God whose zest for life was revealed through a busy schedule that included pulpit ministry and many missions trips as well as administrative responsibility," says Tom Greene, national director for Youth Ministries. "However, his priority was his wife and sons. Along with his commitment as a husband and father, many across the nation were made to feel he was their best friend."

According to colleagues, McGrath's passing was completely unexpected as prior to this, he appeared to be in good health. McGrath leaves behind his wife Donae and four children: Dylan, 17; Griffin, 15; Conner, 12; and Sawyer, 8.

Alex McGregor, the Sun City missions director, was at the AIM commissioning service on Friday and drove Mark to the airport Saturday morning. He says McGrath's final message was impacting. "In his last service," McGregor wrote, "he spoke on the feeding of the 5,000 and told us that we need to be ready to give what we have to see God do His work."

"Mark's entire ministry was dedicated to students and their vision to touch the world with the gospel," Greene says. "His personal investment in thousands of young people will reap a great harvest until Jesus comes.

"In national youth ministries, we feel we have lost more than a Christian brother," Greene adds. "He was and is our brother."

McGrath's funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 30, at James River Assembly in Ozark, Missouri, with burial in Springfield. Viewing will be from 9 to 10 a.m. prior to the service on Wednesday.

A memorial service is also being planned at Victory Assembly in Tucson. Once finalized, the time and date will be posted on the church's Web site at <<http://tucsonvictory.org/>>.

http://rss.ag.org/articles/detail.cfm?RSS_RSSContentID=3303&RSS_OriginatingChannelID=1184&RSS_OriginatingRSSFeedID=3359&RSS_Source=search