



Gary Willis BIRKELAND**1945 - 2006**

Beloved son, brother, uncle, friend and mentor passed from this world on Tuesday, July 18th after a very courageous battle with cancer. Gary was born in Seattle on April 6th, 1945. He is survived by his parents, Ren and Joyce Birkeland, brother B.J. and Cheri, sister Rebecca Will and husband Larry, brother Mark and wife Teresa, seven nieces, one nephew, four grand nieces and one grand nephew. Gary also enjoyed a large and loving extended family of Aunts, uncles, and cousins and had countless friends. He graduated from Seattle Pacific University in 1967 and was a teacher in the Issaquah School District for the next 30 years.

Gary's passion in life was serving his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He attended Mars Hill Church in Ballard where he was active in volunteer ministries. His home was a constant beehive of activity as he hosted several mens groups over the years. Gary will be greatly missed by his family and friends but we all rejoice that he is now in the loving arms of his Heavenly Father. A Memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 27th, 2006 at Shoreline Community Church, 125 N.E. 185th, Shoreline, Washington. In lieu of flowers please make donations to: Assembly of God World Missions



/ Europe Acct #230477 / Le Cossec 1445 N. Boonville Ave., Springfield, MO 65802 or Agathos Foundation, P. O. Box 778, Everett, WA 98206-778. Gary Birkeland Memorial Fund online at <http://www.agathosfoundation.org/> Published in print on 7/25/2006.

(Source and Guestbook at: <http://www.legacy.com/nwclassifieds/deathnotices.asp?Page=Notice&PersonID=18600397>)



Guest Book Statement: A noble brother with a big heart, the true gift of hospitality, and an excellent wry sense of humor, Gary B will be missed by his many, many friends. I will remember Gary as one of the most honorable and spiritually honest men I ever met—always an inspiration to me.

He has gone to be with Jesus, where he now knows first hand the answer to that question that often haunted him, "How can I 'be holy as God is holy'?" Now he knows... and no longer through a glass darkly, but in the clear light of that new day, fellowshiping with the saints at the wedding feast of the Lamb. Shalom, bro.

---K.D.Kragen

"Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

John H. Sammis, 1887
