



## M. Dean Kilmer

October 29, 1949 - August 21, 2018

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, Dean's family would prefer memorials be made to the Moral Courage Foundation, P.O. Box 585, Waxahachie, TX, 75168, the Moral Courage Foundation (<https://www.moralcouragefoundation.org/donate/>) or to the Brown Street Church of Christ building fund.

M. Dean Kilmer, age 68, of Waxahachie, TX, went to be with the Lord on August 21st, 2018. He was born October 29th, 1949 in Alva, OK to Lauren "Bud" and Virginia (Andrews) Kilmer. Dean was preceded in death by his parents and brother Don Kilmer (Yukon, OK.). He is survived by wife Karen, son Keith Kilmer and wife Michele (Springdale, AR), daughter Kelly Jordan and husband Jonathan (McKinney, TX) and sister Kay Ann Lemen and husband Jeff (Oklahoma City, OK). He is also survived by loving in-laws Mona Crawford (Waxahachie) and Steve and Keitha Bailey (Waxahachie). Dean was "Papa" to six adoring grandchildren: Clay Kilmer, McKenzie Kilmer, Kylie Kilmer, Connor Jordan, Luke Jordan, and Tate Jordan.

Dean met and married Karen Crawford on Dec. 27, 1969 while they were still students at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. They enjoyed 48 years of marital bliss serving as a shining example of love and commitment to all who knew them. Dean was always present and available to his family for wisdom, prayer, advice, support, love and encouragement. Through his unconditional love and unending energy he ensured a lasting legacy of love for his family

Dean's great love for the Lord and for people led him to pursue a life of ministry. He began preaching at the age of 16 and he continued to preach until his passing. Dean received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Biblical studies from Harding University (1971) and Abilene Christian University (1992). He served the Lord's church close to 50 years. He ministered to churches in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Most recently serving as the Preaching Minister at the Brown Street (formerly College St.) Church of Christ for 14 years before retiring in 2015. His life verse was Psalm 118:24 "This is the day the Lord has made we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Dean was active in the communities in which he lived and served on numerous boards. He was a football coach in both Atkins, AR, and Cedar Hill, TX, until he decided to pursue full-time ministry. He led numerous seminars throughout his ministry career including marriage enrichment, Bible leadership, church growth, and spiritual development. He was also involved in many activities to promote leadership among young people, including being a Character Coach for Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Finley Junior High, teaching character development classes for the alternative school in Waxahachie, and coaching in recreational sports. Most recently he was passionate about working with Home Mission, a church organization that provides help, leadership and training for small congregations.

Dean was also a champion of living courageously and intentionally. He authored two books; Igniting the Moral Courage of America and Soaring Above the Circumstances. His book Igniting the Moral Courage of America was the impetus to the Moral Courage Foundation, which aims to inspire young people to live up to the moral standards of the Bible and encourages them to courageously promote those moral values in our society.

Dean Kilmer was a man of character and compassion. He had the unique

ability to make everyone he met feel important. Although he will be greatly missed, those who knew him will continue to be blessed by his life.

# Cemetery Details

## Waxahachie City Cemetery

300 S. Hawkins  
Waxahachie, TX 75165

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **24**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Brown Street Church of Christ  
2471 Brown Street  
Waxahachie, TX 75165

## Funeral Service

AUG **25**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Brown Street Church of Christ  
2471 Brown Street  
Waxahachie, TX 75165

# Tribute Wall



“ Liz Yon Leeth lit a candle in memory of M. Dean Kilmer



Liz Yon Leeth - December 01, 2018 at 02:45 AM



“ Bro. John Cannon just told me about the passing of my Christian Brother, Dean Kilmer. Dean was my minister when I moved to Paris, Texas at Lamar Ave Church of Christ. He and I worked together on projects that he led while President of Paris Founders Lions Club. Dean was a true leader and inspiration. God bless his family as the celebrate the life of a great man and Godly Leader. Nolan Graham, Bonham, TX.

Nolan Graham - September 09, 2018 at 02:49 PM



“ Dean was so inspirational to me.He would teach us boys to run up to the podium around LTC time and preach the word like we mean it.Dean also conducted my Mom's funeral in 2007 and he showed so much sympathy to us during that hard time.He will always be remembered in my heart and never let go. “This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” I can't wait to go to heaven because now I have even more of a reason.



Braden Lawhead - August 25, 2018 at 11:36 PM

JS

“ Was stunned & saddened to hear of Dean's passing. My heart aches & I offer my deepest sympathies to you Karen, Keith & Kelly & your families in your loss. Such a warm & friendly & positive man, it's hard for me to ever think of him without a smile on his face & all but impossible to be down for long when in his presence. He was such an influence & very much part of the foundation in our young family when we moved to Cedar Hill, mere babes in Christ. Throughout the years, many is the morning when my first thought has been, "this is the day the Lord hath made...." & has begun my day with a smile & a positive outlook. Many is the day that it's gotten me through a day when the last thing I could do was smile or feel hopeful. A simple powerful wisdom that I'll always hear him speaking. He will be sorely missed by so many whose lives he touched, none more so than his family who will miss his voice, his touch, his love & guidance & support. I pray the countless warm memories of the life you shared might bring you comfort. A knowledgeable & unique man, there'll not be another quite like him....thank you for having shared him with us, he's left quite a legacy in how he's touched so many lives.

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**Judith Winters Striplin** - August 25, 2018 at 05:02 PM



*The man that came into our lives when he knew we needed a true non judgmental true Christian that turned my faith in what I'd once believed to be politically motivated and served for only self gain.*

*Dean truly loved and cared without judgment nor criticism and you'd of thought he'd been a trusted friend all my life, although we'd just been introduced and his congregation was all as genuine as real class act! Dean would go do for others without question and thrives off getting to know my whole family and for Dean and his family's support and gave up their needs without question and truly thrived off knowing he'd a true impact on teenage kids and family who used his gift of giving unconditionally and made a huge impact on myself and kids to this date.*

*I know I'll never forget his impact on his teachings of true love and lived his life with what he believed and changed our lives all to his and wife and congregation that lived their life loving and truly fun real people! Truly missed but never forgotten by myself and daughter, Megan Caywood who by Dean's impact made her graduating from Pepperdine University and recently received The Forbes Too 30 under 30 in Europes top 30 Forbes in Finance.*

*Respectfully, Elizabeth Yon Caywood*

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**Liz Yon Leeth** - December 01, 2018 at 03:43 AM

SW

“ *Our sincere sympathy to all the family of Dean Kilmer. I met him many years ago (about 1977) when he was working with the church at Cedar Hill, TX. God bless all of you! In Christian Love, Steve Waller*

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**Steve Waller** - August 24, 2018 at 11:28 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of M. Dean Kilmer.*



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August 24, 2018 at 10:55 AM

CW

“ While living in Alva, Oklahoma, as a teenager, Dean began preaching at A very small congregation in Carmen, Oklahoma. Dean would take my brother, David Jackson, along to lead singing. It was easy to see he had a gift for ministries and serving others. My condolences to his family and all those close to Dean.

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**Carolyn Welch** - August 24, 2018 at 08:08 AM

SW

Dean was preaching at Lamar Ave church of Christ when i came there. i was so impressed with his love of God's Word, his energy, and most of all, his ability to answer any question with a Bible reference. I have quite a few notebooks full of sermon notes i took from his lessons. When I read through them, they still carry a strong message. I have missed Dean ever since he left here. He left quite a mark on the world. His legacy will live on, but his absence will be felt by every one of us who loved him. My prayers for Karen & all the family.

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**Sherry Welch** - August 24, 2018 at 10:51 AM

JV

“ Dean was one of the football coaches for Cedar Hill High school and worshipped with the Cedar Hill church of Christ. Later he started doing some preaching for the church, then finally gave up his coaching job to become the fulltime minister. Our son, Collin, played football while he was coaching. He was well loved by all of us and his son, Keith, & our son, Guy, became very good buddies as little boys, spending a lot of time together. He performed the wedding for our daughter, Sissy & Rick. So, Dean and his family have played important roles in the lives of the Vincent's. To Karen, Keith, Kelly & families you have our deepest sympathy & may God give you peace and comfort in your loss. We love you. Roy & Jettie

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**Jettie Vincent** - August 24, 2018 at 08:06 AM

ML

“ When I worked with Dean he always started the day with a hug. He was a joy to work with, a good gospel preacher and an even better bible class teacher. He always made me think. He will be missed by all who knew him. The world is a sadder place!

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**Margaret Lough** - August 23, 2018 at 10:56 PM

KC

“ Dean had such a positive impact on our boys. He took them under his wing and had bible studies at his house. He built golf clubs for Phillip, let the boys mow his grass, encouraged them to be Christians, and loved them. They adored and loved him too. The only time my dad ever came to church with us was when Dean was preaching. We will forever be grateful for his influence and love for our family. Such a great Christian man.

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**Karen Cato** - August 23, 2018 at 08:19 PM

MA

“ We will all miss Dean. I looked forward to nine holes of golf on Fridays. We couldn't go every Friday but I was always glad when he would call. We had some good conversations playing. And although he was a kind and gentle man. He could always find ways to give me a little dig right before a putt or a drive. Each time I tee one up I will think of him. There will be many "I remember when" moments. He was more than a minister. He was a good friend.  
Mike Arnold

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**Mike Arnold** - August 23, 2018 at 05:34 PM

JD

“ I remember the hearty handshakes he always gave the young kids! They adored him!

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**Janet Dyer** - August 23, 2018 at 05:24 PM

LF

“ Love the Beardsley Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of M. Dean Kilmer.



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**Love the Beardsley Family** - August 23, 2018 at 04:30 PM

PT

“ My sympathy to the family of Bro. Dean. While attending Lamar Avenue, Paris, I did not believe he preached but "talked" to me in his sermons. He was always up beat, friendly and energetic. I loved how he ran up on the stage and said "this is the day the Lord has made". In my 84 years of attending church I believe him to be one of the few great ministers. RIP Dean.

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**PETE TAYLOR** - August 23, 2018 at 01:18 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of M. Dean Kilmer.



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August 23, 2018 at 12:15 PM

CH

“ Dean was an encourager. I particularly remember how he shook the hand of children - up and down so big and they giggled. He encouraged our son, Patrick Hammack, to become a gospel preacher. He has been preaching for almost 20 years now. Dean did much good in his lifetime. I am very happy to say he is my friend and brother in Christ.

Carol Hammack

Paris, Texas

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Carol Hammack - August 23, 2018 at 09:35 AM

BB

“ My deepest sympathy to the family and many many friends that Dean has in his lifetime. He will be missed on this earth and Heaven has gained a wonderful saint. He has led many to Christ. He was a servant of God and his job has been completed here and he can enjoy the rewards of Heaven. My heart goes out to his family, to Karen, to Mona, to Kelly and Keith. God bless you



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Beverly Burleson - August 22, 2018 at 06:21 PM