

Vision Productions and LampLight Theatre Friends,

Nobody baked cornbread like Cecil. When he found out how much I loved his cornbread, he would make a special batch just for me, then disappear before I could thank him. That was Cecil – a silent servant. Visitors to LampLight knew Cecil as Billy’s Dad or head of security for the theatre. But to the rest of us (cast members, volunteers, board members, friends and co-workers), Cecil was so much more – he was family.

If you’ve been around the ministry, you’ve seen Cecil...behind the scenes-but always helping. Together, he and Lois were often the hands that made soup and sandwiches for the cast in between Saturday shows. He was the one that made sure “the hill” was free of snow and ice so we could make it safely to rehearsals. He was the one that we could depend on when our cars wouldn’t start – he was always there to help...he made sure. I could go on but he wouldn’t want that. What he would want is for people to remember not WHAT he did, but WHY he did it or WHO he did it for. He didn’t park cars for hours in rain, heat and cold for the glamour; he did it so people could hear the gospel.

Cecil and Lois understood God’s mission for LampLight and have served the Lord unselfishly – making sacrifices that most of us wouldn’t imagine doing ourselves. Moving onsite to oversee the property, Cecil and Lois gave up life as you and I know it, to be available to ministry 24/7.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

While we celebrate Cecil’s service to the Lord and rejoice in his new home, we know he leaves behind a grieving family, trying to adjust to their unexpected loss.

When it comes to finding the words to convey our sympathy to the family, I feel helpless and I imagine many of you feel the same. While we can’t ease the family’s loss, there is something that we can do. A long-time friend and supporter of the theatre suggested a monetary gift for Lois to ease the financial burden of funeral arrangements. Having sacrificed so much to serve in ministry, I would ask ministry friends to honor his service by helping as you can.

CAST MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS: To honor Cecil’s service in ministry, a cast and volunteer gift will be collected and given to Lois to help offset funeral arrangements. If you have ever been a cast member or volunteer for the theatre and would like to contribute toward this group gift, please contact me 423-765-3383 or email khfaithful21@gmail.com.

Cecil’s ministry at LampLight reminded me of the Parable of Honor at the Banquet that Jesus shared in Luke 14: 7-11.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸ “When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹ For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (NIV)

To some, the chair outside of the theatre in the parking lot might not have been considered an esteemed seat of honor. But early Tuesday morning, Cecil’s position changed as he heard the whisper,...“Friend, move up to a better place....you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests....those who humble themselves will be exalted.”