



## Delbert Wayne Penner

April 17, 1953 - June 28, 2024

Delbert Wayne Penner completed his earthly race on June 28th, 2024 peacefully surrounded by his family.

He is survived by his wife Jeannie (Miller), his son Marcus and his wife Melissa, his daughter Jillian Thompson and her husband Christian, his daughter Stephanie Liebe and her husband Michael, his son Travis, eight grandchildren, his sister Vera Friesen, his sister Janene Klaus and her husband Alan.

Del was born on April 17th, 1953 to Fred Penner and Dora Penner (Woelk) in Beatrice, Nebraska. After graduating from Beatrice High School in 1971, he moved to Goshen, Indiana where he met his wife Jeannie. Feeling called to serve the Lord in Europe, they packed up everything and moved to Bern, Switzerland in 1982 and then to Idar-Oberstein, Germany in 1985, where they faithfully served the Lord for 39 years. Del pastored and helped start four churches and later led a significant ministry to refugees entering Germany. In May 2024, Del and Jeannie moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma to be close to their children and grandchildren.

Del was transformed by the love of his heavenly father and this impacted every aspect of how he lived his life. He deeply loved his family and used every opportunity to pass on a legacy of faith and love to his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed reading, playing games, riding bikes and playing sports with his grandchildren and was never afraid of looking goofy to bring joy to them.

Del was loved by everyone and did not know a stranger. A ten-minute walk to the store would regularly turn into thirty minutes as he found people to talk to along the way. Del brought joy and laughter to everyone around him. His willingness to selflessly invest in the lives of so many, especially refugees, made him an admired friend and father figure. Everyone knew Del was the person to call if they needed hands to help move, a visit if they were lonely, a word of encouragement when they were down or a shoulder to cry on in time of need.

Del was always optimistic. He approached every aspect of life with a sense of wonder and awe. Del was gentle, kind and slow to anger. He always saw the best in people. Everything he did was done passionately and wholeheartedly. Without fail, you could find him early mornings every day spending time with his heavenly father. He loved journaling what he heard from the Lord and sharing it with others. He was a lifelong learner and took joy in researching scripture and the world around him. Exercising, especially jogging, was one of his passions. His runs took him through mountains in Switzerland, minefields in Kosovo, beaches in Sri Lanka, the backwoods of Angola and so many other places he traveled. He loved playing Yahtzee, watching Nebraska football, eating peanut butter and chocolate, listening to podcasts and watching good movies.

There will be a reception with the family on Friday, July 5th from 5-7pm and a Celebration of Life service on Saturday, July 6th at 3pm. Both events will be hosted by Harvest Community Church in Goshen, Indiana. In lieu of flowers, memorials to honor Del can be sent to Globe International (<https://globeintl.org/members/penner-del-jeannie>)

# Tribute Wall

WH

“ *May God's Love and Peace comfort you Jeannie, and all your family. Del is now with Jesus, and all the Saints will say ... a life well lived, good and faithful servant! Del's surrender to the Holy Spirit was complete, Del served God's Kingdom for over 40 years. Del and Jeannie blessed thousands of people. I was a high school friend, and knew then that Del was special. By the Power of the Holy Spirit, Del manifested God's Love to all who knew him. Love, Wes H.*

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**Wes Hubka** - July 05, 2024 at 07:51 PM

LI

“ *LOVE TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY*

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**LINDA** - July 04, 2024 at 03:19 PM

KG

“ *Für mich war er ein wunderbares Vorbild mit sehr viel Wertschätzung allen gegenüber. Ein Fels in der Brandung. Ich hoffe sehr, die ganze Familie findet Trost und Frieden in der Gewissheit, dass Del nun schauen darf, was er geglaubt hat.*

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**Karin Goeres** - July 04, 2024 at 04:59 AM

MI

“ Farewell Del,  
first contact we had, was a roundtable  
meeting of town marketing. After a lot of  
words, and more words and more more words  
- you told us, we would have to change into  
doing and realization, not only to discuss things that happend and  
would be happend.



All the years we shared time and place - this was your way: after all  
needed words where spoken - "lets go into realization to get an  
result". I always admired you for this force.

At the day of our first meeting, we also had time to discuss so many  
things, also about god and faith. After i gave you my view of things -  
and sorry for the way out lot of words i used ;) - you didn't try to  
change my mind. Not then - not later - and not at our latest met, at  
the dinner, when you and Jeannie told Monja and me about the  
comming time with your family in and around your new home.

You are an inspiring person - gone where you were expected and  
arrived, but still with us, with all the moments you shared and given  
to such many people as a present. Your spirit will still change things  
and let people switching their way, from only discuss and share  
words to action.

Farewell,  
Mike

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Mike - July 04, 2024 at 03:26 AM