



## Richard Lewis

February 19, 1933 - August 6, 2012

On August 6, 2012, Dick entered the presence of the Lord he loved and served. He was born in Steubenville, Ohio, and graduated from Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky with a B.A. in voice in 1955. In 1961 he earned a M.Div. degree from Emory University, Candler School of Theology, with further study at Columbia University, NY City.

Prior to coming to Sarasota he served for 6 years as alumni and recruitment director of Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and participated in the civil rights movement during that time. He has been a resident of Sarasota since 1967, and through most of that time served as a Realtor, most recently with Michael Saunders & Co. This is the community he loved and the company he respected. For many years he was actively involved with the Gideons.

The highlights of Dick's life were the relationships and friendships with those around him and the connections he made, and foremost was his love for Jesus.

He is survived by Mary, his wife of 57 years; his daughter, Helen Renee Lewis; his son, Richard W. Lewis and his wife Lisa; and his God-son Kevin Randall and his wife Jenna. He leaves 11 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren, with whom he played with joy when he had the chance!

Dick's memorial service will be at 11:00 AM Saturday 8/11, in the Life Center of the Church of Hope, where he worshiped, 1560 Wendell Kent Road, parallel to I-75 between University Parkway and Fruitville Road.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to, THE JESUS FILM, [www.jesusfilm.org/supportfilmteams](http://www.jesusfilm.org/supportfilmteams), to Church of Hope missions program or The Gideons.

Funeral arrangements under the direction of Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services Inc., 135 N. Lime Ave, Sarasota, Florida 34237 941-365-1767. Online condolences may be made at [www.gendronfuneralhome.com](http://www.gendronfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## **celebration Of Life**

AUG 11. 12:00 AM (ET)

Church of Hope  
1560 Wendell Kent Road  
Sarasota, FL

# Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Lewis*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Richard Lewis*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *It was a pleasure to have sung with Dick at Church of the Holy Spirit and other places we worshipped together. His marvelous voice, humble spirit, and loving attitude were always an inspiration. We'll miss him!*

**susanna pugh** - August 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dick was always a person we loved and a trustworthy friend. Our love, condolences and prayers to Mary and the family. Pastors John and Shelley Henry*

**John W Henry** - August 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dick will always be remembered not only for his kindly demeanor showing his love for all persons but a feel of trustworthiness and strength. He has earned his place in Heaven.*

*Blessings to his lovely caring family.*

**IRENE MALONEY** - August 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Dear Mary and Family,  
Dick was a man of God and a dear brother. He exuded the love of God and Jesus was the utter focus of his life. He has touched so many by yielding totally to God and God used His vessel in so many ways. The Kingdom of God has prospered because of Dick's surrender. He will be genuinely missed but as he so longed for his heavenly reward, he has gained it. The incomprehensible, overwhelming love of our Father is his. Soon, it will be ours. You are all in my prayers for God's comfort, strength and encouragement. Our King is coming. Heaven awaits. Glory divine. Let us all be faithful as we await our heavenly reward!  
?May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.? Romans 15:13  
Steve Spraker

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Steve Spraker - August 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ What an amazing man and an amazing life. Dick will be missed by all of us.

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Angela Scism - August 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ A sympathy card has been sent to the family of Richard Arthur Lewis c/o Gendron Funeral & Cremation Services, Inc. funeral home.

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August 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ It is hard to realize that my brother for over 75 years is no longer with us. Life without him near or at the other end of the telephone is and will be difficult. As his younger brother, he was my protector, role model, guide and inspiration. One year together at Asbury University, he in his senior year and student body president, and me a lowly freshmen, gave me pride and confidence I needed to face the world away from home, For the many years following, or having him answer my phone calls, was always very special moments for me. I have never known anyone so talented and so full of joy and love. I am so grateful for the few days we had celebrating our last Christmas together in 2011. I was looking forward to the same this year, but it was time for him to go home to celebrate with our parents, baby brother and sister. I will forever miss his love, encouragement and acceptance. Life will never be the same without him, but life goes on with the inspiration and love he gave to me.

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**Jerry Lewis** - August 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ Rodger and I are so very blessed to have had Dick in our lives for the past 10 years or so. We will miss him greatly. Florida just will not be the same without him although he will be in our hearts forever. Mary, we are with you today on his celebration of life in thought and prayer. With love and sympathy.

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**Rodger & Nancy Lewis** - August 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ God only took Dick so he could laugh more. Rest in peace, Dick. My deepest condolences to Mary and family. What a great man!

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**Nancy Burton** - August 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ Dear Renee and Mom,  
The heavens are receiving this beautiful child of God with joy. My heart is with you during this celebration of life. The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
Love,  
Nelson

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**Nelson M. Canario** - August 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Dear Mary and Family - So sorry for your loss. Dick was a wonderful person. We loved him so much.

*May the Lord comfort you in his going Home.*

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**Tim & Pam Fulton** - August 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NK

“ Mary, I think you know how much I love you and Dick. Though I haven't been able to see you a lot in recent years you are still counted as precious friends and how I cherish those years of doing music together. Dick's beautiful, full, rich voice was such a gift, but a gift he had worked to develop wonderfully. To listen to him sing would fill one with great joy and a sense of awe for the God he loved. ...and how much I loved to have him read scripture!! I am praying for you as you learn to live without him beside you. How difficult that must be. You two are so close. I will continue to pray for you. May you be filled with the richness of God's mercy, love and very real Presence.

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**Nancy Kenney** - August 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ We met Dick on line and he helped us get the house we are currently in. His insight into the ministry we wanted to found in Sarasota was profound. When a second place was needed he actually brought people to help us march around that property and claim the land for Jesus. His advice, prayers and encouragement in the midst of many struggles to get SonHaven off the ground are a lasting memory. When got our home he walked out the front door and said there were two peace doves on the roof. What a gentle, thoughtful man. He is singing loudly and joyfully in the presence of our King of Kings. Oh how we will miss his deep bass voice, his joy in finding ways for this ministry to grow and his unfailing spirit-led advice. We are joyed that we heard from him on the day he got out of hospital on Sunday. What a testament to God's unfailing love in our lives. SonHaven has him as part of the foundation. The Hilt

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**Rev. Dr. Thomas H and Dr. Carolyn Hilt** - August 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ He was a wonderful friend and a fabulous person. He will be missed! My love and sympathy to Mary and the rest of his family.

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**Cindi Ernst** - August 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ What I remember most about Dick is that when I had my phone duty downstairs and he was on floor, he would talk to Mary and when his conversation was coming to an end with her, he always said I love you and I'll see you soon. I told him he was just a mush when he talked to her. He said "what can I say, after all these years I love her more everyday".

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**Alyce Cronin** - August 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ Dear Aunt Mary,

*So sorry to hear about Uncle Dick! He will be missed! We love you lots and are praying for you!*

*Love,*

*Pam*

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**Pam & Mark Linstedt** - August 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *Wow what a fantastic man with such a beautiful spirit. Laughter followed him and he generated kindness to those around him. I have been lucky to have experienced this. Mary please know that my thoughts are with you and I am only a phone call away. Love you dearly.*

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**Jody Geiger** - August 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ *so sorry---i wish i could have said good-bye to dick---i knew him from st armands office. he was always a pleasure to be with and work with...he never said an unkind word to anyone...and was always interesting to talk with...i especially enjoyed sharing civil rights stories with dick...he had a BIG heart good luck andy*

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**andy franklin** - August 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ Grandpa i will miss you very much, I am very thankful for the 28 years i had with you, Everything was always an adventure, You were a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. You were an exceptional image for me growing up and I am honored to be your grand daughter, I will always love you and hold our wonderful memories close to my heart.

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**Michael Garman** - August 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Dick was a wonderful friend and brother in Christ to me for 13 some odd years. He will live in my heart as a father figure and friend to me. More importantly, he will live in my heart as a spiritual mentor, not by his words necessarily, but his actions and boldness for Christ. He was a role model for me in the area of boldness for Christ. Dick's last action in my presence was to witness to my assistant in a loving way. He asked him "What are you going to do with Christ?" I will always be inspired to be a better witness because of Dick. Well done Dick! I will miss him dearly but am delighted he is with God in Glory. My deepest condolences to Mary and family.

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**Jay DeWitt** - August 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RY

“ Dick was a friend, deeply loved by all who knew him. We will miss him greatly in our Church Family and Class. A kind gentle man who had a great love for His Lord Jesus. His sudden home going has left a void in all our hearts. May God's Spirit comfort your heart Mary and your family members. We love you.

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**Rev. Earl Young** - August 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ My deepest prayers and thoughts are with his wonderful wife Mary and children. Dick was a wonderful resident that I had the honor of getting to know throughout the years of living at The Winds. Always in our conversations his love of his life (Mary) would get brought up with a smile. Then it would turn to "If you have someone that stops by with a "Million Dollars", I accept their offer...Again, Dick writing this gives me another chuckle :) You will always be in many people hearts.....

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**Kellie Benish** - August 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

HR

“ Oh, Daddy, I have utterly adored you since the day I met you! Thank you for a lifetime of laughter and love, adventures and discoveries. Thank you for showing me the way. I will miss you terribly. I look forward to one day, when we will play again. I love you Daddy..

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**Helen Renee** - August 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ET

“ Mary, we think you know the love we had for Dick and have for you. Our hearts are heavy. We pray that the Lord whom Dick served and loved so much will cover you with his grace during this time of great sorrow.

*Love in Christ the King,*

*Ervin and Sue*

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**Ervin and Sue Thompson** - August 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ *May YHWH's peace be with the family and may you always find joy in your memories of your husband, your dad, your grandfather and friend.*

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**Bob and Marlene Davis** - August 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *What a dear, dear man! We didn't know Dick long, but we treasure the precious times we shared. His gentle spirit and tender ways radiated the love of Jesus. We love you, Mary, and pray for God's Presence to encompass you and your family, today and all the days to come.*

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**Don and Nancy Beghtel** - August 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I will always remember Dick as a godly man with many talents that he used for the Lord. I remember hearing his beautiful voice when we sang in choir or hearing him play the piano. During the years that I was ministering at the Juvenile Detention Center, Dick always made certain I had plenty of Bibles to give out to the youth who wanted them. He was such a thoughtful and kind man. Another word I would use to describe Dick is Wise. He always had such godly wisdom to add to a discussion.*

*I will never forget when Mary and Dick drove up from Sarasota to bring me a home cooked meal while I was recovering from surgery. It was such a blessing, but the biggest blessing was that they both took the time to pray with me while they were here. I know he is in Heaven now singing with the largest choir ever. I pray for all of his family and friends as I know he will be missed dearly. Please call me if there is anything I can help you with.*

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**Tami Higgins** - August 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ I was blessed to have know Dick in the real estate business world. Anytime our paths crossed he always was kind, honest and a person of his word. Imagine my surprise to find him & Mary at Church of Hope! What a blessing to share our love of God with such special people! 2 Sundays ago Dick sang a beautiful solo in our Sunday school class on a moments notice. It was beautiful! His voice always made us stop and listen to him as he had a wonderful gift of sharing God's love thru his singing...We will miss him alot.....

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**Bonnie & Larry Adams** - August 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ The verse on which Dick based his life is "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."  
Galatians 2:20

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**Mary** - August 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM