



## George D. Zimmerman

October 14, 1943 - January 12, 2021

George D. Zimmerman, 77, of Cornwall, formerly of Lebanon, passed away Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at the Wellspan Good Samaritan Hospital. He was the husband of Susan C. Smith Zimmerman whom he married in 1965. George was born in Lebanon on October 14, 1943, son of the late Joseph E. Sr and Marjorie M. Mader Zimmerman. He was an Air Force Veteran of the Vietnam War. George was a graduate of the Evangelical Theological Seminary, Myerstown and was Pastor of Calvary Church, Lebanon for 46 years. He was also the retired founder and CEO of Practical Compassion for 20 years. George enjoyed woodworking, fishing and golf.

In addition to his wife, Susan, George is survived by his daughters Julianne wife of Rick Forzese of MA, Jolynne, wife of Steven Shannon of Lebanon, Janelle, wife of Aaron Johnson of MD; his 5 grandchildren; his brothers and sisters, Joseph E. Zimmerman, Jr., husband of Carolyn Zimmerman of PA, Kay Bowman of PA, Karen Heffner of PA and Michael Zimmerman, husband of Laura Pasternak of MD.

Private family service will be held with burial in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. A Celebration of Life for George will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorial contribution in George's memory may be made to Practical Compassion at [www/practicalcompassion.org](http://www/practicalcompassion.org)

# Comments

---



“ I'm eternally grateful that George took the three-hour trip every week to State College to teach. I was among the many who benefited from his teaching. In fact, I will be giving a version of his Off the Wall Devotion sermon about the Luke 7 woman on August 1st. My heart breaks for all who have known and loved him and are still here.  
Patti Thor, State College, PA

**Patti Thor** - July 18 at 11:23 PM

---



“ Words fail me. You, George, were such an integral part of my younger years. The world is dimmer without you, but heaven is all the more special. Suzy, Julie, Joey, and Janelle, love and hugs to you and your families at this difficult time. Mary Alice

**Mary Alice Bassa** - February 28 at 05:50 PM

---



“ Finding the words is difficult. I loved him. “...George, you were always there for me. Always had my back covered. ALWAYS! Protected me even when it wasn't politically good for you. And that's because you cared more about others – than what others thought of you. ...Just didn't care to waste the time to protect your own reputation. What a rare gem you were on this earth!”

“One of the best advices you ever shared with me was your 2-2-6 principle. Remember? That no matter what I did; two people were going to love me. Two would be angry and hate me. And six just wouldn't give a damn. ...And that was because I just wasn't that important to others. I suppose you realized how self-centered I tended to become. Thanks for the honesty. I needed it.”

“Thanks for the long nights, the warm bed in a cold house, opening the church to Kathy and me whenever we were in the area, and for just being you.”

“Finally...though you never said it back - I loved you. Still do. And it's okay...I always knew you loved me. Didn't need to hear the words. See you again, someday.”

“So many are missing you. ...Yes, you were loved.”

Rod Pruitt

**Rod Pruitt** - February 06 at 09:35 AM

---



“ Dave and I got to know Zim when he and Sue started to work at Bethany Children's Home. We became friends immediately and enjoyed being together constantly. Zim was a student at the Seminary in Meyerstown. Julie was my pride and joy. Zim was always there for us know matter what was happening in our lives. He and my husband Dave enjoyed each others sense of humor as Sue and I just would look at each other smiling but shaking our heads. Dave has passed away but I speak for both of us...we loved you Zim and will carry you in our hearts forever. God bless you Sue and your family...you all have been the best and continue to be in my heart now and forever

**Beverly Beahm** - February 05 at 02:43 PM

---



“ George, thank you for fostering such an amazing church experience for me and my family and teaching us the way and helping me find my spirituality.

**Thomas** - February 02 at 03:11 PM

---



“ One Life  
A Living Testimony to what God will accomplish through one willing servant  
Lives Changed Forever

Thank you,  
Max and Chuck Brandt

**Maxine Brandt** - February 01 at 11:44 PM

---



“ Kim and I are so grateful to George Z for the wonderful and Christ-filled teaching we received from him over the years. The nurturing, love and attention we received from George and Susie over the years is unparalleled. Thanks to George, we now have a much better and more accurate view of the Old Testament and how it is inextricably connected to the New T. In short, his teachings have given us a new and richer perspective and appreciation of who Yeshua Jesus is -  
Also, we want to thank Suzie and his three daughters who without which George could not have given so much of himself - We thank you thank you thank you all  
And we would be remiss to say we will miss him very much - and we KNOW we shall see him again in that place reserved and prepared for His people by our Lord Jesus.  
Blessings and prayers to you all - We will NEVER forget!!

**Kim Baebler** - February 01 at 09:59 AM



“ George has no doubt been welcomed home by many saints whom he helped along the way. I'm grateful my mom and dad (Ken and Ethel Hassler) had the wisdom to take me to Calvary as a young teen. It absolutely saved my life! George sure had a way of telling a story that made it come alive. His teaching gave me a solid foundation that has allowed me to stand strong in Christ, even now some ,45 years later. George and Suzy were there to encourage me in my young teaching career, to walk me through marriage, and bury my parents. I'll always be grateful for they way they allowed the love of Christ to shine into my heart and life. Suzy, and girls, I'm so sorry for the loss of your husband and dad. He was one of a kind. I can't imagine how much you will miss him. Please know. His life impacted so many others and he was well loved by all.

Mary (Hassler)Stauffer

**Mary Stauffer** - January 17 at 07:06 PM

---



“ I started attending Calvary about a year before George retired. I had attended some of his Wednesday evening Bible studies, so I knew what a great teacher he was, and when I heard he would be retiring, I decided to attend on Sundays so that I would get the benefit of his teaching for as long as possible. The first time I was there, George walked up to me, held out his hand, and said simply, "Hi. I'm George." After that I began to get to know who he was, how sincerely kind and caring, how genuine. He was a true shepherd to his flock. He never left me in doubt of my value in his eyes. I loved when he called me (as I'm sure he called many others) "Little Sister." He was a very special man, and I am so thankful that I had the chance to know him.

**Kendra Patches** - January 17 at 04:47 PM

---



“ I wish I knew what to say, but there are no words for the size of the impact George had on my life. He built our community; what I so often think of as my bigger family. And he helped shape my understanding of God and faith, such that it has withstood things I never would have thought it could. Thinking of you guys. <3

**Jessica Hodge** - January 15 at 03:52 PM

---



“ My condolences to the family. I spent my young life with George as my Pastor and my Father was an Elder I got to see George alot as we lived near each other and he come to see my Dad for what we all called Patio time. George was there for my family when we lost Dad and He was there when I was married to officiate and to hold me and say with tears in his eyes that I was like one of his kids and to remember that my Dad is right there with us at this very moment. George was always making me laugh and he gave the best hugs and words of advice and wisdom when needed. I will miss hearing his response to How are you? Not bad for an old man. I can see him now with those that went before him but I really see Him and Dennis Barr and My Dad sitting on the patio singing and Laughing. my love to you all as you go through this time. Beth Bomberger Lerch

**Beth Lerch** - January 15 at 02:00 PM

---



“ My sincere condolences to Susie and all of their family for the loss of such a wonderful human being. My husband and I moved here from NY 24 years ago and sat under George’s leadership for 20 years. We felt so blessed to have found Calvary and George and Susie. They both lived their faith and were such a good example to us all. George had a way of making each of us feel important to him and I think we were. I believe it was a gift and his genuine love and care that he showed for me was healing. His preaching was solid and inspiring. I will never forget the Sunday we walking into church and he did a 50 minute monologue portraying himself to be one of the Romans who crucified Jesus. There was not a sound in the church! It was riveting and his description of that day was so rich that I was there witnessing the crucifixion. The great mercy and love of Christ was so profound that day I have never forgotten it. As when our beloved Dave Dorsey passed from this world, George is another we will never forget and forever be grateful for. You touched our lives in profound ways and you grounded us in scripture and instilled in us the need to understand the cultural context of Christ’s day. Our hearts grieve with the family as he is our father, friend, confidant and role model. Forever in our hearts.

**Pam Maiello** - January 15 at 12:28 PM

---



“ My sincere condolences to Suzie, Julie, Joey and Janelle and all the Zimmerman family. George was so much to myself and my wife.....Pastor, teacher, mentor and friend. It was at Calvary Church that I met my wife 42 years ago. George officiated our wedding and then years later officiated our eldest son's wedding. I later had the privilege to go on a trip with him to Haiti which led to many more and being involved in Practical Compassion. So many trips we grieved , laughed and rejoiced and laughed some more. I always thought that he could have been a great comedian. I have always been in awe of him and hold him with the highest respect. I will forever remember him and miss him. I know he is rejoicing with our Savior as we speak.....I imagine he is also making the angels laugh as well. Love you George!

**Fred Windholz** - January 15 at 12:00 PM

---



“ What a FRIEND we have in JESUS. Amen.

What friends the Colonel Myrl Allinder family also have in George and Suzie Zimmerman and Julie and Joey and Janelle who poured out on us the Love and Character of our Friend Jesus. We will meet again. And right soon, we think,....

"I WILL GREET YOU  
IN THE MORNING  
WITH A 'HOW DO YOU DO'  
WE WILL SIT DOWN  
BY THE RIVER  
AND WITH RAPTURE OLD ACQUAINTANCE RENEW  
YOU WILL KNOW ME  
IN THE MORNING  
BY THE SMILE  
THAT I WEAR  
WHEN I MEET YOU  
IN THE MORNING  
IN THE CITY THAT'S BUILT FOUR SQUARE"

Love is Forever,

Myrl and Martha Allinder  
Clearwater, FL

**COL MYRL ALLINDER USMC-Ret** - January 15 at 10:36 AM



“ Growing up with George as my the biggest blessings of my life. His teaching and love built the foundation of my faith. I remember calling with hard questions, and him patiently answering. He married Jesse and I. He dedicated all three of my children. His role in the important parts of my life was immense. I am so thankful for his faithful service to Calvary and his care and friendship over my whole life. The loss is a big, painful one, but I cry tears of joy knowing that the Father he so passionately taught about his whole life is welcoming him home with a “well done, faithful son.”

Love you all.

**Arissa** - January 15 at 10:18 PM

---



“ When George and Susie came to Cornwall Manor I knew instantly that George was one of a kind! I got to spend time with them while cleaning their apartment, I could hardly look at George with a straight face, he was one of the funniest people I have ever met. He liked to talk to people on his tablet while I was cleaning and I could tell by his conversations with his daughters what a great Dad he must have been, you could here the Love in his voice, when he talked to his friends also. He gave it his all in helping Susie with whatever she needed. I'm praying for his wife and Family in the days ahead, just knowing them the short time they were here at the manor I know what a huge loss it is for them. We will miss his humor and happy smile. With deepest sympathy, Sue Arnold.

Sue Arnold - January 15 at 09:02 AM

---



“ Suzy, I am so sorry for your loss. George was a wonderful shepherd, a terrific pastor, a fantastic mentor and a great friend. You and George were such fantastic role models, and I will miss him dearly. Prayers for you to be strong as you find your way through this life without him. God bless and I loved you both very much and while we mourn George's passing, Heaven must be throwing the biggest feast since Billy Graham was called home.



DeeAnn C. Remlinger - January 14 at 01:45 PM