



## Bernard Ahlers,

May 17, 1931 - March 11, 2009

Funeral services were held for Bernard Ahlers, Sr. at 11:00 AM on Monday, March 16, 2009 at the New Life Church of God in Bertha with Reverend Johannes Marsland of the Hewitt Church of the Nazarene presiding. Bernard passed away at the age of 77 years at his home in Bertha Township on Wednesday, March 11, 2009. Bernard Henry Ahlers, Sr. was born on May 17, 1931, the thirteenth child of Evert and Alice (Kramer) Ahlers at Trosky, MN. He grew up in southwest Minnesota and Clear Lake, SD. He was united in marriage with Irene Baartman on June 26, 1953 at Edgerton, MN. Bernie worked for farmers and drove truck for a couple of years then moved to Grand Rapids, MI in September of 1955. There he worked the night shift in the Keller Brass factory for over 10 years before moving to a farm by Egan, SD in March of 1966. In October of 1970, he moved his family to the farm by Bertha. Bernie was preceded in death by his parents Evert and Alice Ahlers; 5 sisters and 3 brothers; granddaughter Tasha Ahlers; and infant great-granddaughters Promise Ashley. He is survived by Irene, his loving wife of 55 years; daughters Marlene (Larry) Calhoun of Wadena, Donna (Jim) Peterson of Alexandria, Gloria (Dean) Templin of Tucson, AZ, and Nancy (Terry) Hendershot of Rose City; sons Bernie, Jr. of Parkers Prairie, Leroy (Joyce) of Eagle Bend and Jesse of Bertha; and 22 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by brothers James of Bolivar, MO and Bill (Rita) of Duluth; sisters Annetta Wiekamp of Clear Lake, SD, Frances (Cornie) VantHof of Milaca and Arlene (Eldon) Hunsberger of Rockford, MI; and many nieces, nephews and

friends. Honorary pallbearers were all of Bernie's grandchildren. Pallbearers were Linn Smith, Denis Rounds, Brian Westergren, David Rausch, Jim Rounds and Marvin Hemming. Interment was in the Zion Cemetery in Bertha Township.

# Tribute Wall

SF

“ To Aunt Irene and all the rest of your family, I just want to say that we grieve along with you at the loss of your husband, father, and best friend. Seeing your video brought back memories for me of visiting you in MN with my Mom and Dad. Mom always said that Uncle Bernie was one of her favorite brothers because she grew up with him, played with him and probably knew him the most. She said he was kind like her father Evert Ahlers. And I think looking at his photos again he looks a lot like Grandpa Ahlers. So more memories! I still have the Tupperware bowls that Aunt Irene sent me for a wedding gift. I was really impressed as Tupperware is THE BEST! So I remember growing up and visiting you on your farm and playing with Marlene and then in later life I remember you came to Tucson and visited my Mom when she was in her home. Also you told your daughter who lived there about Mom and she came to visit her several times. Mom always spoke about the "angel" who came to visit her in the hospital after she fell and left her a plant. That was a really hard time for her and your daughter's visit really meant a lot to her. To know that she had family that cared about her. I feel the same way about you. That is why my heart grieves at your loss because I too have lost my Mom and my Dad. There is something about that final separation that is so hard. But I am comforted that God said in His Holy Word that He will never leave us or forsake us. WE are not orphans. We are His Children. He gives us the hope of eternal life if we believe that Jesus died for our sins, if we are truly sorry for them, and ask His forgiveness. At this Easter time I think of His great love and sacrifice for me, but also His grace and resurrection (new life). I look forward to someday seeing all my loved ones in heaven, including Uncle Bernie. I pray Aunt Irene that God will put His arms of Love around you and comfort your soul at this difficult time, and give you peace. In His love, your niece Sandy

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Sandy Frieswick - March 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Hi- I am a Great-Neice of Great-Uncle Bernie Sr. My mom's name is Sandra Frieswick, and she was the daughter of Mathilda Vandenberg, who was the sister of Bernie Sr. I never knew him really. I'm interested in learning more about him. You can send me an email. Ny parents are ok with this. I am 13 years old, I love Volleyball and lot's of other sports, I am athletic, I am the tallest in my whole school, I am 5 foot, 11 1/2 inches tall. If you want to know about my other sibilings who are related to Uncle Bernie, here you go. Daniel is 29 and married to a girl named Jennifer. Jennifer is expecting a baby on August 6, 2009. They live in St. Louis, Missouri. My sister Rachel-Ann lives in Winder, Georgia, where she works as a vet assistant. She is 25. My brother Peter goes to Redeemer University in Ancaster, Ontario, and is 21. We're so sorry for your loss and we would like to get to know some of our lesser-known relatives. Thank you so much, Bethany Frieswick

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**Bethany Frieswick** - March 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ My sincere sympathy to Aunt Irene and all of the cousins. The video tribute was wonderful and brought back many memories. I still have one of the pictures that my mother Mathilda had of herself, Uncle Bernie and Aunt Arlene on the farm in their teen years. My mother loved the pictures she had of her family. In this time of grief, may the Lord comfort you and bring you peace. Blessings from,  
Marjolyn

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**Marjolyn (VanDenBerg) Todd** - March 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ So sorry to hear of Uncle Bernie's death. I remember going with Mom and Dad. (Pete & Annie) to visit. I remember the good food Auntie Irene always cooked. Uncle Bernie liked to tease a lot. Am thankful that I was able to see them at Evertt & Alice's Ann. Our deepest sympathy- Auntie Irene and all my cousins.  
Roy & Shirlee Wiebe

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**Shirlee (Ahlers) Wiebe** - March 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

A(

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I will remeber the good ole days when he use to tease me. Again, sorry for your loss.  
Angela Bogatzki Long.

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**Angela Long (Bogatzki)** - March 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

A(

“ Bernard Ahlers,

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**Angela Long (Bogatzki)** - March 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ I have several fond memories of visiting with Uncle Bernie and Aunt Irene when I was a child and we lived near Browerville. I will miss him. My prayers and thoughts are for Aunt Irene and the rest of the imediate family.

With Sympathy,

Theron

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**Theron Ahlers** - March 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ We were so sorry to hear of Uncle Bernie's passing. I have many fond memories of times spent with him as a child. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Alyson (Ahlers) Dietrich** - March 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ So sorry to get that phone call telling us of Bernie's passing. We are so thankful that we got to see him at the family reunion this past summer and also at your sale. We have some fond memories, especially when we lived up north near you and all the help you and Bernie gave us. We also had many good times too. We are still in Florida so will not be able to be at the funeral or visitation, but will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers. May God be with you all and give you the strength you need to get through this time of sorrow. Love always, Evertt & Alice

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**Evertt & Alice Ahlers** - March 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ I was saddened to see Bernard's name this morning. It brought back memories of 20 plus years ago when I would have Tupperware parties at Irene's and his home. I Always have felt that I knew them because of that "small" gathering at their home. Marlene, their daughter became a Tupperware dealer in my unit as the time went on. Fond memories are there. Diane

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**Diane & Larry Hahn** - March 11, 2009 at 12:00 AM