



## Randy Nelson

August 18, 1947 - November 27, 2008

Randy Nelson, 61, went to be with the Lord on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2008 after a long and brave battle with illness. He passed away peacefully in his own home. He will be remembered by many for his faith, wisdom, strength, and the kindness he showed to others. Randy is a retired teacher at Wadena Deer Creek High school for 32 years, a master wood-worker, trapper, and owner of Nelson's Fur Tree. His finely crafted furniture and tanned items adorn many homes throughout the area and beyond. Randy enjoyed trapping, hunting, fishing, and being with his family. He loved the Lord with all his heart. Every morning you would find Randy reading his Bible, and he enjoyed attending church at the Verndale Christian & Missionary Alliance. He loved being with his grandchildren, especially at their "lake place". Every Sunday and Wednesday Randy and his brother, Kevin, would chat on the computer, their favorite means of communication. Randy was born in St. Paul on August 18, 1947. He completed his Bachelors degree in teaching at Bemidji State University and went on to complete his Masters equivalency. Randy left behind his wife of 35 years, Vickie; daughter Shawna (Jeral) Croaker, ND, and granddaughter Jaida of Fargo, ND; daughter Jessie (Ryan) Schultz, and granddaughter Emmalee and grandson Kadin of Moorhead; mother and father Eljane and Andy Mertely of Hibbing; brother Kevin (Dee) Nelson of Mt. Iron; sisters Melanie Nelson of Hibbing, Cathy (Jim) Anderson of Plymouth, and Connie Mitchell of Aurora; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Kathy and David Morrison of Shoreview; and many nieces and nephews; and

his beloved dog Gretta, "the best dog I ever had" as Randy put it. Randy was preceded in death by his father Allen Nelson; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law Gail and Florenced Vaughn. Funeral services were held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church in Verndale. Interment was in the Leaf River Cemetery in rural Wadena. Honorary pallbearers were Sam Phillips, Bernie Nelson, Denny Barry, Craig Klawitter, Bud Berquist, Don Dague, Byron Westman, Fred Palloch, and John Kallevig. Active pallbearers were Kevin Nelson, David Morrison, Jeral Croaker, Ryan Schultz, Bert Jeffrey, Robert Zimmerman, Jason Ervasti, Terral Kallevigand Dewey Schmitz. Randy will be remembered as a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, son and brother. He had many faithful friends and fellow teachers that showed much kindness to his family. We want to thank the community for the support and compassion shown to us, we are truly touched by the kindness we have been given in the past year. 1 Thes. 4:13, 2 Corinthians 5:1, 1 Thes. 4:18 Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to know what will happen to the Christians who have died so you will not be full of sorrow like people who have no hope. For we know that when we leave these bodies we will have a home in Heaven. So comfort and encourage each other with these words. Randy would want you not to grieve for him, but to be happy for him.

# Tribute Wall

LB

“ Randy was greeted in heaven by Leslie Buettner, I am sure of it. Leslie loved Randy, Leslie attended child care at Randy's house with his wife Vickie as her child care provider. Randy was a good husband and father. My heart is grieving for you Vicki and family. I know you are drawing upon the Lord for your strength!

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**Leanne Buettner** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Precious family, we are so sorry for your loss. What a blessing to know Randy.

*We are so thankful for your visit last Fall. Out of that visit, we will always remember his kindness, wisdom, careful & thought-filled words, and his sweet & gentle spirit.*

*Seeing him get up early in the morning to spend time in his Bible and prayer. We are still blessed by his close relationship with Jesus.*

*He spoke so lovingly about his daughters and their families...and Gretta, too. What a special and tender love for his daughters. Girls, you are truly blessed to have such a wonderful Daddy.*

*One of my favorite memories of Randy was when sight-seeing - his excitement for the beauty of the mountains - almost leaping from a moving vehicle to get the next picture. Almost running down the mountain to get the next view. God was so good to provide such good weather and beautiful scenery - just for you!*

*Thank you for your visit, and mostly your friendship!*

*Blessings,  
Stan and Diana*

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**Stan and Diana Comeau** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ Dear Vicky & family, I'm so sorry to hear of your loss! You will be in my thoughts & prayers! God Bless you all! Stefanie Tapley Kittelson

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**Stefanie Tapley Kittelson** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Dear Vickie and Family,

*We are very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you. We celebrate with you Randy's life.*

*Sincerely,*

*Dave and Lynda Wosmek*

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**Lynda and Dave Wosmek** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

IV

“ Randy, I wanted to say thanks for everything you taught me as I was growing up and taking your classes. Your knowledge you passed on to me will never be forgotten.

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**Ivan** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DY

“ Dear Vicky, I am sorry to hear Randy died. I didn't realize he was sick. You are in my prayers and take care. Dede

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**Dede Yapel** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ Vicki and family we are very sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you. I hope the memories will get you through this time of sadness.

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**Kris Krejci** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ Dear Vicki and family,  
You are in our prayers during this time of your lives. We know what an impact he had on so many lives and he will be missed.

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**Alice & Mike Carr** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to you and your family. We are feeling a great sense of loss but also great joy and warmth at having had the pleasure and honor of knowing, working with, and sharing the love of the outdoors with Randy. Yes, our house is also filled with many of the fruits of his labors and in that sense he will always be a part of our life. Then too are the many memories that Jim has of the times he spent with Randy enjoying the out of doors. Randy was always there to help him out when a problem or project arose.

We feel badly that we are not there to honor his life with his family and friends but want you all to know that you will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

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**Jim and Rita Sundstrom** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AL

“ Vicki and family: My heart goes out to you and know that my prayers are with you as always. I am thankful for Randy's quiet gentleness that filled your home and touched Josie, Mercy and my life. God Bless and receive Randy for all the lives that he and Vicki have enriched with faith and prayer. I know my life has become richer in faith by knowing God's messenger in Randy.  
Your friend always, Audrey

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**Audrey Lesmeister** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SK

“ HE WAS ONE OF THE BEST TEACHERS I EVER HAD IN SCHOOL. THIS BROUGHT TEARS TO MY EYE'S WHEN I HERD HE WAS GONE.I REMEMBER I HAD TROUBLE PASSING IN MY 10th GRADE CLASS WITH HIM AND RANDY ASKED ME IF I WANTED TO PROGRESS & WORK HARD AND WANTED TO CONTINUE WOOD WORK THAT HE WOULD PASS ME.I SAID YES!!! HE PASSED ME!! AND HAD LOTS OF FUN WORKING WITH WITH WOOD AND RANDY TILL 12th GRADE.  
I STILL WORK WITH WOOD TODAY.

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**SCOTT KERN** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ What a wonderful man of God! It was a great privilege to know him and be taught by him through example. What a giver. His gifts to us are manifested in many ways, not the least of all the wonderful furniture that adorns our church that he sacrificially and lovingly made for us. He will be missed.

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**Allen Refsland** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM

HD

“ Dear Vicki, Shawna, Jesse and Nelson Family,

*My dear thoughts and prayers are with you during this very hard time for both our familes. I believe my dad and your dad are visiting in heaven and maybe hunting in the most beautiful place you can imagine. Randy will be missed.*

*Love and tears*

*Your Friend Hally Damm*

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**Hally Damm** - November 27, 2008 at 12:00 AM