



## Ralph H. Wheeler

June 18, 1940 - January 1, 2024

Ralph H. Wheeler, age 83, of Kankakee, quietly passed away just after midnight on Monday, January 1, 2024 at Ascension St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee.

He was born June 18, 1940 in Momence, the son of Howard and Eva Donaldson Wheeler.

Ralph graduated from Momence High School. He owned and operated The Western Auto Store in Momence from 1960-1983. He and his bride, Mary H. Brouillette married in August of 1961.

He spent the next 35 years as an Area Director for Wycliffe Bible Translators, raising needed funding for literacy and Bible translation globally. During his tenure with Wycliffe, he funded over one hundred translations in as many tribes and countries. The Capstone of Ralph's missionary career was traveling to Papua, New Guinea and dedicating the New Testament for the Sepik Iwam Tribal Group.

In his later years, Ralph enjoyed traveling, camping, and especially fishing. He mentored many young people and led Bible studies in his home for all ages. Ralph loved his family, church family, and had a special spot in his heart for his friends at Blue's Café.

Surviving are his wife, Mary H. (Brouillette) Wheeler of Kankakee; his children, Louann (Mike) Lucas, Lorie (Ron) Cain, Michael (Cara) Wheeler, Douglas (Christine) Wheeler; his grandchildren, Aaron (Rachel) Wheeler, Benjamin Lucas, Jacob (Madison) Lucas, Ashley Wheeler, Eric Wheeler, Heather (John)

Evers, Emily Cain, Olivia Cain, Lauren Cain, Sophia Cain, Preston Cain-Burger; ten great-grandchildren; and his best friend of 50 years, Jeff Jacob. Preceding him in death were his parents, Howard and Eva Wheeler; two sisters, Linda Koets and Joyce Ann Zinninger; and one grandson, Adam Cain. Cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial visitation will be held 5-8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 5, 2024 at River Valley Christian Fellowship in Bourbonnais. An additional memorial visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. memorial service on Saturday, January 6, 2024, also at River Valley Christian Fellowship in Bourbonnais.

Memorials may be made to River Valley Christian Fellowship, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Grace Christian Academy, and River Valley Animal Rescue.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JAN 5. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

River Valley Christian Fellowship  
800 Cardinal Dr.  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 933-7353  
<http://myrvcf.org>

## Memorial Visitation

JAN 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

River Valley Christian Fellowship  
800 Cardinal Dr.  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 933-7353  
<http://myrvcf.org>

## Memorial Service

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

River Valley Christian Fellowship  
800 Cardinal Dr.  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 933-7353  
<http://myrvcf.org>

# Tribute Wall

SK

“ Our condolences to Mary and the Wheeler family, and apologies for not being able to make it for visitation or the memorial service. We'll miss Uncle Ralph.

Scott Koets - January 07, 2024 at 10:49 AM

JL

“ Sending our love, prayers and condolences to the whole family. I remember Ralph very well when at Rvcf.



Jennifer LaVoie - January 06, 2024 at 12:45 PM

DD

“ Please accept our sympathy. Ralph was my boss at Western Auto in Momence. He was a good guy. Donnie and Tracy Douglas 🙏💜

Donnie and Tracy Douglas - January 05, 2024 at 09:13 PM

TD

“ We lived next door to Mary & Ralph for many years. Our thoughts and prayers to the rest of the family at this difficult time.

Terri DePatis - January 05, 2024 at 08:43 PM

JB

“ May God grant you contentment for the days ahead. Judean Benston

Judean O Benston - January 04, 2024 at 01:36 PM

RH

“ *Ron Hise lit a candle in memory of Ralph H. Wheeler*



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**Ron Hise** - January 04, 2024 at 07:55 AM

JF

“ *Jake Vaughn And Family lit a candle in memory of Ralph H. Wheeler*



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**Jake Vaughn And Family** - January 04, 2024 at 02:13 AM

DV

“ *Our sincere condolences to Mary and the rest of the Wheeler family. I worked at Western Auto with Ralph and he was a great mentor to me.*  
*Patty and Dennis Vogeler*

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**Dennis Vogeler** - January 03, 2024 at 05:10 PM

JE

“ *The Wheeler family has always been a supportive family of mine, as well as the community. Ralph is one who would always sit and talk with you, cared, and listened.*



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**Jeremy** - January 03, 2024 at 12:27 PM

MB

“ *Michelle & Randy Berg lit a candle in memory of Ralph H. Wheeler*



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**Michelle & Randy Berg** - January 03, 2024 at 12:24 PM

LH

“ *So sorry for your loss! He always had a big smile and was jolly! Sending love and prayers for comfort and peace. Laura Devors Hoover and Family*

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**Laura Devors Hoover** - January 03, 2024 at 08:59 AM

MR

“ *Marilyn Roy lit a candle in memory of Ralph H. Wheeler*



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**Marilyn Roy** - January 03, 2024 at 08:59 AM