

Isaiah 40:31

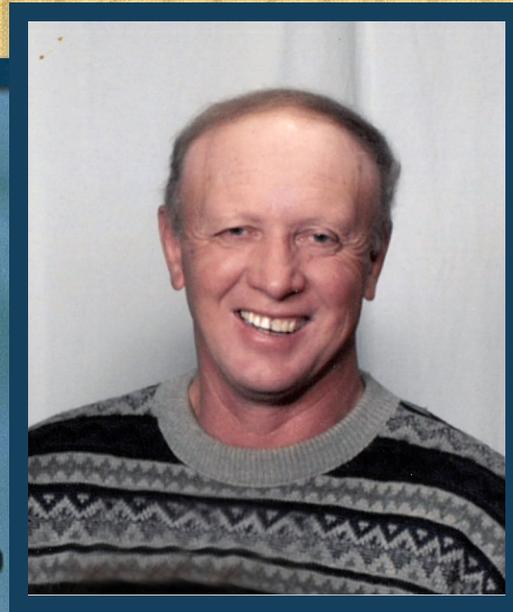
*"but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint."*



Arrangements Entrusted To

Miller, South Dakota

[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)



*In Loving*  
M E M O R Y

***Gaylon Charles Van Zee***

*August 24, 1946 - January 3, 2020*

Gaylon Charles Van Zee, 73, of Miller, passed away Friday, January 3, 2020 at Good Samaritan Society of Miller.

Gaylon was born August 24, 1946, in Huron, South Dakota to Tom and Helen (Jones) Van Zee. While growing up he attended the St. Lawrence Community Church with his family, and as a young boy, he asked Jesus to be his Savior.

As a child he attended country school in rural Hand County riding a horse to school each day and went on to graduate from Sunshine Bible Academy in 1964. He was a talented athlete and went on to play football at Huron College until he suffered a knee injury. After college he taught and coached at Sunshine Bible Academy. He met his wife Laela in the summer of 1971 in Aberdeen where he was leading a ministry team and she was the church secretary. A year later they were married and moved to Brookings where they helped start the New Life Educational Foundation as a ministry to college students. From there they were involved in many different ministries as well as mission trips to Mexico, Hong Kong and China.

Later they returned to Sunshine Bible Academy where Gaylon was Development Director and Laela school secretary. During this time, he also took over as the pastor of the small church in Gann Valley. After their years at Gann Valley, Gaylon and Laela became an active part of the Pleasant Valley Church community.

After returning to SBA they bought a small acreage close to Sunshine where Gaylon raised cattle and put up hay. He worked as a full-time carpenter during many seasons of life and remodeled the historic farmhouse on his family farm. He was an excellent finish carpenter and took real pride in his work. Throughout his life he remained on the farm working his cattle and putting up hay. He always wanted to have a place where he could visit and enjoy more people.

A passion of his throughout the years was coaching basketball and track where he touched many young lives. He loved deep spiritual conversations with good friends and telling stories of the good old days. He was known to many for his charisma, leadership and visionary spirit.

After suffering from minor strokes over the past decade, he suffered a major stroke in August of 2018 which marked the beginning of the last chapter of his life.

He is survived by his wife, Laela; five adult children: Victoria Day, Shannon (Janella) Van Zee, Jeremy (Janice) Van Zee, Matthew (Rebecca) Van Zee, and Shawna Van Zee; grandchildren: Garrett, Annaliese, Alexander, Daniella, Julianna and Jennifer Van Zee; siblings: Dale (Cheryl) Van Zee, Richard (June) Van Zee, Larry (Sherry) Van Zee, De Van Zee, and Ray Van Zee; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, David; and infant son, Jordan.

## *Gaylon Charles Van Zee*

August 24, 1946 - January 3, 2020

### **Prayer Service:**

7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 9, 2020

Reck Funeral Home  
Miller, South Dakota

### **Funeral Service:**

10:30 a.m., Friday, January 10, 2020

St. Lawrence Community Church  
St. Lawrence, South Dakota

Minister: Pastor Glenn Stewart

### **Pallbearers:**

Daniel Van Zee - Craig Van Zee  
Christopher Hass - Travis Hass  
Dylan Hass - Garrett Van Zee

Pianist: Craig Brockel

Vocalist: Lori Brockel

### **Musical Selections:**

*"The Love of God"*  
*"I Will Rise"*  
*"Well Done"*

### **Interment:**

4:00 p.m., Friday, January 10, 2020

Rose Hill Cemetery  
Langford, South Dakota

Immediately following the funeral service, everyone is invited to stay for lunch and fellowship with the family