



Keith DeVries

May 25, 1943 - December 6, 2025

Keith DeVries, 82, of Ackley, passed away Saturday, December 6, 2025 at The Village of Ackley. Funeral services will be 1:00 PM on Friday, December 12, 2025 at the Ackley United Methodist Church. A public visitation will be held from 4-6 PM on Thursday at the church. Both events will be under the watch of full Fire Department Honor Guard. He will be laid to rest at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, north of Ackley. Woodley Funeral Home and Crematory of Iowa Falls is caring for Keith and his family.

Keith Raymond DeVries was born on May 25, 1943 in Aplington, Iowa to Raymond and K. Muriel (Miller) Devries. He attended schools in Austinville and Ackley. On July 2, 1964 he married Darnell Eichmeier at St. John's United Church of Christ in Ackley. The couple later divorced. On June 15, 1991 Keith was united in marriage to Barbara George at East Friesland Presbyterian Church, rural Ackley.

Throughout his life, Keith held many jobs and roles. Some of these included: being a portable grain mill owner, working as a farmhand for Howard Miller as well as others; worked at the Farmer's Coop Elevator where he ran field sprayer and gas truck and served as assistant manager, served as the janitor for Ackley-Geneva High School and drove school bus. He also drove sweet corn semi for Ackley Canning Factory, drove semi for Lee Neymeyer Trucking and was an employee at Wagner Elevator in Parkersburg. For enjoyment, he

drove semi for Harold DeVries and even operated school bus again after retirement.

Keith enjoyed serving his community. Early in his young adult life he was a Jaycees member. He donated gallons of blood at different blood drives and was called upon by Ellsworth Hospital in Iowa Falls to donate in critical situations.

Keith was a member of the Ackley Volunteer Fire Department from 1974-1989 and served as Fire Chief from 1980-1988.

During the Christmas season, Keith would bring joy to the children, serving as Ackley's Santa. He even broke out the red outfit in July to visit homes of special families in the area. Keith served on church council for a number of years as well as the Ackley City Council. He belonged to the Ackley-Geneva Lions Club and the Ackley Heritage Center.

Keith enjoyed people and he was a proud supporter of the Ackley community for his entire life. He loved to visit and lend a hand wherever needed. He liked to tend to his flowers and share produce from the garden. He cruised Ackley on his golf cart often with his dog, Gretchen and took rides on his gold wing motorcycle. He was a proud Dad and Grandpa.

Keith DeVries is survived by his daughters, Christil (Terry) Schwebke of Austinville, Iowa and Emberley DeVries of Cedar Falls, Iowa; his step-daughter, Alissa George (Chad Martin) of Hampton, Iowa; grandchildren: Jacob Schwebke, Dakota Schwebke, Karleyanna DeVries, Haley Schriber-Paz (Effren), Gunner Martin and Breanna (Jordan) Kellison; great grandchildren: Genevieve Schwebke, Nevaeh Schriber, Brennen, Maximino and Kaiser Paz, Caden Martin-Bon Schmit and Gannon Kellison; sister in-laws, Janet Steen and Helen Steen and first wife, Darnell Eichmeier. He was

preceded in death by his parents; his mother and father in-law, Christian and Zola Steen and his second wife, Barbara.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant Hill Cemetery

Ackley, IA 50601

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 11. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Ackley United Methodist Church
416 Hardin Street
Ackley, IA 50601

Service

DEC 12. 1:00 PM (CT)

Ackley United Methodist Church
416 Hardin Street
Ackley, IA 50601

Tribute Wall



“ *I remember* ”

Mary Rameyer - December 17, 2025 at 11:55 PM

“When I think of my cousin Keith, I think of the many fun times we had on the DeVries farm in family get together. I think of tag football in the farmyard, sliding in sleds down the steep snow-covered hill south of the house, fishing in their creek, nut hunting in their woods, Keith sitting on a full wire basket of eggs, Dallas driving a tractor pulling a long rope towing several of us on sleds over the ice in the corn field and we lived!

But the most important memory of all is my memory of my cousin Keith being “Born Again”. These aren’t my words, those are the words Jesus spoke in John 3:3 “Verily, Verily, I say unto you, except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

I had tried for years to talk to Keith about God. I gave him gospel tracts but could never get his interest in spiritual things. But a person’s outlook changes when they realize they are nearing their own death.

On August 27, 2025, 100+ days ago, I visited Keith in the nursing home as I had several times this summer.

Following is how our conversation went after several minutes of conversation:

I said the Bible says we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Do you believe you are a sinner?

Keith said “Yes, I do.”

I said, “Keith I am not here to judge you. That is God’s job. My job is to show you what God says in the Bible about how to go to heaven, may I share that with you?”

Keith said, “Yes.”

I said, “Do you believe Jesus is the son of God?”

Keith said “Yes, I do.”

I said, “Do you believe Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sins?”

Keith: “Yes, I do.”

I said “Have you ever prayed to God and told him that?”

Keith: “No, I haven’t.”

I said, "The Bible very clearly says in Romans 10:9-10 "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession I is made unto salvation." Keith, we pray to God just like you and I talk with each other. Keith, you need to with your own mouth tell God what you believe in your heart. Would you like to do that now?"

Keith said, "Yes I would."

Keith prayed and told God he believed Jesus paid for his sins and that he accepted Jesus as his personal Savior.

It is an awesome thing to see and hear someone accept Jesus as their savior and change their eternal destiny from hell to heaven! I asked Keith "Did you just now accept Jesus as your personal savior?"

Keith looked at me and said, "Yes I did!"

I said, "Keith according to Gods word, that means you are born again and are heaven bound!"

Keith reached out with both of his hands and held my hands while I prayed after his salvation prayer thanking God for His great plan of salvation through his son Jesus Christ.

We talked about how, on God promise, that Keith was now going to heaven and no longer going to hell.

When I left, I said, Keith, we have always been cousins, but now that you have accepted Jesus as your personal Savior, as I have, that makes you and me brothers in Christ.

Keith's face lit up, and he smiled a big smile.

Keith thanked me for accepting him as a brother.

He appreciated that thought. From earthly cousins to brothers in Christ.

Keith sincerely thanked me for coming to visit him.

Keith, I'll see you in heaven!

I love all my family, and I hope and pray that every one of you will be my brothers and sisters someday and meet Keith and me in

heaven.

J. A. Abels

J. Abels - December 10, 2025 at 10:42 PM

CM

“ *Cathy Meyer lit a candle in memory of Keith DeVries*



Cathy Meyer - December 08, 2025 at 11:45 AM