



## Eldon E Elsberry

March 20, 1941 - August 19, 2020

Eldon Earl Elsberry was born March 20, 1941 to Earl and Lottie (Jensen) Elsberry in Royal, NE. He attended Royal Schools and graduated in 1959. Following graduation Eldon farmed for a few years, then attended St. Paul Bible College in St. Paul, MN, where he met Geneva Ford. They dated for a few years and married October 26, 1963 in her home town of Louisville, KY. They came back to the family farm near Royal. While on the farm, Rebecca Christine was born on August 15, 1964 followed by Judith Joy on May 10, 1966.

On January 28, 1966 there was a terrible snow storm; Eldon was headed to a farm sale to begin establishing a farm of his own. As he headed to the sale he ran into the back of a snow plow, he spent three days wrestling with God about his future calling as a pastor. In August of 1966 Eldon, Geneva, Rebecca, and Judi packed up and headed to Toccoa Falls Bible College in Toccoa, GA. In the following years as Eldon worked full time and attended college part time, two more daughters were born to them, Beth Geneva on February 20, 1969 and Christi Rene on November 26, 1971. Upon graduation in May of 1974 they took their first church in Oskaloosa, IA. Eldon returned his family to Toccoa Falls Bible College in 1977 where he worked as Head of Plant Operations. On November 7, 1977 following a week of torrential rain the earthen dam above the campus broke, releasing 26 acres of water into the valley. Eldon, a volunteer fireman, was watching a bridge for the flooding when he was nearly drown by the flood waters but God had other plans for

him.

In 1979 Eldon pastored at Christian Missionary Alliance in Madison, IN. In 1981, Eldon then moved his family back to his home town near Brunswick, NE. He filled a pulpit for a small group of people who were looking for a church pastor. This church became Orchard Evangelical Free Church. In 1984 he took a position at Central City Evangelical Free which would later be known as Heartland Evangelical Free Church. In 1987 Eldon took the Cairo Baptist Church and retired from ministry in 2008 after 21 years. Following his retirement Eldon and Geneva spent winters helping build churches, houses, and preaching in Mexico and Texas. He filled pulpits for churches and pastors in the area. He performed countless weddings, funerals, and baby dedications for years. Baptizing and leading many to a deep and meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. He also dedicated all ten of his grandchildren. Eldon loved his God first, and Geneva and his four daughters fiercely. He loved people. Eldon is survived by his wife of 56 years, Geneva, of Central City; his daughters, Rebecca (Todd) Williams, of Siloam Springs, AR, Judith (Mark) McHargue, of Central City, Beth (Allen) Richard, of Owasso, OK, Christi (Lon) Loy, of Central City; his grandchildren, Andrew (Emily) of Central City, Jessica, of Salt Lake City, UT, Jordan (Janae), of Central City, Morgan (Scott), of Carrollton, TX, Rachel (Daniel), of Holland, MI, Makenna, of Lincoln, Adelynn of Owasso, OK, Charis, of Central City, Bryce, of Owasso, OK, and Micah, of Central City; and great-grandchildren Carl, Rex, Willa, Evelyn, Austin, and Charlotte; a brother and sister - Richard Elsberry & Jeanette Pellatz. Eldon is preceded in death by his parents, Earl Raymond and Lottie Louise Elsberry.

# Cemetery Details

## Central City Cemetery

Central City, NE 68826

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **23**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Heartland Evangelical Free Church  
Central City, NE

## Funeral Service

AUG **24**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Heartland Evangelical Free Church  
Central City, NE

# Tribute Wall

TL

“ Geneva and family, I will always remember Eldon and all the things we did there on the campus and off. He always had a smile and a word of encouragement for me. As my parents were serving in India, I considered Eldon almost a dad to me. He had a lot of wisdom and always pointed me toward the Lord Jesus and would stop with me and pray with me on occasion. What a blessing he was. We know from scripture that we will all see him again on that Great day and also we will see Him, the One who paid our ransom from sin. Praise the Lord. My prayers are with you all.

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**tom lewellen** - February 25, 2023 at 09:45 PM

MW

“ What a great guy! He will be missed. We enjoyed every minute during the time he worked with us. He could make work so much more fun. Never a dull moment when Eldon was around. Always a smile or a joke.  
May God bless you, you're in our prayers!

*Marcellus and Joyce Wall*

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**Marcellus Wall** - August 24, 2020 at 03:35 PM

KD

“ Geneva and family,  
When my Dad (Marcellus) called and told me of Eldon passing I immediately started thinking of all the memories I had of him! He was a fun and loving person who loved God and taught me so many things. He counseled and married my husband and I. I wish I could have been at the service today to help celebrate his life. Thank you for the wonderful memories and God Bless!  
*Karla (Wall) Davis*

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**Karla Davis** - August 24, 2020 at 11:57 AM

VJ

“ Geneva and family,  
*I am sorry to hear of Eldon's passing. My memories of him are all about his desire to serve the Lord. My mom was proud of her cousin and his love for Jesus. I remember he was always smiling, and he had a great smile!*  
*Now he's smiling with Earl and Lottie in the presence of our Lord.*  
Vickie Johnson

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**Vickie Johnson** - August 23, 2020 at 08:06 PM

AM

“ Cheryl and I are so sorry, Geneva and Christy, for your loss. Eldon was one of the best friends I ever had. His smile radiated the love of Jesus to friend and antagonist alike. For Eldon, life was all about loving Jesus and obeying Him. That love overflowed to you, Geneva, and your girls, their husbands and their children; in the heartaches and the joys, it never wavered or waned. I learned a lot about loving people by hanging out with Eldon. And God still gave him plenty of love to share unselfishly with those of us who were privileged to know him. I cherish the memories of my visits to your little homestead in rural Ravenna during which my spirit was always refreshed and encouraged. I am praying for you and your family as you, collectively, continue the journey of life with only Jesus and the memories and lessons of earlier days with Eldon. We grieve, but not as others who have no hope ... when we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be. (Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus.)  
Cheryl and Al Magnuson

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**Al Magnuson** - August 23, 2020 at 06:41 PM

CR

“ Beth, may GOD give you peace and healing as you mourn the loss of your Daddy! I know how hard that it. We are praying for you and your family💖🕊️Uncle Stan and Aunt Claudia

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**claudia Richard** - August 23, 2020 at 10:50 AM



“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Eldon E Elsberry.



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August 23, 2020 at 10:50 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Eldon E Elsberry.



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August 22, 2020 at 10:25 PM

DP

“ You are in my thoughts and prayers. Dorothy Jordan Pelc

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**Dorothy Pelc** - August 22, 2020 at 10:21 PM

SJ

“ We will always remember Eldon because he always showed the love of Jesus. I know he will be missed but you will always have great memories! You are in our thoughts and prayers! Jinx and Sharon

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**Sharon Jarzynka** - August 22, 2020 at 09:30 PM

JM

“ I remember Eldon from his days at St. Paul Bible College, where I was a faculty member. We had frequent interactions outside of class and can recall his delightful sense of humor and his serious questions about what role in life God had for him. Congratulations, Eldon, on a life well lived.

James Mason - August 22, 2020 at 10:35 AM

RO

“ He always had a smile and a joke to keep people cheered up. Many words of wisdom for the younger people in his world. He will be greatly missed by many friends and family.

rebah opkis - August 21, 2020 at 10:09 PM

BT

“ Eldon was my mentor and best buddy. He taught me a lot...especially patience. What a Godly example he was. Two of his sayings I still share with those that I counsel with, are, “a thousand years from now it won't make a bit of difference,” and, “a blind man on a galloping horse would never be able to tell the difference.” I'll never forget the morning we both mounted horses to go round up some loose cows and the Paint Eldon was riding decided he was not crossing that creek...he threw Eldon right in! Hahaha! God bless the family and we look forward to celebrating in heaven with Eldon.

Butch Taylor - August 21, 2020 at 06:54 PM

DH

I worked with Eldon at Toccoa Falls. He and Geneva became special friends in our life...in fact he was the best man in my wedding 41 yrs ago. Truly a man affet God's heart. As a child of almighty God we have a "living hope". May God bless you Geneva, you're in our prayers.  
David Hinkle

David & Barb Hinkle - August 21, 2020 at 07:16 PM

CL

*Thank you so much*

christi loy - August 22, 2020 at 12:59 AM

JB

*We became friends with Eldon, Geneva and family at Toccoa Falls College in 1977-78. We have so many memories of that year. Geneva my love and prayers are with you and the family as you travel this road of grief. Let your laughter mingle with your tears as you share the memories. We may be sad, but I know Paul is rejoicing to have his good friend with him again.*

*Jeannie Burkhart*

Jeannie Burkhart - August 22, 2020 at 09:59 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eldon E Elsberry.*



August 21, 2020 at 05:03 PM



“ *Bountiful European Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Eldon E Elsberry.*



August 21, 2020 at 04:08 PM

RJ

“ Eldon was breath of fresh air and a true encourager to me when I was attending Toccoa (1977-81). On one occasion while driving a Christian Service vehicle on campus towards the barn in a rainstorm, I rounded the bend a bit too fast and ended up nearly upside down in the creek.... Lo and behold, here comes Eldon Elsberry on a tractor smiling and shaking his head, pulling me to safety. He also taught me something important on shifting gears in a large truck without grinding them---half speed, Bob---half speed. We shall meet again Eldon. May Jesus comfort your family. Robert B. Jurick - West Columbia, SC

Robert B Jurick - August 21, 2020 at 03:09 PM

CL

Thank you so much for the awesome story I'm his daughter Christi we loved him so what an amazing dad

christi loy - August 22, 2020 at 01:04 AM



“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Eldon E Elsberry.



August 21, 2020 at 02:59 PM



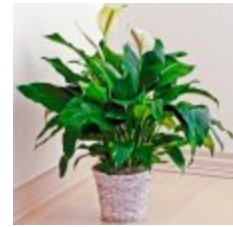
“ Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Eldon E Elsberry.



August 21, 2020 at 02:53 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Eldon E Elsberry.



August 21, 2020 at 01:33 PM



“ The first time I met Eldon was in 1986 at the Evangelical Free Church, he was preaching the good news of salvation through Jesus and of God’s Love and Grace for His children. That day my life was changed forever! Eldon Elsberry has touched countless lives. He truly was Faithful!

*Matthew 25:23: His lord said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”*

**Todd A. Williams** - August 21, 2020 at 12:15 PM



“ Stromsburg Baptist Church purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Eldon E Elsberry.



**Stromsburg Baptist Church** - August 21, 2020 at 10:38 AM

SB

“ *Scott Barnes. purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Eldon E Elsberry.*



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**Scott Barnes.** - August 21, 2020 at 12:44 AM

WP

“ *Praying for all of you! Our condolences to you all! Remembering all the good times and the Christmases we had at grandpa and grandmas and all the homemade ice cream that we use to make there.*

*Love you all!*

*Wayne Wendi and Daniel*

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**Wayne Pellatz** - August 20, 2020 at 11:00 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Eldon E Elsberry.*



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August 20, 2020 at 10:29 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Eldon E Elsberry.*



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August 20, 2020 at 05:40 PM