My sweet Daddy...

known to most as the “one-armed, piano playing preacher” Brother Clyde Risen and affectionately dubbed, “Gooddaddy” by his grandchildren has gone to be with Jesus.

Daddy fell asleep at his earthly home in Baker, Florida on Tuesday morning June 23rdand awakened just in time for a late lunch with Jesus that day. No one I’ve ever known was more like Jesus than my sweet Daddy. His

entire life was worship! He pastored churches from the time he was 17 years old through college and seminary throughout Alabama, Louisiana, Florida and even 15 years in New Jersey where he was the President of the Pennsylvania/South Jersey Southern Baptist Convention. In his later years, he served as resident pastor of Exodos Ministries.

Daddy truly lived to glorify Jesus. In recent months as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s was making thought and speech nearly impossible, and definitely unintelligible, Daddy did not really recognize us or say our names. However, when I would climb up beside him on his bed before I left at night, I would whisper, “Daddy can you pray with me?” Amazingly, he would close his eyes and take my hand in his and step into the throne room of the living God where his mind IS whole and he would pray with clarity. Daddy would pray for our lost and broken world to know Jesus. He would pray for Christians everywhere to share the gospel and he would always pray (my whole life) that we would “acknowledge God in all our ways and lean not on our own understanding”.

My daddy’s life is so much evidence that God is REAL and His word is TRUE! There is a scripture that has been hanging in my home for years. I printed it myself to remind my “strong” sons that time spent in God’s word is more important than even academia, exercise or body-building efforts. 1 Timothy 4:8 says, “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the PRESENT life and the LIFE to come.”

Daddy’s mind and body wasted away, just as scripture warns (2 Corinthians 4:16), but his eternal, spiritual connection with our Lord was evident and strong until the day he awakened with Jesus his Savior and heard, “Well done!”

Our family will celebrate Daddy’s home-going in a private setting at home. In lieu of flowers, friends and family can donate in his honor to Exodos Ministries using PayPal at www.exodosministries.com or Exodos Ministries, P.O. Box 1710, Crestview, FL 32536.