



William Lawrence Pershing

May 20, 1967 - July 15, 2012

Rev. William Lawrence Pershing, son of John and Virginia (Shepherd) Pershing, was born May 20, 1967 in Casa Grande, Arizona. He went home to be with his Lord Sunday, July 15, 2012 due to injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident.

As a young boy, Will made a very important decision in his life and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior and was baptized. He continued to follow the Lord throughout his life and his main passion in life was to share the gospel all over the world.

Will spent most of his growing up years in Arizona and New Mexico. He graduated from Silver City High School in Silver City, New Mexico. To further his education, Will obtained his Music Performance Degree from Western New Mexico University of Silver City (Class of 1990), with post graduate study in Biblical Studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary of Louisville, Kentucky (Class of 1990), and Bible and Music at Arizona College of the Bible (Class of 1991) and Music Education and Education at Western New Mexico University of Silver City (Class of 1993).

Will taught music, band and choral classes in Arizona, Louisiana and Missouri. Will served as an Associate / Music Pastor for several churches. He loved teaching and even after becoming disabled due to a longtime illness,

he continued teaching private music lessons and composing music.

Will loved to help people and churches. He worked for a time as a counselor at the Southeast Missouri Behavioral Health Center in Salem, Missouri. Will also designed websites for churches and encouraged them to use the technology of social media for outreach purposes.

Will loved to read and study God's word and was always sharing the Gospel with anyone that he came in contact with in person and on-line, especially those who were overlooked by the churches. One of the ways he did that was through freelance writing and blogging at willpershing.net. Will had a passion for his family and enjoyed spending as much time as possible with his wife and kids. He had the ability to make people laugh even in the toughest of situations. In his spare time, he enjoyed fishing with family and friends. He was an active member of Promise Keepers and Navigators.

On April 10, 2010, Will was united in marriage to the love of his life, Mary Westgate-Schneider in Hannibal, Missouri. They shared over two years together and many wonderful memories.

Will leaves to cherish his memory and his legacy, his loving wife Mary of the home; two sons: Joshua and Michael of the home; one daughter Annelyse Pershing of Bunker, MO (from his previous marriage to Janis Pershing); his parents John and Virginia Pershing of Richland, MO; three siblings: Johanna Pershing of Lebanon, MO, David Pershing and Jennifer Pershing of Richland, MO; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

To sum up Will's life, here is how he described himself on his blog: "I am a work in progress. I am a home-schooling dad of one girl (she visits as she is able) and two boys and husband to a very beautiful wife. I am committed to a new journey of learning, understanding and living out a peaceful spirit-filled

missional/liturgical lifestyle in our home that we now call Refuge House. I am disabled due to a long term illness. I teach music privately and am writing to express the journey that I have embarked upon in my blog and as a freelance writer.”

Celebration of Life services were held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, October 13, 2012 in the Memorial Chapel of Richland with Rev. Christopher Hendrix, and Dr. Tom Hover officiating. Bro. Don Bilbary and Bro. Alex Busenitz read Scripture and Dr. Keith Sherlin shared his wonderful memories of Will via video. Pianist Catherine Dent led the congregation in singing “In the Garden”, “Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone” and “When We All Get to Heaven”. A video prepared by Will’s daughter, Annelyse Pershing, was played in memory of her dad. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapel of Richland.

Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of William Lawrence Pershing*



Memorial Chapels and Crematory - July 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *William Lawrence Pershing*

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *Hi, Bill. Just found out about your transition. I'm really glad I DIDN'T accompany you on piano for Solo and Ensemble festival back in 1984; I would have totally messed you up! :-)* What discussions we had! I'm sure we systematically solved all of the world's problems! Drop by for a visit sometime. You were a sweet man when you still had a body, and I'm sure you still are a sweet soul. Much love, Catharine.

Catharine Symbleme - December 11, 2012 at 04:57 PM

JP

“ I never met Bill face-to-face but have known him a number of years through the Promise-Keeping Men email group and facebook. His presence will be missed. You have my sympathy and prayers in your loss.



Jim Pepin

James Pepin - October 30, 2012 at 05:44 PM

KS

“ Brother Bill was a beloved brother in the LORD. The number of people he served over the years in the grace of the LORD is astounding. He was humble, loyal, and deeply devoted to Christ and his Word. Many of us over the years have been touched by his life, leadership, and most of all by his love. I will here now and into eternity be a better minister, leader, and servant in the kingdom of God because of the life of Bill Pershing.

Dr. Keith Sherlin

Keith Sherlin - October 15, 2012 at 10:08 PM

JP

“ Thank you for being my big bruddie Bill . You will never be forgotten !
Love your little sister jennifer

Jennifer Pershing - October 15, 2012 at 01:55 PM

MP

“ *Mary Pershing lit a candle in memory of William Lawrence Pershing*



Mary Pershing - October 15, 2012 at 12:57 PM

MW

“ *We know there are no words to fill the void losing Bill has caused in each of your lives, but we want you to know that many people care about all of you and are keeping you in their thoughts and prayers.*

Martin and Georgia White - October 10, 2012 at 08:33 AM

MP

Thank you so much! That means so much to us.

Mary Pershing - October 15, 2012 at 02:04 PM

JA

“ *Will's legacy of love for His Lord will carry on for generations. I cannot think of a better legacy to leave. Praying for peace and comfort for his family.*

Judi Aaron - October 09, 2012 at 03:52 PM



“ *0 file added to the tribute wall*

October 03, 2012 at 05:31 PM

GW

“ It was a blessing to be able to meet you and spend time in sweet fellowship with you and your family this summer. Mary, Annie, and the boys are now my family - - - and are in my prayers daily. I pray that you are joining in sweet worship to Your King!

Gina Weeks and family

Gina Weeks - October 03, 2012 at 02:55 PM

GW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gina Weeks - October 03, 2012 at 02:52 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Will with his wife, Mary and three children



Mary Pershing - October 03, 2012 at 12:44 PM

TT

“ *John, Virginia, David, Gayle, JoHanna, Jennifer, Annie and the rest of the Pershing family, I am so sorry to hear about Bill's accident and passing. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. I know there are no words to comfort you but I pray God wraps you all in His loving arms and holds you through the tough times. I also pray that Mary and the boys have a speedy recovery from their physical injuries and lean on God to heal the emotional injuries. I love you all more than you'll ever know and I'm here if you need anything. - Tonya Treat*

Tonya Treat - July 29, 2012 at 11:27 AM