



# George E. Theis

JAN 6, 1935 - JUL 3, 2014



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## **George E. Theis**

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**G**eorge Theis (1935-2014) "If your life doesn't count for God, it doesn't count at all." George Theis was born in 1935 just outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was born again at the age of 17. It was on Word of Life Island that he dedicated his life to the Lord at a campfire service. He was challenged with this statement, "If your life doesn't count for God, it doesn't count at all." After graduating from Bible College and Seminary, George married Joan Robinson in 1959 and pioneered the first Word of Life Bible Club in Lakeland, Florida, in the same year. In 1963 he and his family joined the ministry of Word of Life in Brazil. After being part of the Word of Life team in Sao Paulo, Brazil, George felt led of the Lord to expand the outreach of Word of Life. In 1973 he established "Palavra da Vida" (Word of Life) in Recife, a city of 3 million people in the northeast corridor of Brazil. In 1983, George returned to the home office of Schroon Lake, New York, where he served as Co-Director with Jack Wyrzten and Harry Bollback. In 1991, he became the Executive Director of Word of Life Fellowship International and served faithfully until Joe Jordan became the Executive Director in 1999. George will be greatly missed by his wife, Joan, and their three children and their spouses, Keith and Linda Balsley, Hudson, Florida; Steve and Marisol Theis, Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil; Alejandro and Sherri Belmar, Buenos Aires, Argentina, as well as their ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild. George's leadership and influence was evident in his family, in the lives of many people around the world and in how he helped to shape and enlarge the outreach of Word of Life. His faithfulness to the Lord, along with his strong Biblical position, his loyalty to Word of Life and his servant's spirit enabled him to successfully assume the position as the first Director of Word of Life after the original founders. The Word of Life family all over the world is profoundly thankful to the Lord for George. He was a choice servant of the Lord and will long be remembered for his interest and investment in lives, gentleness and commitment to



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take every opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ. His life and ministry remain a challenge to us to continue "holding forth the Word of Life" until Jesus returns. To God be the glory for a life well lived! A Celebration Service will be held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, July 8, at the Harry Bollback Performing Arts Center at Word of Life Florida located at 13247 Word of Life Drive in Hudson, Florida. Prior to the service, visitation with Joan and the Theis family will begin at the same location at 9 AM. A graveside service will immediately follow.



## Tribute Wall

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WG

**Winter Gainey** posted:

Dear Theis Family, My name is Winter. I am a volunteer. I use the Bible to comfort my neighbors that have suffered loss by means of our enemy death. My condolences to you. I am very sorry. I want to bring the same comfort to you as I have to others. Reading in your Bible these verses will do much good. Isaiah 26:19 and Revelation 21:4. Additionally, the words of Jesus at John 5:28-29 is the most comforting: 'Do not be amazed at this, for the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life.' I pray you receive much comfort from these verses and the memories of this dear one. Winter Gainey

September 14 at 11:52 AM

CN

**Charles Nemeth** posted:

Joan and family: We share your sorrow in the loss of George. Absent from the body, present with our LORD. What a wonderful promise we will all see each other again. We will remember George for his humor and gentle presence. We learned so much about our LORD in his preaching and teaching. Our memories of Word of Life will always include you and George and the wonderful times we shared.

July 12 at 8:00 PM

DD

**Dale Dubois** posted:

I worked with George Theis at Schroon Lake, New York back in the late fifties and he was a great person, leader and friend. I was able to help Word of Life get started in Hudson and worked with Jack and Harry to obtain the property for Word of Life Florida where George was involved with Word of Life. Psalms 116:15 says "PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS!" My wife Pat and I are praying for his family and close Word of Life friends. Dale and Pat DuBois, Dunedin, Florida 727-733-5301

July 7 at 8:00 PM

DB

**Dave Bernard** posted:

7/5/14 George Theis was one of my best friends. A spiritual Father and mentor to me. A wonderful example of a true Christian. He finished his race well and is in a "far better place" Dave Bernard

July 4 at 8:00 PM



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**Elias Medeiros** posted:

God used this brother to impact my life while we worked together at the beginning of Palavra da Vida do Nordeste in the 1970s. He was just 16 years older than me at that time. I am looking forward to seeing him in glory one day.

July 2 at 8:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring George by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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