

COMMITTAL SERVICE
BEVERLY GAYLE “BEV” BLATTER
Led by Pastor Richard Carlson

We have come to this gravesite to say our final earthly “Goodbye” to this saint of God whom we all love so dearly. Bev Blatter marked our lives for good and for God in an indelible way. She just appeared to be living her normal Christian life. She never appeared to be putting on airs or living for Jesus out of duty only or in drudgery. She radiated Jesus out of her innermost being. We already profoundly miss Bev, and as the days and weeks and years go by, for those of us who continue to live here on earthy, we will often reflect on the awesome hallmarks of Bev’s life that are still impacting us.

This morning God brought to my mind, that the reason He used Bev so greatly was not because she had it all together, but because, what she had together, He gave her, and she used what He bestowed on her. She poured out God’s love. All of us can be criticized for omissions in our lives, because every believer is far less than perfect. What matters most is what we do with what God gives us. Some of us mistakenly may glory in our gifts from the Holy Spirit, but God searches most for the crowning, excellent way Bev chose.

We read in I Corinthians 12: 27 to 13: 13, “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. (Bev chose to follow the still more excellent way Have you? What is that way? Paul defines it.) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but, rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now, we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Thank you, Lord, for giving us this precious wife, mother, grandmother, and sister in Jesus to love us and show us your more excellent way. Now we must go on. Will God go with us? He will. Will God provide for us and keep us? He will! Will God carry us through our grief to the other side? He will! With Isaiah 40: 28-31 and 41: 10, we testify at this gravesite. “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might

he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. So, do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

How many of you saw the effulgent, glorious, magnificent display of God’s glory this morning in our Rock Springs sunrise. The whole sky was lit up with majesty. Immediately, an old Gospel song came to my mind written by William C. Poole in 1924 and music by Bentley D. Ackley. The words are, “When I shall come to the end of my way, When I shall rest at the close of life’s day, When “Welcome Home,” I shall hear Jesus say, O that will be sunrise for me. Chorus: **Sunrise tomorrow, sunrise tomorrow, sunrise in glory is waiting for me; Sunrise tomorrow, sunrise tomorrow, sunrise with Jesus for eternity.** When in His beauty I see the great King, Join with the ransomed His praises to sing, When I shall join them my tributes to bring, O that will be sunrise for me. Chorus: When life is over and daylight is passed, In Heaven’s harbor my anchor is cast. When I see Jesus my Savior at last, O that will be sunrise for me. Chorus.

We claim the promise now of Christ in I Thessalonians 4: 13-18. “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

Forasmuch as it has pleased our heavenly Father in His wise providence to take unto Himself our beloved Beverly Gayle “Bev” Blatter, we therefore commit her body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, looking for the blessed Hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and our Savior Jesus Christ, who shall change the body of our humiliation and fashion it anew in the likeness of His own body of Glory, according to the working of His mighty power wherewith He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.

Bow with me! “The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace, comfort, and hope until we awake in the likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the day dawns and these shadows flee away. For we pray these blessings and this benediction in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit. And God’s people said, “Amen.” This concludes our committal service. Everyone of you are invited to a full meal at the church as you return. I love you all!

EULOGY FOR BEVERLY “BEV” GAYLE BLATTER

By Pastor Richard P. Carlson

This eulogy was written after meeting with John, Bev’s husband, and three of their five children, Justin with his wife Jen and two children, Aubrey and Max, Julie, and her husband Chuck Skeldum, Jamin, and Bev’s daughter-in-law, Talitha Laughlin, and Talitha and Ted’s daughters, Jayces, Teagan, Alera, and Selah, and Vicky Shaw, whom John and Bev took as their daughter years ago. All fourteen of us were in John’s living room to hear an incredible outpouring of love, tears, hugs, and praise to hear them all say, as Talitha said first, “There are no words to describe how amazing Bev is and has been to us all.” Using their words, I want to endeavor to tell you about this amazing lady, Bev Blatter, whom we all love.

Talitha began the sharing saying, “Bev was one of my best friends. I don’t know how I am going to make it without her. She was the best grandma to my kids. When Josh died, she filled in the gaps for me and Josh, and she was never judgmental. She was always there with support and a listening ear. She backed me up in bringing up my girls, but she respected my place as their mother.” Jamin added, that her mother was “the person who would give you the shirt off her back, and her last quarter, when she had nothing to give.” Jamin said, “It will be hard for many people to function without her.” Julie recalled how people who just moved to Rock Springs, or a mother getting ready to have a baby, found Bev ready to go to bat for them. With Bev’s network of friends, she was soon off to a rummage sale or to the Good Will store. Many of you who are here at this funeral know Bev wouldn’t quit until she found a way to help the lonely, the helpless, people without finances, people who were in trouble, people without hope, and Julie said, “Mom was a one-woman benevolence organization.” God will never forget her efforts of love, and neither will the rest of us. John and Bev were knit together in helping others. If they saw that my wife and I were sick or struggling in any way physically, they were at our door with a remedy they used themselves, and then they gave it to us.

Jamin said her parents had a hard life, but they still did everything for everyone, even perfect strangers.” Jamin said, “Sometimes, as her children, we have been pessimistic, but Mom was always happy, obnoxiously positive.” Friends were mystified by Bev’s happiness. Justin said, “Mom saw the good in people.” John added, “Bev was so sweet she couldn’t use tough love. Justin said, “She had no idea how to use tough love. She knew of it, but she truly had no tough in her.”

When I called Jason to talk to him, he said, “Mom would take people everywhere, and I would add, often, even down to Salt Lake City to the doctor. Jason said she would chauffeur people, even when it seemed ridiculous, running errands for people who couldn’t afford it, and taking care of them. Bev’s eldest son added, “It’s been a rough week, but we’ll find some way to go on, someday, somehow.” Jeremy and

I talked a week ago, last Sunday evening, and I thanked him for taking Bev to the emergency room back on Friday, November 12th, when Bev told John she needed to go to the ER. It's not easy to be the driver on the way to the hospital when the one you love stops breathing. John was quite sick that night, but Jeremy got his mom to the emergency room, and soon they were shocking her heart, and they life-flighted her to Salt Lake City.

Early on Saturday, Jeremy drove his dad on that difficult journey to Salt Lake, where the doctors shocked Bev's heart four more times, and consulted what to do next. God answered that consultation by saying, "Come home, Bev." When John called me back within an hour of leaving Rock Springs, at about the Lyman exit, I started crying. I knew in my spirit; it was too soon to get a call. John told me, "Pastor, we lost her. She's Home with Jesus." My wife Jinny and I started sobbing, and most of all of us have cried over and over, but not as those who have no hope. We know Bev is home with Jesus, but as John said, "It's hard to believe it's real. John and Jeremy were together and spent the night together before coming home Sunday. Jeremy, thanks for being there, for your dad in that so difficult, a time.

John, you have had so much help. Justin, you came from Casper and walked your dad through tons of difficult calls and decisions. John won't forget how you helped. And Jamin, soon you made it clear from Canada and you started the ball rolling for so many important things doing errands for your dad and going back and forth to the Vase Funeral Home. I was amazed at how you, Jayces, Teagan, and Alera came and cooked and spent the night with your Grandpa John. John, you are loved. And in the many times I was at your house, John, here came a stream of people with food and words of love and comfort.

Julie spoke about how people called Bev an angel, and how her Mom had so many best friends, so many sisters in Jesus. Justin said some of those friends became extra moms to the family. Julie's husband, Chuck said, Bev was a second Mom to me. She was the best mother-in-law a man could have. She dropped everything to stay with us for weeks during and after Julie's surgery." Chuck called Bev Mom, and Talitha did too. The granddaughters all spoke of spending the night over at Bev and John's house. In the morning, she would say, "I have to finish my Bible reading," and then she would talk to them about anything, and everything, and then often take them bowling. John said, "Every morning I used to see her come out of the bedroom when I was out in my office next to the living room, drinking coffee. I would say, "Good morning, beautiful!" "I can't ever say that to her again down here." When he said that, Alera started hugging him and soon the granddaughters were all swamping Grandpa with love.

Julie shared how Bev said, "Ulland women are strong women. We put our hands to the job, and get it accomplished." Julie added, "My mom was one of the strongest people I have ever known. She treated everyone like her friend. She never met a stranger." Justin's wife, Jen spoke of her great kindness, saying, "She did nothing

but welcome me into the family. Jen said, "I'm not a phone person, but when I talked to Bev, she filled me in on all the family news. We never had problems visiting together. I told Jen, "Bev sounds like your mother in love, more than a mother-in-law. Vicky Shaw added, Bev adored each one of her kids, and she made an active effort to keep in touch with everyone of her kids and grandkids." No week went by without Bev getting in touch with them.

Jamin said, "Mom was the glue that held us all together, as we orbited around her. Aubrey, Justin's daughter said, "I loved going shopping with her. She spoiled us going to get fast foods, taking us to movies, and playing cards. Aubrey's brother, Max, shared about when his dad and mom went to Hawaii and Grandma stayed with them. It sounded like they all had a wonderful time. Teagan in tears, said, "I remember going so often with Grandma to help people. It was fun helping her this past summer. She taught me how to love and help people." Jayces spoke about often staying at John and Bev's house over the weekend and going shopping this summer with Bev on a "Girl's Day." Imagine it—Jayces 17 and Bev 71, and it was like two girls out on the town. Jayces said, "Her favorite subject was her grandkids, and it made me a new person." Jayces said, "We got close, and I could tell her everything. If she hated what I was doing, she wasn't judgmental. What will I do without her?" Jamin said, "Mom was our confidante."

Jayces said, "I don't think she knew how appreciated she was!" Alera said, "I don't ever remember her ever being mean." Alera said, "She made Selah so happy picking her up from school every day and taking her bowling." Selah said, "I miss her picking me up. Who's going to do it now?" Teagan said, "She was our "built-in babysitter." Vicky added, "Bev loved every minute of her time with her grandkids." Bev even had summer slumber parties with her granddaughters. Teagan remembered Bev taking the three oldest girls to Casper where she hung out with Max, and Aubrey and Jayces teamed up. Teagan said, "Cousins are the best."

John said both he and Bev were raised Lutheran but were not saved until later in life. As a young married man, John spoke to Stan Ulland, Bev's uncle who led him to Jesus. John asked Stan, "How do you know you have eternal life?" Stan told him, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!" John said, "I did, and my load was lifted that very moment in my mid-twenties." John came to work in Rock Springs in 1982, and Bev came to join him in 1983. Here at church is where John said Bev received Jesus as her Savior. Many years ago, on the same day, John, Bev, Josh, Jamin and Jeremy joined our church. John said of Bev, "I used to tell Bev, "You're the best wife I've ever had." But he added, "She was my much, much, much, better half, and half of me is gone." Alera was back in John's arms when he said that. Julie said, "I love you so much, Dad. John replied, "The feeling is musical." Even in the face of tears, John kept the family smiling.

Vicky said, "Bev has been my fun mom. When I had to take care of Mom before both, Dad and Mom died, Bev took care of me." Bev had Vicky out for Mexican

food the evening before Bev had her massive heart attack. Pastor Kevin and Heather happened by God's design upon Bev and Vicky, paid their meal and they laughed together a week ago, last Friday. Vicky added, "Bev and John adopted me before my parents passed away.

Bev loved singing in the choir. Now Bev and Lillian McMartin who recently went home to Jesus, had to leave Dorie's Christmas Cantata practice after years of singing together. They are singing in Glory. Bev loved Christian radio for so many years, while earlier in her life she liked country music. Julie added that her Dad loved to sing too, and she added, "Dad tries to make a joyful noise." Eleven Bunco players are going to miss their twelfth partner, Bev. Justin finished his words about Bev saying, "Mom did all she could to make us all happy." As the Scriptures say, in II Corinthians 2: 15-17, Beverly Blatter truly brought an aroma, "a fragrance of life to life" to everyone. Personally, I will never forget the praise and testimonies from Bev's lips during testimony times before Pastor Larry or Pastor Will preached on Sunday nights. She let us in on so many details of her life. Often Bev had prayer chain items on our church prayer chain that Carmelinda Cornell so ably runs. When I called Carm Saturday before last, shortly after telling her about Bev's heart attack, Carm started crying "No, no, no, no, no!" before I even told her God took Bev home. We sobbed together.

Each of us have dozens of stories and memories of how God used this mighty woman of God in our lives. For some of you, she babysat you years ago. For some of you, you prayed with her. For some of you, you loved to go out to eat with her like you two, Steve and Cindy Hovander, used to go out as a fivesome with Vicky, after church. After church, who stayed late? Often it included Bev and John and some of the rest of you. Fellowship with Bev was regular, often, and precious. I know many of you are thinking of tons of stories and thoughts about Bev that we have missed, but if you know Jesus, it won't be all that long until we sit down by the river of the water of life in heaven where so many of our members and friends have gone already this past year. May God bless and use the memory of Bev Blatter to woo those of you who don't know Jesus, to come to Him today, and may God use her testimony and love for Jesus in all our lives, to challenge us and to buoy up our faith to live strong for Jesus. Soon and very soon, we're going to see the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. May God bless the sweet aroma and fragrance of Bev Blatter in our lives until we see Christ.

NOTHING EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL

II Kings 4: 1-7 – Pastor Richard P. Carlson

Sometimes as a pastor, we wonder what God would give us as a funeral text, but for Bev Blatter, only one text has kept coming to me over and over. Let me read the text in II Kings 4: 1-7. “Now the wife of one of the sons of the prophets cried to Elisha, “Your servant, my husband, is dead, and you know that your servant feared the LORD, but the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves.” And Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me; what have you in the house?” And she said, “Your servant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil.” Then he said, “Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not too few. Then go in, and shut the door behind yourself and your sons, and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside.” So, she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured, they brought the vessels to her. When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “There is not another.” Then the oil stopped flowing. She came and told the man of God, (Elisha) and he said, “Go, sell the oil, and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest.” Let’s pray.

As I reflect on John and Bev Blatter, they were often in the shoes of the prophet Elisha. The wife of one of the sons of the prophets, one of his seminary students died young, around 895 BC—over 2900 years ago. This young widow in the village of Shunem had two young boys, and the widow owed her creditor far more than she could pay. By the law of the land back then, this penniless, helpless widow came to Elisha, because the creditor came to take her two precious sons to become his slaves. Beverly had a thought pattern like the thought of Elisha. She always tried to find a way to help. Elisha asked this grieving widow what she had in her house. The woman had nothing but a jar of oil, doubtless olive oil, for the land of Israel was covered with olive trees. In Elisha’s plan, that this widow followed closely, I see Bev’s funeral message. In Elisha’s plan is God’s way for all of us to find God’s comfort if we will bring our vessels to Jesus to have them filled. I see three kinds of vessels that God wants to fill, and if we are those kinds of vessels, God will fill us and provide for us as He did for Beverly and hundreds of people she helped so faithfully with her jar of oil. What is God looking for?

GOD WANTS EMPTY VESSELS WHO DESIRE HIM AS BEV DID. (I.)

Notice that Elisha told the woman in II Kings 4: 3, “Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels, and not too few.” Our desires are so many as we have come to this funeral. Most of our lives can be filled with things merely, being satisfied with extra money, with more clothes, with our favorite food, with our favorite music, with our favorite entertainment, and with our favorite fulfilled dreams for our future. All these things may be fine in themselves, but they never fully satisfy our souls except for a little while. If you knew Bev, even as she gathered up clothes, bedding, baby diapers, money for rent, and so much more,

Bev was always after bringing her best gift to those people she was helping. She wanted to bring them Jesus. I can truthfully tell you Bev's heart today for you, John, for you, Jason, for you, Justin, Jen, Aubrey, and Max, for you, Talitha and Ted, Jayces, Teagan, Alera, and Selah, for you, Julie and Chuck, for you, Jeremy, and for you, Jamin, for you, Vicky, and for all the rest of you family members, as well as for all of us. Bev wanted our empty vessels filled with Jesus. Bev tried in every way to pour her jar of oil, her deep love for Jesus, into all of our vessels.

But Bev knew, as I hope you all know, she couldn't trust God in our place. She couldn't be born-again for even one of us. She couldn't make any of us follow Jesus as our life-long desire. That was her life-long prayer for you all, but she knew God never forces His love and company on any person. He will never give us Himself unless we repent and receive Him as He calls for us to believe. God can't make us wise in Him, unless we want to be instructed. He will never make us holy unless we pray and desire to be holy. Bev knew that God will never save us from our sins if we hold on to our sins with both hands. We must repent and empty our vessels of loving the world as our idol, of loving our habits, as our idols, and of loving our own way as our chief idol. So often, like shellfish with claws holding on to seaweed, or barnacles glued to shells, we refuse to come to Jesus with empty vessels. God will never pour into us His oil of eternal life, if we refuse to bring Him our emptied vessels, and if we refuse to come with intense desire for Him to fill us with Himself, as God filled Bev. Secondly,

GOD WANTS EMPTY VESSELS TO PLACE FAITH IN HIM AS BEV DID.

(II.) Notice Elisha's instructions in verses 4-5, "Then go in, and shut the door behind yourself and your sons, and pour into all these vessels. And when one is full, set it aside." So, she went from him and shut the door behind herself and her sons. And as she poured, they brought the vessels to her." A deep desire for God is one thing, which means God is convicting us and drawing us. Faith is more than desire. Faith is a gift from God that we simply receive as we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as He draws us. Bev had so many people coming to her for help, literally begging her for assistance. It reminds me of Jesus in Matthew 9: 27-30. Listen. "And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, (and said) "According to your faith, be it done to you." And their eyes were opened."

Notice this woman started pouring her tiny little bit of oil into her many borrowed empty vessels. And she and her sons watched, God did His miracle in response to their faith. Wouldn't you like to have been there when the little jar of oil kept pouring out olive oil? Those two boys witnessed the miracle confidentially in their home with the doors shut. Some of you, Bev's children and grandchildren have personally, and intimately, watched Bev as she has poured out her life, her love, and her love for Jesus into countless people. You have seen people's faces light up. Bev wasn't independently rich, but she was dependently rich in Jesus, and a believer whose faith never wavered or quit believing. Until last Saturday, Bev kept

pouring out, until God said, “There aren’t any more vessels for you to pour into.” A week ago, last Friday night, Bev was pouring into Vicky, taking her out to eat. As they were eating, here came Pastor Kevin and Heather, and God poured back into Bev, as they paid the bill for Bev and Vicky. Where did Bev get all her money? Where did she get the food? Where did she get the boldness? Where did she get the strength to be in the choir? Where did Bev get the courage to tell so many about her Jesus? As she kept pouring out, God kept pouring in, and refilling her vessel. If Bev were here, she’d tell us all she was a weak vessel, but she had received God’s gift of faith, and that faith is eternal faith, faith that isn’t merely, an emotional decision to follow Jesus, and then regret it and turn back. No, Bev was the embodiment of the old song, “I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.” If you sense God tugging on you today as an empty vessel, He has an endless supply of the oil of gladness, of eternal life. There is plenty of salvation in Jesus for you. There’s room at the cross for you. Jesus is the only reason Bev had so much to give. Only Jesus can satisfy your soul. Some of you today may know Jesus, but you refuse to get alone with empty vessels and pour by faith into them. Bev wasn’t afraid to go to Salt Lake City with people she hardly knew, or across town with strangers, to help fill one or more of those vessels that came to her for help. Thirdly, and lastly,

GOD WANTS EMPTY VESSELS THAT OBEY HIM AS BEV DID. (III.)

Notice what happened to this obedient widow lady and her two obedient sons. We read in verse 6-7, “When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” And he said to her, “There is not another.” Then the oil stopped flowing. She came and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil, and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest.” What a legacy Bev has left when she poured into her last vessels, John her husband at home, and Jeremy, as you took your Mom, Jeremy, to the ER as her heart stopped. There won’t be any more pouring out obediently for Bev to do. As Vince Gill sang, “Her work on earth is done.” John, you know as Bev’s husband, “She poured love into you and you into her. No one Bev has been a mother to, a grandmother, a sister in Jesus, a friend, or a stranger she has helped, no one can ever fault her for failing to pour into their lives. In the years Bev truly knew Jesus as a born-again woman, she has been the embodiment of this widow in II Kings 4: 1-7.

Wouldn’t you love to have met her two sons? Do you think it changed their lives to have been with their Mom, when she poured out the oil and God kept pouring into that little vessel more and more oil? Do you think the desire she had for God, her faith in God, and her obedience to God was a baton they held on to, or did they drop it? Bev’s desire is that you would share her desire for God, her faith in Jesus, and her obedience to Him. Bow your heads with me. Before we go to the cemetery. I ask you—Are you desiring to have faith in Jesus as Bev did, and to obey him til’ death as she did? Then, I call you to turn to Jesus today, to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are ready to repent, trust Jesus, and have Jesus fill your vessel with Himself, I want to pray with you and lead you in coming to Jesus. Just raise your hand and in a moment, we will pray together for God to fill your empty vessel with Himself as you take Jesus into your heart and life. Will you receive Him now?

Welcome and Invocation at Bev Blatter's Funeral

Pastor Richard Carlson

I welcome you today as we've all come to remember our sweet sister in Christ, who has been such a woman of God among us. We've been honored to know and love Bev Blatter and to be loved by her. Our loving memories of Bev Blatter we will cherish forever. I especially want to thank our six pallbearers, Jason Blatter, Justin Blatter, Jeremy Blatter, Scott Beazley, Dustin Clark, and Lee Swenson. 1

Today, I can see Bev and John and Julie at the Campbell County Memorial Hospital on May 20th, 2004, when I was honored to preach the funeral for Bev's Mom, Pearl Beverly Ulland. At that time, John, Bev, and Julie were all in critical condition from a head-on collision, May 16th, following a terrible thunderstorm that left deep hail on Highway 59, just south of Gillette. They were wheeled into the nurse's station area where Pearl's funeral was conducted. As a church, we were in a life and death prayer vigil for God to save their lives, and He did. God miraculously raised up Julie, Beverly, and John, for his glory and gave them these additional years. Fourteen years ago, after a big 60+ mile per hour wind, John and Bev's son, Josh Evan Blatter, had a terrible motorcycle accident, and died at the University of Utah Medical Center. Our church and New Life Ministries were into another weeklong life and death vigil. Josh knew the Lord and God called Josh Home. He never regained consciousness. Josh and Talitha sang a duet in our church that Josh wrote, called, "Born Again, on Sunday, November 20, 2005, 16 years ago. When we put Bev on the prayer chain a week ago last Saturday, it was not a long prayer vigil. Less than an hour later, John called me to tell me. "God called Bev Home." I believe as we have sobbed, and wept here, but there has been joy in heaven with Pearl and Bev and Josh. When we truly know the Lord, there is a reunion when we arrive in our eternal Home. Let's pray!

Father, use this funeral service today to glorify the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ whom Bev so greatly loved, in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.