Forever a Farmer

One morning I stood on a hill, I watched the sun come up. The odors of the late summer were in the air. Harvest time was just around the corner.

The wheat, still lush and green from the sun and rain, was loaded down with stalks of grain. The flax having bloomed was ready itself for the combine to yield up the seeds.
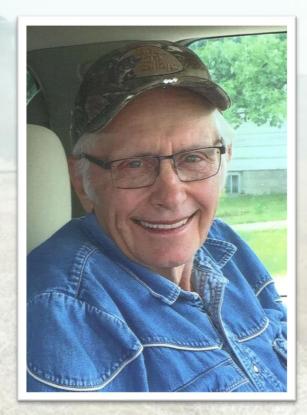
Very few sounds were riding the airwaves as I stood there. The distant dialogue of a few scattered crows dimly permeated the air, and in the distance was the faint hum of a pickup as it moved along a country road.

There was peace. Peace with God. I knew I had given this farm my very best shot. I grew up not far from where I was standing. I married my sweetheart and we started farming.

I've always been fascinated by the way things grow. I put a small seed into the ground, It grows into a very complex plant. A new seed forms, and the following year it starts all over again. What a miracle — and I have been given a part in the process. I am a partner with God.

God — Who warms the soil in springtime for planting. God — Who makes sure the sun shines in the summer to make it grow. God — Who cools it down in the fall for harvest. My role in this partnership? I turn the soil. I run the machines. I take the golden crop to market. Others will benefit from my partnership with God.

I stand here and realize that by farming I am bearing witness to God. Yes, at heart I will always be a farmer. Amen.

Joe McWilliams

RUBEN FUNK

1937 – 2021

Ruben David Funk passed away peacefully into God's loving care on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at the age of 84. He was born January 9, 1937 in Herbert — the first born of Jacob & Henrietta (Schellenberg) Funk. His family lived on a farm in the Roland district until he was 7 years old. They then moved to a farm north of Gouldtown where he attended Big Coulee School. After his school years he worked for the local PFRA as a land surveyor before he went to BC, where he found work on Queen Charlotte Island clearing trees. He returned to Saskatchewan to help his family with the farm as his dad was unwell. On December 18, 1956 Ruben married his classmate, Mary Harder, in Herbert at the age of 19. They were baptized in spring after their marriage. At this time, they took over the family farm and would continue to farm and raise their family for many years. His dreams also included living off the grid and being totally self-sufficient, so he leased a parcel of land in northern BC. After several trips and much hard work, he soon realized he had to make a decision — he chose to stay on the homestead in Saskatchewan. Ruben was quiet, gentle and humble, a man of integrity. He was a jack of all trades, able to view anything that was broken as a challenge rather than a problem. Because of this attitude, he was able to fix pretty much anything that came his way. He built their family farm house, barn, and quonset with his own two hands and without hiring anything out or borrowing any money. He worked hard, sometimes too hard, but it didn't feel like work to him because farming was his passion. He was a problem solver, always creating new inventions on the farm. He loved instrumental and gospel music and taught himself to play guitar and banjo at a young age. Ruben also enjoyed sports, especially watching hockey and baseball games. Children always had a special place in his heart. He loved watching his children and grandchildren grow, taking them for rides on the tractor and playing card games with them. Though his memory started to fade as Alzheimer's took over, his gentle, quiet nature continued to shine through along with the big smile he would give to those who came to visit him in the Nursing Home. Ruben is survived by his loving wife, Mary, of 64 years; his daughters Joanne (Ron) Schultz and Debrah (David) Rupertus; his sons, Terry Funk and David (Tracy) Funk; his grandchildren, Thera (Travis), Eric (Carmen), Jeff (Jessica), Sam, Dustin, Storm, Sheyenne, Tristin, Kennedy, Griffin, Cohen, and Danon; his great-grandchildren, Abigail, Seth, Danica, Luke, and Alyssa; his sisters, Lenora Conn, Alfreda Anne Sardison, Tillie (Don) Reimer, and Norma Phyllis (Ross) Reimer; his sister-in-law, Dianne Funk, and by numerous nieces and nephews. Ruben was predeceased by his parents, Jacob & Henrietta Funk; his sister, Linda, in 1950; his brother, Alvin, in 1997; and by his brother-in-law, Earl Conn.

In Loving Memory of

RUBEN FUNK

FUNERAL SERVICE

Saturday, November 27, 2021 at 2:00 pm
Living Faith Fellowship Church, Herbert, SK

OFFICIATING – Pastor Lincoln Vellacott

PIANIST – Donovan Epp

HYMNS – *"He Leadeth Me," "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,"* and *"When We All Get to Heaven"*

SPECIAL MUSIC – Donovan Epp

TRIBUTES – Ruben's Grandchildren

USHERS – Isaac Harder and Randall Fast

PALLBEARERS – Eric Schultz, Jeff Schultz, Samuel Rupertus, Dustin Rupertus, Griffin Funk, Cohen Funk, Danon Funk, and Tristin Funk

HONORARY PALLBEARERS – Thera Winfrey, Kennedy Funk, Storm Dafoe, and Sheyenne Funk

PRIVATE FAMILY INTERMENT – Preceded the service from the Gouldtown Cemetery, Gouldtown, SK

LUNCHEON – Immediately following the service

DONATIONS – Gideons International – Shareword Global

ARRANGEMENTS – Swift Current Funeral Home

"...Aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one. But we do not want you to be uniformed, 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."
I Thess. 4:11-14