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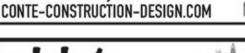


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-Joseph L. "Joe" Elson-

Joe Elson, age 59, formerly of Galion, died peacefully on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at the Lexington Court Care Center following a several year battle with dementia.

On December 17, 1962, Joe was born in Columbus, Ohio, the youngest of three sons of the late Everett Elson and Willie Mae (Greer) Elson Burroughs. Joe lived in Whitehall, Ohio, until his

mid 30's, when he moved to Mount Gilead, Ohio, to try and have enough property to try and fulfill his dream of being a cowboy, owning several horses.

For Joe's entire career, he worked as a truck driver for Mauser Trucking in Gahanna. He loved to joke around about being a huge Michigan fan, which was mainly a dig pointed at the State Troopers in Ohio whom he felt were too uptight about trucker's driving, while Michigan Troopers left you alone on the road.

Always tinkering around in the garage, one of Joe's favorite pastimes was working on his "baby", his yellow 1974 Gran Turino. He loved riding his motorcycle, taking his Yamaha bike on the road as often as he could. He also was a huge John Wayne fan and memorabilia collector.

Love at first sight, Joe fell hard for Jennifer Gordon, and he wasn't shy about his feelings for her. He eventually talked her into going on a date, and from there the rest is history. They were married on June 21, 2014, and didn't get to share nearly enough time together.

A kid at heart, Joe was an ornery, goofball, who always tried to keep everyone in the room laughing. He also was a good man, who deeply loved his wife, children, grandchildren and friends. He loved lending a helping hand whenever he could.

He will be missed by his wife, Jennifer Elson; five children: Stacy (Jimmy) Smith, Heather (Stetson) Lewis, Samantha (Kyle) Gandee, Joseph (Luca) Elson, and Katie (Ben) Lucas; four grandchildren: Braxton, Thorin, and Fia Lewis, Hudson Lucas, and one more on the way; three step-daughters: Cassidy Gordon, and Graceon and Kylee Satterfield; mother and father-in-law: Jodi and Shane Gordon; step-father, Robert Burroughs; two brothers: Chuck and Russell Elson; many extended family members; and a special friend, Bailey Dull.

His family will greet friends from 10 am - Noon on Saturday, November 26, 2022, at the Snyder Funeral Homes, Craven Chapel, 67 N. Main St., Mount Gilead.

Memorial contributions may be made to the funeral home to help his family with funeral expenses.

Snyder Funeral Homes of Mount Gilead are honored to serve Joe's family and your condolences may be expressed to them by visiting www.SnyderFuneralHomes.com.

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Did Jesus Preach to the Dead?

To answer this question...in one respect, we could say, "Yes, He does." He preaches to everyone "dead" in sin. "Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mk. 1:14-15)

But there's another aspect of "preaching to the dead" I would like to discuss (something that Peter referred to in His first epistle). He said, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water" (1 Peter 3:18-20).

Peter affirms that Christ died in order to provide the benefits of salvation to unrighteous people. He states that the Lord was put to death in the flesh (i.e., His crucifixion), but that He was made alive in the spirit. The apostle then says, "by whom" (i.e., in the Spirit), Christ went and preached to the "spirits in prison" that were disobedient in the days of Noah.

Some believe this passage teaches that during the three days His body was in the tomb, Jesus went into the spirit world of the imprisoned lost. According to this theory, it was at this time that the Lord preached the gospel to those who died in a "lost condition" during the time of Noah's flood. However, other Bible passages make it clear that 1 Peter 3:19 simply cannot mean this.

Death seals our fate. The Bible clearly teaches that following death, there comes judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

- After one leaves this earth, there is no plan of salvation
- The spiritual condition in which a person dies (prepared or unprepared) is that which he will possess at the time of the general resurrection (cf. Matthew 25:1-12).
- There is absolutely no evidence that there is a second chance for redemption following death.

An impassable gulf.

- According to Christ's instruction in the narrative regarding the rich man and Lazarus, within the spiritworld (called Hades in the American Standard Version) there is a great gulf "fixed" between the place where evil people abide and the state where good people exist (see Luke 16:26)
- The verb "fixed," in the Greek Testament, is a perfect tense form, suggesting that the gulf is forever fixed. A. T. Robertson There can never be any crossing. called it a "permanent chasm" (1931, 223). A. B. Bruce said the "location is fixed and final" (1956, 589).

It thus would hardly have accomplished anything for the Lord to have preached to those in a state of punishment, tantalizing them with the hope of salvation, when they had no chance of entering Paradise.

What, then, does 1 Peter 3:18 teach? The passage affirms that Jesus Christ, "in the [His] spirit" (not in the flesh), during the days of Noah, proclaimed God's truth to the evil, preflood generation. How did the Lord do that? He was operating through Noah, a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). Observe that in this same letter Peter stated that the "Spirit of Christ" was in the Old Testament prophets as they declared Heaven's message (1 Pet. 1:11).

This is a key verse in explaining 1 Peter 3:18. When Christ, through Noah, preached to those evil people, they were alive and on the earth. But at the time Peter wrote his letter, they had long been dead, and their spirits were suffering in the prison of hell (known as Tartarus - see 2 Peter 2:4, ASV).

In order to help clarify the meaning of this difficult verse, we might suggest the following paraphrase: "Christ was made alive in the spirit; in which, during the days of Noah, he preached to evil people, whose spirits are now in the prison of Tartarus (punishment)."

This type of language reflects a common figure of speech found in the Bible. It is known as prolepsis. It involves bringing two time-frames together into one expression. Here is a more current example. If one were to say, "President Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky," he would be combining two time eras into one sentence born, Lincoln was not president, but he later became such. However, by this common mode of expression, one associates a current fact with an antecedent event.

So it is with reference to 1 Peter 3:18. The preaching was done by Christ through Noah in ancient times; the spirits are currently in a place of confinement. This is a very reasonable interpretation of this verse, and it conforms to what we know of the state of the dead as elsewhere described in the Bible. No meaning can be imposed upon a difficult text which makes it conflict with other clear passages...

To learn more about this visit or write the Fredericktown Church of Christ, 18883 Pinkley Road, 43019. We are located at the Quaker Road intersection of St. Rt. 13. (2 1/4 miles north of St. Rt. 95) Our meeting times are: Sunday - Bible Study, 9:30 A.M., Worship, 10:30 A.M. & 6:00 P.M., and Wednesday - Bible Study, 7:00 P.M.

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Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone. I had come down the chimney with presents to give, and to see just who in this home did live. I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand, and on the wall pictures of far distant lands. With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sobering thought came to my mind. For this house was different, so dark and so dreary, the home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home. The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I pictured a United States soldier. Was this the hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight. Soon round the world, the children would play, and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day. They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home. The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry. The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my God, my country, my corps." The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep. I couldn't control it, I continued to weep. I kept watch for hours, so silent and still, and we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night, this guardian of honor so willing to fight. Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure." One look at my watch, and I knew he was right. "Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

By Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

NOTICE

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We will re-open on January 9th

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James "Dean" French

James "Dean" French, age 2 of Marion passed away, November 22, 2022, at Marion General Hospital. He was born on September 23, 2020, in Marion to James "Jim" French Jr. and Cassandra Bautista.

Dean loved the color blue and cuddling with his pink blankey. He loved watching Cocomelon and his favorite character was JJ.

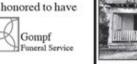
Dean also loved singing and dancing along to Baby Shark. Dean loved head banging with his daddy and blowing leaves in the driveway. He also loved napping with his Dad.

In addition to his father Jim French of Marion and his mother Casandra Bautista of Caledonia, Dean is survived by two sisters Selena and Charity; paternal grandparents, Jeff (Stacie) Nelson of Cardington, James (Leslie) French Sr. of Marion, Rick Hughes (Jill Harmon) of Marion; maternal grandparents, Kelly (Lazaro) Bautista of Marion; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Dean was accompanied in death by his sister Camilla.

For his family's privacy, Dean's services are being observed privately by family and friends. Burial will take place in Caledonia Cemetery.

Gompf Funeral Service of Cardington is honored to have been chosen to serve Dean's family and condolences may be expressed at www.gompffh. Gompf



-Mary Jane Robinson-

Mary Jane Robinson, age 87, of Mount Gilead, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family at her son's home in Marion on Saturday, December 3, 2022.

On April 28, 1935, Mary Jane was born in Edison, Ohio, a daughter of the late Walter Dean and Florence (Richardson) Walker. She graduated from Chesterville High School in the Class of 1953

For more than 20 years, Mary Jane worked for Ranco Manufacturing in Delaware, from where she retired in 1998.

Mary Jane enjoyed cross stitch and always made gifts when there was a birth or wedding in the family. Music was a big part of her life. She loved playing piano and listening to others play the piano and organ. She also enjoyed The Ohio State University Marching Band and numerous drum corps.

Traveling was a favorite pastime for Mary Jane. She loved being at a beach, listening to the ocean or taking a fun trip to Amish Country. Her guilty pleasure was always having homemade

Family meant everything to Mary Jane. She often planned family reunions and gatherings. She was sure to support her grandchildren and great grandchildren in all of their activities. She had great interest in genealogy and was an active member of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

Mary Jane was an independent and strong-willed woman. She could be stubborn at times and was rather ornery. She had a big heart for helping people, especially many of her friends in the apartment community she resided in.

Left to cherish Mary Jane's memory are her children: Fred (Deborah) Robinson of Marion, Keith (Jean) Robinson of Mesa, AZ, Jane (Les) Carpenter of Cardington, William "Rob" (Heather) Robinson of Edison, Robert "Noel" Robinson of Cardington; 23 grandchildren; 37 great grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren; a brother, James (Jean) Walker of New Baden, IL; a sister, Marjorie (Charles) Coleman of Cardington; and stepchildren: Jesse (Linda) DeBose, Debra Martin, Jeff (Patti) DeBose, Dan (Lori) DeBose, Tammy Whitely; and numerous step grandchildren and step great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two husbands: Harold V. Robinson and James W. DeBose; a son, Richard Robinson, a daughter, Kalene Robinson; a granddaughter, Shannon Robinson White; and a stepson, James Debose.

Mary Jane's family will greet friends from 3 - 5 p.m. on Friday, December 9, 2022, at the Snyder Funeral Homes, Craven Chapel, 67 N. Main St., Mount Gilead. Services to honor and celebrate her life will begin there at 5:00 p.m. with Pastor Josh Freshour officiating

Memorial contributions in her name may be made to OhioHealth Hospice or H.E.L.P. for Morrow County Snyder Funeral Homes of Mount Gilead are honored to

have been chosen to serve Mary Jane's family. Special memories or condolences may be shared by visiting www.SnyderFuneralHomes.com.



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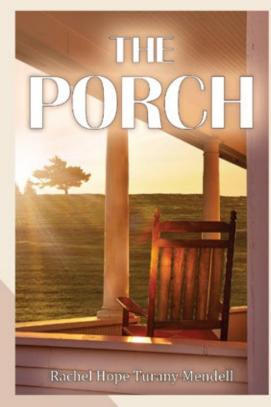
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—Lloyd Dean Rinehart -

Lloyd Dean Rinehart, 88, of Galion went to sing in the angel's choir on Monday, November 28, 2022. Dean was born November 13, 1934 to Lucas "Pete" and Mary (Wirick) Rinehart.

He taught himself to play guitar at a young age and music was a big part of his life. He sang with his brothers and sisters whenever they got together. He also called square dances at vari-

ous venues around the area. As his kids grew up they began singing as a family at area churches and functions. Later he formed a band with other musicians and called themselves "Crazy Country", they were well known and had quite a following.

Dean leaves behind his wife Sandy (Sipe-Flitcraft); children, Dana (Ruth) Fine, Deana Beachy, Denette Fisher, Danean (Martin) Spearman and stepdaughter, Lisa (Mike) Graham; he was loved by 15 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren; four great great-grandchildren; also survived by a brother, Ronnie Rinehart and sister, Brenda Campo; first wife Dorothy Kay (Levering) as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Dean was preceded in death by his parents, brothers and sisters, Lawrence, Red, Gale, Janet, Alberta Kassor and Judy Wise.

The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friday, December 2, 2022 at Richardson Davis Chapel of Snyder Funeral Homes, 218 South Market St., Galion, Ohio 44833 where services will be held Friday at 1:00 p.m. with Pastor Martin Spearman officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Avita Hospice in care of the funeral home.

Richardson Davis Chapel of Snyder Funeral Homes in Galion is honored to serve the family of Dean Rinehart, and condolences may be made to them at www.Snyder-FuneralHomes.com.

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CARDINGTON COM-MUNITY FOOD PANTRY CHANGE: ADDRESS Beginning November 17, 2022, Our Pantry Will Be Closed At The First United Methodist Church, As We Are Moving To Our New Location At 128 Flint St, Cardington, OH. We Will Re-Open Our Distribution Of Food Each Wednesday Beginning December 7th From 9:00 AM Until Noon, And The 2nd Tuesday Of Each Month For The Produce Market. NOTE: We Are Open The First 4 Wednesday's Of Each Month Only. We Look Forward To Seeing You At Our New Home!

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STANTONTOWN AD-VENT. CHRISTIAN CHURCH: County Road 24, Marengo, Ohio. SUN-DAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 A.M. CHURCH At 11:00 A.M. YOUTH SERVICES At 5:00 P.M. And EVE-NING WORSHIP At 6:30 P.M. On Sundays.

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-Virgil B. Foos-

Virgil B. Foos, age 98, of Edison, passed away Thursday afternoon, December 1, 2022, at Marion General Hospital.

On October 5, 1924, Virgil was born in Marion County, Ohio, a son of the late Grover W. and Rettie V. (Coulter) Foos. He graduated from Caledonia High School in the Class of 1942, where he played sousaphone in the marching



Virgil was a lifelong farmer and also worked for Gist Elevator and Gist RV Sales in Caledonia. He was an extremely hard-working man, taking great pride in his work ethic.

Virgil married Nancy Wall Francis on December 16, 2002, in Mercer, PA. They shared the last nearly 20 years together as husband and wife. Virgil never had any children, but he grew to love Nancy's children and grandchildren as his own.

Being a farmer, Virgil loved to be outdoors. It was always a big deal for him to put in his vegetable garden. He enjoyed traveling and road trips to Amish country. He often relaxed by reading National Geographic.

Virgil was a self-sufficient, frugal man. He was quite the storyteller and rather ornery. He could be described as an "equal opportunity harasser," always giving everyone he came across a hard time

Left to cherish Virgil's memory are his wife, Nancy; niece, Karen (Harry) Keeran; nephew, Roger (Anita) Foos; stepson, Kirby (Tammy) Francis; stepson-in-law, Lynn Beveridge; step grandchildren: Ashley (Brandon) Patterson, Justin Francis, Tyler (Abriana Hosler) Howell, Toby Beveridge; and step great granddaughter, Deklynn Howell.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Delbert Foos, and stepdaughter, Abbey Francis Beve-

Virgil's family will greet friends from 3 - 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at the Bryn Zion Baptist Church. A memorial service to honor and celebrate his life will begin at 4:00 p.m. with the Rev. Rorke Warne presiding. A dinner will follow.

Because Virgil enjoyed going to his step children's and grandchildren's athletic events, memorial contributions in Virgil's name may be made to the Gilead Christian Athletic Department.

Snyder Funeral Homes of Mount Gilead are honored to have been chosen to serve Virgil's family. Special memories or condolences may be shared by visiting www.Sny-Snuder derFuneralHomes.com. Homes

-Robert D. "Bob" Creswell

Robert D. "Bob" Creswell, age 96, of Morrow County, passed away at his winter home in Frostproof, FL, on Wednesday morning, No-

vember 30, 2022. On May 30, 1926, Robert was born at

home in Morrow County, Ohio, a son of the late Will H. and Velma (Lepp) Creswell. He graduated from Iberia High School in the Class of 1944. Shortly following graduation, Bob married his high

school sweetheart, Faith Louise Goldsmith, on October 12, 1945. They shared over 68 years as husband and wife before she preceded him in death on January 19, 2014.

Robert was always a farmer and ran Spring Valley Dairy Farm. He became a dealer for Vermeer Hay Equipment and sold and serviced them for over 20 years.

When he wasn't working, Bob and Faith enjoyed traveling, including car trips to California with the family. Beginning in 1993, Bob and Faith spent their winters in Frostproof, Florida. There, he enjoyed playing cards, shuffleboard and dominos.

A God-fearing man, Robert was a member of Iberia Presbyterian Church. He was a good man, knowing right from wrong and didn't look for the area in the middle.

Robert will be remembered for his strong work ethic and never hesitating to lend a helping hand. He was a quiet man much of the time, but had a fun sense of humor and enjoyed playing

Left to cherish Robert's memory are his children: Bill (Ruth) Creswell of Mount Gilead, Sandy Woosley of Ontario, Dee Rush of Edison, Ronda (Brent) Winand of Mount Gilead; a son-inlaw, Brian Adams; many grandchildren and great grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Including his wife and parents, he was preceded in death by his youngest daughter, Mary Jean Adams; three sisters: Iris Stall, Ruth Schiler, Wanda Taylor; an infant brother; and two sonsin-law: Steve Woosley and Terry Rush.

Bob's family will greet friends from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at the Snyder Funeral Homes, Craven Chapel, 67 N. Main St., Mount Gilead. Services to honor and celebrate his life will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 9, 2022, at Iberia Presbyterian Church, 8607 Co. Rd. 30, Iberia, OH, with Pastor Deb Bergmann officiating. Burial will follow in Iberia Cemetery

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Ohio's Hospice of Morrow County or the Iberia Presbyterian Church.

Snyder Funeral Homes of Mount Gilead are honored to have been chosen to serve Robert's family. Special memories or condolences may be shared by visiting www.Sny-Snyder derFuneralHomes.com. Homes



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Dale Emerson VanHouten Sr.

Dale E. VanHouten Sr., age 66 of Cardington passed away Monday, December 5, 2022, at his home. He was born on January 13, 1956, to Howard E. and Dorthy J. (Redman) VanHouten who preceded him in death.

Dale was a 1974 graduate of Cardington-Lincoln High School. He joined the U.S. Navy and later became a welder.

On October 10, 2003, Dale married Dianne Petry in Cardington, she survives in Cardington.

In addition to his wife, Dale is survived by his two sons Dale VanHouten Jr, and David VanHouten both of Michigan, his stepchildren Shane (Mandy) Young and Kirbie (Samantha) Young, five grandchildren: Kira, Marlo, Marnie, Sean and Ava, and his siblings Von (Dawn) VanHouten of Martel, June Wofel of Florida, and Sherrie (Dan) Bentley of Marion.

Friends may call on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Gompf Funeral Home, 440 Center Street in Cardington. The funeral will directly follow at 1:00 PM with Pastor Chris Umphryes officiating. Following the service, the burial will take place in the Glendale Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family asks anyone wishing to donate to consider the Cardington Food Panty.

Gompf Funeral Service of Cardington is honored to have been chosen to assist the VanHouten family with Dale's final wishes and condolences may be expressed at www.gompffh.com.



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We Wish Everyone A Safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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