

Steven Boardman, 51

Dec. 26, 1964 - Feb. 6, 2016

HARLAN — Steven Mark Boardman, son of James and Crystal (Schefler) Boardman, was born on December 26, 1964 in Harlan. He grew up on the family farm between Portsmouth and Tennant and attended Shelby-Tennant Schools graduating with the class of 1983. After high school, he attended Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs and later Iowa State University in Ames. He continued to help on the family farm and also did custom bulldozer work.

May 5, 1990 Steven was united in marriage with Kristy Koch at the Tennant Methodist Church. Two children were born to this union: Brittnee and Blake. After their marriage, they began their own family farm with hogs outside of Tennant.

October 6, 2002, while tending to the chore of manure hauling, Steven realized that even with all of what he had accomplished and having what he believed was the perfect family, he still had an emptiness that he could not fill with possessions and wealth. Steven cried out in desperation to God and had an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ and put his trust and life into the hands of Jesus and received unmerited mercy and grace and was born again. John 3:3 became his verse and burden. He began to read and study his Bible with a zeal that mirrored his dedicated and strong work ethic. Steven shared his conversion testimony with his wife and children and soon started to share the gospel message and practice his gift of evangelism.

Steve and Kristy continued to raise hogs during this time but started to become more involved in ministry work. In 2006, they made their home in Harlan but had a burden to reach others for Christ. In May of 2007, with the help of Open Door Baptist Church of Council Bluffs, the doors of Tennant New Hope Church were opened and they began to spread the good news of the gospel. The sermons preached were soon put on KNOD radio in Harlan in February of 2008 hoping to reach others outside the church. In a step of faith, the congregation had an opportunity to move to Harlan and on Easter Sunday, April of 2011, Bethel Baptist Church was resurrected and the preaching continued. Steven's ministry led him to the Shelby County Jail where he was encouraged by Pastor Jim Warren to share his testimony and the gospel with the prisoners which he did for more than twelve years.

After his conversion in 2002, Steven had a clearer understanding of love with his wife and children and a deeper meaning and purpose for his life. Steve was a devoted servant, husband, and father. He enjoyed the outdoors and became not only a fisherman, but a fisher of men. Steven went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Saturday, February 6, 2016 at the age of fifty-one years, one month and eleven days.

Steven is survived by his wife Kristy Boardman of Harlan; his daughter Brittnee Boardman of Missouri Valley; his son Blake Boardman of Harlan; his parents James and Crystal Boardman; his brothers: Wayne Boardman and Mark Boardman all of Portsmouth; other family members and many friends.

Pastor Gene Springer officiated the 2:00 p.m. funeral service on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at Bethel Independent Baptist Church in Harlan. Music was provided by Roger and Annette Wilson, Linda Post, Jeff Springer, and Kristina Springer. Honorary casket bearers were Robert Koch, Wayne Boardman, Robert Rounds, Rick Chipman, Dan Schweider, and Craig Gregory. Serving as casket bearers were Bob Lytle, Howard McCutchan, Marty Orr, Roger Wilson, Chad Springer, and Jeff Springer. Burial was held at the Harlan Cemetery.



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