
Rodney Rus, 59, Arizona

Rodney J. Rus, 59, passed away July 15, 2005, after a long, debilitating illness.

Rodney J. Rus was born on Sept. 1, 1945, at Pella. He was the only child of Gerrit Rus and Dorothy Jean Vander Waal Rus.

Rod graduated from Peoria Christian Grade School and attended Pella Christian High School until his illness forced the family to move to Phoenix, Arizona. There Rodney attended Phoenix Christian High School until further illness required him to stop. Later, he attended Phoenix College where he earned his G.E.D. (General Equivalency Diploma). Rod had many hospitalizations in AZ and suffered from much illness.

Rod was born with a special musical gift, a sensitive ear for playing the piano by ear. He also had five years of piano instruction. He was asked to play the piano in many local churches, using his own style of playing with "many runs" over the whole keyboard. He tried to copy the style of Rudy Atwood of Dr.

Charles Fuller's Old Fashioned Revival Hour. Rudy Atwood came to our home after one performance. The next morning we took Rudy to the Des Moines Airport to go home. It was a special honor and highlight when Rod was asked to accompany a girls' choir from four churches at the Pella Preaching Mission. A large grand piano was brought into the beautiful First Reformed Church in Pella. Rodney also accompanied Dr. Thomas Boslooper and the singer of Temple Time (Reformed Church Broadcast). Dr. Henry Cox also took a special interest in Rod's style of piano playing. He told Rod he was doing difficult things as he played (diminished 7th's, etc), far beyond his training.

In his younger days, Rod was a great reader; he liked to absorb knowledge. Collecting quotations was one of his hobbies. At various times, he took Bible courses by correspondence. Rod was preceded in death by his father on March 7, 2003.