



# James "Jim" Magalsky

**Memorial Service**  
Wednesday, July 3, 2024 at 11:00 AM  
Faith Assembly of God Church  
Circle, Montana

**Officiating**  
Pastor Stephen Fanning

**Eulogy**  
Nathan Champlin

**Music**  
Piano: Hailey Magalsky (Granddaughter)  
and Lovena Magalsky (Daughter-in-Law)  
Vocalist: Connie Phalen and Erin Ketchum

**Interment**  
Jim was laid to rest on June 1, 2024 in  
Riverview Cemetery  
Circle, Montana

***A luncheon will be held directly following the  
memorial service at the church.  
Everyone is invited.***

*Jesus said, I am the resurrection, and  
the life: he that believeth in me, though he  
were dead, yet shall he live. And  
whosoever liveth and believeth in me  
shall never die. Believest thou this?*

*John 11:25 -26*

*In Loving*  
M E M O R Y



*James "Jim"  
Magalsky*

August 30, 1951 - May 29, 2024



## "Jim loved and lived for Jesus"

A Master Carpenter, like Jesus his Savior, James Andrew Magalsky led a life of significance in spite of challenges. While sawing, glueing, joining and planing to perfection was his craft, following Jesus was his passion.

After courageously battling a debilitating disease for 44 years, Jim passed away peacefully while surrounded by family on May 29th, 2024. Jim was born on August 30, 1951, in Glendive, Montana to Ed and Grace Magalsky, the 4th of 8 children. He grew up 13 miles North of Lindsay, MT on the family ranch and attended country school. Jim graduated from Circle High School in 1969 and attended MSU briefly before returning home to work as a carpenter for Donnie Quick, Lucy's uncle.

In the summer of 1972, he married Lucy Green and they moved to Chama, NM where they welcomed their first child, Michael in October of 1973. Before long, they returned home to Montana to live on the Hubing Ranch and work for Dale where they added a daughter to the family, Lynette, in July of 1975. Soon they moved onto the Earl Green farm near Lucy's parents where they farmed, and he began roofing with his brother Dan. They had another son, Kelly, in 1979.

In 1980, when Kelly was just barely one year old, Jim started not feeling well. He was experiencing muscle weakness and fatigue and balance and coordination issues. It was frustrating and embarrassing for him, being a former All-conference basketball player and the bread-winner for his family. In May of 1981 he walked into the Mayo Clinic for tests but left wheelchair bound and never walked again.

They called it MS, because they couldn't figure out what else it could be. From that point on, his health declined. He lost coordination, his eyesight suffered, and he was completely bed-ridden for a lengthy time. Frankly, life was challenging and frustrating at every turn. Lucy worked tirelessly trying to find cures or remedies, to somehow stop or slow the progression of the "disease" but eventually they both had to adapt to life in this twisted sense of "normal". He was only 28 years old with a wife and 3 young children and understandably this challenge took a toll on him as well as his family, however, together he and Lucy made the best of it.

The challenges and trials associated with his sickness led to him being introduced to God in a new way. He searched, read, and discovered God's Word for the first time in his life, thanks to

people like Eric Frederickson and the Phalen's who unselfishly shared Jesus with Jim and Lucy. He sought and found eternity through a relationship with Jesus and His free gift of grace. His Father, Brother, Children, In-Laws, Friends, and countless acquaintances soon followed thanks to his influence. Now 5 generations are following Jesus in his footsteps.

Jim loved the sunshine and the outdoors, so Lucy's father Earl made him a huge walker to be able to get around outside. Eventually he upgraded to an electric cart to be able to drive around the yard, to the shops, and down the road to get the mail. He spent countless hours outside in the sun, often sitting and reading his bible. Eventually he got a computer, which he enjoyed and enabled him to do things he couldn't otherwise do including helping others with bookkeeping and of course studying The Bible.

Jim and Lucy together raised their three children through abundant grit and with constant admonition and encouragement. When many kids come home to absent parents, both he and Lucy were at home full-time, rooting their kids on in life. Together, they attended every school event – sports, music, theater, graduations, and fostered the kids into a drug problem... yes, they drug them to church every Sunday.

In 1998, when they became empty nesters, they decided to embrace their newfound freedom. They purchased a motorhome and began their excursions south for many years. They joined Campers for Christ and met many great friends and returned home to Montana for summers as well as lived in Boise for several years to be near grandkids. Talking to them during these years, it was obvious these were some of the happiest times of their life.

In 2019, Jim wanted to be back in Montana near his siblings, so he moved to Livingston where he was close to his brother Joe and wife, Sally. While the nursing home was anything but enjoyable, he was cared for lovingly and constantly by both of them. Sally became like another sister to him and having spent her career as a nurse, she was instrumental in overseeing his care. She was devoted and dedicated to Jim and the companionship and care given was immeasurably valued. We will be forever grateful to them both.

Always a cheerful giver, his generosity defied logic. Jim was always giving to others in need: widows, orphans, unemployed, missionaries. Though he never had much to count materially, his family's needs were always met through God's unique economy of blessing the blesser. He set this example for his family to observe and follow. If you feel so inclined, bless someone in need in his honor.

In his final hours, he blessed us again with abundant smiles, just like his preceding 72 years. His attractive personality and beaming smile garnered friends at every stage of life. He had many lifelong friends and everyone wanted time with Jim, Mugger, Jimmy-Andy, Dad, Uncle. No one actually called him James, but coincidentally, James was his favorite Bible book because he loved its wisdom and guidance for Godly living and blessing. Please read it again for yourself in remembrance of him.

He founded his life on the Bible's promises and through his actions and words he influenced so many of us and taught us about faith, perseverance, patience, and believing in the promise of eternity. He left us peacefully – to be separated from his imperfect body and joined with his Savior in eternal perfection. Prominently displayed in his nursing home room was Romans 8:18: "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us." With that promise fulfilled, we can smile and celebrate knowing he is right now walking and leaping (and fishing, and rebounding, and roofing) in heaven in a healed body.

While his cabinetry and furniture handiwork was his pride, following Jesus and bringing his family and friends closer to Jesus will forever be his legacy. When asked recently how he wanted to be remembered, his answer was "I want to be remembered as a person who testified about Jesus and that His Word (the Bible) can be trusted and that every word of it is just as true today as it was 2000 years ago. Times may be changing but God never changes. (Malachi 3:6)"

He was preceded in death by so many he loved dearly. Lucy, his wife of 50 years, just 15 months ago, his father, Edward; mother, Grace; brother, George; father-in-Law Earl Green; brother-in-law Jimmy Green, and sister-in-law Elaine.

He is survived by Son, Michael James Magalsky, wife Lovena, grandkids Aaron, Grace, Abigail, and Gabriel, and great-granddaughter Naiiah, all of Boise, ID. Daughter, Lynette Maria Champlin, husband Nathan, and granddaughters Sara, Leah, Mikayla, and Olivia of Billings, MT. Son, Kelly Edward Magalsky, wife Darcy, and grandkids Connor, Hailey, and Ryan of Cheney, WA. His 3 brothers, Joe and wife Sally, Dan and wife Patty, Marty and wife Penny, his 3 sisters, Rose and husband Larry, Ramona and husband John, and Kathleen, as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

His dying wish was for those he loved to join him there in eternity. The ball's in your court. Be like Jim. Accept Jesus as your Savior and follow him faithfully starting today. Jim will be standing tall and strong waiting in Heaven for you.