



Brad & Kathy Davis

The “Brad & Kathy Davis” story would make a touching romance movie. Kathy grew up on a farm south of DFW and worked as a Residential Designer for EEI Corporation. Brad grew up in Fort Worth. In his youth, his first love was his motorcycle. An accident killed his best friend and sent Brad to the hospital for several months after receiving infected blood. His humble and loving spirit set Brad up for years of guilt due to the death of his best friend. He graduated from L. D. Bell High School in 1972.

Meanwhile, Kathy fell in love, married, and built a home on the family farm. Her sweet disposition set her up for a great marriage with the right man, but the guy was the wrong man and the marriage dissolved. She poured her heart into Jesus.

Brad poured his grief into drugs for 20 years, experienced a failed marriage of his own, and spent 18 months in Tarrant County Jail. Seeking to help herself and others, Kathy started a Divorce Recovery program at the Hills Church of Christ. Yes, Brad became a member of the group and they participated in social events like Texas Ranger baseball games. Kathy had been a Christian from youth and Brad had become a devoted servant of the Lord and attended the Preston Road School of Preaching in Dallas.

At a Ranger’s game, a video of Brad & Kathy appeared on the Jumbotron. He proposed to Kathy in the video, she said “yes,” they hugged, kissed, and the fans went crazy! The video was seen nationwide. Brad’s parents were expecting it so they were tuned in.

Brad graduated from Preston Road in 1993 and on August 14, Brad and Kathy became husband and wife. Life could not have been better.

Kathy was already ministering to female prisoners and Brad’s mother (Betty) had been a volunteer in Tarrant County Jail where her husband (John) often joined her. They were searching for ways to help their son. These experiences would combine to strengthen these relationships and prepare them for effective prison ministry. With encouragement from Kathy and his parents, Brad enrolled in Southwest Assembly of God College in nearby Waxahachie, graduating Magna Cum Laude.

Brad’s past gave him valuable understanding and empathy for struggling addicts. He was a good listener with a personality that made him trustworthy. He did not judge others but inspired and encouraged them. Brad was a much-needed role model for those in prison. His story would be incomplete without relating his encounter with Louis Gerber, a South African missionary. Louis came here in June 1997 and spoke of his prison ministry efforts in South Africa. The following February, Brad accompanied Craig Tucker, John Gage (Ellis County Sheriff), and Jerry Pieterse to South Africa to see Louis and the prison ministry in action.

The night before their departure, the families met for dinner at the Gage home. Neal White was present with his camera from the *Waxahachie Daily Light* and an article entitled "Men on a Mission" appeared the next day, February 15, 1998. Brother Gage is quoted: "I've spent pretty much my entire adult life putting men in the penitentiary. Now I'm more interested in helping these men change their lives and stay out of prison. I've seen a lot of programs that try to rehabilitate inmates, but this (NLBM) is the only thing that I've seen work." John died on May 11, 2002.

In the same article, Brad is quoted: "What we try to do is reconcile the individual to God and their family, while showing them how to be a responsible citizen. We also minister to the spouses and children of the inmates, helping them through the difficult times they are facing."

Kathy was a tremendous help to Brad in prison ministry. They loved each other and they loved the men and women they helped. Together, they were "models" of one heart and one spirit. One of Brad's first NLBM efforts was at Hutchins State Jail where he was an integral part of the "FamilyNet" weekends previously reported on in detail with Bill Brewer's story. Businessman, Randy Pittard, designed the butterfly logo for the ministry in connection with these weekends and it remains the logo used by NLBM today. Randy was also a dedicated NLB instructor.

Working with the Maypearl Church of Christ, Brad and Kathy started classes at the Estes facility in Venus where students carried on a letter-writing program with local church members. This bonded them together and gave church members a way to share their faith. Brad and Kathy also worked with Ellis County Jail (where John Gage was Sheriff), involving numerous ladies such as Connie Beam, Marcene Hinde, Gena Beam, Jan Tater, Linda Wheatley, and Elizabeth Green.

Brad and Kathy teamed up to teach life skills and marriage reconciliation in northeast Texas prisons until shortly before July 30, 1999 when Kathy died at 40 years of age from cancer. For as long as she felt well enough, Kathy joined a busload going to the Gatesville prisons where they met NLB stalwarts, Helen Horne and Laura White. For several years, the Hills Church of Christ gave an annual "Kathy Davis" award to a member who served diligently and selflessly.

Brad continued the prison ministry but dearly missed Kathy. He had serious problems with a leg and spent time in Baylor Hospital in 2001. From his bed, he wrote encouraging letters to those incarcerated. An excerpt said: "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for keeping me in your hearts and minds. I hope and pray that my struggles have not discouraged you. I know that what The Lord has done in my life has been a source of inspiration and encouragement to others. What Satan meant for evil, God has made for good. After this experience, I will be better equipped as a vessel for His ministry of Reconciliation." He went on to write, "If you have a set-back, go back to the Father. He is waiting to embrace you and cover you with His robe of righteousness..."

You can see Brad's loving spirit. He was not blaming God or anyone else for his

problems. We can also see his optimistic spirit. His solution to all problems was to go back to the Father. His fatherly love, concern, and care for his students was reflected in the letters, cards, and prayers they offered. Eventually, Brad would move back to the home of his parents in Fort Worth. He left the prison ministry, bought a pickup, and started a delivery business. When that venture failed to be profitable, Brad went to work with FEMA. It was during this time that Brad and a friend were in East Texas enjoying a ride in an ATV when he lost control and hit a tree that catapulted Brad headfirst into it. He died instantly at 52 years of age on April 24, 2006. Many came from far and near to celebrate his life in a service at the Hills Church of Christ. A sizeable group wanted to attend but the State of Texas, naturally, would not release them to be present.

The world lost a great Christian who loved the Lord with all his heart and soul. Brad shared that affection with every student – men and women who often had known and experienced little love.

Thank you, Brad and Kathy, for letting us see Christ in you.

– HM Motsinger