

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Paul Lawrence Middleton

Paul was born in New Brunswick, New Jersey on October 7, 1964. His parents are Leonard Ralph Middleton and Anita Ann (Hokkanen) Middleton. Paul was employed at DataCard in Minnetonka. He passed away on March 25, after a 20-month battle with multiple myeloma. Paul was 45 years, 5 months and 18 days of age at the time of his death. The Middleton family extends their special thanks to the doctors and staff at the Myeloma Institute for Research & Therapy at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, Arkansas, and is so thankful for all the prayers and support from friends and relatives both here and abroad.

SURVIVED BY
Wife, Nyla

Children, Peter, Henry, Joshua, and Abby
Sisters, Laurie and Kara



VISITATION

Monday, March 29, 2010
5PM – 8PM

City Hill Fellowship, 12901 Roberts Dr.
Eden Prairie, MN
www.cityhill.org, 952-941-7291

SERVICES

Tuesday, March 30, 2010, 1:00 PM
visitation 1 hr. prior, City Hill Fellowship

INTERMENT

Alston Cemetery
Rural Houghton County, Michigan

MEMORIAL DESIGNATION

Paul's colleagues at Datacard Group have initiated an education fund for the children and welcome others to contribute also:

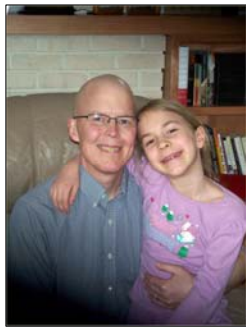
*Paul Middleton Family Education Fund
c/o Nyla Middleton *@Anchor Bank
Plymouth Office, 3950 Vinewood Lane N
Plymouth MN 55441 (763) 559-9336

Paul's favorite local charity:

Mn Teen Challenge (612) 238-6537
1619 Portland Ave S. Minneapolis MN 55404



Paul Lawrence Middleton was born October 7, 1964, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, to Len and Anita Middleton. He joined a sister, Laurie. Len and Anita, originally from Dearborn and Detroit, Michigan, had already relocated a few times due to Len's work as a civil engineer, but they would move to Boston, south Texas, and Pennsylvania in the next few years. After learning to read at the age of 4, Paul started school at "The Valley School," a private school in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. Paul's sister Kara was born in Pennsylvania in 1970. A few months later, the Middletons moved to Minnesota – first to Hibbing and then to Eveleth. In 1974, they moved to Esko and began attending church at the Cloquet Gospel Tabernacle. He met the pastor's son, Steve Rasmussen, who became his friend for life. Paul, in no uncertain terms, was a genius. In 9th grade, he took college calculus. On achievement tests, he scored in the 99th percentile. He had a reputation in high school just because of how smart he was. But Paul never showed off his abilities. He didn't use big words, and he had the ability to take complicated data and simplify it into just a few words that a layman could understand. In 1981, when Paul was 16, he decided to go with the group "Teen Missions" on a



summer work project in southern India. It was a very difficult trip to a third world country, but Paul clearly loved the experience. He thought of being a missionary, but with his intellectual gifts, pursuing a career in electrical engineering seemed right. So Paul went to LeTourneau College in Texas for 2 years, and then to the University of Minnesota where he later received a Master's Degree. Paul met his wife, Nyla Maki, who was from Upper Michigan, when they were both only 13. They met at a Wood Lake Bible Camp, when, as Nyla remembers, he cut in front of her in the food line, and she wouldn't stand for it. Both were stars on their respective Bible Quiz Teams. It seemed like a match. Both were 100% Finnish. Paul and Nyla were married in 1986 in Houghton, Michigan. They started out in Evanston, Illinois, where Paul worked at AT&T in Skokie. They returned to Minnesota in 1988, and Paul worked at Rosemount until 1989. Grad school followed. Then Paul began working for Cummins Engine Company in Columbus, Indiana, where his design for a popular fuel rail is possibly still being used. In 1994 they returned to Minnesota, where Paul worked for Onan/Cummins

in Fridley. Here he headed up the technical side of the Dominion Project. In April 2001, Paul went to work for the Data Card Group in Minnetonka, where he worked until the present. During these years, Paul and Nyla had four children: Peter, in 1991, who became the soft-spoken leader of his siblings, as well as a gifted artist; Henry, in 1994, who is an intelligent and keen-minded thinker; Joshua, born in 1999, is the emotionally expressive and outgoing child - uncharacteristic for a Finnish person -- who entertains the family with his magic shows. And Abby, born in 2001, is the tough-minded, yet very feminine girl, who is funny enough to do stand-up comedy. The family was always involved in church and various small groups. Paul played the guitar and led worship in all of these groups. Paul loved worship. In 2008, his son Henry's 14th birthday gift was a bass guitar. Since that time, Paul and Henry wrote some worship songs together and even did some recording of these songs. Paul's life seemed to be almost like a storybook until August of 2008, when he was diagnosed with a disease called multiple myeloma. Research showed that the best treatment available was in Little Rock, Arkansas, so Paul and Nyla did everything they could to avail themselves of the program there, even temporarily moving part of their family there. Ultimately, the treatment failed. But Paul also had a miraculous healing along the way. Also in August of 2008, he attended "Pray for the Cure" at North Heights Lutheran Church one Monday night. He had been in a lot of pain prior to this and that night he was prayed for by a couple of people. During the prayer time one of them asked him what he was feeling and he replied, "Nothing – physically." When the meeting ended he walked out into the hallway and commented that he was "walking normally." A few minutes later he was back in the meeting room telling the people who prayed for him that his pain was gone. Later, in October, he had an MRI which showed that the tumor in his back had vanished. Paul believed in divine healing. His life was characterized by his faith in Jesus Christ, his love for his family, and his love for others. He wanted to live so that he could support his family in all ways, and near the end of his life, expressed concern about this. But then, smiling, he said confidently, "But God can provide." On the last night of his life, his sister Kara and Nyla were both in the room with him. Nyla had a vision of angels coming to escort him away to heaven. Paul seemed reluctant to leave but Nyla assured him that the Holy Spirit would remain with the family, to comfort them. He then died, peacefully, at home, as he had wished.

