



Dagne Assefa

May 12, 1950 - September 9, 2021

Dagne Assefa, 71, died September 9, 2021 at 12:41 p.m. surrounded by his family.

He was a caring, fun-loving, and devoted husband, father, pastor, brother, mentor and friend. Dagne was a lively storyteller, with a love of people and community, sly humor, and a radiant smile. He regularly welcomed newcomers and longtime friends to his home for meals and put his guests instantly at ease with his warmth, attentiveness, and his kind, jovial spirit. He enjoyed tending his yard and garden, hiking in parks, taking coffee outings with friends, reading, puzzling, and playing with children, especially his granddaughter. A proud resident of Indianapolis, he often gave detailed, multi-hour car tours of the city to friends and family.

Dagne was the founding pastor of Shalom Mennonite Church in Indianapolis and faithfully served the congregation for 24 years. In 2021, the church created a public park and named it after Dagne.

As a young adult in Ethiopia, Dagne worked for the budding Meserete Kristos Church as an evangelist and pastor. To provide opportunities for the church's youth, he helped found the Meserete Kristos Church Addis Ababa Choir, which continues today after nearly five decades of ministry.

Dagne was also a passionate activist and community organizer. In Ethiopia, he successfully organized fellow factory workers for fairer wages. He later participated in anti-war marches in Indianapolis. His commitment to community also led him to found the Ethiopian Community Association of Central Indiana.

He was born May 12, 1950 in Nazareth, Ethiopia to the late Worknesh Hailu and Assefa Haile. He was also preceded in death by siblings, Tamerat Assefa and Nunnu Assefa. Dagne married Carol Weaver on August 3, 1985 in Elkhart, Indiana, and was married for 36 years. He graduated from Goshen College with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. He earned a Master of Divinity at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and a second Master's Degree in Applied Linguistics from Indiana University. He received a Doctor of Ministry from Christian Theological Seminary.

Dagne is survived by his wife, Carol; daughters, Lydette (Tyler Falk) and Menan (Isaac Lederach); siblings, Yonas Assefa, Etagene Bedane, Tegene Bedane, Belete Bedane, Asnaku Bedane and Selamawit Bedane; and granddaughter, Yeshi Lederach.

In lieu of flowers, memorial offerings in Dagne's name may be made to Meserete Kristos College (mkcollege.org/donate) and the ALS Foundation (als.org/donate).

Cemetery Details

Washington Park North

2706 Kessler Blvd. West Dr.
Indianapolis, IN

Tribute Wall

DP

“ *My condolences go out to Lydia and Menan on losing your Dad. Many prayers are sent to you and your family.*

Diana Power - September 28, 2021 at 09:26 AM

CM

“ *Mike and I are Jay Brubaker's ex inlaws. We are so sorry for your loss. We always appreciated him as a pastor and shepard. We knew about the park dedicated to him through Eirene. Our prayers go out to your family*

Carol Montgo.ery - September 19, 2021 at 08:57 PM

JM

“ *My deep and sincere condolences to all of you. Dagne was a wonderful person and Adamson and I treasured the time that we had together with Dagne and Carol in Indianapolis. I can picture Adamson and Dagne enjoying each other's company and sharing stories together in heaven.*

All my love,

Joanna Masingila

Joanna Masingila - September 19, 2021 at 12:30 PM

UG

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Ursh Green - September 18, 2021 at 07:03 PM

JL

“ Carol my thoughts and prayers are with you and the family during this time. Your family is such a blessing and reading Dagne's obituary indicates a life so completely lived and a blessings to so many. I am delighted that our families are connected through Marriage. So pleased and thankful for Menan, Isaac and Yeschi. What a wonderful family to extend Dagne's life on into another generation.. This is in real time his resurrection. The Farmer poet Wendell Berry said it this way, "...At our dinners together, the dead enter and pass among us in living love and memory. And so the young are taught." Dagne, husband, father, grandfather, Pastor and kind and loving friend is certainly among us in living love and in memory.

I know what it is like to lose a love one in death, Naomi is now only with me in living love and memory.

JOHN M LEDEACH - September 16, 2021 at 03:06 PM

NK

“ Dagne had a wonderful and encouraging spirit. He was also full of wisdom. It was very enjoyable to serve on committees with him. He was an asset to the church in so many ways. My heart goes out to you Carol and your family. Nancy Kauffmann

Nancy Kauffmann - September 15, 2021 at 10:14 PM