



## Ernest "Ernie" Medcalfe

October 24, 1925 - July 23, 2016

Ernest "Ernie" Medcalfe

October 24, 1925 – July 23, 2016

"Your care for others is the mark of your greatness" (Luke 9:48, LB). "And he gives grace generously." As the scriptures say, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6, NLT).

On face value it would appear that these two Bible verses are contradictory and yet they are both integral pillars to the Christian faith. Ernie Medcalfe's life was the embodiment of each sentiment. Although he would shy away from praise and accolades, his lifestyle consistently and passionately put others before himself and he did it with grace, humility, and integrity that he learned from his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Ernie's Christ-like servant's heart was evident throughout his life. You could see and hear it in his unconditional love, encouragement and commitment to his high school sweetheart, Fran, who became his wife of 51 years, and to their two children. His compassionate and caring heart was evident in his interaction with his grandchildren and great grandchildren; as a loyal shipmate during World War II and teammate at Arsenal Technical High School and Indiana State Teachers College; as a dynamic teacher/coach also at Tech High School; as an inspirational principal at Warren Central High School; as a spiritual leader, teacher, mentor and role model at Englewood Christian Church and in his community; as a pioneer in urban ministry; and as a faithful family member and friend. Upon meeting Ernie you immediately became his

friend regardless of who, what or where you were.

Ernie is survived by his children Larry (Gayle) Medcalfe and Susie (Steve) Morrow; his grandchildren Chad (Stephanie) Medcalfe, Jake (Megan) Morrow, Luke (Jennifer) Medcalfe, Kelly (Heidi) Morrow, and Peter (Sarah) Morrow; his great grandchildren Calvin, Gracie, Trey, Tate, and Caden Medcalfe; Matthew, Lily, Elora, Caleb, Grayson, and Brennan Morrow and Hayden Watson. Ernie was preceded in death by his wife, Frances (Gentry); his parents Ernest and Mabel; brother, Marvin and sister, Betty.

Friends are invited to visit with the family Friday, July 29, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. until the Celebration Service at 2:00 p.m. at Englewood Christian Church, 57 N. Rural St., Indianapolis, IN 46201. Ernie's family would appreciate memorial gifts be given to Englewood Christian Church, instead of flowers.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JUL 29. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Englewood Christian Church  
57 North Rural Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46201

## Celebration of Life

JUL 29. 2:00 PM (ET)

Englewood Christian Church  
57 North Rural Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46201

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ *Ernie was a great teacher and a great man for comforting his students.*

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**marilyn harrell witte** - August 09, 2016 at 05:26 PM

LG

“ *I was so sorry to hear about Mr. Medcalfe's passing. When I think of him, I see him walking down the hallway with a smile on his face. Always such a gracious, kind and gentle man. I am thankful I was at Warren during his years there. I was out of town last weekend and am sorry I missed the viewing so wanted to send my condolences to the family. He will live on in all of his Warren Central Warriors! We love you Mr. Medcalfe!*

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**Linda Godby** - August 01, 2016 at 11:07 AM

JB

“ *Ernie Medcalfe was one of the most Christ like people I have ever known. He was an inspiration to so very many students and staff. He was a wonderful principal. I will always remember and appreciate his kindness, his wonderful example as a husband, father, and Christian. He was a blessing in my life.*

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**Jim Butz** - July 28, 2016 at 10:34 PM

BF

“ *The world is mourning, but heaven is rejoicing over thie passing of this beautiful Christian gentleman. Ernie was the most tender hearted, gentle, caring person I ever knew. I counted him as a dear friend while living in Indianapolis and teaching at Waren Central. Our rhoughts and prayers are with his family in their loss, but he is walking the streets of gold with his beloved Fran right now.*

*Bruce Fowler*

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**BruceB Fowler** - July 28, 2016 at 09:43 PM

TJ

“ *While we will not be with you tomorrow for Ernie's Celebration, we are sending a memorial to Englewood in honor of his and your mom's faithful service to God. We will be thinking about you and praying for you. Tom & Mary Gail Jones*

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**Tom Jones** - July 28, 2016 at 09:16 PM

“ No need to send condolences to Ernie's family as they share his complete Christian faith that he is now with the Lord and with the love of his life, Fran. If ever there were lives to be celebrated for the good will and love they left behind, Fran and Ernie were the epitome. Wherever they went, the mood of the room was uplifted and almost sanctified.

*In his brief interlude away from education for a year, I had the wonderful good fortune to work with Ernie almost 50 years ago. And we both were blessed to have Fran as secretary, first to Ernie and then to me after he returned to education. If anyone ever thought that committed Christians were dour sorts, two minutes with either of them would dispel that notion in a heartbeat. And their marvelous sense of humor kept all of us laughing as we went about our serious work. A hilarious unscripted moment came one time when Ernie declared that "...there were a lot more important things in life than having a beautiful wife." A brief moment followed and then we turned to each other simultaneously and said "WHAT?!" I passed that story along to Governor Pence who has used it many times as well.*

*After Fran had passed away and Ernie retired, we regularly went out to lunch where once again, the waitresses and other workers wherever we frequently went would always know him and try to capture a few minutes with him to try to steal some of that warmth that he exuded. One memorable occasion was at an MCL and Ernie had gone to the bathroom. One of the gals who might have been in her 30's was sitting with me and proclaimed, "Daggone, I just wish Ernie were a bit younger and I'd sure be after him!" He was over 80 at the time.*

*In the half century since I first met him, I have repeated over and over that this was the most Christ-like man I'd ever met. I've never had reason to revise that once. I loved him dearly and the good news is that even though I won't see him again for a few years, his example will still light my way. Thank you, God, for sending him to*

*us!*

*Gary A. Hofmeister*

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**Gary A. Hofmeister** - July 28, 2016 at 06:18 PM

SC

“ *Mr. Medcalfe was my High School Principal at Warren Central. He was a great example to us all and he was supportive of every type of event and activity at the school. I had great respect for that man and he will be missed.....my deepest condolences to the family - Steve Cooper class of '79*

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**Steve Cooper** - July 28, 2016 at 04:11 PM



“ *Ernie was the kindest man I have ever met. He was a gentle spirit and a God-fearing man. I loved to hear his devotional talks. The world will truly miss him, but Heaven must be rejoicing. Sandy Bruce Oliva*

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**Sandy Oliva** - July 28, 2016 at 09:09 AM

MJ

“ *Ernie was always warm and kind to me. I have only pleasant memories of him. I remember a young adult Sunday School class he taught. One Sunday he said, "what if you lost everything, would you still follow Christ?". Before the next Sunday, I had lost my job, wrecked my car and life looked bleak. That Sunday, he was real concerned and asked if I still had my fiance, Ronna. Of course, I did. Ernie's Christianity was real and personal and I count him as one of the greatest influences on my life and my Christian faith.*

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**Melvin Brown, Jr.** - July 28, 2016 at 08:46 AM

JL

“ John Durham LI lit a candle in memory of Ernest "Ernie" Medcalfe



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**John Durham II** - July 28, 2016 at 06:47 AM

DT

“ My husband, Steve Webb, and I always loved seeing Mr. Medcalfe over the years. First, he was our kind and wise principal at Warren Central and next we graduated to calling him "Ernie", and we marveled at all of the wonderful things he did in the Englewood community and beyond. Ernie and Steve's Dad, Carl, were inspirations to us, selflessly giving to those in need. Ernie was always interested in other people and seemed to see the positive in all situations and always had his sense of humor firmly intact. He was a true treasure to so many of us for decades. Prayers and love to his family.

*Diane Timmerman*

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**Diane Timmerman** - July 27, 2016 at 10:27 PM

CW

“ Ernie was my Christian brother, mentor and friend. After retirement he started the Englewood Neighborhood Christian Ministry which involved a food pantry, clothing pantry. and a furniture and appliance warehouse. Ernie then became Director of the Care Center,, a shelter for homeless women and children. While deeply involved in these ministries, he also found time to make fishing trips to Canada and a Bible smuggling trip to China. I have great and wonderful memories of all of these times because Ernie included me in each one. Thanks, Ernie!! God has used you well. I am sure God has a special place for you. Carl Webb

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**Carl E Webb** - July 27, 2016 at 03:41 PM



“ *Mr Medcalfe was an amazing principal and leader at Warren Central. His calm demeanor no matter the situation is something we all can learn from.*

*The greatest testament to his legacy is the fact that people that were in high school 30+ years ago (like me) still remember and respect him.*

*Thank you, Mr Medcalfe for all you did to make Warren Central the great school it was and is. You are truly one of a kind.*

*Rest in Peace - Joe Jones (1986)*

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**Joe Jones** - July 27, 2016 at 01:44 PM



“ *Someone keeps deleting my post... I met Ernie at Englewood Christian Church when I was a child... I was drawn to him because I was fascinated with his whistling and I wanted to learn how to do that. He taught me how to whistle... His family used to joke and make fun of him and call him a mute. I later learned what that meant. I didn't know they were joking until later on. He wasn't a mute, he was a very bright and vibrant spiritually, and had a heart of gold that would make anyone smile. I miss you Ernie, my dear friend. Rest in peace!*

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**Daniel Al-Hunneiti** - July 27, 2016 at 01:05 PM

LT

“ Mr. Medcalfe was an amazing leader as a principal, and as a godly man. He never showed favoritism to any one area of activity in the school. He treated every club and organization with the same level of care and respect. I think his gentle manner garnered loyalty from his students and teachers. I have spoken of him often over the years, and will always remember him fondly. Lisa Taylor (Mullin) WCHS class of 82

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**Lisa Taylor** - July 27, 2016 at 12:57 PM

GB

“ Mr. Medcalfe was a gentle, firm, fair man! He was a huge supporter of myself and the rest of my football brothers in '84-'85 and '85-'86. I didn't know it then because I was fighting for my life, but was told later that Mr. Medcalfe was one of, if not the first person to arrive at Methodist Hospital to check on me, after being flown I via LifeLine from West Lafayette after suffering a stroke! I am so thankful for him being a part of my life and for caring!

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**Gary Bounin** - July 26, 2016 at 09:30 PM

J(

“ Mr. Medcalfe was the friendliest Sunday School teacher. I came from a very large and poor family but he never treated me any different than any other kid in the church. My love and respect for him has always remained with me.

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**Janet MacDonald (Butcher)** - July 26, 2016 at 06:56 PM

MC

“ He was my Jr. high Sunday School teacher and a big reason that I got baptized at Englewood. We met again later in life when he was the principal at Warren where my sons attended high school. A wonderful teacher, mentor and friend. My condolences to the family.

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**Maggie (Margaret) Hartman( Chandler)** - July 26, 2016 at 06:30 PM

TB

“ My mom, Helen L Peats, went to school with Ernie. My sister and I, Donna and Teresa Black when to school with his son Larry. Mom is 91 now and doing well here in AZ. My condolences to the family. I will call her and tell her about Ernie. I am sure she will be in sympathy with all of you and put you in her nightly prayers.

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**Teresa A Black-Hamilton** - July 26, 2016 at 05:27 PM

BH

“ Mr. Metcalfe was an awesome principal, the best I ever worked for, always remembered the 'kichen ladies'. Many fond memories of him & Ruth Henshaw!

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**Barbara Huffman** - July 26, 2016 at 03:51 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ernest "Ernie" Medcalfe.



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July 26, 2016 at 03:27 PM

GB

“Wow, is right, Ernie was amazing. I was a member of the Gold Brigade from 1980 to 1983 he along with faculty and staff pushed for the Warren Performing Arts Center to be built. I had a chance to use the, at the time Band, Orchestra and practice rooms but graduated before the PAC was completed. He and his wife traveled with the Marching Band to different contests which they enjoyed. Really no words can express what a Principle and to some a father figure he was. Greg Boyce graduate of 1983.



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**Greg Boyce** - July 26, 2016 at 03:08 PM

BM

“What s great Man and Mentor. I remember him from my days at Tech and was pleased to run into him as the Best Principls that Warren ever had when my brother and oldest son went there. Was pleasantly surprised to find out that my Mom and him knew each other from their days at Tech. What a Great Man. R.I.P Mr Metcalf. Sending prayers to his family

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**Becky (Laing) Meredith** - July 26, 2016 at 02:32 PM



“Mr. Medcalfe, You taught us more than you ever new. Thank you for your Example!!!!

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**Mitch Meyer** - July 26, 2016 at 01:27 PM

DH

“ I had decided to drop out of school so I just quit going. On my first day 'free' I was walking down the street and Ernie pulled up in his car. He recognized me and asked why I wasn't in school. I told him I had decided to quit. He didn't try to talk me out of it, he simply asked what my plan was now. When I said "I'm headed to this gas station over here to apply for a job" I suddenly realized how ridiculous that sounded. I was back in school within 2 days. I don't know if he did that on purpose, but it worked and I'll never forget it.

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**Dave Hess** - July 26, 2016 at 01:13 PM

KA

“ What an amazing man. How lucky were we at Warren Central to have him as our principal! Such a great void he has left behind but his influence will live on! We look forward to seeing you again, Mr. Medcalfe! - Karen Steele Avery, Class of 1986.

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**Karen Avery** - July 26, 2016 at 01:06 PM

JJ

Mr Medcalfe was an amazing principal and leader at Warren Central. His calm demeanor no matter the situation is something we all can learn from. The greatest testament to his legacy is the fact that people that were in high school 30+ years ago (like me) still remember and respect him. Thank you, Mr Medcalfe for all you did to make Warren Central the great school it was and is. You are truly one of a kind. Rest in Peace - Joe Jones (1986)

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**Joe Jones** - July 26, 2016 at 04:29 PM

NC

“ Nancy Coffman sent a virtual gift in memory of Ernest "Ernie" Medcalfe



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**Nancy Coffman** - July 26, 2016 at 12:13 PM



“ Kimberly Wilson... Class of 1988

*mr. Ernest Metcalf was a wonderful principal a great man and a beautiful Christian spirit. he never was unavailable to listen to student problems. one year when the homecoming committee decided to put a casket in the foyer of the school it unnerves me because I had recently had a death in my family went and explained this to mr. Metcafe by the time I came down for lunch the casket was gone. I may not have been the only one and nerves by this casket but I felt like he took the time to listen to my feelings and I will always appreciate him for doing that over and over again not just this one time I pray for your family but know that he is a wonderful man who is in a better place*

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**Kimberly Wilson** - July 26, 2016 at 09:51 AM

JM

“ He was a contemporary of my brother, Jim, who graduated from Tech with him. And he was a coach while my other brother, Jack, and I were at Tech. He was a wonderful man and an inspiration to many many young folks. He will be missed.

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**Joy (Buckner) Merder** - July 26, 2016 at 09:42 AM

JH

“ There's one word for Ernie  
WONDEDFUL!!!!!!

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**judy hovckett** - July 26, 2016 at 09:32 AM

KC

“ *Mr Medcalfe was the head coach of the Tech football team when I played in high school. He was a tremendously positive influence on my life! He introduced me to what it meant to be a Christian. Playing for him meant that you would play with all your heart and soul, but you would do it with sportsmanship and respect for the opponents. He was an amazing example of how to be a man, a father, a coach, and a friend. He had a great impact on thousands of young lives! He will be missed. Kent Clark*

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**Kent Clark** - July 26, 2016 at 09:29 AM

TC

“ *Loved the Lord and loved his students.*

*T. Covey (87')*

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**tcovey** - July 26, 2016 at 09:00 AM



*I totally agree Tom ..we were so very fortunate to have him as a principal and mentor. God rest his soul*

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**Michael Overfield** - July 26, 2016 at 10:50 PM



*The world lost an amazing man and heaven gained an amazing angel. Truly one of the best human being in have ever had the privilege of knowing, principal, mentor, Christian, and friend. Rest in peace Mr Metcalfe. You made the world a better place and we thank you for it*

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**Michael Overfield** - July 26, 2016 at 10:56 PM

MT

“ *He was an amazing person! I loved their whole family. We went to Englewood CC as well, so got to know them real well. RIP*

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**Merri Taylor** - July 26, 2016 at 07:43 AM

C1

“ He was an amazing, Christian man...which is what made him an outstanding principal at Warren Central! He was a great role model for his students. We learned how to conduct ourselves in a positive manner without bringing the spotlight to ourselves. What a great lesson! He was a true encourager, throughout the halls of school and to the sports teams and athletes. He made high school a positive experience! My condolences to your family, especially my fellow classmate, his grandson, Chad Medcalfe. May God surround all your family with His loving arms and bring you peace as you only He can!

Cathy (Stout) Young  
Class of '88

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Cathy (Stout) Young...Class of 1988 - July 26, 2016 at 07:20 AM

NH

After being a stay-at-home mom for 18 years, my girls were going to college and I needed a job. A friend alerted me to an opening at Warren Central as the Principal's secretary. Ernie interviewed me in the spring and after a long summer, I finally got a call from Ernie in the fall, saying he wanted to hire me as his secretary. I kind of think his decision was based more on the fact I graduated from Tech High School than any skills I might have had. :) Ernie was a most wonderful boss and the students and staff loved and respected him. He encouraged them to strive for excellence. The verse at the beginning of his obituary, "Your care for others is the mark of your greatness" was always at the bottom of any letter I typed for him. Outside of school, you seldom saw Ernie without the love of his life, Fran. I think they must have attended every extra-curricular event at WCHS. Now they are together again, and if I listen closely I can hear him singing the Hallelujah Chorus!

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Nancy Hannum - July 26, 2016 at 09:59 AM

SB

“ Oh my gosh, what an amazing, POSITIVE man! He was always smiling, always polite and pleasant! Mr. Medcalfe was the best of all of us.

*He was the "mascot" of the Class of 1981 and highlighted in our yearbook. We will "certainly" miss him!*

*My condolences to the Medcalfe family. Thank you for sharing this incredible man with us!*

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**Sally Brancheau Belknap** - July 26, 2016 at 06:38 AM

 Sandie Rottler-Cummins

“ R.I.P you were a wonderful principal class of 1986

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**Sandie Rottler-Cummins** - July 26, 2016 at 05:11 AM

TL

“ Ernie was a wonderful Christian man. He was an outstanding teacher, coach, Principal, Elder at the Englewood Christian Church, role model and family man. I count it a blessing to have known him. I am reminded to be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord. My prayers are with his family at this time.

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**Terry Loux** - July 26, 2016 at 05:03 AM

SC

“ Sad to hear of Ernie's passing, but happy that he is with our Savior! He was our Sunday School teacher 49 years ago. Loved his smile! He leaves behind a lasting legacy for his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many friends. Prayers for his family.

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**Sandy Cunniff** - July 25, 2016 at 11:40 PM

BK

“ I will always remember Uncle Ernie's voice when he said "hey ranger"!!!

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**Brenda Kraber** - July 25, 2016 at 06:19 PM