



## Gary A. Strong

February 2, 1947 - March 5, 2016

Gary A. Strong, age 69, of Wentworth, MO died on Saturday, March 05, 2016, at Mercy Hospital of Carthage in Carthage, MO. Mr. Strong was born in Joplin, MO on Sunday, February 02, 1947. He was the son of Hubert and Pauline (Baker) Strong. Mr. Strong married Janet "Sue" Bass on Saturday, October 30, 1965, in Granby, MO. He was an auto rebuilder and owned Strong's Body Shop in Sarcoxie, MO. He was also a member of the Monett Church of Christ in Monett, MO.

Surviving are the following: his wife, Sue of the home; three sons, Allan Strong of Wentworth, MO, Shannon Strong of Wentworth, MO, and Travis Strong of Monett, MO; three sisters, Frances Littrell of the state of AZ, Sandra Neilson of Port Angels, WA, and Paula Kay Hughes of Belton, MO; and eight grandchildren.

The family will receive friends at Lakin Funeral Home in Pierce City, MO on Wednesday, March 09, 2016, from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Funeral services will be at Monett Church of Christ in Monett, MO on Thursday, March 10, 2016, beginning at 11:00 AM with Brother Deny Lemaster officiating. Burial will follow at Van Buren Cemetery near Wentworth, MO.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.lakinfuneralhome.com](http://www.lakinfuneralhome.com).



# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **9**. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Lakin Funeral Home  
501 N Elm St.  
Pierce City, MO 65723  
(417) 476-2626  
lakinfuneral@suddenlink.net

## Funeral Service

MAR **10**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Monett Church of Christ  
1107 N. 9th St.  
Monett, MO 65708

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gary A. Strong*

October 09, 2023 at 08:34 AM



“ *Dear God, we thank you for this gifted man!  
He took work seriously and was a Man of God  
Rest in peace*



**cathy** - March 09, 2016 at 07:54 AM

SD

“ I posted this on FB a few months ago. It was written while I was thinking of Gary, so even though it doesn't name him, anyone who knows him will recognize "my Southern Missouri friend." Stephen Dennis, D.O.

#### *A Different Perspective*

*Have you noticed that some people can talk around and over and through and under a subject before they eventually (if ever) get to the point? Also, the very same body of information can be presented to two different people and one person immediately grasps the most important point(s) but the other person totally misses the point. My best friend is one of those people who can size up a problem or person and intuitively understand the kind of person she has just met or understand the dynamics and crucial parts of the problem better than another person who has been trying for weeks (or longer) to solve the problem. She is a cancer researcher and her unique way of looking at a problem has often allowed her to quickly solve a problem which others have been wrestling with for months. We've discussed her unique talent and as she explains it, "I just look at things differently than other people."*

*I have another friend who often dismisses himself as "not too smart" yet can fix almost anything mechanical, no matter how complex. He told me one time, "I can just look at a machine and I seem to understand how it works and how to fix it." This man is also very self-effacing when it comes to his scriptural knowledge. He talks very slowly and often so softly that one must strain to hear.*

*Someone who doesn't know him might buy into his claim of lack of intelligence, but he is one of the greatest Bible scholars I have ever met. Some can quote from memory multiple scriptures on almost any subject and explain in great depth the meaning of a particular passage, but although they may be like an Aaron to my friend who is more of a Moses, the eloquent expositor cannot hold a candle to my slow talking, barely audible friend. This is because my Southern Missouri friend gets it!! He understands that scripture is not complicated and his life proclaims that simplicity. When the*

*Pharisees who prided themselves on their great scriptural acumen came to Jesus and had one of their elite, a lawyer, ask Jesus what "the greatest command is," Jesus surprised the Pharisees with the simplicity of his answer. Matthew 22: 34 When the Pharisees learned that the Sadducees could not argue with Jesus' answers to them, the Pharisees met together. 35 One Pharisee, who was an expert on the law of Moses, asked Jesus this question to test him: 36 "Teacher, which command in the law is the most important?" 37 Jesus answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' 38 This is the first and most important command. 39 And the second command is like the first: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' 40 All the law and the writings of the prophets depend on these two commands."*

*Jesus was trying to explain the heart and soul of God's expectations. Unfortunately, most of those who heard his answer didn't understand. Just as my friend has the unique ability to look at a machine and understand how it works and just as my researcher friend is able to analyze a chemical formula and understand what can solve the puzzle, Jesus gives the nitty gritty of God's expectations. It's not complicated, but many, even some great theologians, seem to miss the point. My Missouri friend gets it! He lives it. That is why he is one of the greatest Bible scholars I know, because he grasps the essence of Christ's teaching. This passage in Matthew 22 (in spite of all of his self deprecation) is not theory to him ... it is who he is.*

---

**Stephen Dennis** - March 08, 2016 at 09:50 PM



“*Sorry for the loss of Gary. He was so kind hearted and also fun to be around. He will be missed!*”

---

**Ralph McClurg** - March 08, 2016 at 10:44 AM

SB

*He is missed deeply.he was a kind loving man always there to offer his help.he was an angel and God held a special spot just for him in heaven.where he is needed most.*

Sue baxter - September 23, 2016 at 08:50 PM

CJ

“ *Sorry to hear about Gary-Just spoke to him recently and explained things to me about his health--prayers for all the family--sorry Frances--thoughts are specially with you*



Carroll & Betty Jarvis - March 07, 2016 at 09:47 AM

ME

“ *If my memory serves me right, Gary gave a radial arm saw to a widow in La Palma El Salvador, so that she might better support herself and her family, she in turn loaned us that saw so that our team could build book shelves for a Christian school in La Palma. This is just the ne example of the good that Gary did here on this earth. May God's Peace and Blessings be on the family and friends in this time of transition.*

Morris Ellis - March 07, 2016 at 09:02 AM



*He also donated a washing machine for Reina to use!*

Ralph McClurg - March 08, 2016 at 10:43 AM

NA

“ Sorry to hear of the passing of your loved one. As people my age pass I am reminded of when we were young and just starting out. My grandfather lived 2 houses south of the Strong home in Wentworth. We played on the foundation of the old store. I loved the old '55 Chevy and Gary's hair when he was young. To me he was 'cool'

Nadine - March 06, 2016 at 06:14 PM



Many great memories of Gary. Sorry for your loss. Heaven just got an amazing angel.

Quentin Faust - March 07, 2016 at 05:04 PM

JH

So sorry for you loss. Gary will be missed by many people. Janice Hirsch

Janice Hirsch - March 09, 2016 at 09:33 AM