

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

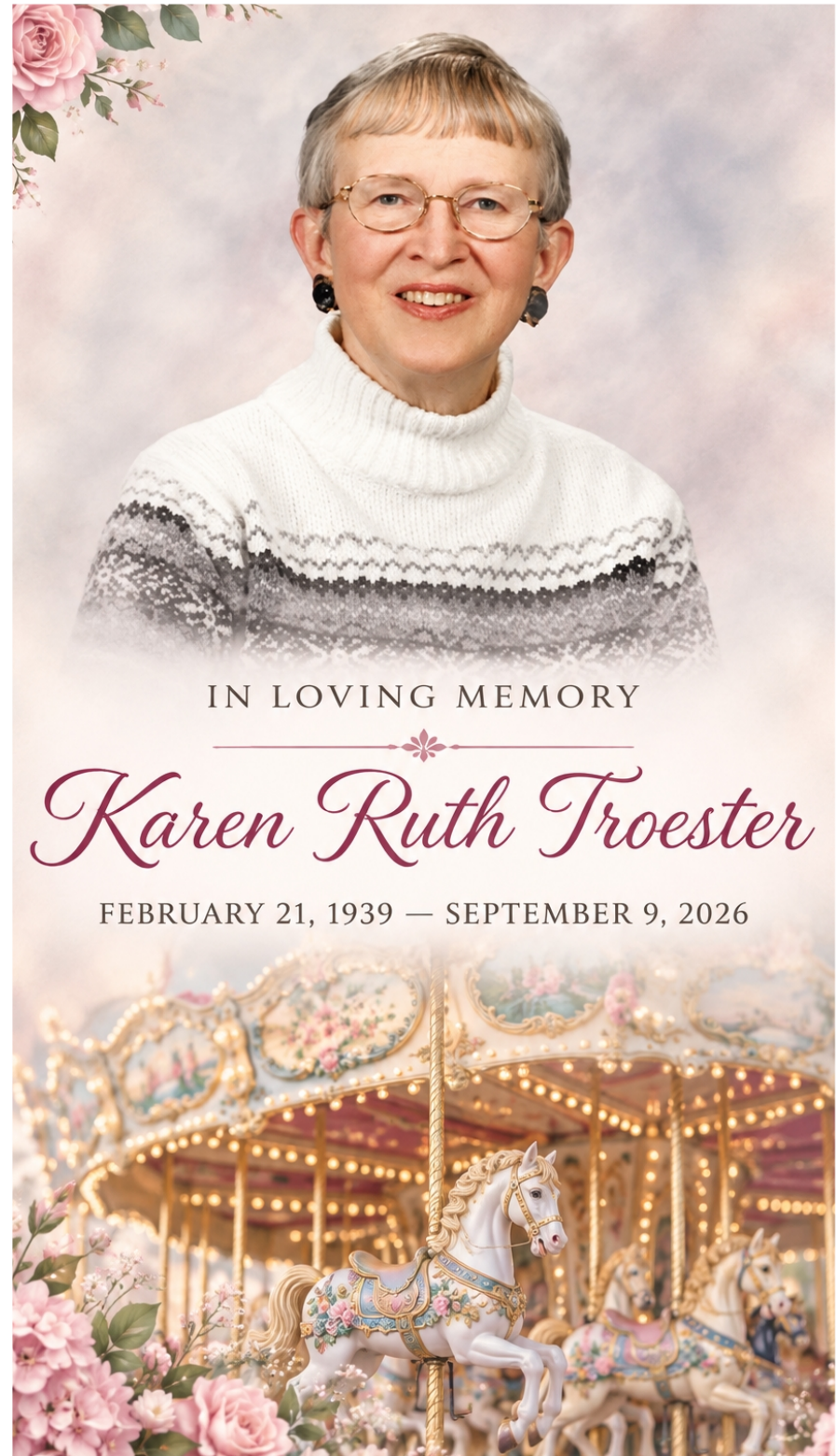
This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it:

"Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me,"



The Lord replied, "My son, my precious child, I LOVE YOU and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints.

It was then that I carried you."



Karen Ruth Troester, 87, of Des Moines, passed away on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at Norwalk Nursing and Rehab in Norwalk, Iowa.

Karen was born on February 21, 1939, in Mason City, Iowa, the daughter of Irvin and Ethel (Henderson) Troester.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Animal Lifeline in Karen's name, 4521 SE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50320.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, Irvin and Ethel Troester, and her brother, Duane Troester.

Celebrating
THE LIFE OF
Karen Ruth Troester

Date of Birth

February 21, 1939 - Mason City, Iowa

Date of Death

September 9, 2026 - Norwalk, Iowa

Visitation

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home & Crematory - Urbandale, Iowa

Funeral Service

11:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home & Crematory - Urbandale, Iowa

Officiant

Connie Wacht

Recorded Musical Selections

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" - "The Old Rugged Cross"

Artist, Alan Jackson

Interment

Highland Memory Gardens - Des Moines, Iowa



The Lord is my strength and my shield.
In him my heart trusts and I find strength.

Psalms 28:7


CALDWELL PARRISH
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY

Our Father who art in Heaven
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in HEAVEN.
Give us this day our daily bread. And
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive
those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the *Glory Forever.*
- Matthew 6:9-13

Directly following the funeral service, everyone is invited to the Creekside Church Fellowship Hall, 2743 82nd Place, Urbandale, IA, for a time of fellowship and lunch.