



## Footprints in the Sand

*One night I had a dream.  
I was walking along the beach with my Lord.  
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life,  
and for each scene I noticed two sets of footprints  
in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.*

*When the last scene of my life flashed before me,  
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.  
I noticed that many times along my life's pathway,  
especially at the lowest and saddest moments,  
there was only one set of footprints.*

*This troubled me, and I asked the Lord about it.  
"Lord, you said if I followed you in life,  
You'd walk with me all the way.  
But I noticed that during the most difficult  
times of my life, there was only one set of footprints.  
I don't understand why, when I needed  
You the most, You would leave me."*

*He whispered, "My precious child,  
I love you and will never leave you.  
During your times of trial and suffering,  
When you saw only one set of footprints,  
It was then that I carried you."*

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



# Rudy Whitfield

October 5, 1950 - May 11, 2026

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Our beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend, Rudy Whitfield, peacefully transitioned to his heavenly home on May 11, 2026. Through his journey of 75 years, Rudy touched many lives with his joyous spirit, compassion, and unwavering faith in Jesus. The eldest son of Clifford and Lona (Suggs) Whitfield, Rudy was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Although his family moved to Fort Worth, Texas, when he was a young child, Rudy always considered Arkansas his home. He spoke often and fondly of boyhood summer vacations spent at the Whitfield family farm near Benton, and he was overjoyed to move home to Arkansas to graduate from Benton High School and attend college. A man of boundless creativity, Rudy could make anything with his hands. His love for building and making things began in childhood when he learned woodworking from his grandfather and home crafts from his grandmother. Encouragement from a high school teacher led Rudy to further develop his artistic talents. He pursued bachelor's degree in fine art from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Rudy designed and built his home in Glen Rose, from the foundation to the rooftop, where he lived with his wife, Delana. Rudy approached life with the wonder of a child, which is probably one of the reasons he was such an excellent teacher. He adored children, and the children in his life adored him. He taught art at the Arkansas School for the Deaf, but his art classes did not end with each school day nor the end of his twenty-plus year career. At home, he continued teaching his daughter, Meghan, and his nieces and nephews. No project or question was too big or too small for him to invest his time, energy, and talent to help. Learning art with Rudy also meant learning about life. He freely shared his wisdom with those around him, mentoring many young people in the faith. Rudy treated everyone, especially children, with respect. He brought kindness and gentleness to difficult conversations, and he led by example. One of the greatest lessons he taught his daughter was this: Love is always, always the best choice. Rudy loved to feed the people in his life. During his frequent illnesses, he spent time in the kitchen learning to recreate his favorite childhood foods, like his grandmother's dinner rolls and her chicken and dumplings. His homemade dinner rolls became a family favorite at holiday gatherings. When he knew that someone enjoyed something that he made, he was sure to have it on hand. He loved his family and friends deeply, openly, and honestly. We know because he told us and because he showed us in the small ways that he made us feel cherished. While we grieve our loss, we are comforted in knowing that Rudy spent his life serving Jesus. We look forward to that day when we are reunited with him and our savior in glory.

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**Monday, May 18, 2026, 1:00 p.m.**  
**Life Church of Little Rock**  
**Rudy Van Whitfield**  
**Order of Service**

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Welcome & Opening Prayer  
Pastor John Tracy

Reading of Obituary  
Daughter, Meghan Whitfield

*Song ~ "The Anchor Holds"*

Eulogists  
Micah May  
Thom Walker  
Don Whitfield

*Song ~ "Midnight Cry"*

Message & Closing Prayer  
Pastor John Tracy

*Pass By (Instrumental Hymns)*  
Smith Benton Funeral Home

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Interment at Forest Hills Memorial Park

Pallbearers:  
Chris Canady Jeff Rosinbaum  
Dustin Whitfield Bryson West  
Ryan Young Micah May