



## A Farmer's 23rd Psalm

By David A. Bigley

*The Lord is like a good and wise farmer,  
For He plants my soul in the rich soil of His love and care for me.  
The roots of my faith reach for the life giving waters,  
That He irrigates my spirit with, in the hot dry months of summer.  
He plants me in straight rows,  
And cultivates my character for His name's sake.  
I will not fear the drought or storms of life,  
For He tenaciously watches over me and is with me at all times.  
It is quite evident that He is proud of me,  
For He lovingly nurtures my growth, celebrating my progress.  
And I will dwell with God forever as His precious grain of wheat,  
When comes the time of harvest.*



## *In Loving Memory Howard Altena*



‘To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heavens...a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.’

—Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Howard Bevan Altena, 72, was born on July 6, 1953, in Canton, SD, and peacefully entered Heaven's gates on Thursday, August 14, 2025. Howard was the son of the late Louis and Albertha (Van't Hul) Altena. He grew up on the family farm northwest of Rock Valley and attended Rock Valley Christian School and Western Christian High School. After graduation, he attended Nettleton College where he received a degree in Professional Accounting. Howie loved numbers, and used those talents the remainder of his life. He worked for many accounting firms during the winters while he farmed, some of which were: All American Transport, Iowa Farm Business Association and Kipley Law Firm.

On November 30, 1973, Howie was united in marriage to Lynette Klemme. They lived the first couple years of their marriage in Sioux Falls, SD, and in 1975 embarked on a fulfilling career in farming. They moved to the family farm in 1982. They were blessed with three children: a daughter, Tricia; and two sons, Troy and Evan. Howie loved his family, led by example, had a tireless work ethic, and enjoyed the farm, but his true passion was crop farming. He was a farmer who loved and respected the land that God had entrusted him. He also fed many cattle, worked hard with his hands, and could fix any piece of equipment. Working hard was not difficult for him, but he considered it an honor and privilege, especially in his later years when he could work beside and with his grandsons. He taught his sons and grandsons many valuable tools of the trade.

Howie and Lynette enjoyed many camping trips with their family, trips to various parts of the United States and Mexico, cruises, and a trip to Israel. They moved from the farm to town in 2023, and Howie continued to farm with the boys up until four days before his death.

Howie was diagnosed with cancer in February of 2015 and again in 2021 until the present. He ran his race valiantly, courageously, and with great dignity, never complaining about his circumstances. He fought this battle with his family and his Lord Jesus by his side. It was his faith that gave him the strength to carry on. He talked often of the grace and mercy so freely given him. Howie was a lifelong member of the First Christian Reformed Church, Rock Valley, where he served as Deacon, Elder, attended Men's Bible Study, Catechism teacher, and Cadet leader. He also served on the Rock Valley Christian School Board, Siouxland Energy Board, and enjoyed his time as a member of the Valley Male Chorus.

He leaves for now his beloved wife of 51 years, Lynette; three beloved children and their spouses: Tricia (Brian) Mulder; Troy (Michelle) Altena; and Evan (Kim) Altena; 12 grandchildren: Kaylee, Tristan, Jace, Rashana and Brock Mulder; Jacob (Katelyn), Tyson (Hannah), Ethan and Levi Altena; Taylor, Kaysha and Abigail Altena; a great granddaughter, Hadley Mae Altena; one beloved sister Garneth (Kevin) Kuiper of Sioux Falls, SD; brother and sister-in-laws: Steve and LaNay Welch, Greg and Paulette Klemme, and Matthew and Lori Klemme; many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members and friends.

Howard was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Albertha Altena; parents-in-law, Darwyn Klemme, Rod and Eunice Reoh; maternal and paternal grandparents.

## *Remembering the Life of Howard Altena July 6, 1953 ~ August 14, 2025*

### **FUNERAL SERVICE**

10:00 AM, Tuesday, August 19, 2025  
First Christian Reformed Church  
Rock Valley, Iowa

### **OFFICIANT**

Rev. Matthew Haan

### **PIANIST**

Carisa Maassen

### **EULOGY**

Troy Altena and grandchildren

### **CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS**

*"My Jesus I Love Thee"*

*"O Praise the Name"*

*"Alleluia, He is Coming"*

### **MUSICAL SELECTIONS**

*"The Goodness of God" ~ Grandchildren*

*"It Is Well With My Soul" ~ Tricia Mulder*

*"I Have Finished the Race" ~ James & Rachelle Vanden Bos*

### **PALLBEARERS**

Jacob Altena ~ Tyson Altena ~ Tristan Mulder

Jace Mulder ~ Taylor Altena ~ Brock Mulder

Ethan Altena ~ Levi Altena

### **HONORARY PALLBEARERS**

Kaylee Mulder ~ Rashana Mulder ~ Kaysha Altena

Abigail Altena ~ Katelyn Altena

Hannah Altena ~ Hadley Altena

### **INTERMENT**

Valley View Cemetery

Rock Valley, Iowa

*Howard's family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship in the church fellowship hall following the committal service.*