

# Byron Jonathan Porritt

SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

Many thanks to the caring and dedicated professionals who cared for him not only during these last weeks in hospice, but also through his long and difficult battle with cancer over the last five and a half years.

Byron was an amazing man who was loved by so many. Family and friends alike will miss him greatly. Byron was the loving and faithful husband to Caroline and very proud father of Jackson and Katherine who will remember their dad for their “adventures” together and his constant love and encouragement. He loved to travel as a family and was always up for something that might “sound a little crazy”.

Byron was the first child born to Stanley and Donna Porritt. He was born in Comox, BC and longed to return to a life by the ocean someday. He often commented that “saltwater is in my blood.” Byron is also survived by his siblings Clinton (Jennifer), Andrea (Calvin) and Derek (Sarah). Byron was son in law of Ed and Dinie Haasdyk and brother in law to Fred (Sheila), Julie, James (Noreen) and Glen (Teresa). Crazy Uncle Byron will also be remembered and missed by his nieces and nephews Bradley, Jennifer, Michael, Liam, Connor, Brinn, Alaythea, Maia, Haye, Benjamin, Michael, Samuel, Joshua, Ember, Zao and Moss. Over the years Byron was also proud to be “Uncle” to so many other kids and loved to teach Sunday School and babysit. He was also part of a wonderful extended family of aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents.

Byron was predeceased by his Grams, Edna Porritt Ditchuk and his Grandpa Harold Lindahl as well as beloved Uncle Ken Lindahl.

Born on Vancouver Island, his family returned to Alberta in 1981, spending time in Wetaskiwin and Gwynne but mainly settling in Three Hills where Byron attended Prairie Elementary and Junior High Schools before graduating from Prairie High School in 1993. He has many life-long friends from those years that he was always glad to keep in touch with through the years. It was also during this time that he developed a love of missions and served in various short term missions teams to Australia and Mexico. After graduation Byron spent a year at Mount Carmel Bible college in Edmonton and enjoyed getting to live with his Grams.

From Edmonton Byron moved with his family to Echo Lake Bible Camp near Vanderhoof BC. and after that moved to Kelowna to start a business with friends. It was in Kelowna that Byron met Caroline, and they were married March 13, 1999. Together they lived in Kelowna and Langley before settling in Calgary where Byron worked for both Starbucks and Simpson Strong-Tie - places he loved because of the people he got to work with and serve.

Byron loved to be a part of Church in the Hills in Calgary, taking opportunities to serve in many different capacities and looking forward to being with his church family each week to serve and connect with others.

5 and a half years ago Byron was diagnosed with cancer and we found out shortly afterwards that it was not going to be curable. In true Byron fashion he decided not to feel sorry for himself and decided instead that he was going to be intentional about how he spent his remaining time. There was very little complaining, just a desire to invest what he had left into that which was most important to him: Faith, Family and creating a legacy of thankfulness. He was passionate about being generous, about simplifying life and about caring for people.

Several years ago Byron wrote a book called "Thank You For . . . ". His intention was to pass on an attitude of thankfulness for the little things in life to the next generation. Many years passed but finally in July of this year his dream came true

and he was able to see his book in printed form and being enjoyed and appreciated by people in all areas of the world.

Byron will be deeply missed by all of us. The impact of his life and legacy are felt by more people than he could ever have imagined. Our hearts are hurting, but at the same time we are thankful that he is no longer in pain, and that his body is once again whole and strong.

Donations in Byron's memory will be gratefully accepted by Heritage Christian Academy in Calgary and by Mt Carmel Bible College in Edmonton.

The family asks that you please take a moment to share your favorite memories and photos of Byron at [memoriesofbyron@gmail.com](mailto:memoriesofbyron@gmail.com) to help his kids remember their daddy.

Byron's memorial service will be held on Wednesday September 9 in Calgary at Dalhousie Church (5511 Baroc Road NW).

## Messages of Condolence

I went to PHS with Byron and our paths later crossed working at Starbucks. Byron was always the same, always happy, carefree and inspired those around him, both personally and professionally. Byron will be missed by many, and I am honoured to have known him, even for the short time he was with us. Godspeed my friend, and don't forget about us down here. Until we meet again. x

— **Simon D. Robinson**

What can I say...So young, so unfair...

I never met him, but my heart goes out to Caroline and all the rest of the family...

I hope you all find comfort as family and friends.

Gr. Eric Holdtman

— **Eric Holdtman**

I'm sending my condolences to family and his family in Edmonton may God be with you in this difficult time

— **Connie Cheung**

I miss you brother! God is Good - God is Faithful!!!!

— **Jason Schoepfer**

I knew Byron as the smiling Dad who brought Jackson to my son's birthday parties, and invited Arie to his. He never failed to greet me with a smile when we crossed paths at Heritage, and I was shocked to find out via Facebook that he was so sick over the summer. I never would have guessed it by his attitude. Though I didn't know him well, I can say that his attitude of thankfulness and appreciation for people showed even in the small moments, and I send out my greatest condolences to Caroline, Jackson and Katherine.

— **Elly McCoy**

What can I say about this amazing man in a few words. My time with Byron was when he was a child. Laughter and fun loving he was and could talk your ear off. Made me smile and laugh many times. I know he is in heaven now grinning.

— **Susan Habermehl**

We remember you all with great fondness and sorrow with you in this time of loss.  
We rejoice with you in our Great Hope, Jesus. Much love!

**— Doreen Menu**

Byron was my best friend in High School. In so many ways, I was like a "ship without a compass" and he really rescued me, got me involved in so many things: applying for His Singers, visiting at the old folks home, working with open air campainers on 7th ave in Calgary, morning prayer in the gym foyer when we would throw our watches across the room and just trust God that we would finish in time for class, inviting me into his family and their lives, challenging me to ask God - for the first time - what He wanted of me. Long talks about what really mattered, advising me through difficult decisions. God really used Byron to change the entire course of my life. He was my friend, and a good brother. I miss him terribly, but I look forward to an awesome reunion in heaven!

**— Jason Easterbrook**

Dear Caroline & kids: Our hearts are heavy for you and we send our sincere condolences.... We remember your beautiful wedding - - and the privilege of joining you there..... we know Byron was an amazing example of love & faith..... but so are you, Caroline, and our prayers will continue to cover you and Jack & Katie. May you experience His peace and comfort as you and the children journey together. We will all see him again in Heaven - - no pain or sorrow anymore. Much love.

**— Don & Marlalee Martin**

We first met Byron when he was a toddler in Cumberland, BC. Fast-forward to when Three Hills became his home, and the Porritt family lived on the next street to us. We never saw Byron grumpy - always positive and usually a wide smile was on his face. He loved to share the love of his Lord Jesus with others. He has given us an example of joy and trust to follow.

**— Ulrich and Pat Janz**

I am a healthcare provider. I remember Byron well. And always will. I treated Byron, in the Spring of this year. To provide pain relief and also to try and return some feeling back to his legs.

I found his suffering almost unbearable. But his strength and kindness remarkable. So many patients pass through "my door" and they all teach me something in their own small way. Byron taught me gratitude. Gratitude for all my blessings in this life. He also taught me patience, to not "sweat the small stuff".

I am so sorry for your loss Caroline. Perhaps you will find some small amount of solace in knowing that he gave so much strength to so many. Including myself.

He is pain-free now. And taking care of you and your family from above.

Thank you Byron,

Kate

**— Kate**



<https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/porritt-byron-jonathan>

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