

HISTORY OF THE ZIONSVILLE GREAT BANQUET AND AWAKENING



Randy Laffoon was the father of the Zionsville Great Banquet and Awakening, and the Community greatly misses him since his passing in October 2023. Randy attended his first Great Banquet, reluctantly to appease his wife Betty Sue as he told it, in Madisonville, Kentucky. It changed his life. When his job relocated his family to Indiana, he and Betty Sue championed the Great Banquet among church leadership at ZPC and were the driving forces to plant our Great Banquet community, the first ever offshoot, right here in Zionsville in 1992. They also spearheaded the development of the Awakening which was created originally in Zionsville to meet the needs of our teens. Randy served as Community Lay Director and Executive Director of the Board for many years, and more than once “renewed his term” to keep the momentum going. When asked how many banquet teams he had served on, he humbly just said “lots”, a huge understatement to say the least.

Randy was a humble man, but he is the one God chose to be responsible for the growth of the Great Banquet movement from one church in Madisonville, Kentucky to Zionsville and ultimately to 35 communities in the United States and internationally in Brazil, with ZGB helping to plant the great majority of them. In Zionsville alone, nearly 5,000 guests had gone through the Great Banquet and over 2,000 sleepers had attended the Awakening, as of October 2023. Randy was a shining example of what God can do through one willing disciple. If you benefitted from your Great Banquet or Awakening experience, you have Randy Laffoon to thank.

To know Randy was to love Randy. He blessed this (and many) Great Banquet and Awakening community through his love language of food, always a constant force in the kitchen during banquet weekends, and renowned for his delicious signature dish of biscuits and gravy and grits. He blessed this community with his leadership and dedication to the cause of the Great Banquet, facilitating the way to bring thousands to God’s table for a feast of agape love. He blessed this community with his loving heart, warm smile, southern accent, sassy sense of humor and genuine love of all people. He blessed many others at ZPC, Noah’s Ark and in the greater community through his service. He was a man of giant faith, and we are ever grateful for the legacy of Randy Laffoon.