

“What Exactly is a Christian Funeral?”



Jim & Kim Rudolph

In the United States today, an average funeral can exceed \$12,000. That is a lot of money. Is it really necessary? You want to make the right choice, a simple “Christian Funeral.” What exactly is that? Let’s start by examining what the Bible says about funerals.

A funeral is an important social event in the Christian community.

A funeral for a Christian is a celebration of a promotion which has already taken place. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:8 that “to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” It is a testimony to our family and friends that we believe our deceased loved ones are not in the casket. The scripture says we are “present with the Lord.” I think it is unnecessary to spend lots of money protecting something that is not there. A Christian funeral has more to do with celebrating what has happened to the spirit, rather than burying a body. A Christian funeral should not be focused on the body of the person who died. The focus is on the life that was lived.

Where Should We Hold The Service?

Many families tell us they are more comfortable with their friends and loved ones in their church home rather than in a strange funeral home chapel. Our major “Christian life events” are celebrated in church. Babies are dedicated, we attend Sunday School, we commit our lives at the altar, we’re baptized and we marry in church. Why have your funeral service in an unfamiliar setting like a funeral home chapel when you can be in the warmth and love of your church home?

What Should A Christian Funeral Cost?

You will save money if you have the service in the church because you shouldn’t have to pay for funeral home facilities you don’t use. Some funeral homes don’t like this because it reduces their fees. In some instances, a

funeral home may charge the same amount for “staff” to direct the service as for using their facilities, but in most cases a reputable funeral firm will charge less when their facility is not utilized. Then, consider a modest casket. What does it matter if it seals? The Bible says we are already “present with the Lord.” Caskets are routinely made of 20 gauge steel, 18 gauge steel, hardwoods, copper & bronze. The best value is 20-gauge steel. Hardwood caskets, copper and bronze are premium caskets. If 50,000 Christians all saved just \$2,000 on their funerals and gave the money to missions, we could build a one hundred million dollar hospital and college and pay cash!

Cemeteries

When early Christians died, they did what the land would allow them to do. If the ground was soft, they dug a grave, if there were caves, they used them as a mausoleum, if the ground was hard and there were stones, the stones were piled on top of the deceased. In the rare instance where they were crossing a sea, they were buried at sea. What should we do today? Veterans cemeteries are the best deal as they are absolutely free. To use a veterans cemetery you must meet the following criteria; “All honorably discharged veterans and their spouses are entitled to free grave space, markers and opening & closing.” If you tried to purchase this today anywhere in the Tampa Bay area, it would be a minimum of \$12,000 to \$14,000. You earned this benefit, use it! If you are not a Veteran, we recommend the Lake Wimauma Cemetery on State Road 674 in Wimauma. The Church of God owns the cemetery and all who profess Christ are welcome.

Remember, Jesus was laid in a borrowed tomb. He didn’t have a funeral. Scripture says our bodies are like old clay pots, one day they won’t be needed. We are told to be wise with the resources God has given us. A Christian Funeral is a special service to say good-bye until we see each other again. The body should be buried with loving care. We should pay our respects, not our life savings.

Jim Rudolph has been a member of Clearwater First Assembly of God since 1977 and is the Owner of Veterans Funeral Care in Clearwater, FL.



\$5,945 Church of God Funeral Plan

State of Florida

ChurchofGodFuneralPlan.com

The Church of God Funeral Plan is honored by these family owned funeral homes

15381 Roosevelt Blvd.
Clearwater, FL 33760
Telephone: (727) 524-9202
Fax: (727) 536-6783



**Church of God
\$5945 Funeral Plan**

**Need more information?
We’ll be happy to send it to you.**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

- I would like more information.
- I would like to speak with someone.

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Honored Provider of Veterans Funeral Care
Brevard County's leading cremation and funeral provider
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321.632.1350

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Titusville, FL 32780
321.264.6131

PEEBLES
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Jacksonville, FL 32218
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www.PFFH.com

Veterans
Funeral Care™

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Clearwater, FL 33760
Toll Free: 800-467-7850
Telephone: (727) 524-9202
Ask for Allen, Blair, Pam, or Jim
Fax: (727) 536-6783
www.VeteransFuneralCare.com

Traditional Church Funeral Plan with Ground Burial to Follow \$5,945:

- Professional services of funeral director and staff
- Transportation of your loved one into our care
- Securing permits and documents
- Embalming and preparation of the body for “open casket” viewing
- High-quality casket with choice of color
- Visitation held prior to start of service
- Funeral service conducted at your church or graveside
- Cadillac funeral coach to any cemetery within 75 miles
- Guest book

Choice of Caskets

We offer fine caskets by Aurora.



*Conway Spartan Silver
Steel Protective Sealer*



*Jansen Roman Blue
Steel Protective Sealer*



*Berkley Classic Copper
Steel Protective Sealer*

You may use any of these caskets in the \$5,945 Church Funeral Plan

Traditional Funeral with Cremation to Follow \$3,975:

- Professional services of funeral director and staff
- Transportation of your loved one into our care
- Securing permits and documents
- Embalming and preparation of the body for “open casket” viewing
- Use of Oak rental casket
- Visitation held prior to start of service
- Funeral service conducted at your church or graveside
- “Worry-Free” cremation in our crematory with a **“RETIRED FLAG™”**
- Cadillac funeral coach to any cemetery within 75 miles
- Guest book



*Solid Oak
Rental Casket*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Explain how the Church of God Funeral Plan works?

A. We have partnered with several locally owned, regional funeral homes to provide a complete funeral with no upselling. They are evangelical funeral directors, and have been vetted by our fellowship.

Q. Tell us about Wimauma Memorial Gardens?

A. The Church of God owns Wimauma Memorial Gardens Cemetery. It is located at our convention center campus. It has been renovated and landscaped and is something we are very proud of. And the pricing will save our members roughly 40% over other, “top of the mind” cemeteries.

Q. What is the cost for the complete funeral plan and cemetery for my spouse and me? Can I prepay this?

A. The cost of the funeral plan is \$5,945 per person and the cemetery property, vault and double marker is \$6,100 per couple. It makes sense to prepay.

You receive a lifetime guarantee that this is all you will ever pay. All funds are placed, according to Florida law, in either a trust or insurance account. The interest that is earned offsets price increases resulting from inflation.

Q. Do Social Security and Veterans’ benefits apply to the bill?

A. Yes. Social Security pays a lump sum death benefit of \$255 to the first person who dies in the marital partnership. Veterans receiving a monthly disability pension receive from \$300 to \$2,000 based on the degree of disability. Our performing funeral home files these benefits for you.

Q. What about newspaper notices, death certificates, etc?

A. Our partner funeral homes will assist your family in arranging local & out of state newspaper notices, obtaining certified copies of the death certificates and assisting with insurance, veterans and social security claims.

Q. What happens if the death occurs while out of the state?

A. Our funeral home partners will assist your survivors in making all of the arrangements in the state or country in which you die.

Q. My husband is a veteran. We thought we would use his burial benefits.

A. Yes. Qualified veterans and their spouse have completely free use of any national cemetery in the country. Two graves, 2 burial vaults, a double marker. It’s all included.

Q. How do we make prearrangements for the Church of God Funeral Plan ?

A. Call the nearest funeral home on the cover of this brochure or Lake Wimauma Memorial Gardens at 813 634-7537.