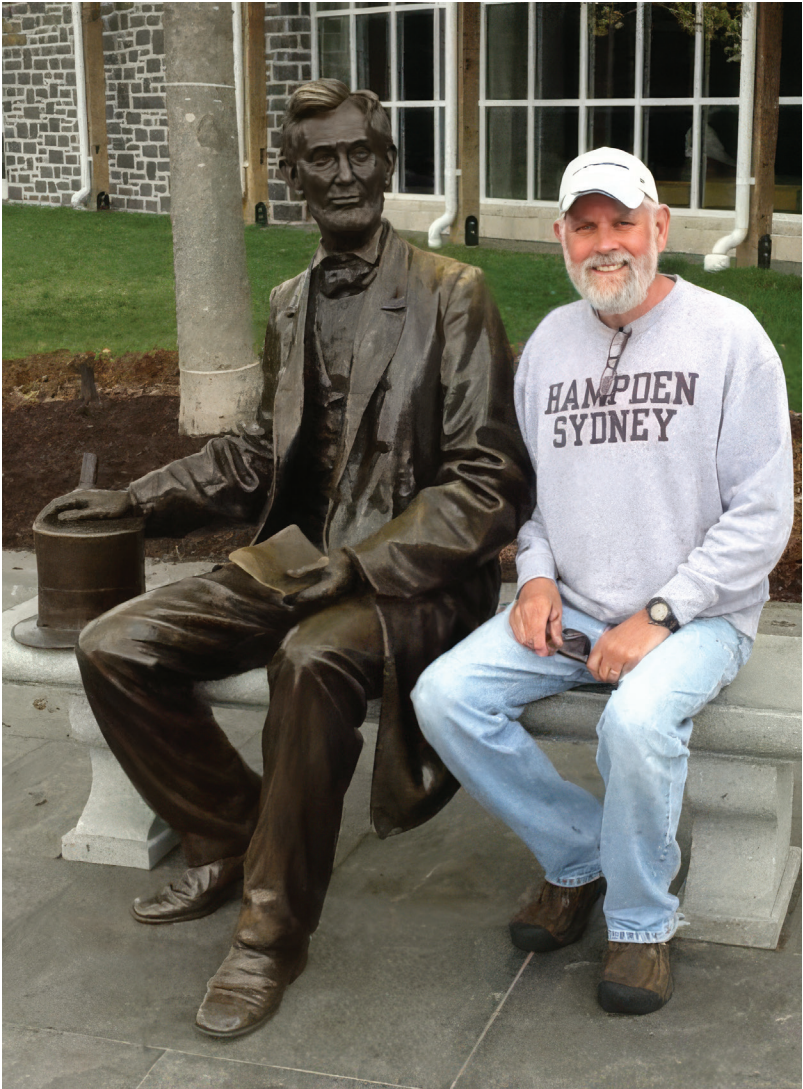


*William Edward DeRegibus*

June 2, 1950 – February 4, 2025



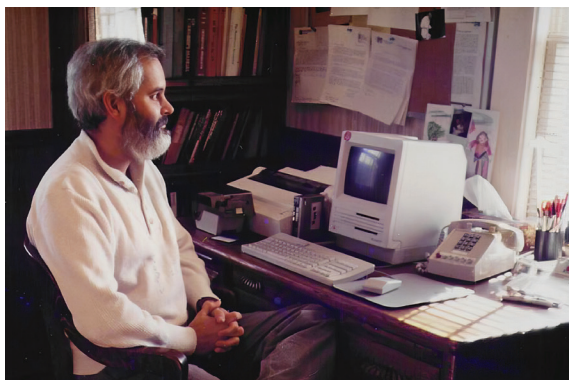
## WILLIAM EDWARD DEREGIBUS, 1950–2025

William Edward DeRegibus was born on June 2, 1950, to Frank and Frances DeRegibus in Colorado City, Texas. He died after a long illness on February 4, 2025. He was the little brother to Dana Deregibus, now Dana Deemer of El Paso. He also grew up with his grandmother Lola in the same house. Probably because of this relationship, he always enjoyed the company of older people.

Growing up in Texas, he loved the Texas, Mexico and New Mexico landscapes along with the Hispanic culture of food and music. He held a deep respect for Native American culture as well. With a father who was a car dealer and a pilot, he learned to love cars, and he learned to fly. He soloed on the first day that was legally possible, at age 16. He loved art and music, especially the music of the day. In high school, he participated in marching band as a drummer and then in a garage band called the Sights and Sounds, which toured briefly. As a young man, he liked to travel, visiting Mexico and New Mexico as well as his Italian grandparents in New York.

As a young adult, he got his message therapist license in New Mexico and then his Chiropractic degree from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. He often joked later that he “squeezed a four-year degree into five years.” Soon after graduating from Palmer, he moved to Italy to practice (just for fun and adventure) and learned how to say “face up” and “turn over” in Italian. He was good at language acquisition and picked up Italian quickly. While in Italy, he took in as much of Europe as he could, traveling to different countries every weekend.

It was there that he began reading the Bible on his own and met up with Kathy Cash, a friend from Texas, who was doing mission work in Switzerland. Over a period of study and friendship with several Christians, he gave his life to Christ with great joy, and was baptized in Lake Lausanne, Switzerland. In the winter. The man that baptized him was Italian, living in Switzerland, and he and Ed spoke Italian to each other. His name was Salvador and his wife’s name was Graciela (Salvation and Grace). He lived and worked in Italy for over a year.

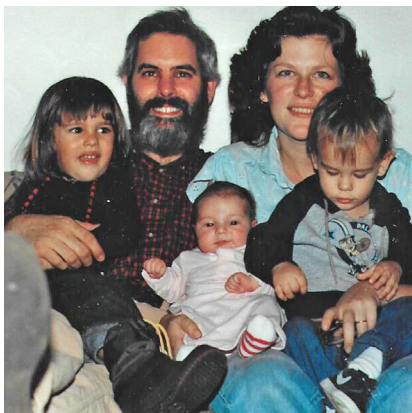


*Ed in his new  
chiropractic office*

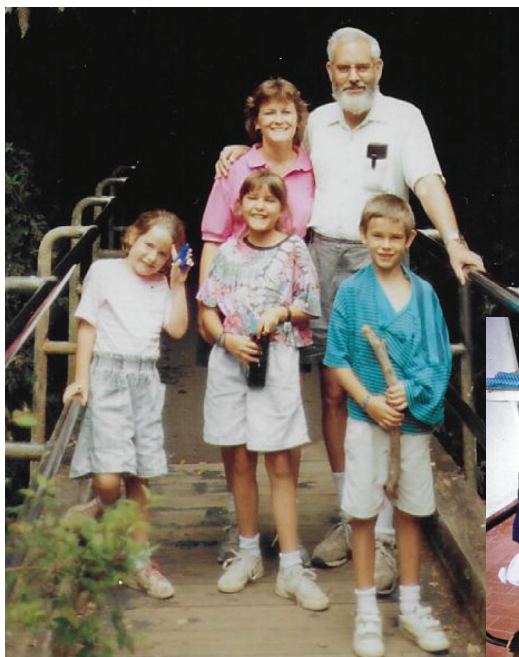
He decided to move back to the United States to set up practice on his own. In the process, he met his wife Missy at a missions conference in Abilene, Texas, and they married five months later in November of 1979. They set off to the East Coast in a 1969 Volkswagen hatchback which held all their earthly possessions. He was looking to Virginia to find a place to set up practice. For over a year, Ed worked for Bob Stickle in Lynchburg as an x-ray tech while he finished his licensing requirements for the American boards. Their first child, Shenandoah, named after the valley in Virginia, was born at this time.

Later, they moved to a rented home in Farmville. The following week Ed opened his practice, and the week after that, they had their second child, Daniel "Isaac." No fooling around! They were busy.

Missy and Ed loved Farmville from the beginning. They found a small house church, Faith Bible Fellowship, to be a loving and welcoming church home. FBF was founded and pastored by the late wonderful Lee Copeland, whose tender friendship of many years was so important to Ed among many others. Before long, Ed and Missy purchased their first home in Worsham, just a few miles outside of Farmville.



*A growing family*



*Left, Ed and family while in training for Third World Medicine*

*Below, Ed at a Guatemalan rural health clinic*



There they had their third child, Hannah. All three children went first to Log Cabin pre-school on the Hampden-Sydney College campus and then to Prince Edward County Schools. Ed often rode the his bike to and from work, a seven-mile journey one way.

When the kids were in elementary school, the family took a “break” to do mission work with Youth with a Mission for a year and a half. During this time, they got training in New Hampshire and then served at Juarez, Mexico, helping with orphanages and soup kitchens. Ed got further training in Third World Health and Community Development at Kona, HI, at the University of the Nations. From there, they traveled with their three children to Guatemala, where they served both in rural areas and at a medical facility on the edge of the large city dump outside Guatemala City. Ed went additionally on a three-month trip with a small team to practice community development in Brazil, traveling by boat down the Amazon River to visit remote villages. He later did shorter missions trips to Jamaica and Haiti.

Upon returning to Farmville, Dr. DeRegibus resumed his practice and tried to treat his patients fairly and well. He really cared about his patients. Years into his practice, he took intensive training to become licensed and proficient in acupuncture, and even hired Dr. Jane, a Chinese practitioner, to work in the office for a year so he could better learn the skill. He used acupuncture extensively in his office, especially treating veterans. He practiced for over thirty-five years. At retirement, he sold the practice to Dr. Shawn Hendrix, who still practices today in Farmville.

He enjoyed going to his kids' activities and later visiting them at college. As a family, they hiked and camped, traveled the United States, Mexico and Guatemala, and visited grandparents and other family in El Paso and Illinois. He loved his in-laws, Sam and Flo Lanford, and they thought he was just great.

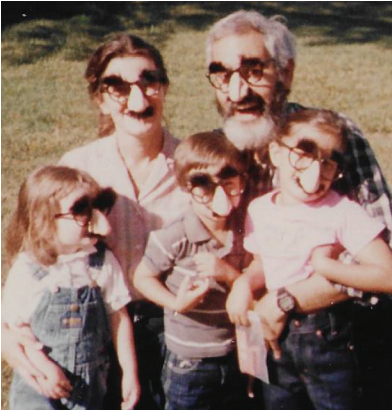
He taught the kids to eat adventurously. He was always surprised and amazed by how smart, accomplished and kind they were. "They didn't get it from me," he would say when they did well in school, graduated from college, got a good job, were good in sports or did other accomplishments. He was encouraged by their faith. He really liked their spouses—Jason (with Shenan), Kristin (with Isaac) and Drew (with Hannah)—and thought they chose well. He enjoyed seeing the grandchildren.

He was a humble person. He did not need to stand in front of a crowd, but preferred to serve in the background, setting up chairs, doing dishes for a large group or doing yard work. He liked using their home in town to extend hospitality for events or inviting people to dinner or the occasional cheap renter. He volunteered at church extensively, as well as in his community. He regularly shoveled snow for his neighbor while doing his own. He visited his patients in the hospital and in rehab, sometimes sneaking in food they probably shouldn't have been eating, like a hamburger or a milkshake. In retirement, he volunteered at the hospital and for Meals on Wheels.

He loved music, and a wide variety of music. Because of his travels, he loved what today would be called global music—from Indigenous South American Indians, native Hawaiians, South Africans (Ladysmith Black Mambaza), and Scottish highlanders with bagpipes, along with



the occasional opera. He loved the four-part harmony in the Church of Christ and Mennonite churches. He loved the music of the sixties, and when he got older enjoyed watching videos on YouTube as that became available. When he became a Christian in his late 20s, he was greatly influenced by the music of Keith Green, Randy Stonehill and other Christian rock and folk singers of the time. He sang in the choir at Faith Bible Fellowship with director Sherri Marken, who he said could get blood from a turnip.



*What a laugh!*

Ed had a great sense of humor, but mostly enjoyed others' jokes. His humor was never at the expense of others but rather self-deprecating. He loved the underdog. He visited men in jail and prison, and for years ran a Bible study in prison. He also visited men with other religions and from other countries or with mental health issues. He felt for those with unhappy childhoods or in precarious life situations.



*"Casting" class for Community Health Development*



*How he  
looked  
forward to  
getting his  
“Elf”!*

His faith was very important to him. When he was first converted and was asked “what kind of Christian are you?” he would respond, “the serious kind.” When he would get sick, he would ask God if there was anything he needed to learn. When he believed he had done something wrong, he would ask forgiveness. For many years, he attended two prayer meetings a week and kept people and situations in his prayers. When he dealt with anxieties over the business or his own shortcomings, he tried to be grateful. He even thanked God for his pets, being mindful of “how much joy they gave us, (how they) made us laugh and sometimes reminded us of ourselves.” Even after he entered assisted living and then memory care, he would attend weekly services and Taizé services at the Hermitage in Richmond and sing along to hymns long after he could communicate in speech.

We will miss him.

“Wake up, sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”



Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity.... Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*From Ephesians 4*