

Randy Bister ~ A Life Based on Adventure

Randall Edward Bister "Randy" passed away on August 11, 2013, at age 27 in Portland at OHSU medical center due to the complications of leukemia treatment. He is the cherished son of John Bister (Ellen Sanders-Bister) of Vancouver and Laura Flanagan (Brian) of Battle Ground, beloved brother and best friend of John C. Bister, Jr., Vancouver, and precious fiancée of Megan Nevenner of Vancouver. Randy is also survived by his devoted extended family including Grandpa Marvin, Grandma Margie, aunts, uncles, and cousins. He leaves behind many beautiful, faithful friends from all over the country.

Randy was born on Sept. 14, 1985 in Portland, OR, at OHSU hospital. He attended Chinook Elementary, Alki Middle School, HomeLink in Battle Ground, and graduated from Prairie High School in 2004. The high school years brought with it participation in football, gymnastics, cheerleading and track. Randy worked during high school as a horse ranch hand. He loved spending time at Kamlu Retirement Center helping seniors as a volunteer. Randy earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and had the privilege of attending the National Scout Jamboree in 2001. Randy loved and never missed Youth Group, and attended the Nazarene Youth Conference in 2002. After high school, Randy attended Greenville College in Greenville, IL, where he played football, and competed on the track and field team in the decathlon. Randy worked while in college as a gymnastics coach and motorcycle mechanic. During summer breaks, Randy worked as a Christian camp counselor for Kanakuk Camp in Durango, CO, where he led rafting trips. Randy made several life-long friends while at Greenville, and graduated in 2008 with a BA in English with an emphasis on Environmental Conservation. After college, Randy worked as a machinist for his uncle Dan's company, Skytech Machine. Randy also coached track for a time at Evergreen HS, until becoming employed to work as a deck hand for Shaver Transportation.

"Fun" would be the best word to describe Randy. Practically born with a smile on his face, Randy always made us laugh, and brought our

family immeasurable joy. He lived life to the fullest, and approached each day as an adventure; never missing the opportunity to seek, love and laugh. Accepting the Lord as a young child, Randy's greatest passion was following Jesus Christ. Radiating the joy of the Lord on his face, Randy's life reflected God's love. Attending Liberty Bible Church of the Nazarene since early childhood, Randy flourished and grew in his Christian walk. Planning to be wed in a Catholic ceremony, he felt called to join the Catholic faith, which he did shortly before his death. Very close to his family, Randy adored our get-togethers and the chance to use his deep-fryer and to BBQ. He loved just hanging out with his cousins and making memories. Randy never took for granted the small things in life. He brought so much energy to a room. Those who had the fortune of meeting him were treated to his kind words of advice and inspiration. It's difficult to list all the things Randy had done, but he loved mountain climbing, rafting, snow-shoeing, competitive running, hiking, camping, and anything outdoors in God's creation. Mostly, he wanted to take others along so they might live their own adventures, which led to his business/ministry named RandVenture— "A lifestyle based on adventure."

March 2011 brought the devastating diagnosis of a very rare form of leukemia with an extremely poor prognosis. The odds against him, Randy tackled this adventure with courage, humor, and grace; quickly gaining favorite patient status on the 14th floor of the Knight Cancer

Institute. After receiving a stem cell transplant on August 12, 2011, Randy remained in remission for a year and a half. A complication of the transplant, Randy fought against painful, debilitating graft-vs-host

disease, but still returned to his much-loved work on the tugs. Randy proposed to his beloved Megan at Moulton Falls, and was looking forward to meeting one of his life goals—to be married. He also resumed white water rafting and running, and never passed up the opportunity to travel and spend time with friends and family. March of 2013 brought news of leukemia relapse along with life-threatening infections. The battle was on. For nearly six months, Randy defied the odds and fought back from the brink of death several times, much to the amazement of his doctors. On

August 11, 2013, Randy peacefully died in the arms of his dad.

The family wishes to thank OHSU medical center for their expertise and compassion, from the dietary staff, to the oncologists and scientists. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Friday, August 30, 2013, 6 p.m., at Liberty Bible Church, Vancouver. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Randy Bister Donation Fund at any branch of IQ credit Union.

