

Jim Snyder

An Amazing Human Being, and Our Friend
January 11, 2003



Jim Snyder at a nearby Data Center
September 30, 2002

It seems so odd talking with you about Jim Snyder. His love of life made him appear as one of those people who would always be with us, to reassure us, the living, that Life indeed is this grand adventure worth living. His examples of amazing talent, endurance, strength, positive spirit, and hope gave us all hope, inspiration, and a positive outlook on life. Jim Snyder's passing was a huge loss to all of us who knew him. I have never known a finer person than Jim.

I have known Jim since 1999, and have taught him in several technical classes, both in the Wheaton Park District and at IIT. Jim was also active in the Chicago Chapter of the Internet Society. In fact, we are introducing an annual excellence award named after Jim, to perpetuate his memory in our organization. How lucky I was to have Jim as a student, as an esteemed colleague, and as a good friend. He was such a joy to teach, to know, to talk with, and be friends with.

What an example Jim was for all of us. He had this God-given gift for encouraging people and being their friend. Jim could and did make me feel like I was one of the most significant people in the world and in his life. Near the end of his life, he never quit being the positive, upbeat person, despite the many physical problems and disappointments he endured.

Jim used to tell me, "Bill, the interesting way you approach and teach technical topics is so unusual and effective and convincing, that if you could figure out a way to package the method, you could make millions of dollars..." Coming from someone with Jim's intelligence, talents, background and character, this was a huge compliment. Now, my response to Jim and how he approached life and his relationships with people would be, "Jim, if you could teach people to relate to people and provide encouragement and friendship the way you do, it would change the world forever."

This, dear friends and family, was a life well lived... Those of us, whose lives were touched by Jim, know that in a real way, he unselfishly gave a part of himself to each of us. So in a way, he's still right here with us.

Jim's lovely wife, Barb, told me about this website at www.jazzmanjim.com created by Jim's nephew, James Dean Snyder, III. The work and the photos are a fine, wonderful, and fitting tribute to the life of one of the greatest humans that God ever created. I encourage each of you to visit it and even contribute some pictures or thoughts if you can. Like this gathering today, it is a great celebration of Jim's life.

Thank you, God, for blessing us with Jim's life and influence here on Earth, and we look forward to a grand reunion in Eternity with Jim, "When the Saints Go Marching In."

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