



Jonathan David Francis was a remarkable young man, an All American Runner in Minnesota, a Bible Camp Counselor in Idaho, a youth minister in Utah, a mountain climber and the finest son a parent could ever have.

We raised our son in our Christian tradition and Jon grew to have a pastor's heart. After college he moved to Ogden, Utah to serve as Director of Youth Ministry at Ascension Lutheran church. He was on his way to seminary. Jon never completed his journey.

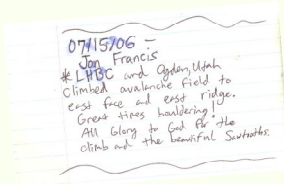
At age 24, he died in a mountain climbing accident in Idaho, July 15, 2006.

We have learned that the loss of a child is the deepest sorrow known to humanity. Unresolved loss – to not know what happened, to not be able to find and lay your loved one to rest piles grief upon grief.

Jon Francis

Jon gained the summit of Grand Mogul in the Sawtooth Mountain Range of Central Idaho. He did not return. A searcher brought down the note that Jon had left in the summit registry.

It read:



*"07/15/06. Jon Francis, *LHBC (Luther Heights Bible Camp) and Ogden, Utah. Climbed avalanche field to east face and east ridge. Great times bouldering!"*

All Glory to God for the climb and the beautiful Sawtooths."

Our year long search for Jon attracted national attention and the support of hundreds of volunteers and search and rescue resources. We succeeded in the recovery of Jon's remains on July 24, 2007. Jon was laid to rest, at home in Minnesota, on October 9, 2007.

Jon's Legacy

Jon loved deeply and was deeply loved. He was a teacher, mentor and an inspirational leader. In his ministry, Jon taught, "It's not what we gather, but what we scatter, that defines the kind of life you have lived." During his brief life he left many footprints. Jon touched and inspired others. He ran long distances and climbed mountains, not only to challenge himself, but also to glorify God. Jon loved others unconditionally, held a reverence for life and stood in awe of God's creation.

In 2007, to honor Jon's brief, remarkable life and ministry and to pass on his legacy of making a positive difference in the world, we created **the jon francis foundation**.

The mission of the jon francis foundation (JFF) is to support and empower others, coping with the disappearance of a loved one, by providing hope, knowledge and resources and to reduce incidents of loss through wilderness safety training and information.

"May God bless you with tears...to shed for those who suffer from pain... so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them..." - A Franciscan Blessing.

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