

Looming Large

Just off I-65 at Exit 101 near Evergreen, Alabama, there stands a massive 120-foot steel cross. Why was it placed there?

The credit goes to a young man named Jackson Conway. It was his wish that a giant cross be placed there on his family's land. He made this wish when he was battling cancer – Ewing sarcoma, a rare and aggressive form of bone cancer. After a four-year battle, Conway died March 8, 2021. His final wish was for “a large steel cross to be placed alongside the interstate in his hometown for people to be reminded of the Lord's faithfulness and encourage people through life's difficulties,” according to the Jackson Conway Foundation website.

Throughout his illness, Conway expressed his faith and hope in his motto: “God's got this.”

Conway's wish came true. Five years after his passing, a towering lighted cross “looms large” in clear view of passersby on a busy interstate. It was Conway's hope that “all who pass by would be reminded there is hope in Christ, no matter the circumstance.” *

That steel cross points to the actual cross of Christ where Jesus paid the price for our salvation from sin. “He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24 ESV).

God will save from sin and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin and make ready for an eternal home for those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

The towering cross that “looms large” off I-65 near Evergreen, Alabama, is a testament to the faith of a young man named Jackson Conway.

What matters most is that the cross of Christ “looms large” in our hearts and lives, for it is only because Jesus died for our sins that we can have the hope of salvation and eternal life. I'm sure that Jackson would agree.

-- David A. Sargent

* Information gleaned from The Jackson Conway Foundation (www.jacksonconwayfoundation.com) and “‘God's got this’: Evergreen

teen's final wish becomes towering cross along I-65" by Sherri Blevins in the Yellowhammer News (www.yellowhammernews.com).