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Lucas family remembers three siblings lost in fire

By [Lee Ann Welch](#)
The Herald-Dispatch
lawelch@herald-dispatch.com

To lose one child to death is devastating to a parent, but to lose three at the same time is undescrivable.

Victims of the Emmons Jr. apartments fire Saturday, Ben, Angel and Quentin Lucas leave behind parents, grandparents and 12 brothers and sisters.

ADVERTISEMENT They are leaning on their faith in God, said sister Tinia Stratton.

"I can't imagine how you could get through this without faith. If I didn't know that I'll see them in heaven, I'd have no reason to live," she said.

The brothers and sister will be placed in a temporary mausoleum until one can be constructed at the family farm, Stratton said.

"Mom can't bear to put them underground," Stratton said. The site on the farm has already been graded in anticipation of construction.

On Friday, their grandfather, Eugene Dingess, was to establish a fund at a local bank, she said.

The following information was submitted by Stratton.

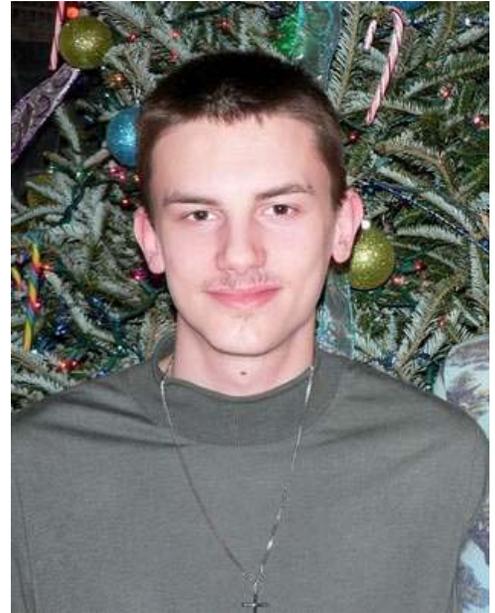
Benjamin Aaron Lucas, born Nov. 25, 1987. Angel Ruth Lucas, born March 18, 1989, and Quentin Davis Lucas, born Nov. 15, 1992.

Ben Lucas, 19

Benjamin grew up in Harts. He attended Harts High School until the age of 16, and at that time he was admitted to Marshall University. Ben studied graphic design and was involved in many different computer related studies.

Ben managed a popular and progressive website, www.Utaks.net.

Ben spent much of his time reading the Bible and writing Christian Rap. He recorded many different songs, and was exceptionally talented. Ben enjoyed attending Christ Temple Church, and some of his happiest moments were spent there recently. He admired Pastor Chuck Lawrence, and



Ben Lucas



Angel Lucas

enjoyed hearing him speak more than any other minister.

Ben wrote the following on his online biography, which can be found on his website, "I've devoted my life to Jesus Christ, and in him shall I rely upon until the day I die. There is so much more to say, until then, every night I pray, that everyone might be saved. Let there be no hate. Remember -- only God saves."

Ben would want to be remembered for loving God, for wanting mercy and love shown to everyone he knew and for being a true intellectual. One of his closest friends was his uncle, Tony Dingess; another close friend was Grant of Huntington.

Angel Lucas, 17

Angel also grew up in Harts. She attended Harts High School, but had recently moved to Huntington to work at a Christian night club, The House of David. She enjoyed being able to work in a place with a Christian atmosphere.

Angel was a remarkably talented singer and writer. She won many awards at school for her writing abilities. She had an incredible wit when writing, and a goofy sense of humor. She talked often about joining the Air Force, getting her degree and then going into the Peace Corps.

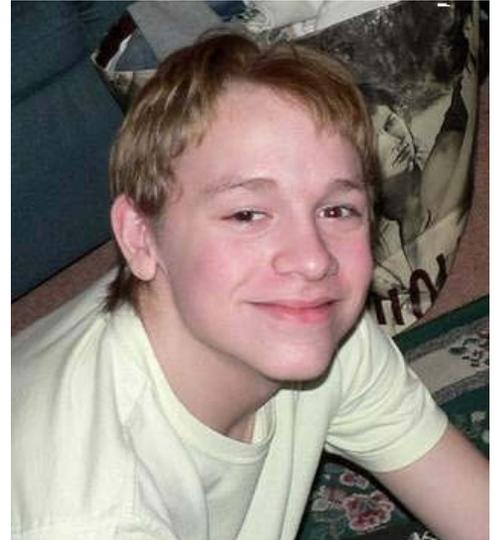
She recently wrote: "I love art along with writing, singing, and traveling! I haven't yet traveled the world, but it's there waiting on me." A verse and quote important to her are expressed on her online page when she included, "For we walk by faith, not by sight" from II Corinthians 5:7, and "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." Her closest friends were Jade Thompson, also Hannah Adkins, Joe Shelton, all three of Harts, and Nathan, of Huntington.

Quentin Lucas, 14

Quentin grew up in Harts as well. He attended Harts Middle School. He was very much like his brother when the subject was computers. He loved playing his Nintendo Wii that his brother, Ben, and he had waited all night to buy right before Christmas. He had an astonishing mind, and was very proud of his I.Q. of 158. He was the most unique boy one could ever hope to meet. He was fond of calling his baby sister, Alana, "Pickle," and often would announce the most random things to his family and friends.

He spent last summer working at his father's store, Lucas Grocery, when many boys couldn't imagine using their free time in such a way. Quentin enjoyed riding four wheelers, listening to music and helping his Mom work on building to restore an antique cabin at their home. His favorite foods were "hot wings" and "macaroni and cheese."

Quentin hoped to be an inventor of all sorts of things someday, and his entire family felt he would be responsible



Quentin Lucas

How to help:

An evening to benefit the family of Ben, Angel and Quentin Lucas was held at The House of David Christian nightclub, 1415 4th Ave., Huntington, featuring Crashing Jericho. You can also contact the family of the Lucas' at (304) 778-6668 or their grandparents at (304) 778-3965.

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for inventing something grand in the future.

He was a protective caretaker of his little sister, Alana. He talked often of how he wrote creative stories, and his teachers often bragged on him for them. Quentin's best friends were Ramon Carter, Thomas Kirk, Joe Paris and Ryan Carter, his neighbor in Harts.

The children are survived by their parents, Donald D. Lucas of Ranger and Marcia E. Lucas of Harts; grandmother Effie Mills; grandfather Eugene Dingess; and brothers and sisters Tina Stratton, Jonathan Lucas, Alana Kirk, Ronald Lucas, Conrad "Jody" Lucas, Donna Miller, Brenda Baker, Phyllis Kirk, Michael Lucas, Donald Lucas Jr. and Tawyana Buck.

Visitation will be from 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday at Toney, W.Va. Christian Fellowship. Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. Sunday at the church. Freeman Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



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