News 17 November 2026 | English article

Texas Pastor John Offutt and Wife Carla Killed on Way to Grandson's Wedding Reception

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Pastor John and his beautiful wife, Carla, were struck by a car last night [while] walking across the road to their grandson's reception after the wedding ... And killed instantly."

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

John Offutt, 74, founding pastor and senior teaching pastor of LifeSource Community Church in Lindale, Texas, and his wife Carla, also 74, were struck by a vehicle and killed on Saturday evening, 14 November 2026, as they crossed the road toward their grandson's wedding reception. Both were pronounced dead at the scene. John Offutt had officiated his grandson's wedding ceremony earlier that same day.

It was supposed to be one of the happiest days of their lives. A grandfather standing before his grandson, speaking the words of marriage over a young couple starting out together. A grandmother watching from the front row. Then a short walk across the road to the celebration - and the day turned into the one the family will never forget.

The crash happened at about 6:15 p.M. On Farm-to-Market Road 515 near the Coke Schoolhouse in Como, Texas. The couple were walking toward the reception when they were hit. The driver was identified by the Texas Department of Public Safety as Ruth Rohrbach, 46, of Winnsboro. She was taken to hospital for treatment, and no charges had been filed as of Monday 16 November.

LifeSource Community Church announced the deaths in a Facebook statement on Sunday 15 November. The next morning, the congregation gathered for worship without the man who had founded their church - and heard the news from his own son-in-law.

Lead pastor Caleb Hawley - Offutt's son-in-law - told the Sunday service, fighting back tears: "Pastor John and his beautiful wife, Carla, were struck by a car last night [while] walking across the road to their grandson's reception after the wedding ... And killed instantly." Then he said the words the congregation will carry with them: "They walked into that gate together this morning."

It is a sentence that only makes sense if you believe what John Offutt spent his life preaching. Two people who walked through life together, walked through the gate together. Hawley added: "They are not in the Word; they are with the Word." For a church in mourning, that was not a slogan. It was the only comfort that fit.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

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