



Doris Jean Hooper

January 1, 1931 - December 5, 2011

Doris Jean Wallace Hooper was born to Lavon Wallace and Amanda Marie Wilkerson on January 1, 1931 in Birome, Texas. The family moved to Springfield, MO where Doris graduated from Central High School in 1949 as class Valedictorian. Doris was a reporter for the school newspaper and was active in debate and drama throughout her high school years. After graduation from high school she entered South West Baptist College and graduated in 1951. While in college she was a member of the debate team and was active in drama.

It was at South West Baptist College that she met William [Bill] Loyd Hooper and they were married on August 5, 1951 at Grant Avenue Baptist Church in Springfield, MO, where Doris was a member. They have been blessed with a son, William Loyd Hooper, Jr., and a daughter, Carol Ann Cooper. That marriage was the beginning of an incredible journey. Doris and Bill had no idea where God would lead and how He would use them.

From 1953 to 1956 the journey took Doris and Bill to the state of Iowa where Doris taught in the elementary schools of Essex and West Liberty. Doris and Bill returned to Bolivar and South West Baptist College where Bill served as professor of music. The journey continued to Nashville, TN in 1960 where Bill

did doctoral study at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University and served a church part-time. During those years Doris was both a dedicated mother for Bill Jr. and Carol Ann and an active church leader.

In 1962 Doris and Bill moved to New Orleans, Louisiana for Bill to take a position at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Doris finished her undergraduate degree at the Louisiana State University in New Orleans, majoring in education. Doris taught in the New Orleans public schools where she was the first white teacher to teach in an all-black school when integration was taking place. She also taught in St. Pauls Episcopal School. Doris and the family accompanied Bill to Zambia for a mission assignment in the summer of 1969 followed by a year in England and Bills sabbatical study.

In 1974 Doris, Bill, and children moved to England. Doris taught religious education in a boys school in the London Borough of Bromley. When Bill was called as full-time pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, the family moved to Gravesend, Kent. Doris was a substitute teacher for the state schools in Gravesend. Doris also developed a personal ministry as an inspirational speaker for womens groups in churches and at summer camps for young people.

Doris and Bill moved back to Bolivar in 1983 and she continued to serve the Lord by teaching a Sunday School class and being active in the Womens Missionary Union at First Baptist Church. She trained as a teacher of English as a second language and taught English to many wives of overseas students who were attending Southwest Baptist University.

Until her bout with Alzheimers Doris was an energetic, out-going person. Doris has been able to live, travel, and work overseas. She has met hundreds of people and has many Christian friends all over the world. Doris has been a wonderful helpmate to Bill. Doris was a sixty-year grace gift from God to Bill and she is greatly missed.

Now her earthly journey has ended. Doris has gone to meet her Lord that she met when a girl and wait for Bill to join her. Preceding her in death are her biological parents, Clayton Lavon Wallace and Amanda Marie Walden, and one sister, Yvonne Richette. Doris is survived by her husband, William Loyd Hooper, Sr., Bolivar, MO; a son, William L. Hooper, Jr of Scottsdale, AZ.; and a daughter, Carol Ann Cooper of Huntsville, TX. She is also survived by five grandchildren: Nathan Hooper, Phoenix AZ; Natalie Achuo, Houston, TX; Sarah Hooper, Avondale, AZ; Claire Emily Cooper, Huntsville, TX; and Kate Elizabeth Cooper, Huntsville, TX. Two step-grandsons, Alexander DiBenedetto and Lucas DiBenedetto of Scottsdale, AZ. She is also survived by her sister, Helen Gill, Springfield, MO; a step-father, Price Walden of Bolivar; and one cousin, Barbara Kelly, Abilene, TX, and three great granddaughters, Samus Schmidt, Avondale, AZ; Laura, Achuo, Houston, TX and Anna Achuo, Houston TX; and many nieces and nephews.

One song sung at Doriss wedding was a gospel hymn titled, Wherever He Leads Ill Go. The chorus ends with these words, Ill follow my Christ who loves me so, wherever He leads Ill go. In the wedding ceremony Doris was dedicating herself to Christ and dedicating herself to Bill. Doris lived out her commitments, and she could testify that God has been faithful to her throughout the entire journey.

Memorial services will be held at 10:30am, Saturday, December 10, 2011 at the First Baptist Church in Bolivar, Missouri with Reverend Billy Russell officiating under the care and direction of the Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar, Missouri. A visitation will be held from 9:30-10:30am just prior to service time at the church. Joe Wooderson will be leading congregational music with Bill Brown playing the organ. A private Inurnment will take place at a later date in Greenwood Cemetery at Bolivar, Missouri.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association c/o Butler Funeral Home, 407 E. Broadway, Bolivar, Missouri 65613.

Friends and family may sign the guest book or send private condolences at www.butlerfuneralhome.com

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Doris Jean Hooper*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Doris Jean Hooper*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *I first remember Doris as the leader of the student Sunday School department at the church in Bolivar. She was enthusiastic and welcoming to us.*

Laster, I came to know Doris and Bill and the children at various places and in their home.

She and Bill drove from Bolivar to Kansas City to be there when I received my doctor's degree. They were and are special people in my life. God bless her dear family and friends.

Charles and Jan Anderson - December 13, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with your family. May the words in Isaiah 26:19 give you hope and comfort.*

Barb & Tom Layton - December 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *You are in my thoughts and prayers as you walk through this time of loss. Knowing that Doris is safe in the arms of Jesus is a blessing. May God give you peace and comfort.*

Linda Clinton - December 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ *My prayers are lifted in your behalf and that of your family. May you rest in God's loving comfort as you learn to travel this road without your loved one beside you here. He is faithful!*

Anita Green - December 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *Doris Jean Hooper*

Rick/ Tammy Stanfield - December 08, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ *All my heart goes out to you. If there's anything I can ever do for you, be it physical or else, all you have to do is call me @ 770-4411. Having recently losing my father, I can't say too many easy words. But since we are Christians, we feel a little heavenly comfort. And the chain goes on, meaning, when I lost my dear friend Ellen Bell, Jesus sent me a very kind lady to fellowship with, Gwen Mills. Thank you Jesus....*

Angie Crowson - December 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ I really do not know what to say - I know the grief you all are going through at this time - and the pain and tears as well --- I love you all and wish I could be there with you --- as I cannot I have found a poem I hope will help you all

I'm Free

*Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took his hand when I heard him call,
I turned my back and left it all.
I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone will stay that way,
I found that peace at close of day.
If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I, too, will miss.
But not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life has been full, I've savored much.
Good friends, good times, a loved ones touch.
Perhaps my time seemed all to brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief,
Lift up you hearts and share with me,
God wanted me now,
He set me free.*

*Author Unknown
possibly by Augusto de Leon*

Karen Hooper - December 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ We are truly sorry about your wife passing away , she was a very beautiful , inspirational lady who gave blessings . she will always be remember with , for her love and life to GOD and family.

Robert lee&Teresa Evans - December 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HS

“ Dear Bill,

Our love and thoughts are with you in your loss of D.J. We have known the two of you so long that we think of you as family. D.J. was a wonderful Christian lady. Please know of our prayers for you and the family in the days ahead.

Love,

Harlan & Joann Spurgeon

Harlan & Joann Spurgeon - December 06, 2011 at 12:00 AM