



Dr. Rev. George Miller

June 18, 1936 - December 6, 2014

When reflecting on the life of Dr. Rev. George Miller, it is easy to see that his life was about faith, family, and serving others. He was an accomplished yet humble man who was intentional in everything he did. A devoted husband and father, George was thrilled to witness his family tree blossom to include six grandchildren who were his greatest source of pride and joy. Through his life we are reminded that true happiness is not found in what we have, but that it is through the acts of service we lavish upon those around us that we are richly blessed. Although he will be deeply missed, his tender spirit of generosity will live on in the lives of those too numerous to count. Life in America during the 1930s was anything but easy as the entire decade was cloaked in the hardship of the Great Depression. Jobs became scarce, which sent the unemployment rate soaring to over 25 percent, leaving countless families to do whatever they could to weather the storm. Despite the trials around them, a young couple from Jackson County, West Virginia, was able to shift their focus to a joyous time in their own lives with the birth of a baby boy on June 18, 1936. George was the youngest of 10 children born to his parents, Charley and Blanche McLaughlin Miller, and he was raised on the family farm alongside his siblings, Exmar, Philba, Jack, Zelma, Herbert, Ivan, Helen, Betty, and Fanny Jane. The Miller family was deeply rooted in faith, and although their home was forever a bustle of activity there was always room for anyone who needed a place to stay. George was close with his siblings, and they remained as such throughout their entire lives. Life on the farm was hard work, but the Miller family made plenty of room for fun, too. George was a student at local schools who went on to graduate from Gilmore High School in 1954. Shortly thereafter, George enlisted in the United States Army. Serving from 1955 through 1957, part of his time in the military was spent working as a company clerk for his unit while in Korea following the Korean Conflict. New and exciting changes were in store for George when he met the young girl of his dreams. Her name was Sharon Townsend, and it wasn't long after meeting that the couple found themselves deeply in love. With a desire to establish a life together, George and his sweetheart became husband and wife on June 11, 1966, in Parkersburg, West Virginia. Together they were overjoyed to welcome three children including Dawn, Danette, and Derick into their hearts and home. George was an active part of his children's lives, and he loved playing with them whether it was

basketball, softball, or board games. He also came up with his own games that were designed to increase his children's vocabulary and Bible memorization skills. The Millers often sang as a group, and since George and Sharon were blessed with the gift of hospitality their home was always full of laughter, music, good food, and friends. Because George had a strong work ethic throughout his life, this was a trait he modeled for his children, too, and he commonly came alongside them in their work including everything from yard work and gardening to canning and having father son time with Derick while chopping wood. Around the house George was able to fix anything whether it be mechanical, technical, or construction related. As his children became adults, the relationship they shared only grew deeper as George became their trusted friend, confidante, and wise advisor as they frequently sought his counsel. Their family grew to include six grandchildren, Seth, Landon, Kaitlyn, Logan, McKenzie, and Lydia. Both George and Sharon were very much a part of their grandchildren's lives as they were regularly planning family vacations, attending school events, athletic games, and performances as they arose. His family continued to be a cornerstone in George's life, and he made spending time together a priority. Sunday dinners as a family were a tradition, and one could count on a call at the end of the week to plan the menu for that Sunday's meal. George made a career in the ministry, and with his servant's heart it was a perfect fit. He was ordained by the Evangelical Church Alliance in 1978. After pastoring in West Virginia, he became the pastor of Faith Chapel in Harrisburg, Illinois, from 1981 through 1988. From there George joined the staff of the Evangelical Church Alliance in Bradley, Illinois, in 1988, and he later became President and CEO. Most recently, George held the position of Military Chaplain Commission Director. In addition, he served as the Senior Pastor of River Valley Christian Fellowship in Bourbonnais from 1993 to 2006, and in 2006 he became the Pastor of Congregational Care. Under George's leadership, every church and organization flourished and expanded during his tenure, which resulted in three church facility expansions and the Evangelical Church Alliance becoming the third largest Military Chaplain Endorser in the United States. He was also very thankful that he had the privilege of serving in ministry with Derick for 23 years. In his leisure time George continued to live fully. He enjoyed traveling throughout the United States, and he also traveled the world including leading groups on a pilgrimage to Israel on five separate occasions. George was so proud to have been used as an instrument of God with humble beginnings as a young farm boy to ministering to countless others in places he could never even dream of. An active man, he also enjoyed golfing, bowling, and playing games since he was also known for his competitive nature. Southern gospel music, watching the Cubs, Bulls, and Bears, and securing a bargain were also favorites. Of course nothing was better than sharing his life with his loved ones. Friends were always an important part of his life, and he had friends from back when he was a young boy. With his warm and genuine personality, George had countless friends whom he worked alongside, traveled

with, or just had good old fashioned fun with. During the past 21 months of his life, he was blessed with a priceless relationship with Debra Minton, which was a source of much love and joy. All who knew Dr. Rev. George Miller would agree that he was truly extraordinary. He loved nothing more than sharing his faith, spending time with his friends and loved ones, and making others laugh. George was a man of honor, high moral convictions, and compassion who lived his life with both grace and truth. George will never be forgotten. Dr. Rev. George Miller, of Bourbonnais, died on December 6, 2014. George's family includes, his fiancé Debra Minton of Bourbonnais, IL; brother, Ivan Miller of Barberton, OH; two sisters, Helen Hinzman of Ripley, WV and Fanny Jane Hascue of Sandyville, WV; daughter, Dawn (Darrin) Moss of Bourbonnais; daughter, Danette Barker of Yorktown, VA; and son, Derick (Teresa) Miller of Bradley; six grandchildren, Seth Barker of Yorktown, VA, Landon Miller of Columbus, GA, Logan and Lydia Miller of Bradley, Kaitlynn and McKenzie Evans of Bourbonnais. George was preceded in death by his wife, Sharon; brothers, Exmar Miller, Philba Miller, Jack Miller, and Herbert Miller; and sisters, Zelma Louiseau and Betty Channell. Visitation will be held Tuesday, December 9th, 3 - 8 p.m. at River Valley Christian Fellowship, Bourbonnais. A funeral service will be held Wednesday, December 10th, 11 a.m. at River Valley Christian Fellowship.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Rev. George Miller*

February 03, 2023 at 04:30 AM

JR

“ *George always had a smile, if not a joke every time I seen him! He was a blessed man and it has been an honor and a blessing to have spent time with him. He had started our marriage counseling,, baptized me (Jackie) and Jennifer at Social brethren and taught me how to pitch washers...and how to lose gracefully. Until we meet again Pastor George....love and hugs! You will be dearly missed! Prayers continued for strength and healing that only God can provide!*

Jackie Reed - December 15, 2014 at 03:04 AM

AD

“ *My prayers for the family of Pastor George He will be missed*

Alice Benjamin Decker - December 14, 2014 at 06:39 PM

AD

“ *Pastor George will be missed My pray go out for the family*

Alice Benjamin Decker - December 14, 2014 at 06:38 PM

AD

“ *Pastor George Wil be so missed My prayers are lifed up for the family*

Alice Benjamin Decker - December 14, 2014 at 06:36 PM

JW

“ *Along with George’s family, I rejoice in his life—a life well lived and lived for others—and in the godly legacy he leaves behind. Our paths crossed only occasionally through the years, but he was always an encouragement, and it was always a joy to know that our family connection here on earth was secondary to a greater connection in another family, an eternal one.*

Jarl Waggoner - December 12, 2014 at 02:24 AM

CM

“ *I remember George & His Family with a lot of respect & God was always first in his life. May God richly Bless all of those who are left to carry on his legacy.*

Cathie Moore - December 11, 2014 at 08:46 PM

RA

“ my sincere sympathy to Dawn, Danette and Derick. Your Mom and Dad left a wonderful legacy for you all to follow. May God grant you His peace and serenity at this most difficult time in your lives.

Roberta aharper - December 11, 2014 at 07:24 PM

JR

“ I am thankful for the ministry of Dr. Miller. I also appreciate his faithfulness to Jesus Christ. He was instrumental in my ordination with the Evangelical Church Alliance many years ago. He led this ministry with integrity and gentleness. I rejoice that he is with the Lord having received the "crown of righteousness" from the Lord Himself. My prayers are with all of the Miller family. Soli Deo Gloria, Jeff Reed

Jeff Reed - December 10, 2014 at 10:46 PM

LH

“ Love and Prayers to Each of You. George was such a inspiration to everyone he encountered and his thoughtfulness was always greatly appreciated.

Lisa Hancock - December 10, 2014 at 05:24 PM

DJ

“ My heart goes out to the Miller family. George and Sharon were salt of the earth people. He gave me some good advice in the past, and helped clarify some of my ministry goals. Blessings to all.

Dennis Stahlnecker JR - December 10, 2014 at 05:59 AM

VR

“ Our hearts are with you Derick and your family. We love you and pray with you and while we are so sad for the loss of this beautiful man, we rejoice knowing he is with the Lord and also reunited with your mom. Blessings to all of you. Lance, Vikki and Hannah Richey

Vikki Richey - December 10, 2014 at 12:44 AM

JM

“ George was a godly man who made you smile and loved others as Jesus did. I am praying for the family in their loss. You will be missed greatly George.

Jessica Moulding - December 09, 2014 at 10:18 PM

JT

“ George was a good friend and a great Godly influence on all that he encountered. Having many of great conversations with him over the last 20 years, he has left an indellible influence on my life. George was always smiling, telling jokes, and saw the bright side of everything. He will be missed, however his legacy lives on in the many lives that he has touched. Our loss is certainly Heavens gain.

John Teller - December 09, 2014 at 06:58 PM

FA

“ My deepest sympathies to the Miller family. I will miss that smiley smirk on George's face as he approached you to say hello. You just knew he was going to have a quick witted quip to share when you shook his hand. He was a teacher and a friend and he is deeply missed. With love and prayers to you all, Faith

Faith - December 09, 2014 at 05:13 PM

NC

“ Well George Miller was a very great man and we will really miss him & his wife alot now. But he will be looking down from heaven and saying hi & waving to all of us.

Natalie Cline - December 09, 2014 at 05:07 PM

EL

“ Ed and I both send our sympathy to your families. What an awesome man he was! Just know he is with our Lord and rejoicing with the angels.

Ed and Carol Lahners - December 09, 2014 at 02:18 PM

JR

“ George was a such a good soul. I recall many gatherings of youth at his house in Carrier Mills, and his hospitality coupled with his genuine interest in youth were obvious. He was a great gift from God. May your family heal from the loss by knowing that George's influence on this Earth was immeasurable. God Bless.
Jonah "Jody" Rice

Jonah Rice - December 09, 2014 at 02:46 AM

BB

“ We are saddened to think of his passing and your heart pain, but we rejoice with you in thinking of the wonderful times we had with he and Sharon. As our ministries widened, we still would cherish the times we could get together and share the good ole days and also laugh. Butch loves to tell of the times they would go out calling and the people and barking dogs. Love you all.

Butch and Dolly Burns - December 09, 2014 at 02:35 AM

JB

“ Good friend, neighbor, and fellow gardener our prayers are with you as you travel home. We will miss you at the back fence now that you have passed through the gate.

John & Jan Boyle - December 09, 2014 at 12:29 AM

PH

“ Where do i begin? George was a very special friend to the Hahs family. He would come see Jimmy n me, Jimmy n George would talk about sports. He was so good to Jimmy n me. We were blessed to have him do my mom's funeral, he did a good job. George n a few people from the church came n sang Christmas songs which Jimmy n I appreciated so much. George u will be missed tremendously but u r up in Heaven with Jesus n Sharon.

Patty Hahs - December 08, 2014 at 08:50 PM

SO

“ It's not hard to remember good times with George. Being friends with George for several years, he always took the time to stop or come over to where you were to ask how You were doing. If I was working at the bowling center he'd always go out of his way to come over and chat. I'm sure he'll be missed by many in this world, but Heaven is getting another saint in their choir.

Steve Osenga - December 08, 2014 at 05:27 PM