



Alice Mercer

May 25, 1916 - January 4, 2006

Alice Mercer, age 89, of Dayton died Wednesday, January 4, 2006, in Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga. She was born May 25, 1916, in Omaja, Cuba, the daughter of Methodist missionaries, the Rev. Augustus and Ora (McLean) Moore. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Theodore C. Mercer.

She received her BA degree at Bob Jones College in Cleveland, TN, and her MA at George Peabody College in Nashville, TN. She was professor of English and chair of the English department at Bob Jones College. She moved to Dayton in 1956, when her husband became president of Bryan College. For 30 years she served with distinction as president's wife, and she was founding president of Bryan Women's Auxiliary. At First United Methodist Church in Dayton, she served as historian for 20 years and was a member of the Ellen H. Frazier Bible Class.

She is survived by her three sons, Ted Mercer, Jr., of Chicago, IL, Dr. John Mercer of Tulsa, OK, and David (and wife Gwen) Mercer of Houghton, NY, and by two sisters, Frances Wilbert of Sarasota, FL, and Mary Swyter of Washington Grove, MD.

The family will receive visitors at Vanderwall Funeral Home in Dayton from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday. Funeral services will be held Friday at 11a.m. at First

United Methodist Church with the Rev. John Anderson officiating. Burial will be in Rhea Memory Gardens followed by a white dove release.

Memorials may be made to Bryan College.

Please share your memories with the family on their on-line guestbook at www.vanderwallfh.com

Previous Events

Service

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
Dayton, TN

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Ted Jr., John, David and Gwen,

Phil and I want to apologize for our not being at the funeral for Mrs. Mercer's funeral. We were out of town for the Bryan Christmas holidays. We are so sorry to hear of her passing, but we know that she is out of pain and loving being with our Lord.

Though Mrs. Mercer wasn't a big woman, she was very tall in stature as a Godly woman here around the college to those of us who knew her and even at the beauty shop in town, which we both went to. She was the "leading lady" when Phil and I came to the college back in '77. I can remember that she just took me in and mentored me as a younger woman from the git-go, especially with BWA things. Today I am one of the older women and hope to carry on her heart for others. She had a real heart for people, and her prayer life showed that she really cared. You were blessed to have her for a mom as we were blessed to have such a prayer warrior going before the throne for us raising our children.

We send our greetings to all of you and continue to pray that the next few months will not be hard on you as you release her. God bless you all.

Phil and Darlene##imported-begin##Dr. Phil and Darlene Lestmann##imported-end##

January 27, 2006 at 12:06 PM



“ Ted, John and David,
Your mother was always a lady of the first class. She loved the three of you very much. She was a devoted mother and wife. She was very supported of your father and she is a big reason that he was so successful. She was a woman of prayer. She loved Bryan and worked to ensure that a college like Bryan would be there for future generations. Two of our children also went to Bryan. We still appreciate that she sent a baby quilt for when our youngest, Rachel, was born while we were with Wycliffe in Brazil.

Ken and Alice Hurley###imported-begin###Ken and Alice Hurley###imported-end###

January 17, 2006 at 09:43 PM



“ John,
I am saddened by the loss of your mother. She was a very sweet lady. When your mother passes, it leaves a hole in your heart, but by remembering the times and love you had helps with the emptiness. I just wanted to say I was thinking of you. Take care.

Your Friend,
Doris###imported-begin###Doris Tumlin Benton###imported-end###

January 10, 2006 at 01:10 PM



“ I have warm memories of Mr & Mrs Mercer visiting my parents, JC & Barbara Gholdston while we were missionaries in Spain. Even though I was a young kid they made such an impression on me. So peaceful and fun loving, they were such a delight! Around them life seemed to go so smoothly and enjoyable. Everytime I think about them a smile breaks out on my face! Looking back now, I understand that they were reflecting a trust in God, His peace and love for people. Oh that we could all have that effect on those around us! I'm sorry for your loss and yet celebrate the heritage your parents established for you. May God bless you.##imported-begin##Ann Gholdston Smith##imported-end##

January 07, 2006 at 12:43 PM



“ Dear David and Gwen, Ted, and John,
It was such a pleasure to meet your dear mother and appreciate her gracious spirit. Our sympathy and prayers are with you in the loss of your mother.##imported-begin##Glenn and Blanche Weaver##imported-end##

January 06, 2006 at 08:18 PM



“ To John, Ted, David amd family:
You are in my thoughts and prayers. Mrs. Mercer and your family were instumental in making my years at Bryan College very special. She was very kind and hospitable to me when I was invited to the many "fellowship" meetings at your home. Dr.and Mrs. Mercer enriched my entire life by raising such fair, socially conscios sons who were mentors and friends to me.##imported-begin##Barbara Swafford Otey##imported-end##

January 06, 2006 at 01:09 PM



“ So sorry to hear your loss.

Praying that God will hover over you at this time and comfort you and loved ones.

Marcia

January 06, 2006 at 10:36 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Gina M Leet

January 06, 2006 at 10:32 AM



“ May the Lord comfort you in this difficult time. Please know that we are thinking of you and your family.

Troy Martin

January 06, 2006 at 10:04 AM



“ We are so sorry about the loss of your Mother. But we live in the hope of the resurrection. We love you and are thinking of you.

Linda, Mike and Tom Klender

January 06, 2006 at 10:00 AM



“Mrs. Mercer was a true Southern lady--a gentle woman. Her manners and deportment were always impeccable, quiet, and unruffled. Did that mean she was boring? No way! Her infectious giggle and self-deprecating humor always made me laugh when she came to see me. She never took herself seriously and, probably secretly, she never took any one else as serious as they did themselves.

Her gentle good humor never seemed to fail her even when she struggled with life changes as she grew older. One time, she patted me on the knee when I was complaining about some silly ache or pain that I had. "Margie," she said smiling wickedly. "Getting old is not for sissies!"

She and I shared a love of reading and some times we would just sit and talk about the latest book or article which we had enjoyed. She would always ask if she could take one of the Guideposts magazines I had in the waiting room.

"Of course," I agreed. "Take all you want."

"I will pay you for them," she grinned at me.

"No, you won't," I argued back.

"I'll bring it back if I have read it." She counter-offered.

"OK." Our deal was set.

She was so very proud of her family--her sons. I always heard some tidbit about their lives. She liked to talk about her husband, too.

Even though I remember him well, her memories made him either near God or, at least, on a high pedestal where they place wonderful people.

I wish I could have seen her one more time. I will miss her so. She brightened my life, encouraged my soul, and left an indelible high water mark that women everywhere often seek and never reach.

I think I would have told her that the high pedestal where her husband sits is right next to the one where I have placed her in my memories.##imported-begin##Margie Littell Ulrich##imported-end##

January 06, 2006 at 09:37 AM



“ We're praying for God's peace and comfort for you and your family in this time of loss.##imported-begin##Dave and LuAnne Brubaker, Rachel, Alana, and Katie##imported-end##

January 06, 2006 at 09:15 AM



“ To Mrs. Mercer's Family: I'm so sorry that I did not know about her death until too late for visitation. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. She was a wonderful and Godly person, and we will all miss her very much. Please keep in touch.
Pat Hawkins Guffey, 227 Boley St., Dayton, TN 37321##imported-begin##Pat Hawkins Guffey##imported-end##

January 06, 2006 at 07:31 AM



“ David, Gwen, and the Mercer family:

Our hearts and thoughts are with you during these difficult days. We have enjoyed getting to know your Mom during her visits to Houghton and have come to appreciate and respect the heritage she has shaped for the Mercer family. May you experience God's comfort and the joy of knowing that she is with the Lord Jesus.

In His Love,

Bob and Roselyn##imported-begin##Bob and Roselyn Danner##imported-end##

January 05, 2006 at 10:23 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. I hope you can find some peace in the near future. We are sending good thoughts your way. All our love, Tom, Toni, & Julian##imported-begin##Tom, Toni, and Julian Van Der Moere##imported-end##

January 05, 2006 at 09:21 PM



“ My prayers are with all of you. You have my deepest sympathy. I hope the service is a wonderful time of remembering Alice.

Regards,

Lynne##imported-begin##Lynne Shields##imported-end##

January 05, 2006 at 06:24 PM



“ Mrs. Mercer will always hold a special place in our hearts. She was a great lady and wonderful Christian example for her Sunday School students, and I am blessed to have been one of them. What rejoicing there must've been in Heaven upon her arrival, and what a comfort to know that we shall see her again. Her family remains in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Jan Taylor Phillips##imported-end##

January 05, 2006 at 02:26 PM



“ David and Gwen, We are praying with you as you endure this challenging time. May you celebrate your mom's life both here on earth and in eternity, even as you grieve your own loss.
Denise##imported-begin##Denise Campbell##imported-end##

January 05, 2006 at 01:19 PM



“ Alice was a gracious lady, a devoted servant of Christ, and a treasured friend##imported-begin##Charles H. Robinson##imported-end##

January 05, 2006 at 11:37 AM



“ Dear David, Gwen, Ted and John: We send our deepest sympathy and love to all of you. It was our privilege to know your mother and we have always been so impressed with her graciousness. May God surround you with his grace and peace and may many happy memories provide comfort for you.
Bruce and Kathie##imported-begin##Bruce and Kathie Brenneman##imported-end##

January 05, 2006 at 10:53 AM



“ Dear David and Gwen,

We were sorry to learn of the passing of David's mother.

You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time of loss.

Even as we share in your sorrow, we share your faith that she is now with the Lord she loved and served so faithfully for so long.

With our prayers for your comfort,

Dan & Joyce##imported-begin##Dan & Joyce Chamberlain##imported-end##

January 05, 2006 at 10:04 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you, David and Gwen, and with the rest of the family. May the God of all Comfort uphold you during this time.##imported-begin##Nancy and Melissa Stanley##imported-end##

January 05, 2006 at 09:35 AM



“ Our prayers are with you, David and Gwen and other family members.

May God's peace be evident to you over the next days, along with many pleasant memories of your mother.##imported-begin##Reda Rozendal##imported-end##

January 05, 2006 at 08:46 AM



“ May God grant you comfort and peace during this time of grief. We are with you in spirit.##imported-begin##Steve and Audrey Pocock##imported-end##

January 05, 2006 at 08:02 AM



“ Ted, John, David, and Gwen,
We were so sorry to hear of the passing of your mother this morning. She was a quiet-spirited woman who will be missed greatly. I spoke with mom this evening in Florida and she sends her love and prayers to the family at this time. She always talked about getting letters, notes, and Christmas cards from your mom. She will miss her very much. Thinking of you at this time, Phil, Donna, and Charlotte##imported-begin##Phil and Donna Carter, Charlotte Jensen##imported-end##

January 04, 2006 at 08:20 PM



“ Please know that you are in our prayers during your time of grief and loss.##imported-begin##Wes and Cindy Oden##imported-end##

January 04, 2006 at 07:51 PM



“ So sorry to learn of your mother's passing. May you find God's comfort in your memories of a life well lived.##imported-begin##Paul and Debbie Young##imported-end##

January 04, 2006 at 05:52 PM



“ I'm so sorry about the death of your mother.##imported-begin##Stephen E. Wilson##imported-end##

January 04, 2006 at 05:39 PM