



Rev. Kermit Zopfi

June 13, 1921 - July 7, 2010

Rev. Kermit A. Zopfi, age 89, entered into glory on July 7, 2010 at his home in Dayton. Kermit was the son of the late George and Anna (Budahn) Zopfi. He was born on June 13, 1921 in Stratford, Wisconsin. He graduated from high school in Marshfield, Wisconsin and entered Bryan College after spending four years in the U.S. Coast Guard as a radio operator during the Second World War. He transferred to Wheaton College (Illinois) where he would earn both a B.A. and M.A. degree.

On September 5, 1953, Kermit married Gleneale Faulks. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1954 at his home church in Marshfield, Wisconsin, and, the following year went to Germany under the Greater Europe Mission, where he served as Director of the German Bible Institute for eleven years.

Kermit returned to Bryan College in 1972 as Dean of Students and professor of German until his retirement in 1986. Kermit was an active member of Grace Bible Church in Dayton, where he served in various capacities including interim pastor, elder, missions chairman, AWANA leader, and president of the senior citizens group.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gleneale, two brothers, Randall and Howard and a sister, Virgean. He is survived by his three children, son Douglas Zopfi of Shelby Township, Michigan, son David Zopfi of Dayton, TN

and daughter, Carol Brown of Hixson, brother Ralph Zopfi of Conrath, Wisconsin and the pride of his life, six granddaughters and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be made in Kermit's memory to the Zopfi/Jensen Presidential Scholarship fund at Bryan College or the Grace Bible Church building fund.

Funeral services with military honors for Rev. Zopfi will be held Friday evening at 7:00 pm at Grace Bible Church with his pastor, Dr. Doug Russell officiating.

A family graveside service will be held Saturday morning where Kermit will be laid to rest next to his wife Gleneale in Rhea Memory Gardens in Dayton, TN.

Kermit's family will receive friends Friday from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm at the church.

Please share your memories of Kermit on his on-line guest register at www.vanderwallfh.com.

The family is being served by the Vanderwall Funeral Home in Dayton, TN. (423) 775-2662.

Previous Events

Service

JUL 9. 7:00 PM (ET)

Grace Bible Church
2809 Old Washington Hwy.
Dayton, TN

Tribute Wall



“ I remember Kermit Zopfi when he visited Ben Lippen High School where I was a student from 1961-1963. Years later when I was stationed in Germany with the US Air Force, I had the privilege of visiting him at Bibelschule Bergstrasse in Seeheim. I attended his farewell service at Bibelschule Bergstrasse. I will always remember him as a very godly man, compassionate, and dedicated to God's service.##imported-begin##Charles Digby##imported-end##

December 18, 2010 at 03:25 PM



“ I remember Kermit Zopfi's visit to Ben Lippen during a missions conference, and also a visit with him at the Bibelschule Bergstrasse in Seeheim, Germany, while stationed there with the US Air Force. I attended his farewell service for him at the Bible Institute. He was a godly man and an inspiration to all those who met him.##imported-begin##Charles Digby##imported-end##

November 20, 2010 at 06:55 PM



“Kermit, had a tremendous influence on my life when I was searching for God's direction. He was a good friend from the time I entered Wheaton College. I was part of the group that started the Sunbeam Gospel Sunday School with Kermit on the south side of Chicago. With his encouragement I started a second Sunday School further south in Chicago. Then I became his roommate across from front campus. During that time he had frequent minor heart attacks and I had the privilege (responsibility) of helping him. During one such attack the Lord made it clear to me that I was to go to Africa as a missionary rather than Kermit. Following graduation, Helen Atkinson (classmate) and I were married and served in West Africa for 41 years.##imported-begin##Rev. Merrill Skinner##imported-end##

September 21, 2010 at 03:48 PM



“Kermit was my "Big Brother" when I entered Wheaton College in the Fall of 1949. He greatly aided me in getting oriented. The previous year he had started a missionary Sunday School in South Chicago and I joined him in this. The next year we shared a room. We remained good friends over the years, and I will miss him.##imported-begin##Ron Goodman##imported-end##

July 20, 2010 at 07:10 PM



“ Dear Doug, Dave and Mary, and Carol;

Your dad was a special man to many people. When I think of my days at Bryan, I can't help but remember your dad.

I was saddened to hear of his home-going, but yet happy to know that he is with our Savior and your mother. Now, I often wonder if he and my son, Matthew, will meet one another in heaven. Matthew loved to speak German so if they meet I am sure Matthew is talking to him in German.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve over your loss. May you feel God's presence for His grace is sufficient in the time of need.

Love and prayers, Ray and Anita (Davis) Prince##imported-begin##Anita L. Prince##imported-end##

July 18, 2010 at 09:30 PM



“ *Kermit will be remembered and missed.*

Remmeber fondly his days at Wheaton College when I had transferred from Ga. Tech. His ministry in Europe and in the states are a wonderful part of his legacy.

He was just a fine fellow and a dedicated Christian. May God give us more like him.

May God's mercy and peace be upon his remaining family. May each of you follow in his footsteps.

God bless.

Gray Lambert###imported-begin##Dr. Gray Lambert###imported-end##

July 18, 2010 at 07:43 PM

DD

I was reflecting this Sunday afternoon on the people who had a significant influence in my life. I was a Park Ranger at Fall Creek Falls State Park in the mid-70's. Seeking a church after our move to that area, my wife Becky and I visited the church Kermit attended. He took an interest in Becky and me; and we we're blessed by his kind welcome. That was 47 years ago.

After leaving the Park Service, we served overseas in the ministry of Christian Youth Camping. That led to global travel training Christian camp leaders worldwide. As I enter "retirement", I reflect on God's grace and the Saints He placed in my path at strategic times. I should have written this much sooner; I'm 70 now and live in East Texas. But on the list of individuals whom I can count on one hand whose influence "stuck" with me, Pastor Zophi is unforgettable.

*Dan DeGroat, 26217 FM 1253, Mineola, TX 75773
903-539-2810 m*

Dan DeGroat - July 31, 2022 at 05:26 PM



“ *Kermit was a dear friend and co-laborer. Elizabeth and I served with him and Gleaneal in Greater Europe Mission for 17 years (until he left to teach at Bryan College). We served together on the GEM Coodinating Committee (for Europe) and enjoyed many times in their home. He will be greatly missed.##imported-begin##Royal & Elizabeth Peck##imported-end##*

July 09, 2010 at 09:17 PM



“ *We want to let you know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. We always enjoyed seeing Kermit when he made his visits to Stratford and will miss him very much. He touched our lives in a special way.##imported-begin##Patricia & Floyd Zopfi##imported-end##*

July 09, 2010 at 08:59 PM



“ *Papa Zopfi, that is what I called him. Both Papa and Mama Zopfi 'adopted' me as one of their own while I was attending Bryan College 1982-1986. Mr. Zopfi had worked with my parents at the Biebelschule Bergstrasse in Seeheim Germany. I don't have any memories of that time, but instead I have fond memories of my time at Bryan College spending time with him and being able to speak my 'native' language German. Papa Zopfi always had a joke to tell or some great advise to give. Thank you Papa Zopfi for making a homesick MK from Germany feel comforted and special.##imported-begin##Alice G. Burklin##imported-end##*

July 09, 2010 at 01:27 PM



“ *Kermit was an outstanding classmate at Marshfield Senior High School. He was highly respected.*

With sympathy,

Sister Joan Weigel, FSPA###imported-begin##Joan Weigel###imported-end##

July 09, 2010 at 10:26 AM



“ *Dear Doug, Carol and David, et al.:
What a wonderful father and grandfather you had. He was such a Godly man and left you all with such a rich heritage that I hope continues through all of you. Our earliest memory of Mr. Zopfi was his taking us to lunch at Pearce's Restaurant the first day we pulled in to Dayton and Bryan College. That was July, 1977. We have loved him ever since. He was so hospitable and lovable. We have been so blessed to know him and Gleneale and consider it a privilege to call your mom and dad dear friends. We pray God's peace for each of you in the days ahead.###imported-begin##Phil and Darlene Lestmann###imported-end##*

July 08, 2010 at 09:03 PM



“ *Many of my fondest memories at Bryan College include Kermit Zopfi. He has been a life long friend who will be dearly missed.###imported-begin##David Tromanhauser###imported-end##*

July 08, 2010 at 04:29 PM



“ Words cannot express how much I loved Kermit. I am saddened that he is no longer with us, but will rejoice that he is with our Lord. I had the honor and priviledge of helping to care for Kermit for the past few years of his life. He and I shared many wonderful talks and memories that I will always cherish. My thoughts, prayers and love are with the family. Rest In Peace "King Arthur"....I will miss you everyday.##imported-begin##Nancy Colvin##imported-end##

July 08, 2010 at 03:40 PM



“ What a special man Kermit was. We had many occasions to visit with Kermit. He spent many nights with our family playing board games of all kinds. We loved listening to all his adventures, too. Kermit actually dedicated our son, Aaron to the Lord as a baby. We will miss him but rejoice with your family at his home going!!!!##imported-begin##Bob & Tami Tullberg##imported-end##

July 08, 2010 at 03:35 PM



“ Jack and I were saddened to hear of Mr. Zopfi's Homegoing, yet we rejoice that he is free from pain and the many limitations that come with aging. I am thankful for the opportunity I had to work with him for ten years at Bryan, and I know he has heard our Lord say "well done thou good and faithful servant." Our prayers are with you Doug, David and Carol, and your families. Karin and Jack Traylor##imported-begin##Karin Traylor##imported-end##

July 08, 2010 at 03:28 PM