



Dr. William Lester Ketchersid

February 22, 1943 - June 6, 2015

Dr. William Ketchersid

Dayton, TN

Dr. William Lester Ketchersid, PhD, age 72 of Dayton, passed away Saturday June 6, 2015 in Lima Peru while on a mission trip. He was born February 22, 1943 in Rockwood, TN to the late Newell and Hazel (Wyatt) Ketchersid. He was also preceded in death by his wife Lee (Douglas) Ketchersid.

A resident of Rhea County most of his life, Dr. Ketchersid earned his Bachelor's degree at Tennessee Wesleyan College, his Masters degree at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and his PhD in history from the University of Georgia. He was a Professor of history at Bryan College.

He was a member of the Dayton Lion's Club and enjoyed traveling, having made numerous mission trips. He was a member of the Dayton First United Methodist Church.

Dr. Ketchersid is survived by his two sons William Lee (Jodi) Ketchersid of Destin, FL and John Ketchersid of Lehigh Acres, FL, two daughters Elizabeth Rodriquez and Deborah (Clint) Heath , all of Dayton, one brother Bob Ketchersid of Athens and twelve grandchildren.

Funeral services for Dr. Ketchersid will be held Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. at Dayton First United Methodist with his pastor, Rev. Ken Pierce officiating.

He will be laid to rest in Rhea Memory Gardens.

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

The family is being cared for by the Vanderwall Funeral Home in Dayton. They will receive friends at the church one hour before the funeral.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bryan College or Dayton United Methodist Church Mission Fund.

Cemetery Details

Rhea Memory Gardens	
Hwy 27	
Dayton, TN	

Tribute Wall

PC

“ I only had the privilege of knowing Bill for 2 yrs. which was to short of a time. He was a special friend. I will miss him.



Paula Chapman - March 14, 2016 at 06:59 PM

TN

“ Dr. Ketchersid was my mentor and history professor from '72 to '76. He always had time to talk and listen. I thank the Lord for Dr. Ketchersid. He was a warm southern gentleman and friend. Pas. Timothy D. Neff, Boca Raton, FL

Timothy D. Neff - August 11, 2015 at 08:08 PM



“ The measure of a man is the legacy he leaves in the lives of others. Dr. Ketchersid has left a grand and lasting legacy. Compassion, integrity, devotion, wisdom, humor, faithfulness, these are just a few of the qualities evident in his life. He was a beloved colleague and I cherish his memory. He passed into the presence of his Savior doing what he loved and he did it well. Ken Hanna

Kenneth Hanna - June 21, 2015 at 09:23 AM

RH

“ Dear Family: IT was our joy knowing the parents (in Spring City) and family of the Doctor during his many years at Bryan College. WHAT a joy knowing he was right where he wanted to be, on the Mission trip, when he had his Coronation in Heaven.
My prayers are with the family and I'm reminded of the song... "Just Think of Stepping on Shore and finding it Heaven.
My prayers are with y'all during these days... "What a Day that will Be"
Raymond (Shirley) Holmes

Raymond E. Holmes - June 21, 2015 at 12:37 AM

RR

“ I had Dr. Ketchersid for two or three history courses in the sixties when he was new at Bryan. He is the best history teacher I had in my many years of schooling. He was interesting, interested in his students, and always kind.
He touched the lives of many people. I hope his family will be comforted by his legacy as a professor and as a Christian.
Rosalie de Rosset

Rosalie de Rosset - June 19, 2015 at 06:40 PM

MW

“Bill was a dear friend and long-time colleague of over 3 decades. He often humbly but credibly represented an "alternative view" to the Bryan community's strongly conservative stance. His views were probably closer to those of WJB himself.

His interest in missions and Russia/Soviet Union were legendary, and we discussed his dream of taking a transcontinental trip across the vast Soviet Union. His daughter Debby and my daughter Christie were best friends during their school days, often battling it out for highest academic honors.

Because of his nearly 4 decades of integrity, professional/spiritual leadership, community service, and his conspicuous position in teaching the required History of Civ courses that almost all students had to take, Bill was certainly central to the very soul of BC for his many years of faithful service. He is already greatly missed.

Mel R. Wilhoit

Mel R Wilhoit - June 18, 2015 at 02:07 PM

KD

“I was a history major at BC ('02), and had Dr. K several times. His courses and personality enriched my life and the lives of others. When I think of him, the first word that comes to mind is "kind," and I suspect that is a legacy that few of us will achieve. I'm sorry for his loss, but glad I was able to know him. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Kristen Baldwin Deathridge - June 18, 2015 at 12:40 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. William Lester Ketchersid.*



June 18, 2015 at 12:00 PM



“ *I had Dr. K for history in the fall of 1989. It was my first semester at Bryan. The first day I walked into his class, he looked at me and asked if my name as Alison Haught. I said yes and he smiled and said "I hope you have your mother's brain for history". I looked at him and he said "I had both your parents in 1969 and I knew all along that your mother was doing your father's homework". I will miss him. Grateful I had his tutelage.*

Alison Taylor - June 18, 2015 at 07:07 AM



“ *NINA SUE CROWELL lit a candle in memory of Dr. William Lester Ketchersid*



NINA SUE CROWELL - June 17, 2015 at 07:20 PM



“ *Bill was a lion in the Dayton Lions Club and many times he took used eyeglasses donated from the lions club overseas to give to those in need in other countries. We will miss Bill. John and Carol Rhines*

John and Carol Rhines - June 17, 2015 at 06:29 PM

WJ

“As a faculty colleague at Bryan College, I remember Dr. Bill Ketchersid as a faithful servant of Christ—one who loved his subject, history, his students, and his Lord. He loved serving Christ as well on short-term missions trips, which he was taking pretty much every year, sometimes more than once a year, in the years I knew him. He seems to have especially enjoyed serving the Lord in this way. It's terrible to lose him so soon but appropriate that he would die on the mission field, serving Christ by loving people beyond the confines of the U.S. We will miss this kind, caring, giving man—his presence and his example.

Whit Jones - June 17, 2015 at 10:17 AM

JL

“Dr. K was always an emblem of the best of Bryan...great scholarship and a heart for students that made him devote time on campus way beyond classroom hours. I enjoyed many cafeteria meals with him, but had not taken any of his courses by my senior year. Though I'd already finished my history minor, I signed up for Russian History II the last semester before graduating in 2006 as an elective. What a treat. That class with him was one of the "you've got to do this while you're here" highlights of my time on the Hill.

I know this is a difficult time for the family, but I think it is emblematic of Dr. K's personality and servant heart that he went to join the Lord while on a mission trip. Faithful to the end. May the Lord bless and keep you all as you honor his memory.

~ Justin Lonas, Chattanooga

Justin Lonas - June 17, 2015 at 08:47 AM

MP

“ I had Dr Ketchersid as a professor 30 plus years ago when I attended Bryan College. he made history real and fun. This past year i had the privilege to be on the Bryan Campus and reconnect with him. He would always have a warm greeting as he passed by my office. He was a kind and caring man who will be missed Mark C. Padgett

Mark C. Padgett - June 16, 2015 at 04:27 PM

KC

“ I knew Bill Ketchersid for over six years, from the time I first came to work in the History and Government Department at Bryan College to the time of his departure from this world. Bill was an "institution" in History. Even after retiring he graciously continued to teach. My greatest memory of Bill is that he was one of the most gracious and kind Christian gentlemen I have ever known in my 33 years in academia. Bill was not only kind; he was also a well-loved professor for decades at Bryan. He was still teaching right up to the time he went home to be with the Lord. He will be greatly missed by hundreds of past and present students, staff, and faculty.

Kevin L. Clauson
Vice President of Academics
Bryan College

Kevin L. Clauson - June 16, 2015 at 03:49 PM

JC

“ Some of my favorite memories of Bill Ketchersid were as a student when he, Bob Spoede and Mac Fary would gather in the cafeteria for a cup of coffee and to discuss politics, world events, theology, etc.--The Tennessean, The Texan and The New Jerseyite. They agreed on more than they disagreed--barely--but they loved and respected one another. It was a wonderful example to me of how the Body of Christ should operate. We aren't required to agree on everything--Christianity should never be doctrinaire--but we are called to love and respect one another. I have no doubt that one day soon they will all share a cup of coffee together again in Glory. And maybe, finally, they will be in complete agreement!

--John Carpenter

John Carpenter - June 16, 2015 at 01:27 PM