



Helen S. Brownson

December 15, 1929 - June 4, 2015

Helen Stewart Brownson, born Dec. 15, 1929, went to be with her Lord on June 4, 2015 having lived out 85 years, full of life. She leaves behind her husband Bill, sons Jim and Jonathan, daughters-in-law Kathryn and Jeannette, grandchildren Rachel, Benjamin, Anna, Joanna, William, and Sam, along with their partners in life, two sisters Florence and Janet, as well as a host of dear friends far too many to number. She was preceded in death by her parents Alex and Emma Stewart, by her sons Billy and Dave, by her sister Judith Stewart Berndt and her brother Eddie Stewart. She was born in Burnt Hills, New York, graduated from Wheaton College, and lived out her life as a wife, mother, a special-education teacher, a special needs coordinator for area school districts helping students with disabilities to find employment, an organizer for those in need of housing through the ministry of Heritage Homes, and as the Minister of Outreach at Christ Memorial Church. In all these arenas, she was a passionate advocate for persons on the margins of life and society. She was recently honored by Lakeshore Disability Network with a lifetime achievement award for her work with people in special need. In the midst of all these responsibilities, she devoted her support to her husband's ministry, and enjoyed traveling with him to outreach centers of Bill's radio ministry Words of Hope, throughout the world. This life of ministry arose from her own experience of suffering, with a brother's life-long mental disability, with one son (Billy) severely disabled by measles encephalitis, and another son (Dave) who struggled with schizophrenia. Despite this deep pain,

she lived her life without an ounce of self-pity, thoroughly devoted to her family and to all those who live their life in the midst of pain, struggle, deprivation, and sorrow. Visitation will be 7-9 p.m. Saturday, June 6, 2015 and 1:30–2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 7, in the Chapel of Christ Memorial Church (entrances D&E), 595 Graafschap Rd. Holland. Helen's life will be celebrated in a funeral service at in the Sanctuary at Christ Memorial Church in Holland on Sunday, June 7, at 3:00 pm in the afternoon and will be followed by a reception. Gifts in memory of Helen may be given to Words of Hope in Grand Rapids, MI. Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI, and to the Capital Campaign Fund at New Community/Fourth Reformed Church in Holland, MI. www.langelandsterenberg.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Helen S. Brownson*

August 31, 2022 at 01:26 PM



“ *"Dear Bill and Family,
We are so grateful to have had Helen for a friend. I still have several prayer sheets that Helen gave me so many years ago as prompts to pray scripturally for family and friends. Such a gift. I remember well the morning she gave her testimony to 85 squirrelly junior highers in Sunday School at Christ Memorial. She brought photos of young Helen, of her fresh-faced young husband, of her expanding family. As she told stories, her point was clearly made: God can be trusted. God can be trusted. Again and again. We have all seen her live out that truth to the end. Thank you, Lord, for Helen."*

Lauretta and Ben Patterson - June 11, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CV

“Not all who display a golden sign on their apartment door that states that they are "Ambassadors for Christ", I find, or who tell you that they are such, or are called Ministers in this life, necessarily are, just because they proclaim on their own terms and judgements that this is the case. There is way to much of this going on in Holland, Michigan. HOWEVER, I believe that with or without the golden sign on the door, proclaiming that they/she are mbassadors for Christ, it could be said of Helen Brownson, that she really was! Plenty of people in Holland TALK a lot about faith, but Helen DID SOMETHING ABOUT IT, and, more than that, dared to TOUCH, LOVE, and REACH out to people in need...on the "margins" of life, as her obituary so beautifully states! THAT, is what God asks us to do...and she surely did! (My love and prayers to her family...from one who had the pleasure of benefitting from hot just what she did, but WHO she was.)”

Chase V - June 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EB

“Dearest Bill and Sons: Helen was a very special lady who influenced my life in the most profound way. The many years of knowing her have inspired me. I first met Helen as she facilitated a support group of NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) parents in Christ Memorial Church. Her guidance in challenging us to build the Ladder House (appropriate housing for mentally ill persons) has resulted for some twenty years later in housing for our adult children of God. Your grief and sorrow at her loss is profound, but temporary, as you will see her again as she rests safe in the arms of Jesus.”

Eleanor Brunsell - June 07, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BY

“Dear Helen, I have watched you transition to heaven groaning in your earthly tent. That old rag is demolished now. You have entered the presence of the Lord in your eternal body. Thank you for the encouragement, training in Godliness and occasional well deserved rebuke. You were my mentor and friend. I rejoice in that you and my Dad Howard took the same shuttle to heaven and arrived the same day... Thursday night prayer at your house will continue. This photo of Bill captures our awe that you have been welcomed by your Lord and savior Jesus Christ.”

Barbara Yandell - June 06, 2015 at 12:00 AM

WA

“Whenever I think of Helen Brownson, I thank God. Bill, you and your wonderful family have our sympathy. While Helen is absent from this body and present with her Precious Lord, your loss is still great... For that we are sorry. Her prayers will follow her....”

Warren - June 05, 2015 at 12:00 AM

KC

“Helen was a very special lady. Her openness and willingness to share her life was a blessing to me. She was a faithful servant of God and now she beholds her Lord face to face. My sympathy to Bill, Jim, John and extended family.”

Kathleen Coveny - June 05, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MD

“She will surely be missed. I thank God I got to know you both.”

Mike Van Doornik - June 05, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BM

“Dearest Bill, Jonathon, Jim and family, When I last saw you (Bill & Jonathon) Thursday morning at the pastors/leaders prayer meeting, I was hoping Helen might have made it to Sunday, but that just was not God's timetable. My prayers are with you all as you grieve the loss and temporary separation from your dear Helen. I am so glad you as a family chose to honor her at the special reception held earlier at Freedom Village. Helen had an opportunity to hear and see many who loved her and celebrated her life and accomplishments. She will be deeply missed by many; so may our good God comfort your hearts and fill you with his joy during this momentary apartness before our re-uniting! Bob McAndrews”

Bob McAndrews - June 05, 2015 at 12:00 AM