



Gloria Jean Odens

July 13, 2018

On July 13, 2018, the Lord Jesus mercifully received Gloria Jean Odens, age 74, into His Presence. She suffers from her chronic renal disease no more, and, more fully alive than ever, looks into the face of the Savior she loves so much.

Gloria was born in Joliet, IL, to Richard and Carmen Stevens. She graduated from West High School in Rockford, IL, in 1961. She attended Pillsbury Baptist Bible College in Owatonna, MN, where she met the love of her life, Donald Odens, and married him on July 24, 1965. She graduated from Pillsbury College in 1966.

Gloria spent her life supporting her husband in his pastoral ministry in every way she could. This included serving in the nursery, teaching Sunday School and children's church, singing in the choir, mentoring college age and young married women, teaching English as a second language, organizing ladies' ministry events, volunteering at the local crisis pregnancy center, hosting countless meals in her home, and bringing meals to those in need.

She lovingly, creatively reared her four children and delighted in her four grandchildren.

She loved animals, flowers, and beauty of every kind. She loved to sing, and she loved to laugh. She loved life, and she loved people – especially her family. She loved her Savior most of all.

Gloria was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Carmen, and by her sister, Carol Miller.

She is survived by her husband, Don, of 53 years; son Nathan (Bridget) Odens; daughters Melissa Odens, Marcie (Jeff) Odens Peck, and Michelle (Dan) Lenz; grandchildren Riley and Sophie Peck and Jasmine and Aleia Lenz; her sisters, Ruth Ann Elms, Sylvia (Cy) Stanfa, and Barb (Peter) Giolitto; and her brother, Jerry Stevens.

Her family will receive visitors from 5-7 PM on Tuesday, July 17, 2018, at Washburn McReavy Eden Prairie Chapel, 7625 Mitchell Road, Eden Prairie, MN, and from 10-11 AM on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at Fourth Baptist Church, 900 Forestview Lane North, Plymouth, MN, 55441. Her funeral is scheduled for 11 AM on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at Fourth Baptist Church, with a luncheon to follow. Interment will be at Glen Haven Memorial Gardens (5125 West Broadway Ave., Crystal, MN) following the luncheon.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Gloria's name to Metro Women's Center, 6418 Bass Lake Road, Crystal, MN 55428.

Tribute Wall

MA

“ We just read and were touched by Don's essay regarding his and Gloria's journey over the past several years. As contemporaries of Gloria at Pillsbury Baptist Bible College, we remember her perky, energetic spirit as seen in her cheer leading and in all she did. How she loved to sing, and she was good at it. She was a friend to everyone. Our family benefited from her gracious hospitality several times. We are grateful to have known her. Save us places in the heavenly choir, Gloria!
Jeff and Marilyn Alexander

Marilyn Alexander - October 21, 2018 at 05:06 PM

TR

“ We heard through the grapevine of Gloria's Home-going. Since we don't use Facebook, the news is just getting to us. We are remembering when Pastor and Gloria visited us in the hospital when our son was born, prayed with us and shared scripture. I have photographs I would have liked to share, but they are regretfully on the harddrive of our computer that recently broke down and we can't get to them at the moment. Our prayers and thoughts are with you during this time, Pastor and family. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to be blessed by Gloria's life. She will be missed while we are on this earth, but we look forward to seeing her again someday when the Lord calls us all Home.
Love in Christ,
Aaron and Tina Roos + Alice, Caleb and Cora

Tina m Roos - August 11, 2018 at 12:48 PM

MA

“Gloria had such a loving caring accepting spirit. She was so strong in dealing with her health issues. She was an inspiration to me - it was great sharing Bible study with her - seeing her strong faith and her knowledge of the scriptures. My sympathy to her family. Mary Swisher

mary - July 18, 2018 at 07:40 AM



“Gloria's beauty is wrapped up in her love of God, her inability to be anything but truthful, her great compassion and desire to bring people like myself into true Christian fellowship. The question I now ask myself is -- can I be a Gloria to someone? May I honor God in this way.

With Love,
Vicky Golden-Smith

Vicky Golden-Smith - July 18, 2018 at 05:05 AM

DS

“Dr. Mohamed Ali and Staff purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gloria Jean Odens.



Dr. Mohamed Ali and Staff - July 17, 2018 at 03:01 PM

BP

“Gloria's smile and outlook on life was so positive. She had a beautiful voice and sang to us in a home Bible Study and we were so amazed! She Loved the Lord and He will welcome her in His Loving Arms. My sympathy to her husband and family. Bernie

Bernie Petrick - July 17, 2018 at 02:41 PM

MH

“ *Pastor Odens, We remember her glorifying God with her voice during church services. Although we know she is in glory, her absence on earth leaves an emptiness. May our Lord wrap you in His love and comfort you. Words seem so inadequate.*
Craig and Mary Harrington



Mary H - July 17, 2018 at 12:55 PM

KE

“ *Praise God for sweet memories of Gloria. Her smile was always so welcoming and her kindness touched so many. I can see Gloria and my Dad, Glenn Levno, having a wonderful meeting in heaven along with many of the Toews family. We are blessed to have so many wonderful saints in heaven to meet up with someday. God's blessing and comfort to you all.*

*Joan Levno
Valerie Levno
Jim & Pat Galloway
Brian & Kris Emmel*

Kris Emmel - July 17, 2018 at 12:20 PM