



Betty Jo Mathis

February 9, 1928 - November 29, 2018

.Funeral services for BETTY JO MATHIS, 90, will be held at 10am Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at Eastgate Baptist Church with Pastors Tedd Mathis and Scott Mathis co-officiating. Burial will follow in the LaGrange Cemetery. Betty Jo went to be with her Lord Thursday, November 29, 2018 at Goshen Healthcare Community. Memorials may be given to the Sonshine Society in Lynnwood, Washington or Frontier School of the Bible in LaGrange, Wyoming. Visitation will be from 4pm to 7pm Tuesday at the funeral home and the casket will be open briefly prior to the service at the church. Arrangements are by the Colyer Funeral Home and condolences may be sent to www.colyerfuneralhome.com>.

Betty Jo was born February 9, 1928 in Charlotte, Michigan to Bernard and Mary Hice. She was raised on a dairy farm with three brothers and one sister. She fell in love with a skinny city boy in high school. She and Don Mathis were married February 15, 1946 a week following her eighteenth birthday. Don and Betty Jo's dream was to be dairy farmers and parents of lots of children. Their first baby, Mary Ellen, was born prematurely and died at twelve days. This was devastating to the young couple, yet the Lord used it for His purposes. Amidst their questioning and anger they also had to deal with an unexplainable change in Don's younger brother Ken, who had recently been born again. Through the humbling reality they were not in control of the future, and seeing the obvious Christ-honoring change in Ken, it wasn't long before God brought them to

His Son. Betty Jo surrendered her life to the Lord on Palm Sunday, 1950, a week after Don's salvation. Their lives were completely changed. A hunger to understand the Bible for what it really was- the Word of God- resulted in selling their beloved Jersey dairy herd, taking their two young children and enrolling in a Bible institute. It was there they became students of the Word of God. Don became a pastor in the early 1950's, serving at two churches in Michigan. In 1969 the family left beloved and familiar Michigan, moving to Wyoming where Don was a pastor of LaGrange Bible Church. From 1969 to present Don has ministered as a pastor in Wyoming and Nebraska with Betty Jo as his faithful helper- filling in words, Bible references, etc.- when Don faltered. For more than twenty-five years they have ministered in nursing homes-visiting lonely residents, conducting Bible studies and church services in several facilities. She could make something out of nothing whether it was food to feed the many guests around her table or clothing for her children. Betty Jo wrote her first poem soon after her salvation. That started a flow of her giftedness with words in poetry, prose, songs, skits and teaching and speaking. Multiple books were published with her writings from which many have been, and continue to be encouraged. She was a well-loved speaker for ladies' events. Her sense of humor (most of the time focused around her own foibles) brought much laughter and made her writings, teaching and speaking relatable to many.

Betty Jo is survived by her husband Pastor Don; children Bill of Beloit, Wisconsin, Linda (Mike) Ronk of Belton, Texas, Loretta (Rick) Roberts of Hay Springs, Nebraska, Gayle (David) Johnson of LaGrange, Wyoming, Jim (Mary) of Wheatland, Wyoming, Tedd (Dawn) of Pueblo, Colorado, and Scott (Diane) of North Platte, Nebraska; twenty-two grandchildren; thirty-eight great grandchildren; a sister Ann Hull; brother Ken (Sharon) Hice of Michigan; and Don's brother Ken (Carole) Mathis of Texas.

Cemetery Details

LaGrange Cemetery

LaGrange, WY

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Colyer Funeral Home
PO Box 20 / 2935 Main
Torrington, WY 82240
(307) 532-2320
colyerfuneralhome@gmail.com

Service

DEC 5. 10:00 AM (MT)

East Gate Baptist Church
1715 East L
Torrington, WY 82240
(307) 532-3007

Tribute Wall

BS

“ My memories of Betty Jo go back so many years....to the early 1950s. Little did any of us know when my Dad (Sam Campbell) led Don to the Lord that so many other lives would be touched by this special couple. Although I have not seen either Don or Betty Jo for a very long time, I'm thankful to have been able to keep up with their life and ministry online. They will always hold a special place in my heart and memory. Betty Jo's smile itself seemed to share God's love with all who knew her. It will be glorious to be with them again in Heaven. My prayers are with you, Don, and your extended family.

Barbara (Campbell) Sundberg - December 06, 2018 at 09:46 PM

SH

“ Sending condolences to the family at the loss of sweet Betty Jo, but rejoicing that she is now with her heavenly father. She and Don were faithful in their visits to my dad while he was in the nursing home and I know that it made his days brighter. I remember her always with a smile on her face and know that she blessed so many who knew who.

Shannon (Holtz) Howshar - December 04, 2018 at 06:26 PM

SH

“ Shannon lit a candle in memory of Betty Jo Mathis



Shannon - December 04, 2018 at 06:22 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Betty Jo Mathis.*



December 03, 2018 at 01:33 PM



“ *Always a poem or a little anecdote, a moment to giggle or share a tear. That is how I will always remember Betty Jo. I can hear her saying, "Well, there's Charlotte." when I would make a visit to my family. I usually got a little squeeze hug, with that. It will be a grand day when I get to heaven and hear her greet me that way, again. My thoughts and prayers are with each or you, Pastor Don, Bill, Linda, Loretta, Jim, Gayle, Ted and Scott, and your families.*

Charlotte (Marshall) Vaughan - December 03, 2018 at 01:07 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Betty Jo Mathis.*



December 03, 2018 at 11:15 AM



“ *Michael, Terri & Coy Thomas purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Betty Jo Mathis.*



Michael, Terri & Coy Thomas - December 02, 2018 at 09:49 PM

MH

“ I cannot recall any specific memories because of my poor memory system but I do picture Betty Jo in my mind and how comfortable she made you feel when you were visiting with her. Don was pastor at the Harrison Bible Church in Nebraska when I knew her and while I was a Methodist I had occasion to run into her quite often. She was always smiling and welcoming. I had several of her books and cherished them. She had a way of making you smile, laugh and chuckle in her poetry, with a sprinkle of tears here and there. She just had a way of presenting a solution to problems through her experience as God would want them solved. She was an angel here on earth who has moved on to her eternal home. She will be waiting for the rest of us to join her as she continues welcoming others to heaven.



marilyn hultgren - December 02, 2018 at 02:06 PM

KP

“ I am so sad to hear of Betty Jo's passing. They visited my Mom often at the nursing home and Don officiated at my Mom's funeral in 2014. They often had their sweet dog Gracie with them when visiting the nursing home. Betty Jo was so kind to me after my Mom's passing. She sent me a few of her poems. She also gave a couple to my Mom and my Mom loved Don and Betty Jo's visits. My prayers are with Don and the rest of the family. My deepest condolences. Karen Van Patten

Karen Van Patten - November 30, 2018 at 09:05 PM

RG

“ I was just a small boy when Pastor Mathis and Betty Jo ministered at our church at Nevins Lake Church, Both were loved so very much by my parents and our whole family. I always remember Betty Jo making me feel so welcome on Sunday. I was very shy and her smile was a warm welcome. They both made the church a safe and loving place to be. Pastor Mathis worked some on my Dad's dairy farm when he wasn't ministering. Once when I was about four-years-old I was playing on the upper floor of our barn and manged to fall through a hole in the floor into the middle of a pen in the basement that held several yearling heifers. I sat in the middle of the pen screaming and Don came running, jumped the fence with one leap, and 'rescued' me. Betty Jo and Don were 'full service ministers' to all of my family.

Rev. Gerald Goodell - November 30, 2018 at 05:15 PM

JE

“ Sending condolences in the homegoing of Betty Jo. She was a longtime friend of my aunt, Dorothea Jorgensen Ellsworth of Stanton, Mi. Both writers and poets, they exchanged many pieces of work which my aunt sometimes shared with me. I grew up in Entrican Bible Church and my aunt attended Langston during your years at Nevins. I know your loved one is now reunited with those longtime friends who preceded her to Glory. May God comfort you as you envision her delight in being with her Lord.
Jeanette Christensen Emmons

jeanette christensen emmons - November 30, 2018 at 03:20 PM