



Sister Grace E. Hillenburg

February 6, 1921 - April 26, 2010

On Monday, April 26, 2010 the Lord saw that she had done what she could, when she could and for as long as she could (St. Mark 14:8) and He decided that she needed a rest and He took her home to be with her dear husband of 59 years, Ernest R. Hillenburg, who died July 23, 2005.

She was born in Brown County, Indiana on February 6, 1921 the daughter of Grover C. and Lillie V. (Hainline) Willoughby.

Affectionately known as "Sister Grace", she was a minister of the Gospel since the age of 15, first as an evangelist traveling throughout Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky and then was a pastor of the old Paynetown Pentecostal Church. She was pastor of the Westside Pentecostal Church for 45 years (1962-2007), when she retired at the age of 85. She was an inspiration to all whose lives she touched. She trained new ministers and officiated hundreds of weddings and funerals. She became well known for her Sunday morning radio ministry for 27 years and television ministry for 10 years.

She is survived by two daughters, Brenda Jo Brinegar and her husband Dicky and Joyce Ann Perry and her husband Joey, all of Bloomington, two grandchildren, Bekki Acton and her husband Chris and Andy Empson and his wife Lisa. She had one great grandson, Brezden Thomas Acton. A great granddaughter is expected in July, 2010, Phoenix Skye Acton. She is also survived by three sisters, Iva Chambers of Bloomington, Regina Springer of Beech Grove and Lucille Sexton of Carmel as well as several nieces and nephews. She is also grateful for caregivers Gail Farrar and the staff of

Southern Care Hospice.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, four brothers, Harold, Eugene, Woodford and Grover Dale Willoughby and three sisters; Mary Silena Clark, Virginia Maxine Eads and Lois Wootton.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday at Allen Funeral Home with Rev.'s Cheryl Crum and Glen "Buster" Woods officiating. Burial will be at Knightridge Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home on Thursday from 4:00-9:00 p.m. and one hour preceding the services on Friday.

Memorial contributions may be made to Westside Pentecostal Church or the charity of one's choice. Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.allenfuneralhome.org.

Tribute Wall

RA

“ Dear Brenda,

Just received my Bloomington paper, Wednesdays edition, sorry to read about your mother. It reads as though she had a good, long, busy life.

Say hello to Dicky and Bekki for me.

Ruth Ann

ruth ann roberts - October 26, 2015 at 04:32 PM

S(

“ *Sister grace made a huge impact on my life and her teachings provided a life long love of god for me and my family. I am so sorry for your loss.*

Susan Chambers (Lawson) - October 26, 2015 at 04:32 PM

TE

“ *I grew up hearing Sister Grace preach the word of God. What a joy she was. My prayers are with her family.*

Teresa Boltinghouse - October 26, 2015 at 04:32 PM

SJ

“ *So sorry for the loss of Sister Grace. She truly was a great minister from my childhood. She always made the Perry Family welcome (all 10 of us kids)! As a child, I can always remember listening to her every Sunday on the Radio. You are in our thoughts and prayers!*

Sarah (Perry) Jones - October 26, 2015 at 04:32 PM

JE

“ *Brenda and Dick so sorry for your loss*

Jeanette Richart - October 26, 2015 at 04:32 PM

LM

“ *Grace was a Great Woman who touched all! She will be greatly missed but we all know she is dancing in heaven now.*

Leanna (granddaughter of Mary) Hamm - October 26, 2015 at 04:32 PM

SM

Sister Grace was an inspiration and A blessing to so many. She supported others, so many evangelists in her ministry. She was a various Woman of God And it was truly a Honor to have sit and hear her preach, share ,Minister,council, encourage and be prayed for by her. Condolances to the Family, Church members those in ministry with her, those whos lives she touched... She served GOD well! Thank You God for Sister Grace

Share Your Faith Ministries - August 25, 2023 at 11:07 PM

BA

“ *Dear Brenda,*

I am sorry to see that your Mother has passed over but I know that she hasn't been well lately and that you have worked very hard to make sure that her last days were comfortable and happy. I am sure you know that she is at peace now, with the God she has worshipped all her life, and that now it is time for you to take care of yourself a little bit. my sincere condolences to you and your family.

barbe winders

barbara winders - October 26, 2015 at 04:32 PM

LO

“ I'm so sorry for your loss! Sister Grace was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed! I personally thank her for teaching about Jesus and his love for even me...
Lori Ann Meadows

Lori Meadows - October 26, 2015 at 04:32 PM

MA

“ It is sad when we lose someone we have known for a lifetime. I will always cherish the times that I went with Rev. Henry Skinner to tent meetings, brush arbors and revivals with Sister Grace. She was always upbeat and positive for God. Her reward is greatly deserved. I am blessed to have known her and I feel for her family's loss.

Mark Blackburn - October 26, 2015 at 04:32 PM

LA

“ So sorry to here that Sister Grace had passed on. I know she will be greatly missed. I always remember her while growing up in the Shady Spring fellowship / Scotland church & from Tunnel Hill Church. I always love hearing her Preach and Testify

She findly was able to go where we all hope for one day

Will be thinking of you all

Larry Thompson - October 26, 2015 at 04:32 PM