



IN LOVING MEMORY

Richard Kenneth Bergman

March 23, 1935 - January 18, 2021



February 13, 2021

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville



**Order for the Worship of God
in Celebration of the Life of
Dick Bergman**
February 13, 2021 11 o'clock a.m.



Prelude

Greeting

Rev. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein

The Life of Dick Bergman

Sentences of Scripture

Prayer

Praise Song

Above All

Sharing Memories

Hymn

Like a River Glorious

Scripture Readings

Psalm 46:1, 10

John 11:23-26

Revelation 21:3-4. 6-7

Special Music

"My Tribute" Sarah Bergman, Soloist, Bethany Lovell, Signer

Message

Rev. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein

Special Music

Prayer & The Lords Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Hymn

Amazing Grace (Video) followed by V. 5, Congregation

Blessing

Postlude

Participants

Rev. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein

Nyadia Thorpe, Music Director

Brittany Haywood, accompanist

Sasha Adkins, violin, Chris Adkins, cello, Steve Bayless, bass

Deborah Titus, flute

Rev. Craig Sanders and Dr. Dub Guthrie, Readers

Richard “Dick” Kenneth Bergman passed away at his home in Duncanville, TX January 18, 2021. He was born March 23, 1935 in Jamestown, ND to Arthur William and Dorothy Kieffer Bergman. The family moved from a farm south of there to Grandfather Kieffer’s farm near Cayuga, ND when Dick was 7. The family had no church connection until another farm family – the Olsons - reached out to them. Dick and his 4 siblings began to attend services at the little Baptist church where all of them made commitments to Christ. At the age of 17 he became the farm manager/operator when his father suddenly died just before Spring planting was to begin. Dick dropped out of school for 6 weeks to take care of farm chores and get the crops planted.

He graduated from Rutland High School in 1953, intending to farm the rest of his life. But in 1956 he felt God urging him to pursue further education so that Fall he began coursework at Northwestern College in Minneapolis, MN. He nearly always returned to the family farm on weekends to help with the farm work. During the early summers 1958/1959 he helped lead Vacation Bible Schools in some small Methodist Churches in ND. It was there he met Nancy who helped with the music in her church in 1959.

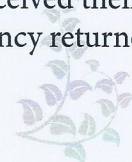
Upon graduation from Northwestern in 1960, he enrolled in the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks where he was accepted to serve with the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), Wycliffe Bible Translators. That fall, he served as an interim pastor at a small Baptist church in New Town, ND before going on to ‘Jungle Camp’ training in southern Mexico January-April 1961. He took the second year of coursework at SIL at UND-Grand Forks, anticipating an assignment to work on a language in southern Philippines. However, he was assigned to work in Ghana, West Africa! But, that work was not to begin until Fall 1962. The Director for this new effort in Africa advised him to take graduate coursework in African Linguistics. It was August and late to enroll but he was accepted at the School of Missions, Hartford Seminary Foundation, Hartford, CT where he eventually earned a MA in linguistics.

Leaving the farm and family was a huge step for him. In Sept. 1962 after driving an old Plymouth loaded with 3 metal barrels of belongings to New York City, he dropped those off at the USS African Glade (a freighter), then drove to the Bronx, sold the car for \$15 and took a taxi back to the ship. The journey took 3 weeks. He was the fifth SIL person to arrive for work in Africa. First, he helped new teams move to / get settled into their language locations; he also made some language survey trips in Ghana assessing language work needs. He spent six months doing basic study / analysis of the Tumulma language in northern Ghana – in which the Bible was eventually completed by another language team.

SIL work in Nigeria began in January 1964 and Dick was among the group of 12 to start the work there. He and a single man from England – Martin Leigh – began work on the Igede language in east-central Nigeria while Nancy completed college plus SIL training. She flew to Nigeria in mid-December – with 2 suitcases - one of which contained her wedding dress!

They were married March 13, 1965 in Enugu, Nigeria in an Anglican church, by the Methodist minister, who worked in the Igede language area they would be going/returning to. Their first home was mud block with thatch roof. They continued language study, producing some Scripture portions and drafting some initial reading books. In 1972 they had to set aside their language work when Dick was chosen as Director to oversee SIL’s work in Nigeria..

When all but 4 SIL workers had to leave the country in 1976, the Bergman family settled in Duncanville to complete the New Testament and Genesis, bringing Igede pastor, John Adimah, here to work with them. This was completed in 1979 and dropping off the final edit of I & II Timothy in the mail at Kennedy Airport in NYC, they left for Southern Sudan where Dick was Director of the SIL work for the next 9 years. Their children received their education at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya – which meant 3 months’ separation at a time. Dick and Nancy returned to live in Duncanville August 1989.



Dick managed the donated car program for Wycliffe Regional Office (1990-2001) as well as directing the Africa Orientation Course in Cameroon, West Africa the first 3 months of the year, 1997-2002. Seeing the need Wycliffe members returning to the US from overseas assignments had for reliable, cost-effective vehicles he decided he could best help to meet this need by becoming a used car dealer – hence “Dicks Cars” was born. You know the rest of that story!

Preceding him in death are his parents Arthur William and Dorothy Kieffer Bergman, niece Cindy Jahraus, brother Eugene, and sister Marjorie Wohler. He leaves behind his wife of 55 years, Nancy, son Bill (Brenda) Istanbul, Turkey, daughter Mary Beth (John J.) Wainwright, Fairfield, TX, 8 grandchildren David, Sarah, Nathan and Elizabeth Bergman, Daniel Wainwright, Rebekah (Jeffrey) Proctor, Garrett Wainwright, Heather Wainwright and beloved cousins, nieces and nephews.

