



A Life Devoted to God

Dr. Carol McKinney, born in southern California in 1936, was the youngest of three siblings. Carol grew up in the Los Angeles area and retained great affection for her home region all her life. She was also proud of her German heritage, on her father's side, and Swedish heritage, on her mother's side. She studied anthropology as an undergraduate at the University of California, in Los Angeles.

It was during her studies there that she met her future husband, Norris McKinney, through an Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship group. However, it was only two years later, while Carol was a student at Biblical Seminary in New York City and Norris was at the University of Michigan that they fell in love. In the summer of 1959, they both attended the Summer Institute of Linguistics at the University of Oklahoma. While there, they applied to Wycliffe Bible Translators as a pledged couple and were accepted by the mission. Two weeks after the end of the summer session they were married in Village Church, in Burbank, California. The church congregation remained a faithful supporter of the missionary work of Carol and Norris throughout the rest of their lives. After their marriage, the couple went to the University of Michigan, where Norris was a doctoral student in Communication Sciences. Carol enrolled in the graduate program in Anthropology, but soon switched to Linguistics.

She completed her M.A. in Linguistics in 1962. While Carol and Norris were living in Michigan, their two sons, Mark and Eric, were born. Soon after Norris completed his Ph.D., the whole family went to Wycliffe's three-month Jungle Training Camp in southern Mexico. Carol and Norris left the camp early because Carol was pregnant with Susan, their third child, who was born in Norman soon after their return to the United States.

The McKinney family moved to Nigeria in September 1967, where Carol raised their children and where Norris worked first at Ahmadu Bello University, in Jos. In December 1969, the family moved to the Southern Zaria region. There, Carol and Norris began to work with the Bajju people, first learning their culture and language, then analyzing their unwritten language to create an alphabet. They used the alphabet to write literacy primers in Jju, the language of the Bajju, and to work on translating the New Testament. The Bajju elders appointed Simon Waziri, who took leave from his seminary studies, to become the primary translator. Simon, Norris, and Carol worked together to produce a translation that was Biblically accurate and that would flow and sound natural to the Bajju.

Both Carol and Norris shared the challenges and joys of those activities as well as home

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schooling their three children. After four years in Nigeria, the family returned to California for a year, where Carol informally audited courses in the School of World Missions at Fuller Theological Seminary while Norris worked at UCLA and studied at Fuller. Soon after their return to Nigeria, in 1972, Carol and Norris's fourth child, Christine, was born.

In 1976 the McKinneys left Nigeria with the first draft of the New Testament in the Jju language in hand. They moved to Duncanville, Texas, where they continued their work at the International Linguistics Center, in Dallas. Carol typed the first draft into the computer and then carefully checked the translated meanings in the text. Norris and Carol made revisions to the draft, together with Reverend Iliya Ahuwan, who came to Dallas to help.

After Christine entered first grade, Carol returned to graduate school, this time at Southern Methodist University, to earn her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology.

In 1983, Susan and Christine accompanied their parents back to Nigeria, where for eight months Carol gathered data for her dissertation, while Norris taught Nigerians and others who were affiliated with the Nigeria Bible Translation Trust how to use a computer.

Norris and Carol again returned to Nigeria in 1984 for three weeks to attend the dedication of

the Jju New Testament, whose first edition of 5,000 copies sold out before the shipment of books arrived in the country. After Carol completed her doctorate in 1985, she taught cultural anthropology at the International Linguistic Center, while Norris taught phonetics until he retired, sidelined by Parkinson's disease. Carol cared for Norris throughout the sixteen years of his illness, until his death in 2010.

Carol was the author of four books related to her research in anthropology and linguistics. Her first volume was *Globe-Trotting in Sandals: A Field Guide to Cultural Research* (2000), which served as a textbook for cultural anthropology classes, including her own. Her second book publication, co-authored with Norris, was another textbook, titled *An Introduction to Field Phonetics* (2017). She completed it after the death of her husband. Her third and fourth books were based on her dissertation, which itself drew on approximately nine years of research in Nigeria: *Baranzan's People: An Ethnohistory of the Bajju of the Middle Belt of Nigeria* (2019) and *Bajju Christian Conversion in the Middle Belt of Nigeria* (2019). Carol is also the author of several other articles and book chapters.

Carol brought her anthropological expertise to the writing of family histories for both herself and her husband, which they researched during cross-country trips across the United States.

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They visited members of their extended families, some of whom they met for the first time. Carol and Norris were longtime members of First Presbyterian Church in Duncanville, where Carol taught a well-liked Sunday school class for years. Carol contributed to the life of her church for over four and a half decades, up until her passing.

Throughout her life, Carol enjoyed knitting wool sweaters and hats, embroidering pictures, drawing, visiting new places, and contemplating nature's wonders. She also kept in close, regular contact with her widely scattered family and her many good friends, whom she had met through her missionary endeavors, which defined her life's work. Their love and friendship sustained her throughout her life. Carol is survived by her sister, June, her four children and their spouses (Mark and Valérie McKinney; Eric McKinney; Dr. Susan McKinney and William Dorward, Esquire; and Christine and Larry Westerman) and five grandchildren (Ilsa, Fiona and Sophia Dorward; Louise McKinney; and Nathaniel Westerman). Carol's keen intelligence and love for learning, her faithfulness to her family and friends, and her love, will continue to inspire us for as long as we live.

Carol was very grateful to God for the life He gave her.

