

March 14, 1945 — February 22, 2010

A Tribute/Memorial for Norman J. Bernard

Death Came Out of Due Season

It was in 1985 we made our first trip to Asia to participate in the seminary's Asian extension program. Our first stop was Hong Kong which was one of our teaching sites as well a key location for ABWE and their church planting ministry. While in the city we met the ABWE staff including Norm and Louise Bernard. We were impressed with them upon first contact. At a Peking Duck dinner at the Beijing City Restaurant we got to know their passion for ministry as well as their graciousness and humor. A number of years later Norm and Louise joined the faculty of Asia Baptist Theological Seminary and focused their lives on advancing the education of the Asian pastors. Norm served with distinction in the area of educational ministries for many years.. It was in 1990 that Norm became the director of ABTS



Under Norm's leadership the seminary prospered with new teaching sites, additional faculty, revised and expanded curriculum along with the development of policies that have benefited students all over Asia. Louise achieved her masters degree and brought to the seminary excellent organizational and planning skills. When the Lord brought the two of them together and caused love to grow between them which led to marriage, he put together two people who would in skills supplement each other in life and ministry.

Through the years we made many trips to Asia and often stayed in the Bernard home and taught with Norm at the different teaching sites. Many memories flood the mind at a time like this but I will limit myself to impressions that linger for a man I love and respect. Norm's desire to serve the Lord Jesus with single purpose made itself known in every facet of his life and ministry. That service included a sense of urgency with the gospel to invite men to repent and believe in the only Savior of men. His wonderful temperament attracted saint and sinner to him. As director of a seminary he was approachable and open in every situation of life. A lasting impression of Norm includes the kindness with which he dealt with people even when they were perturbed with him. In voice tone, words, and smile he accepted criticism and disarmed his detractors. Another lasting memory is his love for humor and the hearty laugh when he would get tickled. One final impression is his love for Asian cuisine. When you needed to know the best places to eat there was only one expert to consult.

Now that Norman has stepped into the Throne Room of heaven and has seen his Savior and his God I am sure he is overwhelmed again with the grace of God in his life. To Louise, the love of his life and companion in ministry, you have our Christian sympathy and love. God has a special concern and care for widows which will be your portion in the days ahead. With you we will look forward to that day **when we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet!** To your children we say, **honor your father and mother** by developing the spiritual heritage they invested in you and in turn invest it in your children.

The Peace of Christ to You