



Leona "Lee" Reese

December 8, 1923 - December 27, 2011

Leona "Lee" Reese stepped into Heaven December 27, 2011 in the presence of her husband and family. She was born on December 8, 1923 in Fairbury, to Claude and Irene Amacher. She attended Fairbury schools, ISNU, and the University of Illinois, where she met Bernard "Bernie" P. Reese Jr. They were married August 31, 1946 celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary this year. She is survived by her husband Bernie; four sons and their wives, Gary and Colleen of Roscoe, Randall and Jane of Rockford, Brian and Jeanine of Donnelly, Idaho, Geoffrey and Pam of Double Oak, Texas; 17 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren; and a brother, William and Dorothy Amacher of Oklahoma City, OK. Repenting of her sins at an early age, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior receiving His eternal life and assurance of spending eternity in Heaven with Him. Lee was an unswerving advocate to others of the need to make that decision and be certain where they would spend eternity. A few days before her death she had written in her journal, "Always be ready to give an explanation for the hope in Christ which you have." To that end, she became involved with evangelical ministries such as Stonecroft Ministries, Haggai Institute, Basic Youth Conflicts Seminar, Bibles for the World, Youth for Christ, Rockford Christian Schools and operated a Christian bookstore. Based on God's immutable principles Lee developed her own, "Love Being a Woman" Seminar, which Lee gave in many locations around the world including her own home, and authored the book, "We Saw the Sun Rise Twice, or It's Always Too Soon to Quit."

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, December 31, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at First Evangelical Free Church, 2223 North, Mulford, preceded by a private burial service. Grace Funeral Services is assisting the family. To share a memory or condolence, please visit www.graceFH.com.

Cemetery Details

Private Interment

Previous Events

Service

DEC 31. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Evangelical Free Church
2223 North Mulford Road
Rockford, IL 61107

Tribute Wall



“ Grace Funeral & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Leona "Lee" Reese



Grace Funeral & Cremation Services - November 04, 2014 at 11:41 AM



“ Bernie,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time of your loss. I first met Lee at one of her "Love Being a Woman" seminars, nearly 20 yrs ago. I had just reconnected with Lee just a couple of yrs ago. Lee was yes, unswerving and she loved people because she had the true love of Christ in her, ready to minister to you in your need as she had done for me several times in just the last couple of yrs that I had reconnected with her. I will never forget her as a friend and mentor. She is with the Lord now and her memory will remain as true woman of God.

God be with you during this difficult time.

Mary Metras



Mary - December 31, 2011 at 12:38 PM

CW

“ Bernie and family,

I'm so sorry for your loss. Words cannot express my gratefulness for Lee. She was there for me at a time of real need in my life. I don't know where I would be today if it were not for her love, kindness, support, and encouragement. Lee was one of a kind. She was a trailblazer and a forerunner for the Kingdom. She plowed ahead where others dare not tread.

I can't begin to imagine her heavenly reception, the Father's joy in Lee's life, and her reward, since her assignment on earth is now completed and she hears the Father say, "Well done, thou good and faithful daughter."

Lee will be greatly missed. She was always an example to me of someone whose heart's desire was to seek and save the lost, but that wasn't enough, Lee did everything she could to challenge every Christian to spiritual maturity. I'm very blessed to have known Lee.

*With love,
Chris Wenstrom*

Chris Wenstrom - December 31, 2011 at 12:30 PM

KC

“ To the Reese Family;

Our thoughts and prayers go out to you during this difficult time. Even though we did not get the opportunity to meet "Lee", we learned of her conviction through affirmations. For many months into our son's Freshman College year, she would mail him notes, scripture and passages about God's Love and strength. Her words were encouraging and heartfelt. We thank her for her thoughtfulness. There is no doubt she will be missed here on earth....until you meet again, may you find strength to get through the hard times and may you carry on the love she had in her heart. God Bless!

The Chiodini Family - Tony, Karmen, Michael and Marina

Karmen Chiodini - December 31, 2011 at 09:19 AM

FC

“ Bernie,

Lee was an example of a woman who was doing her FATHER'S BUSINESS. I had the opportunity to tell Lee and all who were present at the Women With Hope Brunch what her walk with Christ means to me and the impact her life had on my life, my family and friends. She was continually voicing exhortation with the goal of strengthening another's faith. The blessing will roll on through the generations as each life she touched with the love of Jesus touches another and another. Her labor for the Kingdom was not in vain.

Eternally Grateful, Fran Cook / Women With Hope

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another all the more as you see the day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24 & 25



Fran Cook - December 31, 2011 at 08:37 AM

GH

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Reese family in this time of their loss of a wife and mother. It has been many years since I had the honor of Lee's presence. I still remember her as a great mother to my Gary. That was when they lived at the end of the road in Tullocks Woods. Lee and Bernie did have a positive influence on my life and I expect on many others. Lee you will be missed.*

Gary "Herbie" Herbert - December 31, 2011 at 06:02 AM

GA

It should read my "Friend" Gary

Gary - December 31, 2011 at 06:08 AM

CD

“ *Bernie and Family,*

I remember growing up at Temple Baptist Church and always seeing Bernie and Lee there. My parents really enjoyed being involved in their Sunday School classes.

And I remember when I graduated from high school both Bernie and Lee saw fit to take time out of their day to come to my graduation party. I still to this day have the plaque that they gave to me as a gift. It is Psalm 37:4 "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. " Lee was a wonderful woman of God. She blessed many people. So glad to know that she is where she always desired to be, in the arms of her Lord and Saviour. Praise Jesus!

Cameron Douglas- Bob and Diana Hays' Daughter

Cameron Douglas - December 30, 2011 at 07:55 PM

EM

“ *"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints." --Psalm 116:15*

Whether the Word speaks of dying to our sin nature and being born again, or as in this case, death from our mortal flesh, truly the LORD sees Leona's death(s) as precious in His sight. While we grieve with you, we can't but rejoice in the Lord and with all the saints in heaven...for Lee is truly home at last!

Please accept our sincere sympathy in the loss of your wife, mother, sister, grandmother, and friend. I knew Leona only through her book, which was graciously loaned to me by her brother, Bill, and a visit to our home several years ago with her sister-in-law, Dorothy, but from those brief encounters I know Lee was greatly loved and will be missed by many.

For those of us who have fixed our hope in Christ, Lee's departing will one day seem like a twinkling of the eye...for most assuredly, when the Lord returns with His saints, we will see Him--and her once more.

*Blessings to all the Reese and Amacher family and friends.
Elaine Miller, Oklahoma City, OK*

Elaine and Rick Miller - December 30, 2011 at 07:17 PM

FB

“ Dear Bernie & Family-
Our hearts sorrow with you over the loss of your wife, mother and our dear friend. We are eternally grateful for the time that that both of you have invested in our lives and that of our children. We are also grateful for the impact that Lee's life has had as she leaves behind to hundreds if not thousands around the world.a focus to know Christ as Savior as her legacy.

Lee was one that put shoe leather to her convictions and will be deeply missed. Both Sonja and I send you our love.

Frank and Sonja

Franklin & Sonja Beach - December 30, 2011 at 10:42 AM

JI

“ Bernie and Family,
Our hearts were saddened to hear the Lee has left here. We are so sorry for your loss and the loss to the world. When we remember Lee, John 10:27 comes to mind. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Follow Him she did and the seeds remain in the hearts of everyone who had the privilege of knowing her in this life.
Love Jim and Karlene Irvin

Jim Irvin - December 30, 2011 at 08:09 AM

ML

“ Bernie and family,
There are no words to express what you and Lee have meant to me. I've always thought of her as my spiritual mother and amazed how she stuck with me in those difficult years. I'll never forget her and look forward to seeing one day with all her "Crowns"
Love, Micki Lorine

Micki (Myrtle) Lorine - December 29, 2011 at 10:18 PM

SN

“ Sue Northrup lit a candle in memory of Leona "Lee" Reese



Sue Northrup - December 29, 2011 at 10:12 PM

SN

“ *Bernie & Family,*
Lee was truly an amazing woman, who served the Lord fervently and with compassion. She was my mentor and instrumental in my growth and walk with the Lord. She touched the lives of so many people and will be sorely missed. As she entered Heaven the Lord must have whispered "well done, good and faithful servant." Bernie, may and your family be blessed with the peace and comfort that only the Lord can offer.
With Love,
Sue Northrup (Dave)

Sue Northrup - December 29, 2011 at 10:09 PM

MM

“ *Monica Miller lit a candle in memory of Leona "Lee" Reese*



Monica Miller - December 29, 2011 at 09:56 PM

MM

Reese Family... Heaven has a new ANGEL. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Monica Miller - December 29, 2011 at 09:57 PM

TD

“ *Bernie and Reese Family,*
I sure will miss my "Spiritual Grandma". Lee and Bernie led my parents to Christ and then guided and encouraged me as I grew up. They encouraged me to go to go into Missions, to go to England where I met my husband! They were an encouragement to both of us, prayed for us and visited us while we were there! Lee, you were a woman after God's own heart! I am sure my dad was one of the first ones to welcome you into heaven!! Bernie, I love you and Lee so much and am so thankful that my dad went to your office all those years ago!!
Traci Davis

Traci Davis - December 29, 2011 at 09:42 AM

JL

“ *Bernie, children and grandchildren:
I will certainly miss Lee, as I know you do already. She was like another mom to me. She was responsible for me accepting Christ and I will always remember that. Both of you always have meant so much in our lives. I will remember the wise advice and encouragement that she always gave and her love of God, which was always, always evident. I am so happy that I spoke with her on her cell a few days before Christmas; however, I didn't know at that time that it would be the last time I would speak with her here on earth. I will look forward to the day when I will see her again, along with my husband Erwin, who is rejoicing right now with her in Heaven. May God be your comfort and bless you all as you go through this time.*

*Love you,
Diana Lange*

J. Diana Lange - December 29, 2011 at 09:23 AM

CW

“ *Bernie, We will miss seeing and talking with Lee. We have great memories of both of you. May the Lord bless and comfort you and the family. Cade & Teresa Willis*

Cade Willis - December 29, 2011 at 08:15 AM

DG

“ *Lee was an inspiration to me and to everyone she met. Her faith was unwavering and she was a joy to know. I pray for peace and comforting to Bernie and all the children during this time of grief.*

Dianne Garrick

Dianne Garrick - December 29, 2011 at 07:52 AM

BK

“ *To the Reese Family,
We are so sorry to hear of your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers!
Love, The Keister Family*

Brad & Kim Keister - December 29, 2011 at 05:43 AM

MK

Everyone who knew Lee knew what an inspiration she was to so many people throughout the world. She and Bernie always amazed me with their spiritual gift of evangelism. I know Lee had a huge welcoming party (including John) when she arrived at her eternal home, and many more will also one day arrive because of her devotion and faith here sharing the love of Jesus Christ with everyone who crossed her path.

Marj Kelly

Marjorie Kelly - December 29, 2011 at 09:23 PM