

Lorraine Jeanette Burkhalter

She will celebrate her Lord's birth with her family in heaven! Lorraine Jeanette Burkhalter, born in Berne, Indiana on January 26, 1917, to Menno and Sarah Gilliom Burkhalter, and fifth of six children passed away on Thursday, December 2, 2008 in Berne.

She graduated from Berne High School in 1934 and later from Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, Illinois with a major in Christian Education. Dedicating her life to helping others and especially to bringing children to better know our Lord, Miss Burkhalter worked for fifteen years with Children's Bible Mission (CBM) serving the mountain areas around Newport, Tennessee, for eight years and around Winder, Georgia, for seven years. During some school years she worked in more than thirty schools monthly, some large consolidated schools, others one or two-room schoolhouses, teaching children Bible stories and Bible verses. Since many schools did not have pianos, she learned to play the accordion to accompany the Christian choruses she taught the children. Often riding over unpaved mountain roads, she worked with as many as three thousand children each month. Children who learned 300 Bible verses during the school year were rewarded with Summer Bible Camp. Lorraine also worked to prepare camps for students, helping to get the building and grounds cleaned, repainted, and maintained, served as a cabin counselor, and taught Bible lessons, as well as crafts and camp activities. Some summers, during the thirteen weeks of camp, more than one thousand children attended. Many young people were led to the Lord, making professions of their faith during these years. Only God knows the continuing impact of these lives for Him.

After fifteen years as a missionary with CBM, Lorraine was called to come back home to Berne after a death and illness in the family. For thirty-five years she helped in The Fair Store owned by the Burkhalter family and continued to serve the Lord in the First Mennonite Church, where she belonged from her youth until her death. In addition to the fifteen years working with children in CBM, she taught third to fifth graders Sunday School, Children's Bible Hour, and Missionary Union for more than fifty-five years; sang in church choirs and community oratorios directed by her brother Dr. Freeman Burkhalter for more than fifty years; and was active in the Senior Citizens' group, providing with her sister Frances floral centerpieces and seasonal individual favors for the group's dinner tables.

Her parents, sisters Frances, Gertrude, and Florence and brothers Freeman and Edward welcomed her with joy to Heaven's glory. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Ramoth (Mrs. Edward) Burkhalter of Edina, Minnesota; a nephew, John (Barbara) Burkhalter of Indianapolis, Indiana; and nieces, Anne Bass of Raymond, Mississippi; Sara Barnes of Ridgeland, Mississippi; Mary Kaye (Jonathan) Larson of Atlanta, Georgia; Joyce (Mike) Flueckiger of Atlanta, Georgia; Beth Ann (George) Taylor of Bridgewater, Virginia; Amy (Chris) Bauer of Bloomington, Minnesota and Sheryl (Vivak) Gupta of Chicago, Illinois. Other survivors include many great and great-great nieces and nephews all of whom will treasure their memories of their time with Lorraine and her influence on their lives, as will the thousands of young people whom she taught about her loving Lord Jesus. On the envelope of a recent Easter card, Lorraine wrote, "HE LIVES!" and because he lives, Lorraine lives also in His glorious presence!

Funeral services were held Monday, December 8, 2008 in the First Mennonite Church with the Rev. Jonathan Larson and the Rev. Jerry Flueckiger officiating. Interment followed in the M.R.E. Cemetery of rural Berne.

Contributed by Tom Crago (no source listed)