



Gladys Eva Turnbough

October 16, 1930 - October 29, 2015

Born October 16, 1930, to Arthur and Bertha (Richards) Thompson in Dent County, Missouri

Married to Elmer Turnbough February 28, 1948 in Salem, Missouri

Passed to heaven October 29, 2015

Preceded in death by her parents, brothers Paul, Lawrence, Roy, and Junior; sister Pauline Stephens

Gladys is survived by her husband Elmer, Sister Maxine Blacklock in California, Sister Melva Terril of Salem, Missouri, and Brother Larry Thompson of St Louis.

She is also survived by son Jim and wife Julie Turnbough of Graham, North Carolina, daughter Judy and husband Ken Bailey of Tokyo, Japan, son Jeff and wife Susan Turnbough of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, seven grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren, many loving nieces and nephews, friends and relatives.

GLADYS' JOURNEY

Gladys was born and raised in Dent County. Her parents Arthur and Bertha Thompson moved the family to St Louis when Gladys was about 12 for Arthur to work. At about age 16-17 Gladys and the family moved back to Barnes Lake near Salem.

Her father Arthur continued to work at Purex Corporation in St Louis and

came to know a young man named Elmer Turnbough who had recently returned from serving in WWII. In April, 1947, Elmer and Gladys met and began dating. They were married in Salem February 28, 1948. Elmer and Gladys began their married life in St Louis. On May 29, 1949, their first child Jim was born.

Gladys' brother Lawrence had just begun to preach in 1951. He and Ruth came to Elmer and Gladys' apartment on a Monday afternoon and talked Elmer and Gladys into attending a revival at Southside Free Will Baptist Church. Lawrence would preach his second sermon that night. They did go, Lawrence preached, and Elmer went forward and was saved. They returned on Tuesday evening and Ben Scott was the preacher for the evening. Gladys went forward and was saved that night. They were both baptized by Lawrence soon after at Dent's Ford near Salem.

The family joined the Berkeley Free Will Baptist Church and continued to serve faithfully and grow in the Lord. Judy was born February 5, 1952 in St Louis.

In March, 1952, Lawrence and Elmer started the Salem Free Will Baptist Church. Gladys and the kids moved back to Salem while Elmer continued to work in St Louis and commute to Salem on the weekends. Elmer soon answered God's call to preach and presented his first sermon in February, 1953 at Salem.

In 1954 Elmer and Gladys moved their family to South Roxana, Illinois. While continuing to work at Purex they commuted to the Salem and Viburnum area almost every weekend for Elmer to preach in local churches. Their third child Jeff was born September 8, 1955. Elmer accepted his first pastorate at the Fourth Free Will Baptist Church in St Louis in 1956 while continuing to work at Purex Corporation. In 1960 he left secular employment and became a full time pastor. This would begin a life of full time Christian service for Elmer and Gladys that would bring them into many new areas and adventures.

In 1961 they moved to Desloge, Missouri to pastor. In 1963 they were called to pastor the Bear Point Free Will Baptist Church in Sesser; Illinois. They

became church planters in 1966, working in Springfield and Moline, Illinois. They pastored churches in Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, Delaware, North Carolina, and eventually came back to Missouri. In these years they were active in youth camp ministry in all these states. Most often Elmer would direct the camp and Gladys was “the chief cook and bottle-washer”.

Their hearts were in missions from the beginning of their Christian lives. Elmer said often from the pulpit, “I would rather my kids live across an ocean in God’s Will than to live next door in sin.” That statement was tested and verified in Elmer and Gladys’ lives in 1981 as Jeff, Susan, and family departed to Spain to begin lifelong service in mission work. In 1982 Ken, Judy, and family departed as missionaries to Japan where they still labor for the Lord. The whole family of kids, grandkids, and now great-grandkids are active in Christian service and missions. In 2014 their oldest great grandson Justin Patrick served on a mission in Utah, which they thankfully noted was the fourth generation serving Christ in missions.

Elmer and Gladys enjoyed seeing much of God’s great world. They toured Spain and Europe with Jeff and Susan as they visited them in Spain. They also made a trip to Japan to see Ken and Judy and returned to many sites where Elmer served during WWII. They toured the Holy Land with Jim and Julie in 1986.

Gladys lived most of her adult life with serious health issues. She had 17 major surgeries and especially in recent years endured much pain and discomfort. After almost 68 years of marriage to Elmer and a lifetime of loving, faithful service to her Lord and her fellowman, she was totally healed on October 29, 2015

Cemetery Details

North Lawn Cemetery

Hwy 19 North
Salem, MO 65560
(573) 729-3117
dcjames@fidnet.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 30. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Rolla
1651 E. Hwy 72
Rolla, MO 65401
(573) 458-2262
jgrolla@hotmail.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Service

OCT 31. 10:00 AM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Rolla
1651 E. Hwy 72
Rolla, MO 65401
(573) 458-2262
jgrolla@hotmail.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Gladys Eva Turnbough*

January 30, 2023 at 04:37 AM



“ *Gladys Eva Turnbough*

January 30, 2023 at 02:54 AM



“ *We Waddell's have long loved the Turnbough family and still rejoice in their continuing ministries. What a precious legacy she leaves behind! Genevieve Waddell*



Genevieve Waddell - November 07, 2015 at 04:27 PM



Thank you so much, Genevieve!

Judy Turnbough Bailey - November 19, 2015 at 07:56 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with each member of the family at the death of your loved one, Gladys Turnbough. I have know the Thompson and Turnbough families over the many years and Rev Elmer is my distant cousin. I am very proud of Rev Elmer Turnbough and his family. They have spread the gospel over all the world and here at home. All of you are a very special. May God richly bless and comfort all of you. Earth's loss is heaven's gain.*

Ken Fiebelman - November 02, 2015 at 08:40 AM



Thank you for your kind words, Ken!

Judy Turnbough Bailey - November 19, 2015 at 07:56 PM