

Home with the Lord



Vernon,
Darlene
& Laurel



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Darlene Anderson



DARLENE J. ANDERSON

April 16, 1929 ~ March 5, 2024

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day,
and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."*

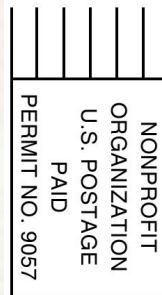
2 Timothy 4:7-8



(Back) Darlene, Vernon, Hope (Front) Valerie, Amy, Ben

*When Jesus saw the multitudes,
He was moved with compassion for them,
because they were weary and scattered,
like sheep having no shepherd.
Then He said to His disciples,
"The harvest truly is plentiful,
but the laborers are few.
Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest
to send out laborers into His harvest."*

Matthew 9:36-38



Remembering Darlene

Darlene Janette Anderson moved from the home she shared with Pete & Valerie Wynalda for the past 8 years to her eternal home in heaven with her Lord Jesus Christ on March 5, 2024 at the age of 94.



Vernon & Darlene

Darlene was born and grew up in Minneapolis, MN as the only child of Swedish immigrant, Harry Carlson and his wife, Irene. At age 18, Darlene married her high school sweetheart, Vernon Anderson—a marriage that lasted 65 years until his death in 2012. Darlene described herself in her youth as an “American pagan,” pursuing the pleasures of the world and lacking any religious affiliation, church attendance or interest in spiritual things. It wasn’t until after the birth of their first child and a move to WI for Vernon’s job that Darlene understood the way of salvation by grace through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, through the patient witness of their landlady.

Darlene trusted in Jesus Christ as her Savior at age 22, and her life was radically transformed. Suddenly, she and Vernon couldn’t get enough of studying the Bible with their pastor and involvement at Lakeview Bible Church. To further their learning, they spent a year at Milwaukee Bible Institute. A mission conference they attended during that time set them on fire to serve the Lord overseas, following Hudson Taylor’s example of going out by faith in the Lord to provide without asking for money. After completing a *Summer Institute of Linguistics* course in Canada and a missionary medical course at Biola in CA, they packed their belongings in 50-gallon metal barrels and set off with their daughters, Laurel and Hope, on a 3-week voyage by passenger ship to the Philippines as the first missionaries sent out by Things to Come Mission (TCM).

Arriving on January 1, 1958, Vernon & Darlene immediately set about their ministry of preaching, teaching and training. Armed with her Bible and portable flannelgraph board, Darlene went from place to place teaching the *Highway of Life* Bible overview lessons. Vernon & Darlene’s decision to stay on after losing 11-year-old Laurel to meningitis early in their second year, knit the hearts of the Filipinos with theirs and set a foundation for a work that is still thriving today with over 600 churches, 6 Bible schools and over 30 Filipino missionaries serving with TCM around the world.

Vernon & Darlene’s pioneering spirit and passion for spreading the gospel “to the regions beyond” eventually led them to serve in Indonesia, Tanzania, Brazil, Kenya, Cameroon and South Africa with short terms in India, Europe and Turkey. Every move meant uprooting and adjusting to a new country, new culture, new language, new food and new way of life but most significantly for them, new people to reach with the gospel of God’s grace and train in the Bible and Christian ministry. The things that did not change were Darlene’s gracious open-door

hospitality, daily family devotions and maintaining a well-run household, even though it meant learning to shop in local markets, cook with kerosene, wood, and charcoal stoves, bake bread in a tin oven set over a burner, store food without a refrigerator, wash clothes by hand, sleep under mosquito nets on straw mats or simple foam mattresses, and decimate snakes, rats, lizards and other “wildlife” that invaded her home. Darlene creatively juggled language study and ministry engagements with homeschooling Ben, Valerie & Amy through their elementary years.

In 2005, after 47 years as overseas missionaries, Vernon’s declining health necessitated moving “home” to the USA. They settled in Indianapolis and spent their final years working in the TCM HQ office. Darlene loved Vernon to the end as his caregiver, companion and confidante, and readily admitted that being a widow was “not easy.” When arthritis forced Darlene at 90 to retire from going to the office every day, she continued to do what she could from home and maintained her lifelong habits of prayer and generous “cheerful giving” to support TCM and other Christian ministries.

Darlene’s whole-hearted dedication to the Lord, combined with her strength of character, incessant curiosity and active interest in learning new things and getting to know new people propelled her through the plethora of challenges and transitions she encountered throughout her life. When urged by many to write a book, Darlene insisted she’d already done so through the thousands of letters she hand-wrote, typed on a manual typewriter or later emailed to her parents, children, friends and supporters. Her legacy lives on through people all across the world whose lives she impacted.



2020 Family Reunion in Honor of Darlene’s 90th Birthday

Nick & Hope Damato, Ben & Joyce Anderson, Darlene, Amy, John & Cristina Bodden, Valerie & Pete Wynalda

Memorial donations may be sent to Things to Come Mission. Unless otherwise designated, they will be placed in Darlene’s “Cheerful Giving” fund to further the TCM ministries she supported.