



Opal Linebaugh

February 21, 1929 - August 17, 2017

Opal Florence Chaffee Linebaugh, daughter of Rev. Ralph and Marjorie Chaffee and wife of Dr. Dale E. Linebaugh, born on February 21, 1929 in Endicott, N.Y. entered into the presence of her Lord Jesus on Thursday morning, August 17, 2017. A funeral service celebrating her life will be held at Miracle Mountain Ranch, Spring Creek, Pa. on Wednesday August 23, 2017 at 2 P.M. A time for visitation for family and friends will be held on Wednesday from 12:30 -1:30 P.M.

Growing up in a ministry family, it was natural that Opal's heart was stirred to full time ministry. To that end she attended Houghton College, Houghton, N.Y. for two years with a major in Music, and continued her education at Bryan College, Dayton, TN. in Creative Writing and English. Marriage to Dale E. Linebaugh July 4, 1949 in South Apalachin, N.Y. opened a wide vista in gospel ministry; teaching, counseling, singing, providing music as an accomplished musician on Piano, Organ, Flute, Accordion. She was most noted for her Vibraharp and creative arrangements of vocal and instrumental music. Her greatest gift and desire was in ministering to children, hundreds of whom she led to Jesus Christ, many of whom are in fulltime ministry today.

Besides five fulltime pastorates, together, Opal and Dale started three churches and two ranch styled camp ministries for youth where she held positions of: Director of Music, Counselor Coordinator, Director of Food Service, Camp Nurse, Wrangler, Gardener, and Housekeeping until other staff were available for those positions but she always maintained the position of Camp Mother to everyone.

During the seven years Dale was President of Practical Bible College, Johnson City, N.Y. (now Davis College) she consistently disciplined student wives on such issues as their role in ministry, teaching, praying with power, discipling others, care for their children in a pastoral environment, and supporting their husband/pastor.

Opal is preceded in death by her parents, three brothers, Wilfred, Sydney and Douglas Chaffee, and one grandchild, Jeremiah Sterrett. She is survived by her husband Dr. Dale E. Linebaugh, two children Dr. Melodie L. Sterrett (Lewis), Rev. Jonathan E. "Jed" Linebaugh (Debra), eight grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. She is dearly loved and will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

Memorial Gifts: In lieu of flowers Opal requested memorial gifts be given to Sermon On The Mount Ministry. A CD of Dr. Dale and Opal's 1962 vintage record of their singing will be given as a thank you gift for your donation.

For those who wish to send flowers we recommend "Bloomer Flowers" , Corry ,PA.
(814)-663-0202

The Allen Funeral Home, Inc., 745 Market at Eighth Street in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania is honored to be serving the Linebaugh family. Friends and family wishing to send a memorial gift, share a personal memory or offer condolences to the family, a Memorial Tribute Page in Opal's honor and a Sympathy Store are available at www.AllenFuneralHome.com.

Events

AUG **Public Visitation** 12:30PM - 01:30PM

23

Miracle Mountain Ranch

101 Rodeo Drive, Spring Creek, PA, US

AUG **Funeral Ceremony** 02:00PM

23

Miracle Mountain Ranch

101 Rodeo Drive, Spring Creek, PA, US

Comments



“ 30 files added to the album LifeTributes



Allen Funeral Home, Inc. - August 21, 2017 at 10:21 AM



“ When I first met Opal last September, one of the first things she said to me was that she could see love in my eyes which is exactly what I saw in hers. She always had a big smile and hug for me when I saw her. She was such an amazing lady and a beautiful friend. She loved talking about God and I will always cherish the times I got to visit with her.

Jodi Creech - August 20, 2017 at 05:43 PM



“ Every summer I was so happy to see Miss Opal! She had such love for all the kids and it showed! She treated all the kids like they were her kids. She will be greatly missed! I loved her and I know she loved all the kids who came to camp!

Joanna - August 21, 2017 at 08:48 AM



“ How amazing - Last night I was remembering that wonderful record they made, and how much it meant to me as a teen (got me through a very depressed time in the '60's, and I can sing every single song & all words on that record) And then I saw, the next day, that Opal had gone to be with the Lord! They had visited our church in Ripley NY in the '60's and we got the record, and then at the end of the special services we all went out to Miracle Mountain Ranch. They were my favorites of any special services we ever had, the most memorable and the most impressive for God's glory. I recall Dr Dale telling us teens that he and Opal never shared a kiss until they were engaged. Their ministry was so helpful to me personally, and I am glad that they have lived and served for as long as they have.

Kathie Kania

Kathie Kania - August 20, 2017 at 02:19 PM



“ Opal was a dear friend to me. In 1965 when I was invited to spend a week on our old family farm, which they had bought from my Dad. Dale called me by my name. I always remembered that. When I had a hard decision to make, I went back to the farm to see Dale. He was not there. That is when I really had the pleasure to meet Opal. She never criticized me. She was content to see the "GOOD LORD" work on me little by little, piece by piece. We kept in touch over the last 52 years. I know she is in good hands. I pray for her family. I know they know the "GOOD LORD" and HE will touch each and everyone of them with HIS healing touch.

Barbara Szewczuk Faust

Barbara - August 19, 2017 at 04:02 PM



“ We did not know Opal personally but are sure it is her life shining through her children and our love and prayers are with them in their loving memories of a dear mother! Love, Mona and Gene Stearns

Mona and Gene Stearns - August 19, 2017 at 01:35 PM



“ What a very special joy and honor it has been to know Opal Linebaugh for many years as a precious saint of God, who served her Lord so faithfully. I am rejoicing for her today that she has left her pain-ridden MORTAL BODY BEHIND !!! Jesus came and took her into His arms, and she is in a "far better" Home now! But my heart is broken for Dale and Melody and Lew and Jed and Debbie, along with all the other FAMILY members who are suffering such a GREAT LOSS. May God be very near to comfort and sustain and give HIS peace to your hurting hearts. Truly, only Eternity will reveal all that Opal was able to accomplish through her life-time of SERVICE to the Master. What TALENT and abilities she had. I am glad you have a SOLID ROCK to which you can cling, "IN TIMES LIKE THESE." My love to ALL, Carol Jones Saint

Carol Jones Saint - August 19, 2017 at 12:46 PM



“ From 1996-98 Mrs. Linebaugh came to Mason Hall (married housing at Practical Bible College) to disciple me, every Wednesday afternoon. I was saved at 28 years old, and had not been brought up in the church. I knew nothing. She knew my husband was learning from wonderful men like Dr. Dale over at the college, but women like me were home with the kids and were not prepared for ministry life. So she blessed me with the treasure of her time and wisdom.

I have counted her as my example of how to live for the Lord and be a pastor's wife. I wrote down what she taught me, have it all in a big binder, I have poured over those notes during times of difficult ministry, and used them to disciple other women. Everything from oneness in the marriage, to spiritual warfare, gifts, contentment verses coveting... etc., she gave me scriptural teaching and stories from her life that went with each thing. I remember those wonderful stories.. and I often retell them to encourage others! Like the one about the little dog that got hurt and a doctor flew in to the ranch unexpectedly. He did surgery on the dog, which showed her little boy that God answers prayer in amazing ways! Then there is the story about the men's undershirt provision, that she turned into slips for her little girl to wear under her dress, which encouraged Mrs. Linebaugh's faith in God's care for her. I could go on and on.

I always felt it an honor to have one minute of her attention. I look up to her so much, and yet... as goofy as I am, she never treated me like I was beneath her. She was God's gift to me, I am sure of it.

I rejoice for her, as she enjoys the Lord Jesus face to face. I am sure He said, "Well done my good and faithful servant."

Kimberly Merritt - August 19, 2017 at 09:29 AM



“ Opal wholes a deeply relationship with me, both her and Dr. Dale are like Grandparents i wish i had growing up. they both will always hold a special bond in my heart. Opal i will continue to go to Honduras and serve on that mission as long as i can in your memory.



Kathy Cook - August 18, 2017 at 08:24 PM



“ Our condolences to your family. I know the home-going of Mrs. Linebaugh has surely left a big hole. Her faithful life has left quite a legacy!

Kristina Gifford - August 18, 2017 at 02:01 PM



“ Barbara Schutz lit a candle in memory of Opal Linebaugh



Barbara Schutz - August 18, 2017 at 01:20 PM



“ My sympathy to the family of Opal Linebaugh. I remember many women's retreats with her at Miracle Mountain Ranch

Barbara - August 18, 2017 at 01:22 PM



“ Many wonderful memories of spending the summers at El Rancho de Paz and Miracle Mountain while my mom did the cooking...much love and prayers from Danny and Nancy (Reese) Sears in Pensacola, FL.

Nancy Sears - August 18, 2017 at 01:08 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers from Kenneth and Wanda Morrison and family (Lisa & Elizabeth) in Dayton TN. (Ekklesia Bible Tabernacle)

Lisa Doss - August 18, 2017 at 12:58 PM



“ She is rejoicing with the Savior! Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Love your brothers and sisters at Ekklesia Bible Tabernacle in Dayton TN.

Ekklesia Bible Tabernacle - August 18, 2017 at 12:55 PM



“ My heart is broken for the family and all of us who will greatly miss her presence and beautiful smile and spirit, but rejoicing for sweet Opal, finally finishing her journey here on earth to meet Jesus Christ face to face. Something she was so excited about and waiting so long for. I can never put into words the impact this beautiful lady has made in my life. A big part of her will live forever in my heart. She was so special. She was and always will be, my beautiful "Guardian Angel ". Rest in peace my special friend. I know heaven just got a little brighter when you stepped through those pearly gates. Until we meet again. I will always love you and so grateful that God brought you into my life.

Letha Morris - August 18, 2017 at 12:36 PM