

MARJORIE RUTH WHITE

09-Mar-1932 – 13-Mar-2020



WHITE (nee Buck), Marjorie Ruth (Marge) – went home to be with her Lord on March 13, 2020, immediately after reading Matthew 10:39 (“He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.”) at St. Joseph’s Hospital in her 89th year. Predeceased by her beloved husband, Donald, and daughter, Jennifer, as well as siblings Harold, Kathleen, Paul, Francis, Mark, and Barbara. Devoted mother of Dr. Jonathon D. White and his wife Xiuman of Taiwan, and Dr. Janette E. White and her husband, William Crawley of Greer, South Carolina. Proud grandmother of Charity (Aien), Johann, Leon, Ruth, Rowan, and Jessie. Sister of Philip. She was a 55-year member of Calvary Baptist Church, Oakville and served in Pioneer

Girls/Camp Cherith for 27 years. She also worked as a teacher/supply teacher for 29 years, predominantly with the Halton Board. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Thank you to all who have helped mom over these difficult last few years – especially her South African friend, Colleen Mulholland. If desired, memorial donations may be made to Camp Cherith in Walkerton, ON. *“I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”*

<https://www.arbormemorial.ca/oakview/obituaries/marjorie-white/46990>

It is a time of sorrow when one’s loved one passes away. Great comfort came when I observed God’s timing. God is in control over the time of our birth and death. I want to share a little about what God’s timing means for me, my sister and my mother – and how the knowledge that God is in control encourages me.

God’s timing with respect to myself. Due to COVID-19, the start of school in Taiwan was delayed until the beginning of March. This allowed me to spend an additional 2 weeks in Canada with my mother. On March 8th, I was scheduled to speak on the topic: “The timing of God” and how he was in control of the times of our life and death. On March 6th, I received a phone call telling me that my mother was going into palliative care, i.e., dying. Suddenly, it seemed the topic was no longer abstract but was directly applicable to me. “Should I immediately go back to Canada or should I first speak on the topic and teach my Wednesday classes?” This topic gave me peace to first complete scheduled jobs before flying to Canada. God did allow me to spend the last 28 hours of my mother’s life with her at her bedside holding her hand. Thank God for his perfect timing.

God’s timing with respect to my sister. She arrived in Canada a few days earlier than me and was able to spend time with mother before I arrived. We overlapped for ~1 hour (to talk) before she left for the airport. God provided her with a flight change that left ~50’ after her arrival at the airport. When she got to the boarding gate the ramp was already being moved away but they moved it back in place for her to get on. Thank God for his perfect timing. As a medical doctor in the USA, she needs to be back at the hospital as COVID-19 reaches the USA.

God’s timing in the dates of my mother’s life. My mother was born near the beginning of “The Great Depression” and she died just as this next upheaval hits. My father died on 2002 June 13. Due to the onset of dementia, my mother entered long term care on 2014 June 13. This timing, orchestrated by God, gave us comfort that God approved of her moving to St. Joseph’s Villa. Her death in 2020 March

13, a few days after her 88th birthday, gives me great comfort in God's control of time. Thank God for his perfect timing.

My father served as a school principal and my mother was a teacher. My mother died at 3:31 pm on Friday before the annual school March break (this year the last day of public school and in-person university classes). When I was young, at this time, we as a whole family would either be getting into the car to go pick up my father from school to go on our yearly trip to the southern USA or watching excitedly for my father to drive into the driveway so we could jump into the car and leave. It was the happiest day of the year! It seems so fitting that my mother would leave this earth to go to the place where my father has already gone, on the same day and hour (minute) of the year that started that happiest week of the year for our family! Schools out, family vacation begins. Thank God for his perfect timing.

On the day of my mother's death, I sat beside her on the bed. We read from her well-marked Bible – with many verses highlighted, or underlined in red or blue – as she had read through the Bible many times. In the morning, we started reading from Isaiah and continued throughout the day the verses she had highlighted. Her breathing was steady. The last verse we read recorded Jesus saying: “*He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.*” (Matthew 10:39) Upon reading this verse it seemed my mother was thirsty so I put a sponge up to her mouth to moisten it. After I removed the sponge, her eyes were closed and she stopped breathing. There was no gradual weakening of breathing – just a sudden stop. My heart responded: “It is finished.” My mother's struggle with dementia has ended. Thank God for his perfect timing.

Today, I read the next verses that she had highlighted: “*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*” (Matthew 11:28-29)

When I reflect on God's timing, I feel comfort. There is no need to question oneself: “Should I have done something differently? Was there a better way to care for her?”

Reflecting on the last verses she read and those she did not read. I believe these verses speak to me and to my fellow Christians living in this generation at this time: If amid COVID-19 we seek to protect our life, we will lose our life. If we are willing to sacrifice our life to help others then we will find it! If we choose to do the latter and not the former, then I think the next verses that my mother did not read, will apply to us.

Finally, I am very thankful to God for giving my wife and I a wonderful daughter, Aien Charity Grace, who was willing to come back to Canada to support my mother over these last 6 years – including being with her 24 hours/day for the 3 days between my mother's transfer to palliative care and my sister's arrival in Canada. I feel really blessed by God.

Jonathon White
March 22, 2020