



Dr. Ruth A. Whittaker D.Min.

September 20, 1927 - February 18, 2024

Dr. Ruth A. Whittaker September 20, 1927 - February 18, 2024

Dr. Ruth Whittaker, age 96, resident of Clinton Township Michigan, passed into the next life on Sunday, February 18, 2024. Ruth was born on September 20, 1927 in McClure, Virginia. She was the second of five children born to Leslie and Gusta (Mullins) Yates. Beloved wife of Eugene Whittaker (deceased) of 64 years, and loving mother of Brenda Howard and Michael Whittaker.

The life and work of Dr. Ruth A. Whittaker, author, founder and director of Bethesda Bible Institute is a testament to the deep love she had for God, the Bible and for her fellow human beings. Her legacy is a complex tapestry that weaves together her scholarship, teaching, and writing with her wisdom, hospitality, and wise counsel. She will be greatly missed by her students, friends, and especially by her family.

Ruth spent her childhood in the rural mountains of Virginia in the heart of Appalachia. Her father was a coal miner and farmer, and her mother was a dedicated wife and mother who laid the foundation for Ruth's faith and her love of God and his word.

After graduating high school in 1945, Ruth moved northward to seek greater

career opportunities in the Detroit area, where she later met and wed Eugene in 1954. She worked in retail sales for many years when she felt a calling to study God's word that would change the trajectory of her life. Her studies led to opportunities to teach children and adults in her church, and she would later develop a two-year course with an enrollment waiting list. During her years of intensive research, writing and teaching, she earned four degrees, a Bachelor of Theology, Master of Biblical Studies, Master of Divinity, and finally a Doctor of Ministry in 1991.

Ruth authored "Old Covenant Times & Peoples," "Introduction To The New Testament: Writings and Times," and many other books that include "New Testament Epistles." She founded the Bethesda Bible Institute, gaining accreditation and educating thousands of students from all over the world. Ruth traveled and taught across the United States, Ukraine and Siberia equipping pastors in remote regions with sound biblical teachings. She led eighteen trips to Israel bringing God's word to life and received recognition from the state of Israel as an Ambassador of Goodwill.

She retired from her role at Bethesda Bible Institute in 2012, but continued teaching God's word at various churches and bible studies, and many of her former students and friends sought her counsel through her last days and looked to her as a mother figure.

Ruth loved to entertain and prepare meals for friends and family. She baked large batches of Christmas cookies every year which were loved by all, and catered large-scale events for special occasions. She was a dedicated mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who deeply loved and prayed for her family.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM RUTH

"Search your heart and make room for what God called you to do. Give yourself over to love the word of God. When you love and respect the word of God, you will find your way. Know that you have a special place that God has called you to. He has given everyone a special gift, and whatever your gift is, let God work."

Ruth's immediate and extended family include:

Siblings: Jay Max Yates (deceased), Glenna (Yates) Rose (deceased), Joyce (Yates) Fish, Oren Yates & spouse Inez

Children: Brenda Howard & spouse James, Michael Whittaker & spouse Rosa (deceased)

Grandchildren: Julie Howard, Melissa (Howard) Langworthy & spouse Gerald, Katherine (Whittaker) Peters, David Whittaker & spouse Angela.

Great-Grandchildren: Philip Langworthy, Matthew Langworthy, Sarah Peters, and Hannah Peters

SERVICE INFORMATION:

Viewing and visitation will be held on Wednesday, February 28 from 2pm-8pm at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road Utica, Michigan.

Private interment will be held at Acacia Park Cemetery.

A public "Celebration of Life" for Ruth will be held mid-April at the Woodside

Bible Church, 6600 Rochester Rd. Troy, Michigan. Details forthcoming as they become available.

In memory of Ruth family requests donation to Samaritan's Purse PO Box 3000 Boone, NC 28607 ~ <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/memorial-page/ruth-whittaker-clinton-township-mi/>

Please share a memory with her family at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com

Cemetery Details

Acacia Park Cemetery

31300 Southfield Road
Beverly Hills, MI 48025

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 28. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ Ruth is a beautiful Christian woman that was passionate, in dedicated and persistent to the calling our Savior Jesus had on her life. Ruth followed... 2nd Timothy 2:15; "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth." And she encouraged her students to do the same.

I will truly miss our adventures together.... laughing, praying and seeking the Lord's wisdom. I am blessed to have had Ruth in my life.

Love you Ruthie and see you again soon!



Cindy Grab - February 28, 2024 at 10:34 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Dr. Ruth A. Whittaker D.Min..



February 27, 2024 at 10:25 AM

FS

“ From her many grateful students purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Dr. Ruth A. Whittaker D.Min..



From her many grateful students - February 26, 2024 at 06:00 PM

FS

“ From her many grateful students planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Ruth A. Whittaker D.Min..

From her many grateful students - February 26, 2024 at 06:00 PM

PB

“ My late husband, Anthony Van Den Berg, and I were part of her very first Old Testament class, no books only paper handouts. She was extremely knowledgeable about the OT After our two years in this extraordinary and very informative class, my husband and I had the honor of being counselors for her next class. She was a strong faithful woman of God. She will be sorely missed and fondly remembered . Pat Van Den Berg

Pat Van Den Berg - February 25, 2024 at 11:13 AM

PS

“ I have had many teachers over the years, but none have had such an impact on me as Dr. Ruth. She was very knowledgeable and gifted in teaching. But what made her special was her love. Love for the Word. Love for her students. Love for building a community of those seeking to grow in their knowledge of the Lord. I am so fortunate to have been a part of this community, to travel to Israel, and to be a part of the last BCBI graduating class. She will be missed, but the impact she had on so many people carries on.

Peter S - February 22, 2024 at 09:06 PM

SK

“ Shirley K. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dr. Ruth A. Whittaker D.Min..



Shirley K. - February 22, 2024 at 11:53 AM

SK

“ Shirley K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Ruth A. Whittaker D.Min..

Shirley K. - February 22, 2024 at 11:53 AM

SK

“ Ruth was like a sister to me.. I loved her dearly. We had some good times together. I loved her teaching and was in all of her classes..I will miss her greatly. Rest in God's presence Ruth. SHIRLKOLOSICK K@GMAIL.COM

Shirley Kolosick - February 22, 2024 at 11:41 AM

DL

“ *Dr Ruth has blessed my life in so many ways I can't even count. She was my beloved spiritual Mother, amazing author and teacher, caring wise counselor, loving friend, leader and guide in Israel and so much more. Ruth became one of my dearest friends over the many years at Bethesda. Our dear Father God blessed her with an overflowing abundant long life and she brought many babes into His Kingdom. And Ruth fed the multitudes with His Bread of Life - God's Holy Word the Bible. I am so thankful for Dr. Ruth and I miss her but thanks be to God that those of us who are redeemed will all be together forever in eternity because of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Diane Lipinski - February 22, 2024 at 11:06 AM

SR

“ *What an amazing woman, teacher and friend! I loved Ruth and being able to share over 35 years of our lives, 26 of them in the Bible Institute, blessed me tremendously. Her love of God and His Word were evident in all things from teaching to her many writings. She was so brilliant yet remained humble and meek. I especially admired how kind and gentle Ruth would be even in the most difficult situations. She would encourage you to go beyond what you thought you could do and when asked, would give sound biblical advice. All who knew her will miss her, especially me.*

Sharron Rutt - February 21, 2024 at 05:51 PM

SL

I was blessed to have been taught by Ruth. She inspired the word of God to me and taught me the importance of study. I will remember and appreciate things I have learned in the Bible Institute from her. She was kind, gentle and always wanted the love of the word to be deep within you. She has left a lasting Legacy and we love her.

shirley Lathrop - February 22, 2024 at 11:02 AM

JR

“ *Ruth Whittaker my spiritual mother, who loved the Lord with all of her heart, soul, mind and strength. Thank you Lord Jesus for the 47 years I have known Ruth Whittaker and for her love and encouragement.*

Ruth had a love for the Word of God like I have not seen in too many people and a great desire to teach it.

We love Ruth so much she will be greatly missed.

John Rutt - February 21, 2024 at 01:45 PM