

Celebrating a Life Well-lived: The Rev. Grace E. Huck, 1916-2018

Dear family, friends, and co-workers...

We are members of Harris Memorial College Alumni Federation in the USA, Canada and Australia. We are scattered around the globe, but most of us are living in the United States. We are a supportive organization of Harris Memorial College. We are graduates connected with one another by our love of our institution that molded us to become deaconesses. We were knitted and sustained together through our memories of Harris and the love of our mentors that included our beloved Rev. Grace E. Huck.

It is with mixed feeling of joy and sadness that we come to extend our thoughts and prayers to you at the passing of our great mentor, friend, and colleague, the Rev. Dr. Grace E. Huck.

We feel the sadness, because she will be physically gone in our midst...in our world. We will miss her presence, her just being there in Spearfish, knowing that even when we cannot visit with her physically, we know that she is taken care of. She is there surrounded by love and care and we feel good. We specially thank Janelle, her close friend and assistant, for her constant love and care. The Rev. Grace connected with us through her Christmas letters, her calls to some of us, her being adviser to some. Some of us exchanged calls and letters over the years. One of us had the joy and honor to receive her e-mail a few weeks before her passing. She had an excellent mind and remembered.

We feel Joy because she is now with the Lord! This desire to be with the Lord had been in her heart, and had filled her thoughts for a long, long time. She was ready and eager to face her Lord and to dwell in the house of our loving God forever. Now that it had come to pass, we share her joy! We can imagine a wonderful welcome by our loving God for the Rev. Grace! We rejoice with her and we praise God!

We remember friends and loved ones through their footprints left behind. For the Rev. Grace, she had her wonderful books: "God's Amazing Grace," the exciting story of her life and journey serving the Lord; a small book of inspiring poems, "Songs of the Soul"; and "When You Pray," a teaching book on prayer to inspire and guide us in our call to serve.

Her footprints are at Harris. When we visit Harris Memorial College, we are welcomed by one of the buildings in the compound with a big sign, Huck Hall, in her honor. This is a three story building that housed the ladies dormitory for students and faculty and staff. As we enter the "sala" or receiving room, a beautiful picture of her welcomes us! This

portrait was made by a grateful student of Harris who received scholarship money from her.

Her footprints are in our memory. We have many stories to reminisce within our association with the Rev. Dr. Grace E. Huck as a teacher, colleague, and friend. In fact, we can put up a book of Memories! Filling the pages are our memories, anecdotes, associations, and many personal experiences with her.

Finally, we remember her through her poetry. We hear the love and assurances of the Rev. Dr. Grace E. Huck in her poetry:

Heart cannot tell,
Nor words explained,
The love I feel for you.
And always shall
This wish remain,
May joys be real for you. (1938)

THIS IS NOT DEATH
This is not death- - -
This passing from the mortal realm
Where soul is cumbered
With a house of clay;
Where life is lived in constant pain
And shackled by a body
Weak and worn.

This thing that we call death
Is freedom to the spirit
Long enchained in a weak body
Now released to serve
In larger measure as
He always willed.

So sorrow not, my dear one;
Your loved one is not dead,
(S)He only is released
And has gone on ahead. (1953)

Thank you, friends and family, for sharing the Rev. Dr. Grace E. Huck to us! We give praise and glory to God.

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