



Geraldine Gunter Childrey

October 10, 1920 - October 13, 2020

GERALDINE GUNTER CHILDREY

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“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” (Revelation 12:11)

Geraldine Gunter Childrey, was born to Guy T. Gunter, Sr. and Madge Russell Gunter on October 10, 1920 in Lawrenceville, GA. Her husband, Garland Lloyd Childrey, passed away in 2012. They had been married for over sixty-three years.

In 1962, Mrs. Childrey helped her husband found and manage “Garland’s Cleaners” of the Atlanta area for 22 years. The establishment served many notable customers, including the Governors of Georgia.

At around four to five years of age, Geraldine, also known as Gerry, had contracted lumbar pneumonia so that the doctors at Grady Memorial Hospital had to cut a hole in her side to drain her lungs to give her any chance of survival. Her mother promised the LORD at that time that, if He would spare her daughter’s life, she would dedicate Gerry to His service. As Geraldine was recovering, she especially sensed the presence of God in her hospital room, and particularly in the hospital’s solarium as she would gaze at the moon at night.

One Sunday morning, at 14 years of age, Geraldine Farrar was “soundly converted” to Christ as Mrs. Dorothy Carlson, her faithful Sunday School teacher, read from the Gospel of Luke. It was then that she decided in her heart, “It is time that I believe in Jesus.” Just before her baptism, she was crying. Her mother embarrassingly asked, “Gerry, why are you crying? Stop that!” Geraldine later shared that she had been moved to tears because of her thinking of the tremendous suffering that her Savior had to go to in dying for her sins on the cross in her place so that she could have God’s free gift of eternal life. “For godly sorrow works repentance to salvation not to be repented of.” (II Corinthians 7:10) As a 16-year-old young woman, she found herself speaking on the same platform of a “Temperance” debate with the great Peter Marshall, former Chaplain of the United States Senate from 1946-49. After her presentation, a denominational woman mission leader told her mother, “This girl is destined for great things.”

Shortly afterwards, this same lady inquired of Geraldine in her church, “Miss Gunter, may I

put in your name as a candidate for mission training and mission service for the future?"

Gerry replied, "No, I do not think I am ready for that yet."

Graduating from Girls High in Atlanta, GA she went on to attend Draughon's Business College. While there, she won the coveted, outstanding student "Miss Draughon" award. Upon graduation, she landed a job at General Motors.

During her later teens and early twenties, Geraldine said that she had "one foot in the world and one foot in the church". At this time, a dedicated Christian dentist recruited her away from General Motors to train her to be his practice's dental assistant/hygienist. This committed servant of the Lord then shook her world when some time afterwards he asked her, "Miss Gunter, would you want the Lord Jesus seeing you doing some of the things you are doing when He returns?" After thinking for some time that her boss was just being a prude, the LORD later convicted her through the Scriptures that some of the things she was doing in her life were indeed not pleasing to Him. She concluded that she needed to fully live for Christ and not for the world.

Finding a now open and teachable spirit, this medical man of God then taught her great spiritual truths from the Word of God. As a result, Gerry began to teach a weekly Sunday School afternoon class for inner city children at the downtown Atlanta Union Gospel Mission on Sunday afternoons, accompanying the dentist and his wife.

With her husband, Garland Childrey, Gerry Childrey later taught young people and teenagers in the Youth League in her church. Named after Geraldine Farrar, the famous opera star of her age, she also sang in her Church Choir, being featured as a soloist on a number of occasions.

Volunteer work included the American Cancer Society. In this endeavor, she exercised her expert typing skills and went door to door to raise funds.

Always having a heart to help the downtrodden, Geraldine was instrumental over the years in giving a number of people jobs, in the dry-cleaning establishment, who were experiencing "down and out" circumstances. One such young man in his 20's, addicted to drugs and coming out of rehab, went on to dedicate his life to Christ and become a successful television production staff member of a leading evangelical media ministry in the Miami, FL area. He later wrote Mrs. Childrey and came to see her to thank her for leading him to dedicate his life to Christ.

Besides her many gifts and talents, Geraldine was also gifted as a "master teacher". Over the years, she taught an Adult Sunday School Class at Grayson Methodist Church. Later in the 1990s, she led the Phebian Woman's Bible Study Class at another fellowship. Even in her 80's and beyond, Geraldine Childrey continued to serve the LORD, including volunteering in a PARACLETE Mission Group associate's office. After she was no longer physically able to come into the office to work, she affectionately became known as "Office Manager Emerita" by the staff.

After Geraldine married Garland, she had her three children. Dedicating them all to Christ

before they were born, she prayed that they would do what she had failed to do for Him. Believing in the infallibility and inerrancy of the Bible, she diligently brought them up in “the nurture and admonition of the Lord”, teaching them the Scriptures, especially around the breakfast table, at meals and during “family altar” devotional times. She knew that the Scriptures could “make them wise unto salvation”. She praised the LORD that all three of her children accepted Jesus as their Lord and wanted to live for Him.

Gerry always tried to put God first, family second and business third. She proved a tremendous nurturer and provider for family, even though working. She always tried to make sure the siblings had a nutritious sack lunch to carry to school, even sending each of them off one day with milk and chili sandwiches!

Entertaining family, her children’s friends and missionaries, Mrs. Childrey was “well reported for good works”. Meeting the requirements of I Timothy 5:10, she “relieved the afflicted, lodged strangers” and “diligently followed after every good work.”

With her unconditional love for her children, Mother was always their greatest encourager and cheerleader. Whether they experienced success or challenges, they always knew they could count on her to be their most faithful prayer warrior.

She always greatly loved them, her grandchildren, and great grandchildren, as well as all of her family. Especially treasuring pictures of the grands and great grands, near the end of her life she was smilingly found fondling and holding on to one of her latest newborn great grands on a smart phone. Some of her very last words to the family were, “Tell them I love them and for everyone to accept Jesus as their Savior and to live for Him.”

Geraldine Farrar Gunter Childrey is survived by her brother, Richard R. Gunter of Fullerton, CA; her sons, Rev. Carey M. Childrey and Dr. Gregory W. Childrey, MD (Pamela Jean, wife), and her daughter, Pamela L. Childrey, LMT. In addition, besides beloved grandchildren and great grandchildren, she has numerous nephews and nieces who she all also loved deeply.

A funeral service honoring the life of Geraldine will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 2:00pm at Tom M. Wages Lawrenceville Chapel with Rev. Scott Hearn officiating. Interment will follow at Westview Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Saturday, October 24th from 1:00pm until the time of service at 2:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, gifts made be made to PARACLETE Mission Group. Checks may be mailed to “PARACLETE, PO Box 912576, Denver, CO 80291-2576” preferenced for the “#3300 Childrey Ministry Account”, or online donations may be made at www.paraclete.net/childrey.

Due to the current COVID-19 regulations, our staff is committed to taking care of our guests and families that we serve. We ask that all guests and family members attending services to please bring and wear a mask.

Condolences may be sent to or viewed at www.wagesfuneralhome.com. Tom M. Wages Funeral Service LLC, "A Family Company" 120 Scenic Hwy Lawrenceville, GA 770-963-2411 has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Cemetery

Westview Cemetery

1680 Westview Drive SW
Atlanta, GA, 30310

Events

OCT **Visitation** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

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Tom M. Wages Funeral Service - Lawrenceville
120 Scenic Highway, Lawrenceville, GA, US, 30046

OCT **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

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120 Scenic Highway, Lawrenceville, GA, US, 30046

Comments



“ We celebrate Gerry Childrey's life. She was a vital part of our family. We so enjoyed Gerry and her family, Rev. Carey, Dr. Gregory, and Pam at our Woodward Family Reunion every year. She brought joy and good food to share with all her kin. Psa. 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints."

Special thoughts and prayers from the Lewis clan: Janet (Lewis) Webb, Rev. Dean (Woody) Woodward Lewis (& his wife Kelly), and Carol Jean Lewis-Zavala.

Janet Webb - October 23, 2020 at 05:22 PM



“ We will always remember Mrs. Childrey as a sweet lady who loved the Lord. She was a prayer warrior. Though we are sad she is no longer here with us, we are happy she is now rejoicing in heaven. God bless you, Carey and Pam and the Childrey family!

Love and prayers, David, Barbara and Julie Mooney

Barbara - October 20, 2020 at 05:03 PM



“ Mel & JoAnn Fuller, GUMC family purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Geraldine Gunter Childrey.



JoAnn Fuller - October 16, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ Sending prayers for comfort and peace. We are so sorry for your loss. Mel & JoAnn Fuller, GUMC family

JoAnn Fuller - October 16, 2020 at 02:23 PM