



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Maureen Burnell

Age 85, died April 19, 2008.

Service: Friday, April 25, 2008 2:00 PM
Albin Chapel, 6855 Rowland Road, Eden Prairie 55344

Visitation: 1 hour prior.

Private Interment: Ft. Snelling National Cemetery.

Memorials Preferred To:

Bethany International Ministries
6820 Auto Club Road, Bloomington, MN. 55438.

Not much is known by us of the first decades of her life but she was an engineer and a very talented person. We know that she loved to fish and more importantly, she had committed her life to Christ.

Maureen was born January 17, 1923, in Saskatchewan, Canada. She enrolled in Bethany College of Missions in 1977 and graduated in 1980. Maureen was a diligent student and very knowledgeable and helpful in Bethany's tape duplicating department and with electronic repairs. It seemed that she was capable of figuring out problems and fixing almost anything. She enjoyed fellowship living and later in life returned to Bethany to live for a number of years before her health began to fail.

Maureen had a mission vision and wanted a boat to do mission work in Indonesia. She was given an unfinished boat in 1981 and with the help of Bethany students and mariner friends on the East Coast, it was rebuilt in 1983. That same year, she sailed down the East Coast and across the Gulf of Mexico to a Youth With A Mission base in Belize. She volunteered her services transporting YWAM missionaries and equipment to the islands of the Caribbean. On a trip in January 1985 while sailing from Belize to Puerto Rico with eight young YWAM-ers, they were caught in a storm and the boat sank. They were rescued by the British Helicopter Rescue Squad and brought back to Belize. The captain of the Rescue Squad wondered why she and her crew were so calm in the face of a horrific tropical storm. He had just helped rescue another crew from a sugar freighter who were terrified! Maureen told him of their faith in Jesus. He knew nothing of Jesus or the Bible and wanted his entire crew to hear this amazing story of faith. But Maureen had been given an air ticket back to the States and left before a meeting was scheduled with the crew. Contemplating the loss of the boat she had worked on so hard, she was angry with God. She learned later that the YWAM team met with the captain and crew and about 30 of them gave their lives to Christ. She decided that the souls saved were worth much more to God than a boat with high tech electronics.

We honor the memory of Maureen and thank the Lord for her life and ministry. Special appreciation is given to her friends at Bethany International, Friendship Manor in Shakopee, the Edina Care Center and for the faithful care given her by Ruth (Kitty) Rowell and Halvard Strand in her final years.