

Albin Chapel

albinchapel.com

Ralph H. Albinson • James W. Albinson • Daniel R. Albinson
6855 Rowland Road • Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344

(952) 914 ~ 9410

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Richard Lee Patterson, DDS.

Age 81 of Eden Prairie, Minnesota.
Went to be with his Lord on September 22, 2007
after many months of battling cancer.

Preceded in death by his parents
Lee and Leatha Patterson of West Concord, MN.

He is survived by his wife Marilyn,
daughters, Merri Lee Hipp and husband Gary
Carolyn Setterberg and husband Gary
Laurie Brown and husband Andy
sons, Richard Patterson and wife Jennie
Matthew Patterson and wife Chris
11 grandchildren ages 5 to 24,
Carissa (Jeff) Barden and Samuel Hipp
Collin, Andrew and Gwen Setterberg
Laurilee Brown, Karli and Shelbi Patterson
Max, Jackson and Emma Patterson
Siblings, Dr. Lowell Patterson and wife Shirley
Beverly Clark and husband Quintin
and Stanley Patterson.

Richard's joy has been his Lord and Savior,
family, friends and mission associates,
particularly Mission: Moving Mountains and
Grace Church.

~ SERVICE ~

Thursday, September 27, 2007
11:00 AM service with visitation 1 hour prior
Grace Church, 9301 Eden Prairie Road
Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55347
www.atgrace.com (952) 926-1884

~ VISITATION ~

Wednesday, September 26, 2007, 5-8 PM
Albin Chapel, 6855 Rowland Road
Eden Prairie, Minnesota 55344

~ PRIVATE INTERMENT ~

Fort Snelling National Cemetery

~ MEMORIALS PREFERRED TO ~
Mission: Moving Mountains
or Grace Church Missions



RICHARD LEE PATTERSON'S LIFE STORY

*Born the first of four children on October 19, 1925 to Lee and Leatha Patterson, Richard Patterson began life in Southeastern Minnesota. He was a son of a tenant farmer and grew up during the depression era. This humble beginning birthed in Richard a profound desire to rise out of poverty and to reach out to the vulnerable and the poor.

*Richard was known as a serious boy who reflected deeply on life. At age 13 while attending the *Eight Great Days* revival, the Gospel message gripped his heart and, as he describes it, *I couldn't wait to get down the aisle to receive Christ as my Savior.* From that day on Christ became the center of his life. Through his life and testimony he later brought his mom and other family members to faith in Christ.

*Richard knew God had a purpose for his life beyond the farm. When he was 17 year old he enlisted in the army, knowing that the GI bill would be his key to a college education. He spoke of learning as one of his greatest joys and completed nearly two years of college while in the service.

*Amazed that he made it alive out of WWII*s Pacific Theatre, Richard enrolled in college with a clear passion and direction. While at Wheaton, he along with many of his peers (Nate Saint was his lab partner) sensed a call to missions.

*While attending dental school in 1948, Richard met Marilyn Cross at church in Minneapolis. She quickly became the love of his life and they married in 1951. There was no adventure that did not involve the two of them. Unable to find a mission board that was looking for a full time missionary dentist, Richard launched a dental practice and continued to practice dentistry for over 40 years.

*Richard and Marilyn soon launched a family as well: Merri Lee (1953), Carolyn (1955), Laurie (1958), Richard (1963) and Matthew (1967) became their greatest treasure second only to the Lord. Deeply involved in their lives, he took them on vacations (Florida, Colorado, and nearly all of the 50 states), mission trips and even involved them in his later-in-life passion of marathon running (running 26 marathons).

*During his early trips to Ecuador, Mexico, India and Africa, Richard*s missions call .became increasingly focused. As he treated long lines of patients each day, he realized this would only continue after returning home. He began to envision a mission strategy that would teach people how to prevent diseases in their own communities while introducing them to Jesus Christ. Completing a Masters in Public Health both equipped him and further convinced him this was the way to go.

*When he could find no other mission boards to embrace the idea of a preventive, holistic approach to communities, Richard founded Mission: Moving Mountains in 1979. Starting with a board of family and friends, Richard eventually led M:MM*s missionary force of 50 missionaries in five countries of East and West Africa as the first president and chairman of the Board. He was eventually succeeded by his son-in-law Gary Hipp in the mid-90s.

*After retiring as M:MM*s chairman of the board, Richard became Grace Church of Eden Prairie*s Missionary Care Pastor. He spent his final years encouraging and equipping more than 80 Grace missionaries as he visited them on their mission fields around the world.

*Two months ago as he taught his Sunday school class Richard summed up his life with these words underlined and circled in his Bible: *We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ (I John 1: 3-4).*

*Until the very end he proclaimed to all who would hear: *It*s all about fellowship with Jesus - knowing and loving the Savior, and helping others to enter that fellowship as well.*

*Richard has loved and been loved by so many. He, like Daniel of old, has led many to righteousness. And even now he is shining like the stars forever and ever. (Daniel 12:3)