

News Letter

October 1959

To Our Relatives and Dear Friends:

"O give thanks unto the LORD, for His mercy endureth forever." Psalm 136:1.

We want you to know of the Home-going on October 2, 1959, of our beloved father, John Leighton Read. In early January the doctors discovered he had leukemia. However, after 53 days in the hospital and a multitude of prayers both far and wide, a miracle took place and he enjoyed reasonably good health until the last ten days. He visited in the home of Bob and Betty Dillon and family in Bethany, Oklahoma, and also in the home of son John and family, Tyler, Texas.

On August 3, 1959, he went by plane to Lynchburg, Virginia, as the guest of his son-in-law and daughter, Rev. and Mrs. Frank Hughes, Jr., and family, South Norfolk. After ten days vacation with them in the Blue Ridge Mountains, they spent two weeks at a beach cottage near Kitty Hawk, N. C., returning to South Norfolk on August 31.

He rejoiced in all the beautiful handiwork of God (e.g., Natural Bridge, Va., and Cape Hatteras, N. C.) and seemed to enjoy every minute of the vacation. He even gained seven pounds weight. He witnessed to someone every day and all were inspired by the winsomeness of his testimony. Young people listened intently as he explained "the most important thing in life is to know and do the will of God." While in Virginia he spoke on mission work among the Oklahoma Indians to two missionary groups.

He visited at the Hughes' home until September 22 when he returned home by plane at "the Lord's leading." September 28 the doctor advised him to enter the hospital for needed blood transfusions. Complications developed and he did not linger. Mary was at his bedside when the end came.

We were all present for the services at Norman, Oklahoma, October 4, conducted by Brother W. E. Hawkins of the Radio Revival, Dallas, Texas. He was assisted by Dr. E. F. Hallock, First Baptist Church, Norman, Dr. Oliver Price, Bible Lovers' League, Oklahoma City, and Dr. J. Martin Singleton, Central Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City. The earthly tabernacle was laid to rest in the Norman cemetery beside our mother who preceded him in November, 1957, to await the call when "The Lord shall descend from heaven . . . and the dead in Christ shall rise first." 1 Thess. 4:16. Rev. 14:14.

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised and His greatness is unsearchable." Psalm 145:3. We praise God for our father and his example of faith before us. In his Bible he had marked 2 Chronicles 16:9 as his life verse, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to shew himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."

Truly he "served the Lord with gladness" and answered every call of His Lord. We know that God's call to become a Christian was a joy for him to tell about. God's call to the ministry he yielded to with his entire life. Then there was the day October 2, 1959, God called him to heaven — this he was anxious and ready to answer! Phil. 1:21, 23 was part of his testimony at prayer meeting September 2.

May we also express our sincere appreciation for your prayers and sympathetic remembrances.

Yours in Christ,

John Leighton Read, Jr., 2821 Dinah Lane, Tyler, Texas
Eleanor D'Antoni, 6038 Orleans Ave., New Orleans 24, La.
Betty Dillon, 516 Wanetta, Bethany, Okla.
Mary Saunders, 304 So. Univ. Blvd., Norman, Okla.
Katharine Anne Hughes, 1214 Chesapeake Ave., So., Norfolk, Va.