



Rev. John Leighton Read, D. D.
Born September 14, 1879
Died October 2, 1959

Mrs. Katharine Wauchope Read
Born April 19, 1886
Died November 2, 1957

A CHRISTIAN SUPERLATIVE..... Written November 9, 1957
A MINISTER SUPERLATIVE..... Written October 9, 1959

Dedicated to the parents of my devoted wife,
KATHARINE ANNE

By
FRANK HUGHES, JR.,
Pastor of South Norfolk Baptist Church
South Norfolk, Virginia

A CHRISTIAN SUPERLATIVE

KATHARINE WAUCHOPE READ

As I think of her influence as a Christian, an acrostic of the word MOTHER yields many gems.

MISSIONARY in heart 365 days to the year. She sacrificed with her husband to plant the gospel in the hearts of many Indians in western Oklahoma. Her missionary spirit reached around the world as among her personal books and papers are scores of pictures of missionaries for whom daily prayer was offered. Missions was one of her favorite subjects of conversation and personal interest.

OTHERS, a motto in season and out of season. Preferred others before self in every relationship of life. Her hospitality included others of every description—the lovely, the unlovely, the rich, the poor, the needy, the friendly, the stranger, all were bid welcome in her home. "She looketh well to the ways of her household,"—always, in all places others were her major concern.

TESTIMONY as fresh as every day. "Let me tell what the Lord has done for me today," was the tone of her witness. She told what the Bible meant to her, what God's goodness and grace meant to her. She could not refrain from telling this good news of Christ, and could do so in a most impressive manner. Her testimony was given on the street, in home visitation, in written personal letters, in public schools (more than seventy of them each month), and in countless other ways. She gave her testimony by words of mouth, and by deeds of her body. And friends, loved ones, relations, agree that she had a testimony that pleased God. I myself give thanks to God upon every remembrance of her testimony.

HAPPY, a characteristic borne every waking moment. No one needed to remind her to keep smiling for her whole personality radiated with Christian joy. Her face shone in response to Christ living within. There were no sore spots in her life as her soul was full of music and beauty. She was clothed with "Humility," knowing that God "giveth grace to the humble,"—thus joyful spirit came forth of the Lord.

ENERGETIC in living a full life. "Whatsoever thy hands find to do, do it with thy might," (Ecc. 9:10) gives explanation to this area of her rich life. She went about her work with enthusiasm, and gave it every ounce of energy whether doing the chores in the home or on a mission for her Lord she relaxed no effort. The old hymn "Tolling On" found expression in her life. "To the work! we are servants of God. Let us follow the path that our Master had trod." She truly was one of God's expendables.

REDEEMED as a child of God. Saved and knew that she was saved. She could say in truth, "I know that my redeemer liveth" and He has a purpose for my life. She knew what a privilege it is to "Take everything to God in prayer." She knew that great peace we forfeit and the needless pain we bear, if we do not carry every thing to God in prayer. She believed that the kneeling Christian has power. She believed in occupying the closet of prayer with her redeemer before going into life's daily conflict. Beside the keynote of prayer we place praise. With song, spiritual songs and choruses she praised her saviour.

A Christian Superlative—having family devotions with her husband when God called her to His heavenly home, entered a place where communion with her Lord will never end, took her flight on the eve of the Lord's Day, entered an endless day. She now gathers with the family of redeemed to praise the Lord of Lords, King of Kings through eternity. Let us think of her joy in the presence of Christ until we, too, shall enter therein, rejoicing to know that all our battles are over and our victory over the last enemy won.

A MOTHER plus—A Christian Superlative.

A MINISTER SUPERLATIVE

JOHN LEIGHTON READ

As I think of his influence as a minister, an acrostic of the word FATHER yields many gems.

FAITHFUL in following God's plan for his life. The call to preach was answered and fulfilled with fervent loyalty. His favorite reply concerning future plans was, "I'll have to see what the Lord wants me to do. I follow His leadership." Even in little things he took care that his life was consistent in all respects with his ministry. He was certain he was on the Master's errand. He was never "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine." He daily served on the Lord's team and "preached the word in season and out of season." He felt, "woe is me if I preach not the Gospel". This was irresistible heavenly work for him.

ALTAAR was established in his home for prayer. I have heard him petition God for mighty things, and also meager things. How could one fail to remember, "Lord, bless those who have not enough to eat, and those who are sick and unable to eat." Prayer was vital to his life in private, family, and public, as he lived "praying always with all prayers and supplication in the Spirit." The last booklet he gave me was "Master Secrets of Prayer"—The last scripture text we discussed was Romans 8:26. He said, "The Spirit's intercession is in proportion to our groanings in prayer."

TITHER of his income. Even his small retirement income was tithed. He was frank to say, "God is providing, as He has promised, so I am care-ful about nothing." He not only paid his honest debts to man, but God was "promptly paid" his tenth. This was one reason for his unselfish life. He was truly selfless and carried his dedication right through the cross of Christ, where self-interest dies.

HELPFULNESS to all—never turning anyone away without doing his best to lift the burden. Helpful around the house as well as out in the highways helping souls to Jesus. I have never known anyone who met with so many different situations and yet had the right tract or perfect advice to offer. His helpfulness leaped beyond the bounds of personal contact through his letter writing. He was a most interesting letter writer, and usually packed them full of choice scripture texts.

ERNESTNESS as a Soul winner. He was always after sinners and ready to give a sincere witness for Christ regardless of where he was. I have heard him plead with a man in his car, with people along the roadside, workers in shops, clerks in stores, school children, salesmen, and businessmen. Yes, he was a cosmopolitan of Christlike qualities, helping to cover the globe with the Gospel, and lifting mankind everywhere. He had a raging thirst for telling what Christ had done for him. He knew the power of Christ's resurrection and that this power had been purchased on Calvary.

RED MAN occupied a tender spot in his heart. For years he served as a missionary to the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, Comanches, and Apaches in western Oklahoma. He followed in the footsteps of his father who had been a missionary to the Indians in Texas and Oklahoma. I have listened to him many times tell of the spiritual need of the Red man with pathos in his voice. The last Message he delivered was about the Indians of Oklahoma. There are also other R's such as Rejoicing in the Lord. Far when some good thing was forth coming he always exclaimed, "Praise the Lord." Another thing to be included at this point is Reading. When introducing himself, he would say, "My name is Read—and my motto is 'Read the Bible'." The Bible was the book of books in his life.

A Minister Superlative—always eager to preach and perform the duties of a faithful servant of God. He was esteemed by many, envied by few, but enshrined in the hearts of all who knew him. Having led in many worship services honoring God, he has now joined a great company to worship throughout the ages to come. Let us think of his keen humor, kind smile, knightly manner, but most of all, of his joy in the presence of his Saviour, Jesus Christ.

A Father plus—A Minister Superlative!

SKETCH

John Leighton Read was born in Paris, Texas, September 14, 1879, one of six children born to John Jeremiah and Laleah Porter Read, missionaries to the Choctaws and Chickasaws in Oklahoma, then known as Indian Territory. He was graduated from Austin College, Sherman, Texas, and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, Texas. He served two churches in Arkansas, at Gurdon and Little Rock.

Katharine Rutherford Wauchope was born in Capen Bridge, West Virginia, April 19, 1886, one of six children born to Joseph and Katharine Wauchope. Her father was a Presbyterian minister. Katharine was graduated from Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, Virginia. While teaching in Durant, Oklahoma, she met and later married John Leighton Read.

While serving Central Presbyterian Church in Little Rock they answered God's call to tell the Good News among the Indians of western Oklahoma.

Following retirement they settled at 304 South University Boulevard, Norman, Oklahoma, where they carried on Bible classes in the home. The last eleven years as directors of the Bible Lovers' League, they traveled monthly to more than seventy public schools distributing free Bibles to children who read gospels for them.

They were blessed with five children, Katharine Anne, Mary Lillah, Elizabeth Louise, John Leighton, Jr., and Eleanor Frances.

The Mother died suddenly with a heart attack and the Father with leukemia.

On the day of both of their funerals it was raining. Also, we note the mother died on the eve of the Lord's Day, and the father's interment was on the Lord's Day. Besides these similarities their best contrast is found in the Lord-Both were radiant Christians! The Lord's Work was their mission. Romans 12:1, 2 describes their dedication.

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"THE LORD SHALL PRESERVE THY GOING OUT AND THY COMING
IN FROM THIS TIME FORTH, AND EVEN FOR EVERMORE."

—Psalms 121:8