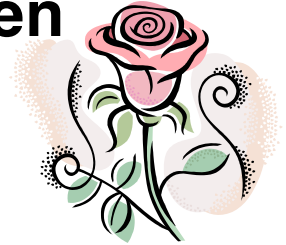


Oakhurst Seventh-day Adventist Church

NEWSLETTER

August 2008

Ruby Christine Christensen Commemorative



Ruby Christensen, known to all who read the Oakhurst Church Newsletter, passed quietly to her rest on July 15, 2008. It is an interesting fact that she sent her contribution for our last Newsletter in June. She kept up her part of the production right until the last issue. For all who have known her through the years and enjoyed her newsy items, poems, essays and one-liners, we are sending out this special, and final, issue in her memory.

Ruby Bounds was born December 29, 1913, in Little Rock, Arkansas. She married Clifford Christensen on August 10, 1940, Cliff died at home in Ahwahnee on October 16, 1990 shortly after they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Ruby is survived by 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. She leaves a legacy of Christian music and love.

A graveside service was held on Monday, July 21, at the Oakhill Cemetery in Oakhurst, California.

Editor
Assembly/Mailing

Rosalind Hansen
Ken & Hope Graeff



Memories of Ruby

(Orally received)

Marge Bacchus says she appreciated Ruby's playing for their trio. For a number of years she graciously came out and practiced with them.

Don Bray remembers her as a great lady who was always cheerful. He enjoyed reading "Ruby's Ramblings".

Maria Betat says Ruby was always joyful and pleasant. She always had time to listen to you.

Beth Broomfield became acquainted with Ruby when she was still a grade school student in Mariposa. Her father, Merel Hayen, worked with Cliff. She remembers them as great people. Ruby will be truly missed.

Jim & Louissette Brown say that when they had only been here two weeks, they were headed for their car outside Long's Drugs. Ruby happened to be there at the same time and recognized them. They stood outside the car talking for a long time. Ruby had a genuine concern for others, how they were doing and what was going on in their lives. She gave the Browns the warmest welcome you could imagine.

Margie Burns remembers how that Jennifer took marimba lessons from Ruby. Before Jennifer performed in public, Ruby made sure she could play her piece with no mistakes. She challenged Jennifer to do her best.

"Gratitude is the sign of noble souls."

Charlie and Peggy Chavez remember that when they came to the Oakhurst Church Ruby was the first to invite them home for Sabbath dinner. She had good food prepared. June Davis and Dick and Shirley Warner were there as well. They remember Ruby as very hospitable.

Don Crisp remembers when he needed to find the music for some song, it seemed that Ruby could always put her hand on it. She was very supportive of him.

Kathy Fagan's most significant memory is of Ruby leading out in Dorcas (Community Service). She served for many years both locally and regionally.

Darlene Herr says that Ruby was always her accompanist when she sang. Also Ruby played the organ at John and Darlene's wedding.

Fearn Hiten remembers that Ruby taught Kelly Hiten piano for a number of years. She encouraged Kelly to learn and had her play a special at church several times. Ruby appreciated the leadership of Stanley Hiten and was one of his loyal supporters.

Joy Kiser says that she remembers how Ruby was always so delighted with her children and enjoyed sharing where they were and what they were doing with her church family. When Joy took her father, Stanley Hiten, to visit Ruby after his mental capacities had greatly diminished and he had become more and more feeble, he was still able to pray the most beautiful prayer. Ruby was appreciative of that last visit.

Jeri Kolstad remembers how for several months she and Ruby went out visiting shut-ins. It was a special time for both of them.

Linda Matlock liked Ruby a lot. She remembers her as a nice person with a lot of spirit for her age.

Todie Mitchell remembers how Ruby seemed to know everybody and included everybody in her life. If she didn't know you, within a few moments you were one of her best friends. You felt like her whole family was part of your life.

Shirley Moore says she was thankful to Ruby for the help she gave her children. She always had time for the kids. Ruby was a pleasure to know. She was always cheerful.

Darlene O'Neil says what she remembers most is how they talked every day. Ruby had told Darlene that sometimes she got lonely. After that the two visited each day early in the morning. It was neat time of sharing daily. Ruby would call if Darlene forgot.

Mabelle Rowland says her mother knew Ruby and Cliff both. Mabelle remembers how active Ruby always was in the church and especially her contribution to the church music.

Jamie Sisco says that Ruby played for her wedding in 1987 when she and Rick were married in the Little Church of the Pines.

Gary Wilson, who knew Ruby for all the years she was a member of the Oakhurst church, says his last memory of her is when as the driver of the County Medical Van, he took her to her doctor appointments at the Kaiser Hospital in Fresno.

***There's so much good in the worst of us
and so much bad in the best of us that it
ill behooves any of us to criticize the
rest of us.***



More Memories of Ruby

(Written remembrances)

I've always enjoyed working with Ruby on Christmas Programs. She always put on a wonderful program. She was so sweet and kind in dealing with everyone. We will truly miss her.

—Pat Curtis

A radical remark re. Ruby. Religious, responsible, rational, ready, realist, ruler, royal, rosy, romancer, rhythmist, rhapsodist, reverent, respectable, Ruby.

—Miriam and Henry Bergh.

Ruby was one of the first persons Gene and I met when we moved to Oakhurst. Her friendly welcome and her hospitality in inviting us to Sabbath dinner will never be forgotten.

Her love of music provided pleasure for all of us in the church family. I took piano lessons from her for about a year, and she was so patient and reassuring, even though I'll never be a musician. We had great times chatting at lesson times.

Her love for God and her church and family were an inspiration. She'll always have a tender spot in my bank of memories.

—Irma Carpenter

I just remember how she would grab me as I walked by, even from her wheelchair, and give me a big hug. People who live alone can always use hugs, and she was a great hugger. She really cared for people.

—Karen Bergh

Ruby was a woman who always thought of others and their wellbeing, especially their spiritual health.

—Calle Wieg

Our memory of Ruby—

The memory book began years ago in Madera when she and Cliff came to visit. She played organ for our church.

We started attending Oakhurst in 1994, therefore our memories continued. It was good to become better acquainted. Seems like we always sat behind Ruby, and she soon learned we liked to travel. So she would greet us with “Where have you been?” Sometimes she’d give me a piece of paper and say write it down for me. Ruby never failed to ask that question.

There were some winters when she needed wood, and John would get some for her. As time went on, she became weaker and unable to carry big pieces, so John came to split the large logs into small pieces. Ruby always expressed her gratefulness for the help.

She loved her Lord and the church family. When she was in Orlando, we surprised her with a visit. She was so happy to see us.

Ruby was an inspiration to John and me. We truly appreciated our friendship and look forward to the coming of Jesus where we will be able to continue that friendship. God is so good.

—**John & Kathleen Lutz**

When we first moved to Oakhurst, I took a few piano lessons from Ruby. This was about the same time Tyrell was getting started. Also, John did some handyman jobs for Ruby. We enjoyed being at her 90th birthday celebrations. Once we picked her up at Fresno airport and she had made friends with some people from Visalia, I think. They knew some people we know.

—**Maggie Irwin**

Back when things were the worst for me and people were withdrawing their friendship from me for no reason other than for fear of reprisals from my X, Ruby never even hesitated when I asked her to write a letter to prove that some of his accusations were untrue. She was giving my daughter piano lessons at the time (for a very reasonable price). This is just proof that Ruby possessed that rare quality of caring about other people at risk of her own self. If it was right, she just did it. And even though she was fiercely independent, she was also very grateful and gracious every time I would help her with her walker, her potluck dish or whatever else she was carrying and help her get into that little red truck so she could zip on home or wherever she wanted to go. What a trooper! The world needs more Rubies!

—**Carol Howe**

I can remember meeting Ruby for the first time at a church social and we played table games. She and Cliff must have moved to Oakhurst in about 1970.

Ruby was always happy to play the piano for our trio. We had a lot of fun with her.

Of course reading our church news-letter was always interesting to see who did what and where they went and who they visited, et cetera. She always had something nice to say about people. She was a friend to everyone.

—**Gaile Chenowith**

We have always loved Ruby with her friendly, spunky personality. We got to know her better after John Mark was born when she “adopted” him as her nephew. She always had a big hug for him. We all loved “Auntie Ruby” and miss her.

—**Kathy Brix**

A true friend is a gift from God.

What a great lady Ruby was! She was always gracious and so complimentary. She was the very first to invite us to sing in Oakhurst providing the music pieces and even volunteering to play for us. Ruby was a great musician. We are sure she will be in the choir in heaven.

—Eddie & Esther Mindoro

Ruby was my twin since we shared the same birthday. She always showed interest in what I was doing as I grew up. When I began my teaching career there at Oakhurst, I knew she cared about me, even when she ruffled my feathers.

I was teaching my kids a song to sing for a Christmas program. Ruby came to practice the piano accompaniment with us and made some rather blunt, though probably accurate remarks on our poor performance. She said I should hear her daughter's children's choir. I thought, "I'll show you!"

In the next few days, I worked those kids hard. Over and over we practiced processing into the church.

It wasn't until the actual performance that Ruby heard us again. The choir marched into the packed church, singing clearly and loudly. I was proud of the group and even more so when Ruby told me afterwards that they had sounded good. I'm thankful to her for pushing me to do my best.

—Jan Hossler

Ruby Christensen will always be considered a part of our extended family. Her love for God and her dedication to the church will always serve as an example to all of us. We will always be grateful for the gift of music she shared with Tyrell, and she will live in our hearts always.

—Rick Britton

I will miss my friend, Ruby, until the day Jesus comes in the clouds of glory to take us home to live with him forever.

She brought so much joy to my life with her love for music. I looked forward to all of the musical events planned in our Oakhurst church. Everyone had a chance to be involved that had an interest in music.

I praised God that she took an interest in Tyrell and gave him a foundation to his musical abilities. To see the young and the elderly develop such a love for one another is rare in this day and time we live in. So much wisdom and knowledge she had to share with Tyrell and he was willing to listen. I truly believe that God has blessed Tyrell with a portion of Ruby's gift in playing the piano and organ.

I thank her family from the depths of my heart for sharing her with us.

—Janice Britton

Mrs. Ruby Christensen was a person like no other. She always had a smile on her face. It makes me proud to say that I was her student. She will always be in my heart. We will miss her very much and we can't wait until we can see her again when Jesus comes.

—Tyrell McKenzie

Ruby's knowledge and memories about the happy and positive things of her family and friends always impressed me. She also had the ability to put it in writing which made her "Ruby's Ramblings" so special and inspirational. I really miss visiting her and her sharing of her life with me. She has blessed us all.

—Mary Bowman

*You don't stop playing because
you are old; you grow old
because you stop playing.*

What a wonderful woman! This precious lady blessed so many of us. When we arrived in Oakhurst after twenty-one years overseas, Ruby and her husband took us under their wings and encouraged us in many ways. During all my years of ministry, I can think of no other woman who made a greater impact on her church. Always ready to serve! Always faithful! Always positive!

She was interested in everyone and ready to help anyone. Her interest in providing good music for worship services and her many years producing the church newsletter have been outstanding. Her influence will be felt for a long time to come.

—Wellesley Muir

Ruby & I meshed immediately when we first met—between our common interest and talents in music, and my friendship with Dick & Brenda Duerksen. She helped out when I tried to start a choir here at OSDA, and always enjoyed whatever music I was involved with. Over time we forged a close friendship, and looked forward to visiting each, Sabbath, and whenever else we could.

Every Sabbath, Ruby would look back at me when church was over, expecting me to come up and give her a hug. Funny thing is if I forgot to, she would be miffed at me the next week. Nevertheless, all it took was another hug and she would warm up again!

Most of all, Ruby always had affirming things to say to me, that really made my day and blessed me for the week to come!

She will be missed greatly!

—Jim Hobbs

A Loving Tribute—

Ruby was a dear friend, encouraging, lending music, sharing recipes, giving counsel, unselfishly giving of herself to help others.

Ruby did the church newsletter for as long as I can remember. She kept each issue interesting with puzzles, quotations, poems, tidbits appropriate to the season, etc., news of births, deaths, & address changes when folks moved away, so many things that helped keep us “up-to-date”.

She not only did the newsletter, she also got all of the special music for the church services for many years, bringing in guests to have more variety. For years she played the organ, or piano for Sabbath School and church services. She was Dorcas Leader for several years, and kept the ladies coming by having special activities to which only regular members of Dorcas were invited.

She gave many of the children in the church an introduction to playing the piano. She worked much behind the scenes, not looking for recognition or praise.

*And as she grew older,
Developed aches and pains,
She slowed down a little,
But seldom did complain.*

*First she used a walker,
And then a wheelchair.
Finally had to leave her home,
Much to her despair.*

*Oh how much we miss her,
Ruby, our dear friend.
She was faithful through the years
And up to the very end.*

—Evelyn Muir

If you dream it you can do it—Walt Disney

“He who takes but never gives, may last for years, but never lives.”—Unknown

Ruby was always involved in church music in one way or another. When she became too old to contribute as a performer, she became a wonderful audience member. She was appreciative whenever I played the organ or piano, and always had something encouraging to say to me after church.

—Tim Hansen

Ruby called me one time about six years ago to come and repair a part on her piano. I went over there and after finding the problem; I found I needed some glue. She directed me to the little store in Ahwahnee and I purchased some super glue. Back at Ruby's house I repaired the piano and didn't charge her. She was very grateful.

—Tom Sheldon

Sometime about 1982 Ruby was speaking from the podium in Sabbath School when suddenly she could not talk. (Imagine Ruby not being able to talk!) All Oakhurst ambulances were busy so we took her to the old Emergency Room attached to the Sierra Meadows Convalescent Hospital. When we saw all the patients sitting on the lawn waiting to be seen our hearts fell. She was started on oxygen and an EKG was done. Arrangements were made to transfer her to St Agnes Hospital in Fresno, but we were told the wait for an available ambulance would be about 90 minutes. Cliff urged me to take her in my van. So we took the seats out and threw a mattress on the floor. They gave Joy Kiser, RN, a blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, oxygen bottle, and a portable suction machine and we took off down Highway 41 for St Agnes with Joy sitting on the floor attending Ruby. Happily Ruby recovered completely in the next few months.

—Marland Hansen

Ruby was among the many of the congregation to make us welcome and to feel at home when we first came to our church. She was a special friend. She, Ken and I shared close December birthdays, which made a special relationship. We started working with Ruby when Ken and I put together the Newsletter. She was always on time with her "Ruby's Ramblings" column and made it interesting and humorous as well as informative. After we turned over the Newsletter to others, we continued a close friendship by phone and at church until she moved to Sacramento. Ruby loved "her church" here and was certainly an asset with her musical and organizational abilities. We miss her.

—Ken and Hope Graeff

*Oh, it's just the little homely things
—The unobtrusive friendly things
The "Won't-you-let-me-help-you" things
—That make our pathway light
The "Laugh-with-me-it's funny" things
—And it's the jolly, joking things
The "Never-mind-the trouble" things
—That make the world seem bright
For all the countless famous things
—The wondrous record-breaking things
These "Never-can-be-equalled" things
—That all the papers cite
Are not the little human things
—The "Everyday-encountered" things
The "Just-because-I-love-you" things
—That make us happy quite
So here's to all the little things
—The "Done-and-then-forgotten" things
Those "Oh-It's-simply-nothing" things
—That make life worth the fight.*

—Author Unknown

**I am a great believer in luck, and I find the
harder I work the more I have of it**

—Thomas Jefferson

What a lot of memories I have of the years I have known Ruby. I first met her when we moved to Oakhurst in 1974. After transferring back to the Oakhurst Church in 1981, we began many years of working together.

I worked with her on the music committee over the years. I began editing the Newsletter in November of 1990, so each month she would supply the news and filler for the Newsletter. It has not been the same since she moved and couldn't supply all the church news. I have been reflecting on how interesting it is that she sent her contributions each month, via Brenda, until our last issue in June.

She was always a very interesting person to visit with. She was interested in hearing what was going on in your life. I would say that she didn't let her mind grow old, even though her body finally did.

She and I were always going to publish a "real newsletter" just before we each left town. It was a joke between us of the kind of unprintable news we could put in it. The **real** news! Of course we never would have done it, but it was fun to conjecture what we might have done.

—Rosalind Hansen

*Who shares his life's pure pleasures
And walks the honest road,
Who trades with heaping measures
And lifts his brother's load,
Who turns the wrong down bluntly
And lends the right a hand,
He dwells in God's own country
He tills the Holy Land.*

—Louis F. Benson

(From the biography at the graveside service.)

Grammy Loved Her Family



She wanted to hold every baby, prepare food for the whole tribe, attend every recital, walk with the kids down to the creek—to be everywhere her kids were—all the time. She did her best to love each one “the mostest”.

Ruby Loved Her Church



—and its music!

Ruby was a teacher, always challenging others to do more than they dreamed possible. She played the organ for churches on Saturday *and* Sunday. She taught music lessons, ran bake sales, taught Sabbath School classes, coordinated potlucks, taught pastor how to look on the “Jesus Side”, and served on the board of Union College.

Her Bible is threadbare, heavily underlined, and serves as a library for her favorite poems, aphorisms, and ramblings.

“He who is on the road to heaven will not be content to go there alone.”

“If you want to be rich, give.”

It's not what you've been but what you're becoming that counts.”

Ruby Loved Flowers



Especially Double-Delight roses, which she always planted as near to the front door as possible! “They’re the most beautiful of all roses,” she’d say, “and they smell the best too!”

But she didn’t take time to smell *just* the roses! Oh no, she even made time for violets, marigolds, lupine, snapdragons, and pansies. Did you hear about the time a careless gardener cut a branch off her redbud tree! It’s a long story.

Her love for nature was one of the many gifts she gave her children. Visit their homes and you’ll find flowers perfuming both outside and inside.

Many blooms found their way to her room from the rose garden at Gramercy Court, and friends were always bringing her violets, orchids and Double-Delight roses.

Ruby Loved People



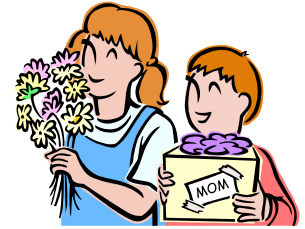
As leader for the “Dorcas” and “Community Services” activities of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Minnesota, she challenged members around the state to “see the needs of others first.”

When she and Cliff moved to Kansas, Colorado, and California she continued serving with other caring community leaders.

She was friends with everyone in the post office, with the checkout clerks at Raley’s, the fellow who pumped gas into her car, the beautician, and everyone else she met in Oakhurst and Ahwahnee.

She was the favorite resident at both Courtland and Gramercy. Others were always her first focus.

People Loved Ruby



She is lovingly remembered by her family, her church friends, her caregivers, her music students, and even the Sparkman boys she cared for as Nanny in Little Rock.

“We’ve stayed in touch with our Nanny for more than 75 years. We love Ruby!”
Bill and Ben Sparkman

“I can think of no other woman who made a greater impact on her church. Always faithful. Always positive!” Pastor Wellesley Muir

“My life is richer because she lived here.”
Mary Lou Cummings

“Ruby was always kind, even when she hurt.” RN



If you would like to make a donation in Ruby’s name, please send it to:

The Quiet Hour
P. O. Box 3000
Redlands, CA 92383

Ruby's Ramblings

Random samples from through the years.

1989

Congratulations to **Don & Opal Moore** who were honored on their 60th wedding anniversary with an Open House at the home of their daughter-in-law **Barbara**. Blessing to you, **Don & Opal**.

1990

The **Henry Berghs** have returned from their vacation in Desert Hot Springs—a wonderful place for Henry to recuperate following heart surgery. They were in church Sabbath and he looks great!

After flying to Detroit to meet her sister and brother-in-law, **Gene and Irma Carpenter** spent two weeks visiting interesting spots in the south, then home to meet their new grandson, **Caleb**. The other three grandsons came home with Grandma and Grandpa for a fun time here with them.

1991

An 80th birthday is very special. To prove it—the 4 children of the **Mitchells** were here with their families to help **Cy** celebrate the special occasion. Congratulations **Cy**, you're doing great—Keep it up!

1992

The **Olsons** were in Grants Pass, Oregon June 25-29 to be participants in the wedding of **Chris's** long-time friend. **Chris** was the matron of honor and some time ago had spent several days helping the friend with wedding and reception plans, etc.

1993

Chris Moore recently received a commendation for reporting a man attempting to board the ship by climbing across a rope from the dock. The man, later found to be a foreign national, fell into the water and had to be rescued.

1994

The **Muirs**, with daughter **Gail** and children, went to Santa Barbara recently to visit **Elder Muir's** uncle who is 105 years old. Drove his car until he was 102—feels great—says now he will try for 110. Remarkable.

1995

Don and Jo Ann Ericksen were in Escondido recently to be with granddaughter, great-granddaughter and other family members—a 4-generation deal with family and many friends of yesteryear.

1996

Art and Helen Dagleish were in Vancouver, WA recently to attend the graduation of grandson, **David**, from nurses course. Next day attended 50th anniversary of **Weldon and Clara Mattison**—long time missionaries in India.

1997

Gordon and Esther Shumate have a Chinese CPA—a special friend in San Gabriel—they visit in early April each year. Guess why? A wonderful friendship has developed. Attended the wedding of this couple, treated royally, are guests in the home. Now getting acquainted with two brothers that have come to America. A highlight of this most recent trip was a visit and tour of the Descanso Gardens.

1998

Charlie and **Peggy Chavez** flew to Washington D.C. to attend the graduation of grandson **André**, **Steve's** son, from Takoma Academy—spent 12 days. Went to Dulles airport to welcome home granddaughter **Erica** returning from college sophomore year in Segunto, Spain. First Sabbath attended service at the “First Church” in Washington, D.C. with a Black congregation. Sabbath School started at 9:00 a.m.—church finished at 1:30 p.m. Second Sabbath—Sligo church—Baccalaureate address by Wintley Phipps whose son was one of the graduates. Commencement address—Congresswoman Constance Morella from Maryland. Interesting tour through the Bureau of Printing and Engraving—saw stacks and stacks of new paper currency being printed.

1999

Did you see the color picture—front page *Sierra Star*—of **Kevin**, son of **Jerry** and **Vicki Glazener**, climbing the curved ladder at the Oakhurst Community playground? Really great.

2000

Elisabeth Lutz with sister **Maria** and **Heinz Betat**, has just returned from a great RV trip to Florida to help celebrate a 50th anniversary of **Heinz'** brother and wife near Tampa. En route they stopped for a two-day visit with “snowbird” friends from Idaho who spend their winters in Indio. Traveled across seven states—one week to go, one week there and one week for return trip. **Heinz** driving the last stretch for 22 hours. Good weather. Great visits with friends **Elisabeth** hadn't seen in 30 years.

2001

Be sure to check out *Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul 2*. On page 283 you will find a local celebrity! **Amberley Howe** is now a published author. Her story, “Mother's Christmas Stocking” was written for her final exam in Composition 101 during her freshman year at Southern College. Her teacher returned the graded paper to her with orders to get it published. Congratulations, **Amberley!**

2002

In another copy of the *Star* we find a picture of **Karen Bergh** of Karen's Bed and Breakfast when a bus tour group visited all such establishments in the area. **Karen's** cozy accommodations receive high ratings.

2003

O'Neil's son **Mike** and friend **Joe**, visited **Doug** and **Darlene**, spent several days here over New Year's Day—trip to Yosemite was especially nice—very few people in the Park.

2004

Yosemite High School held its annual Community Awards night on May 12. Sierra Tel Communications Group gave three monetary awards two of which were received by **Lauren Wagner** and **Danielle Kail**, granddaughters of **Ken** and **Hope Graeff**. The third award was given to **Joshua Herr**, son of **John** and **Darlene Herr**; grandson of **Ed** and **Shirley Moore**. **Lauren** will be attending Dominican University in San Rafael on an academic scholarship.

“It is a good thing to be rich and a good thing to be strong, but it is a better thing to be beloved by many friends.”

—Euripides (480-406 B.C.)

2005

The **Browns** – **Jim, Louissette, Wilbur** and **Sonia** enjoyed a week camping in Death Valley – hikes in the canyons, the fields of flowers, ranger walks and programs in the evening. Were impressed by the charcoal kilns that were built by the Chinese – waded through snow there. Took a tour of Furnace Creek Inn and Scotty’s Castle. Climbed to the top of Ubehebe Crater.

2006

The children made the transition so much better than I ever dreamed possible. **Beth** and **Brenda** helped me sort and pack, then **Brenda** and I flew to Spokane, she for a long weekend, I stayed on for another wonderful 10 days with **Bruce** and **Sandy** at Camp Mivoden in northern Idaho. On Feb. 22 **Bruce** and I flew to Orlando. **Becky** flew in on the 23rd for hospital chaplains' meetings.

2007

I loved the Piano Duo Concert **Brenda** and I attended at Florida Hospital Celebration in January! They performed on two beautiful grand pianos in the 3-story atrium with the audience sitting in a big circle around them. I could have listened to that beautiful music for hours more.

2008

(Ruby’s final column. I am sure she would like us to remember her closing.)

When I think of Father’s Day, I feel so blessed to have had a godly father and a godly husband who cherished his family and children... Even tho’ **Dick** and **Brenda** are gone to Mozambique for a month with Maranatha volunteer projects, my friend Deanna Paxton was able to work out the

arrangements to take me to church one Sabbath, and also to bring her ladies’ singing group to give a mini concert at Gramercy Court, which was enjoyed by all. So many things to be thankful for!

“The Lord bless you and keep you!
The Lord let His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you!
The Lord look upon you kindly
And give you peace!”
—Numbers 6:24-26

R.C.



SEASONS OF THE HEART

The heart has many seasons,
Just as this good old earth,
And they all combine together,
To comprise what we are worth.

There is a childhood innocence,
In which we dream and play,
There is a time for growing up,
And making our own way.

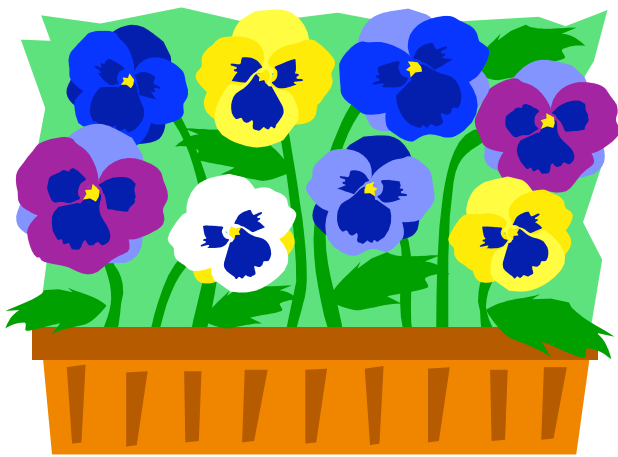
There is a time for keeping,
And a time for letting go,
A time for moving swiftly,
And a time for walking slow.

There is a time for learning,
And a time for teaching, too,
And there is a time for resting,
When all the chores are through.

We all know joy and sorrow,
‘Tis written in the plan,
But Heaven waits beyond life’s gates,
For every earnest man.

Each life has many pictures,
And all a work of art,
But what a silver symphony,
...The seasons of the heart.

—Grace E. Easley



FAMILY INFORMATION

Ruby Christine Bounds Christensen – born December 29, 1913, in Little Rock, Arkansas, to Viola Rebecca and John Coleman Bounds; died July 15, 2008, in Sacramento, California.

On August 10, 1940, Ruby married Clifford Cornelius Christensen, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Clifford was born December 14, 1912, in Wessington Springs, South Dakota; died October 16, 1990, in Ahwahnee, California.

Ruby and Cliff lived on a sheep farm homesteaded by Clifford's parents, Cornelius Conrad and Elizabeth Taolina Christensen, near Pipestone, in southwestern Minnesota. They were very active in the small Adventist church in Pipestone, and involved in many organizations in the community, including playing music on clarinet (Cliff) and piano, organ, marimba (Ruby). Their love for music and their musical abilities were always appreciated, wherever they lived.

Four children were born and raised on that Minnesota farm: Twins Becky (Viola Rebecca) and Beth (Karen Elizabeth) in 1944; Brenda Louise in 1947; Bruce Lamar in 1952.

Becky and husband Maurice Carlisle (who died December 10, 1998) have lived in Boulder, Colorado all their married life and where they raised their 3 children:

1. Kristen and husband Brian Taylor live in Brighton, Colorado, and have two children: Owen (2 ½ years old) and Evan (2 months old). Kristen is a dental hygienist, and Brian is an electrician.
2. Jonathan and wife Lindsay (Berthelsen) live in Longmont, Colorado. Jon is a helicopter and small plane mechanic, and Lindsay is a dental hygienist.
3. Melissa lives in Loma Linda, California, and is finishing her last year of Physical Therapy. She is engaged to be married in Boulder, Colorado, on December 28, 2008, to C.J. Foote.

Beth and husband Jerry Bernotas live in San Bernardino, California. Beth has been office manager of Loma Linda Endodontic Faculty Practice for 35 years. Jerry is retired from the San Bernardino Fire Department, is an auto body mechanic, and has managed the Food Bank at Azure Hills SDA Church for several years.

Brenda and husband Dick Duerksen live in Sacramento, California and work as a team for Maranatha Volunteers International. Their lives include frequent international travel, catching and telling mission stories. Brenda helps coordinate medical clinics for volunteer groups. They have 3 children:

1. Jeremy and wife Suzanne (Rittenbach) live in Erie, Colorado (near Boulder). Jeremy works for Training Peaks as marketing director (trainingpeaks.com), and Suzanne is an R.N. working in ICU at Longmont United Hospital. They enjoy road bike racing.
2. Julene and husband Rouru Kapao live in Palmerson North, New Zealand, and work at Longburn Adventist College. Rouru is assistant boys' dean. Julene is head of the Bible Department and teaches Bible and English. They have two children: Griffyn (3 ½ years old) and Gwendolyn (6 months).
3. Joy lives in Loma Linda, California where she teaches Girls' P.E., Geography, and Health Ed at Redlands Adventist Academy. She is a committed mountain bike racer.

Bruce and wife Sandy (Folkes) Christensen live in Hayden Lake, Idaho, where Bruce has been camp director, amongst other responsibilities, at Camp Mivoden for 24 years. They have two children:

1. Kiff (Clifford) and wife Cheris (Stanwick) Christensen live in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. Kiff is a machinist and Cheris is a dental lab assistant.
2. Malora Christensen is currently hiking the Pacific Coast Trail, from Mexico to Canada. Her goal is to get to the Canadian border by September 20, which would be 2.600 miles in 6 months, all on foot!

So, Grammy Ruby Christensen had 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. They all loved her and miss her greatly.