



Clem Luther Thurman

November 14, 1925 - August 22, 2020

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS - Clem Thurman was born Nov. 14, 1925, on a farm near Sayre, Oklahoma. He was the last of eleven children born to Luther Matthew Thurman and his wife, Kate Fenter Thurman. He was born and raised as the youngest son of sharecroppers. His home consisted of a two room house with an outhouse. Much was expected of him since his father was beginning to age and depended on Clem to help with the cotton crops. He and his brothers competed to see who could pick the most cotton in the shortest time. Hard work came easy to him, as he worked with his older siblings, girls and boys, to keep up the place.

Clem did well in school. He played basketball, a sport he loved all his life, and was the starting shortstop on his high school baseball team. Clem attended Pepperdine University, even playing on their basketball team. He often spoke with obvious satisfaction that he played the year Pepperdine beat UCLA in the NCAA tournament. In 1944, along with millions of other young American men, he entered the military, joining the U.S. Army Air Corps. He became a skilled radio operator, and throughout his life could repair radios and televisions, until they moved from tubes and transistors to electronics.

Clem fell in love with Ann Norman of Weatherford, Oklahoma and they married on June 1, 1946, just a few days after he was discharged from the Air Force. At his passing, they had celebrated over 74 years of marriage, living an active, world wide experience. They had three children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

After World War II ended, he attended the University of Oklahoma and became a life-long Sooner fan. From there he moved to Fort Worth and finished his degree at Texas Christian University. He was not a Bible or Biblical studies major. Instead, he majored in math. He was skilled in mathematics all his life. He helped all three of his children at some point or other to solve math, algebra and trigonometry problems. Due to his training in mathematics, Clem could look at any problem, task, or challenge and engineer a solution. He could repair clocks, automobiles, lawn mowers and on the list could go.

In spite of his background in mathematics, Clem decided to pursue a career in church work, following in the steps of two brothers who had preceded him as preachers of the gospel. Interestingly, his math background made him a superior gospel preacher, as he approached the Word of God with logic and could work through many difficult passages

with amazing understanding and clarity. His first church was in Aledo, Texas. From there he preached in Burns Flat and Waurika, Oklahoma. He loved the idea of doing mission work, and although he thought of going overseas, his extended family convinced him to do mission work within the United States, which led to his next pulpit in Rawlins, Wyoming. After four years there, he returned to Texas, preaching at the White Settlement church of Christ. After four years there, he returned to the mission field in northwest Colorado, to a little town called Craig. After four years there he preached two years in Irving, Texas, and became a life-long Dallas Cowboys fan. And, then he took his last full time pulpit work at the newly formed Southern Hills church of Christ in Abilene, Texas. In all of these churches, the growth was always steady, and often explosive. Clem was a devoted evangelist, baptizing dozens and dozens of people year in and year out. On top of his local work, he was in high demand for evangelistic meetings all over the United States, from coast to coast. And, in those meetings many more was saved due to the effectiveness of his preaching.

In 1971, after 25 years of ongoing church work his older brother Dillard, invited Clem to join him as partner and co-editor of the publication Gospel Minutes, which is now in its 69th year of weekly service. At the time some were disappointed, saying, "You are a great preacher, why are you giving up preaching?" Clem's response was simple: "I am not giving up preaching! I am giving up preaching to 450 people a week so I can preach to thousands and thousands." The publication grew rapidly in the 70's and 80's, demonstrating that he were effective in spreading the simple gospel of salvation through the name of Jesus. Clem continued working full time as the editor of Gospel Minutes until about five years ago when he finally retired.

In connection to his work at Gospel Minutes, Clem led many groups of Christians on tours which spanned the globe, from the Holy Land to Alaska, China and even Australia. These journeys were not only pleasurable, but were also a great way to connect with thousands of faithful Christians and readers of Gospel Minutes. He and Ann enjoyed traveling and sharing their adventures with others.

Clem died on August 22, 2020, in North Richland Hills, Texas. He was preceded in death by his parents and all 10 of his siblings.

Survivors: Wife of 74 years, Ann Thurman; daughter, Kathy Davis and husband, Gary; son, Jud Thurman; son, David Thurman and wife, Kathy; grandsons, Randy Davis and Jason Thurman; granddaughters, Jennifer Thurman Anglen and husband, Les; granddaughter, Jenny Davis; and great-grandchildren, Natalie Anglen and Sam Anglen.

Cemetery

Events

**Greenwood
Mausoleum**
3100 White
Settlement Road
Fort Worth, TX,
76107

AUG Visitation 09:00AM - 10:00AM

28

GREENWOOD CHAPEL - Greenwood Funeral Homes and
Cremation, Cemetery, Mausoleum, Florist
3100 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, TX, US, 76107

AUG Funeral 10:00AM

28

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Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Greenwood Funeral Homes and Cremation - August 28, 2020 at 09:24 AM



“ I am been blessed to read the Thurman brothers papers

Danny Day - August 28, 2020 at 07:49 PM



“ We traveled with Clem and Ann a number of times and enjoyed being with them. Also, we were happy that they traveled to Alaska for Clem to officiate at the wedding of our son, Jerry Jones, and Liesl Brinkley, his great-niece, 20 years ago. Our condolences to the family.

Jerry and Marilyn Jones

Marilyn Jones - August 29, 2020 at 05:55 PM



“ We have read and enjoyed the Godpel Minutes for years.We would like to express our condolence to this family.We are so sorry for your loss.Randall and Phyllis Sanders London Ky.

Randall and Phyllis Sanders - August 28, 2020 at 10:29 PM



“ Oh the memories and stories my Dad, Clayton Fuchs, shared with me of the times that he shared with Clem. They were close in age and had so much in common. I can imagine the reunion that the two of them are having. Gospel Minutes has followed me wherever I roamed and I have always felt close to the Thurman family. My prayers are with all of you at this time. May God bless you all.

Darice Fuchs Webb - August 27, 2020 at 07:09 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clem Luther Thurman.



August 27, 2020 at 05:39 PM



“ Wow...talk about a man that lived his ENTIRE life serving the Lord and HIS church. I have never met anyone close to knowing and memorizing scripture more than Clem did. Did we always agree on each text...no...but Clem always listened and “pondered” on the ideas this younger whipper snapper Elder had. Such a great influence to so many...Gone home, a soldier of Christ....Glory be to God in His welcoming of this good man.

Phil Jennings - August 27, 2020 at 03:15 PM



“ Clem Thurman was a long time policyholder of my Father Percy Hill. The Thurman family was always very nice and my Father thought the world of Mr. Thurman. A few years after he retired in 2000 we talked about some of his favorite customers during his 45 year reign as a State Farm Agent. Clem Thurman made the Top Five on that list. My thoughts are with the Thurman Family during this time. Janet Hill Spracklen.

Janet Spracklen - August 27, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Clem Luther Thurman.



August 27, 2020 at 10:59 AM



“ I was lucky to go on one of Uncle Clem and Ann's Gospel Minutes trips. It was my first cruise 1996. He had three of his sisters, my mom and my self on this trip with him and Ann. We were all on the bus to Hilo Hatties and a local Hawaiian made comment about Clem and his lovely ladies. Clem just laughed and remarked how fortunate he was to have his ladies with him. we all had a good laugh and never let him forget that we were all his lovely ladies. He had a great since of humor and I will miss his laugh and smile.

Marta Thurman Hess - August 27, 2020 at 10:14 AM



“ What a mighty servant of the Lord. What a blessing it was to know and glean from Clem. He was truly a man after God's own heart. His love for the gospel was evident in all he did. One sweet memory is his incredible recall of scripture. One year the youth at church challenged Clem to a memory challenge for LTC. It pushed the kids to memorize large portions of scripture. So many longed to 'be like Clem Thurman'. He not only could recall scripture in a moment's time, but he LIVED it. May God bless all you as you grieve the loss of a great man. He will be missed, Love you all Mary Smith

Mary Smith - August 27, 2020 at 07:44 AM



“ Under his leadership as an Elder at West Freeway church of Christ, he virtually took me by the hand and lead me to christian heights that I would have never experienced with out him.

Clem had a gift of making things "make sense," which made people drawn to him.

I knew I could count on him, I knew God could count on him, and Im comforted by God' words "In my house are many mansions," Clem enjoy your mansion, its truly your reward.

Jerry Conley

Jerry Conley - August 27, 2020 at 03:38 PM



“ Uncle Clem was a few months younger than my dad. However they were more like brothers. They used to say clam was an uncle before he was born but he'll be a granddad before he's grown. They went to Belo school together and one was salutatorian one was valedictorian. During noon they often took up the basketball court and played tennis while the rest of the school had to watch. They did so many things together. Once they hitchhiked on train to Los Angeles California. There they stayed with another relative. Klautd and Francis Thurman are there with Pepperdine university. When we moved to Gunnison Colorado Clemens family was already in Craig. They had a travel trailer which we borrowed to go and visit Yellowstone national park. I was also impressed that Clem at Had a billiards table in the basement. I knew they called it a billiards table because you really couldn't have a pool table. We love you all. I didn't know this dictating would have so many Mistakes. There's no way to correct it. I guess I'll just have to let you have a laugh. I know clam would enjoy that too. Once he came to Agawam Massachusetts where I was preaching. He held a meeting there and I always liked that he was down to earth. He wore his cowboy boots and made friendly suggestions about what we could do to serve the community better. Registering no I said Reggie Thurman

Reginald Thurman - August 28, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ Love Jerry and Rita Wilson purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Clem Luther Thurman.



Love Jerry and Rita Wilson - August 26, 2020 at 10:50 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Clem Luther Thurman.



August 26, 2020 at 05:22 PM