

A Tribute To Mrs. Leta Todd

By: Mrs. Raymond Barber

Leta Lee Todd was born in Detroit, Michigan, on December 1, 1938, and went home to be with the Lord on September 23, 2011, from her home in St. Cloud, Florida, where she and her husband of fifty-five years, Rev. Troy Todd, had retired.

Raymond and I first met Leta and Troy Todd in early 1960 when they moved from Big Spring to Fort Worth, Texas. God had called Troy into the ministry, and, to prepare for his calling, he enrolled in the Bible Baptist Seminary in Arlington, Texas.

Troy was a student in my husband's Life of Christ class. The course requirement was for students to prepare a notebook. Troy was fortunate in that Leta was an excellent typist, and she was dedicated to typing Troy's Life of Christ notebook. He told me that one night after he got home late from work, Leta was typing his notebook; when he went to bed, he could hear the tap-tap-tap of the keys, and when he awoke early the next morning, the first thing he heard was the tap-tap-tap of the keys. Leta had typed his notebook all night long! By the way, he got an A+ grade for the notebook.

Leta excelled in everything she did. She was salutatorian of her 1956 high school graduating class at Big Spring, Texas. She was proficient in all aspects of office work. She served as secretary for the Agriculture Department in Howard, County, Texas, and secretary to the Comptroller at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Her favorite position was serving the Lord in the church office as office manager and bookkeeper at the Vandalia Baptist Temple, Vandalia, Ohio, the church her husband pastored for thirty-eight years. She had much musical talent playing the piano, organ, singing solos, specials, and singing in the choir. Everyone who knew her realized that Leta was a person who served the Lord, her husband, and her children with excellence, utmost care, concern, and passion.



Mrs. Leta Todd
1938 - 2011

Little did we realize back in the 1960s that the Todds, the Willie Weavers, the Arvie Jernigans and Raymond and I would become a couple "four-some." We had such fun together. We met at fellowship meetings at least twice a year and planned what we would do at the conclusion of each meeting. Leta always had great suggestions—the most exciting places to visit and especially the best places to eat.

One year, the Jernigans and we invited the Todds and Weavers to visit with us in our Colorado cabins following the May IBFI meeting in Fort Worth. And we were tricky! We had taken pictures of two old dilapidated huts with outhouses out back. I put the pictures in frames. About half way on our drive from Fort Worth to Colorado, we proudly showed our fake pictures of the cabins to the Todds and Weavers. They were speechless! When we arrived at one of the run-down huts, we pulled in as though we owned the place, and said, "We're here!" Then we had to tell them the "real" truth—that we had just tricked them! What a dirty trick to play on our friends. I dare not tell you all the other things we did to them while they were visiting us.

One of our most memorable things that happened during the cabins visit was the night all eight of us went out into the boonies of the Colorado mountains to a country store that served steak dinners on weekends. When we got out

of our vehicle at the store, a small dog stood yapping on top of a low roof of the store. Leta said, "Oh, what a cute little dog," and went over to the puppy and held out her arms. It jumped right down into her arms, and in its excitement, wet the new white jacket she wore. Leta was such a good sport and could take our teasing as well as she could pass it out.

Leta is survived by Rev. Troy Todd, her loving husband of fifty-five years; her daughters, Leigh Anne and her husband Joe, Lisa and her husband Dale; four grandchildren, Todd, Austin, Madison, and Scott; and her sister Lorena Johnston.

We loved Leta Todd, and to say we will miss her is an understatement. There is an emptiness in our hearts that is with us every day. But there is a bright side, for we know beyond any doubt that we are not without hope. We can comfort one another with God's Word:

I Thessalonians 4:13-18:

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died, and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

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