



Alice E. Schellenberg

July 17, 2019

Alice E. Schellenberg (Landis) passed away on Wednesday, July 17, 2019. She lived a remarkable 105 years and leaves a legacy of family and friends who have been touched by her deep faith and commitment to God and her amazing ability to care for those in need.

Alice graduated Saint Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, Lancaster PA and went to serve in Africa as a missionary and nurse and was on board the ZamZam on April 17, 1941 when it was torpedoed by a German raider ship. She gave up her seat of safety in a lifeboat to give it to a mother with 6 children. Following two days of floating in the Atlantic, she was picked up by a German prison ship and was kept onboard for 33 days.

Back home in Lancaster, her family heard no news of the ship for weeks. When Zamzam passengers entered France, Alice's father first heard word of the sinking and believed his daughter could be dead.

The Lancaster New Era May 19, 1941, reported, "Elizabethtown Girl On Ship Sunk in S. Atlantic," but had no final word on the fate of Zamzam passengers.

An Intelligencer Journal article on May 21, 1941, quoted her father, Simon Landis, as saying, "Faith does wonderful things for people. ... I am thankful for the many prayers that were said for her safety. I am satisfied those prayers

caused the Germans to spare the lives of all those people."

When the passengers landed in France, non-American citizens on board were interned until the end of the war, while the Americans were set free. Alice returned home in late June and spoke at many church meetings upon her return home.

In a letter home printed in the Lancaster New Era June 19, 1941, she wrote, "I would like to go to Africa from here if possible or advisable to do so." She made it to Kenya the following year, in 1942.

Alice met her husband, John, in Kenya and he drove 90 miles on his bicycle to propose. They were married and jointly served in Kenya through Africa Inland Mission while also raising their young family of four children. She is survived by her four adult children; Joanne, Daniel (and his wife Cathy), Lois and Steve (and his wife Penny).

Following their return to the US, Alice was Dean of Women at Trinity College and then returned to Lancaster County where she continued to serve as a nurse at the Calvary Homes. Alice "retired" at 76 and found that she simply had more to give.

A hallmark of Alice Schellenberg was her uncanny gift to keep busy and find ways to help others. She began volunteering and ministering to women in the local prisons and saw a need to help women leaving prison successfully transition back into society. At the young age of 86, Alice founded Restoration House to help women leaving prison re-enter society in a supportive and nurturing way. Today her legacy is alive in the many women she helped and the institution she founded that is still active today.

For the many family members who simply knew her as "Great-grandma" or

“Aunt Alice”, she was a perpetual source of joy and wonder, quoting a Latin phrase to impress her great-grandchildren who said it was too hard to learn Latin, or sending a carefully handwritten card of cheer and encouragement at every important event and always sharing love and good cheer over a wonderful meal.

She leaves behind her beloved four children, 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren with an additional one on the way, in addition to many loving nieces and nephews and their spouses and great-nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2019 at 9:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall at Calvary Homes, 502 Elizabeth Drive, Lancaster, PA 17601. Friends may greet the family after the Memorial Service in Cathedral Hall Lounge. Burial Service will be private.

The family is requesting that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Benevolent Fund of Calvary Fellowship Homes: <https://www.calvaryhomes.org/donate/>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **20**. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Calvary Homes
502 Elizabeth Dr
Lancaster, PA 17601
(717) 393-0711

Tribute Wall

WD

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” Isaiah 43:2. This verse, on a kid's ocean-blue T-shirt today, reminded me of Alice. In telling the Zamzam story, she quoted a similar verse, Isaiah 41:10: "... I will uphold you" It's found in her "God's Baffling Ways!" and her son Daniel's "A Cloud of Witnesses: The Life and Work of Alice Schellenberg." We Zamzam survivors give thanks for her witness and presence at our reunions. She set quite a standard. Wilfred Danielson (age 3 on the Zamzam)

Wilfred Danielson - July 21, 2019 at 07:05 PM

DL

“As life long friends of Lois, Dan, Chris and Daniel, George and I had the privilege of knowing Alice, who shared some Thanksgivings with us. Her reach was wide; she had a great influence on many, many people. She modeled living life as a servant of God and taught us the true means to a happy life. How comforting to know we'll meet again some day.
Deb Lawrence-Swallow

Deborah Lawrence-Swallow - July 19, 2019 at 02:11 PM

KL

“How fortunate I was to spend time with my fabulous cousin Alice over the past few years. She's been both fun and enlightening for me, giving me insight into our family history, and the warmth of her caring. Nice, too, to get to know Lois & Dan & Joanne & Steve, even a little. I already miss her; I'm sure glad I can hear her voice - a treasure I'll treasure, to say the least.
Katy Lehman Landishaw

Katy Lehman Landishaw - July 19, 2019 at 01:12 PM



“ *My prayers to the family of this amazing women. I met Alice in Lindsborg, Kansas on April 17, 2016 at Messiah Lutheran church where she was speaking. My mother Alice Carlson, age 99, lived across the street in the town where I went to college. I was visiting from my home here in Lancaster. Of particular interest was the fact that I knew many of the Lillian Danielson children who she saved from the Zam Zam. They were from Lindsborg and Lois Danielson Carlson organized the 75th reunion of the event. Alice was an engaging speaker and brought the event to life. All six children she saved were there to thank her again.*

Martha Lefever - July 19, 2019 at 08:16 AM

TC

Like Deb Swallow-Lawrence , Nancy and I have been family friends with Lois and Dan for more than 40 years and had the opportunity to see Christopher and Daniel grow from birth to fine young men. We also had the privileged of meeting Mr and Mrs Schellenburg over the years. (In an interesting twist of fate and coincidence I got to serve on the Board of their sending Mission Agency, African Inland Mission, for a number of years.)
I always admired the incredible dedication and faithfulness to God in their work as missionaries in Africa for many decades.
Mrs Schellenburg was a woman of extraordinary Faith, Humility and Grace.
Certainly as a result God blessed her with a long and rich life and because she had so much work to do in caring and praying for all the people He brought her way.
I am inspired by her life and model.
Tom Colatosti

tom colatosti - July 20, 2019 at 10:55 AM

JS

For the 14 years that i worked at Calvary Homes, Alice was an inspiration to me. Every day, after breakfast, no matter what, Alice read her Bible. To this day, I thank God that He used Alice to encourage me to study more. Hardly a day goes by without me remembering seeing Alice in her chair with her Bible and the Lord used her so that I never miss a day in His word. She was an inspiration with her perseverance with so many things. I have been blessed to have helped care for her at Calvary Homes. Judith scalyer.

judith scalyer - July 21, 2019 at 12:14 AM

JF

After reading Mrs. Schellenberg's obituary and the post of all before me, I was blessed. What an amazing woman who lived what she taught! Through my cousins stories, Steve's wife, Penny, I felt I knew her and always wanted to meet her. I regret that never happened. But I know that she loved the Lord, worked to make sure others knew the Lord, and lived everyday serving Him. What a blessing I know she was and will continue to be to her family, friends, and the many she witnessed to and taught. Jennifer Berry Ferguson

Jennifer Berry Ferguson - July 23, 2019 at 12:02 AM

 Lisa
Doan

I am close friends with Alice's niece, Cindy, and met "Aunt Alice" through her a few decades ago. I knew some of her story but appreciated reading about all the amazing work she did in the later part of her incredibly long life. My condolences to her large family, who I know will be comforted knowing how many people Alice helped in more than a century. It is clear that God had great plans for her as he solidified her faith as she floated in the sea over seventy years ago.

Lisa Doan - July 24, 2019 at 10:00 AM