

# Dr. Reverend Vernetta West

1937 - 2021

## Prepared for Eternity

**2 Corinthians 6:2**

**Hebrews 3:7**

**James 4:13-15**



I find it hard to believe that I am writing this letter for a memorial service for Vernetta West. It's hard to imagine that she is no longer with us. I am writing this letter as a representative of American Mission Teams Evangelistic Organization (AMT), International College of Bible Theology (ICBT), and King's Word Academy (KWA).

Dr. West was part of American Mission Teams Evangelistic Organization (AMT) for many years. She traveled in ministry from coast to coast, east & west, north & south. She also traveled to the foreign field, teaching in Ukraine.

There are so many things I could say that would fill a book, but God knows and many in ministry know. We attended meetings, graduations, conferences, and we laughed and we cried.

Scripture says 'study to show yourself approved...' 2 Tim 2:15-16. Well, Dr. West went to Bible College and earned her Associate, Bachelor, Master, and Doctorate degrees and she applied what she learned. She also attended 'Boot Camp' which is an intense 2 weeks of study that we had each year to prepare people for mission trips. Students put in about 12 hours a day in class and study. They also did other work like office work, cleaning, grading papers, and cooking (she was a great cook). Well I could go on but Sister Vernetta is now with her Lord and He has welcomed her with "Well done thou good and faithful servant." When we consider her absence, we realize what a huge need she fulfilled.

You don't lose people like Dr. West without it affecting you in a significant way. Spiritually, this is probably not as difficult as one might think because she was a woman of God. She practiced what she preached. She was by no means perfect; she had her struggles and challenges like we all do. On the other hand, her witness for Christ, her example of a life of faith, her unwavering devotion to the Word of God was encouraging. She worked at helping people get out of their comfort zones, stretching them as God led.

There are three powerful lessons that I would remind us of that we learned from her life and death. First of all I would say, SERVE "HUMBLY" while you can. Others made excuses; she got it done. Her yes was yes and her no was no.

Secondly, I would say SHOW LOVE when you have the opportunity. Don't take people for granted. Dr. West was dependable. If each of us had known the last time we saw or talked with her that it

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would be the last time, we would all have said, "Vernetta, you're special. I appreciate you. We're so thankful that you've been in our lives."

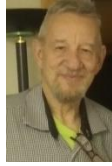
Thirdly, **BE PREPARED FOR ETERNITY**. Don't put off receiving Christ. One minute she was with us, the next minute she was in eternity. That's why when Jesus calls us to come to him, he never says, "tomorrow." 2 Corinthians 6:2 says, "I tell you now is the time of God's favor; now is the day of salvation." Hebrews 3:7 says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." James 4:13-15 says, "Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city; spend a year there; carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it's the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'" Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people, and Vernetta was prepared. In spite of the timing of her death, her readiness to meet her Lord is unquestioned. How about you? Today is the day of Salvation and rededication.

AMT Chancellor, Board Chairman  
Dr. Verda Thompson

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