



Mrs. Mary Jo Livingston

July 13, 1944 - August 25, 2019

Mary Jo Livingston, 75, of Columbia, beloved wife of Glenn, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, August 25, 2019 after a short illness. Born July 13, 1944 in Battle Creek, MI, she was the daughter of the late Charles and Deldee Myrick Herman.

Mary Jo, graduated from St Augustine High School in 1962, and then in 1966 from Western Michigan University with a bachelors. She and Glenn, high school sweethearts, married in 1964 and had just celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary with a trip to Alaska.

She worked with her husband as an administrator for his various enterprises. But her passion was coming along side to encourage and disciple women God brought into her life. In this she was the confidant of many and surrogate mother of some.

Taking early retirement, she and her husband spent 8 years in Hungary where she used her organizational skills for their mission agency.

When the couple returned to Columbia, SC Jo joined Godspeed Resource Connection (GRC) which is based in Columbia. This is a faith-based ministry that meets the counseling, spiritual direction and psychiatric needs of global Christian workers. She was currently serving on their Board of Directors.

Survivors include her husband of 54 years, Glenn Livingston; brothers, Robert Herman (Jane) of Los Altos, CA and Dennis Herman (Kae) of Kalamazoo; as well as several nieces and nephews. Jo was predeceased by her brother Dave (Jean).

A celebration of God and His graciousness in her life, will be held Saturday Sept 7th, 3 P M, at the Seacoast Church facility, 500 St Andrews Rd., Columbia, with Pastor Jeff Shipman officiating. The family will receive friends prior to the service beginning at 2 o'clock and again following. Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, is assisting the family.

Memorials may be made in the name of Mary Jo Livingston to the special ministry Jo was involved in, Godspeed Resources Connection (GRC). These can be made via US MAIL to GRC at 7520 Monticello Road, Columbia SC 29203 or ONLINE at www.godspeedresources.org/donate and choose the 'Memorial Giving' button. or CIU Prison Ministries - Glenn's ministry that she supported in prayer. Giving link <https://app.mobilecause.com/form/mqzplA?vid=1s1a7>

Events

SEP **Visitation** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

7

Seacoast Church, Irmo Campus

500 St. Andrews Road, Columbia,, SC, US, 29210

SEP **Celebration of Life** 03:00PM

7

Seacoast Church, Irmo Campus

500 St. Andrews Road, Columbia,, SC, US, 29210

Comments



“ Shared at the Memorial Service by Linda Dingeldein

Mary Jo was not only a dear friend; but more importantly my spiritual - life-mentor. Her life displayed what she valued most. This was shown by her disciplined, godly example. She spoke as much from her actions as she did – from her wise counsel.

Mary Jo led by example with purpose and grace. She had no church title, yet as one of her daughters of faith I trusted her as my confidant, a leader, a counselor and a trusted friend.

Mary Jo's passion was to guide women in the truth of God's Word. In her lifetime, she ministered to women all around the globe. These were ordinary women who often had deep personal struggles. Whatever conflict or struggles these women brought to her; Mary Jo was up for the challenge.

One of the greatest issues Mary Jo helped me walk through was learning to understand God's love for me.

Mary Jo's patience was tire less as she gently peeled back the lies, I had been believing and taught me how to replace each of them with truth. She taught me that God's love was not something I could earn by what I did or lose because of what I didn't do but that God's love is constant and unconditional.

It would be years later when Mary Jo's efforts paid off as I embraced the magnificence of God's gift of love for me enough for it to change my life just like it had changed Mary Jo's. In the end, this is what Mary Jo wanted; life change!

Mary Jo also taught me how to serve others and the church out of my gifting. She did this by example, but also by taking the risk to have me co-teach other women with her. Her basis for teaching me anything was always the Bible. I knew when she spoke that she would speak with wisdom, grace and always truth. The truth often stung and bruised; but in the end, I knew that she spoke truth because she loved me.

In fact, Mary Jo seemed to get excited when I would walk through a rough patch in life. This was very troubling to me as I was hoping for a bit more empathy. Her answer to my frustration would bring on her brilliant smile as she would say; “I can't wait to see what God is going to do. Your pain just means He has something good to teach you.”

May Jo didn't have children, but she had an innate ability to wisely teach me how to raise my own.

Although Mary Jo didn't have children born of her flesh, she had a host of spiritual children; as her clarity of purpose birthed spiritual daughters from all around the globe.

We all know that Mary Jo was beautiful on the outside, but she was magnificently beautiful on the inside. Her life and radiant smile reflected the depth of her love and

hunger for following Christ.

The globe is a broad mission field, yet Mary Jo took on the challenge. If women, whose lives she touched would now clasp hands - you would see that Mary Jo left behind a legacy of faithful women who know and love God and are now passing the baton of their faith to others.

“Mary Jo, I am forever grateful for you. It was your confident passion that changed my life. Mary Jo, you are present with us today, reflected in the numerous lives that have been touched by your love and obedience to God.

I miss you immensely my dear friend.

I know that your smile must be warming the heart of our Savior. I am sure, that by now, you have tenderly heard Him say; “Well done, my Daughter. Well done!”

Linda Dingeldein - September 14, 2019 at 08:12 PM



“ I love reading the tributes here to Jo. She touched so many lives. Her impact on my life truly can't be measured.

I first met Glenn and Jo when I moved to Budapest as a single missionary, joining a team of people I didn't know. Glenn and Jo quickly became my family in Budapest. And Jo began to disciple me. I would say that discipleship relationship ended the day she died, but the truth is, she's still teaching me about God's goodness even now.

Jo was a wonderful combination of friend, confidante and mother figure to me. She always had time for me, and always encouraged me to look for God's goodness in every trial. Once when my dad was having a major health crisis that led to a mental health crisis for my mom, Jo stayed on the phone with me during my 3 hour drive to their house. I don't know what she had planned for that day, but she was there for me and I arrived stronger than I would have without her support. I cannot quantify the loss of Jo and how it has brought me to my knees. I rejoice that she is in Heaven and I will see her again, but I feel her loss here on earth every day. She was always there to give advice, encouragement and love. I am so blessed that I still have her e-mails and can look back on her words to me. Here are a few from the past year- a year that she has spent teaching me about the goodness of God:

"It is a test of our faith to stay at rest in Him in the midst of all the evil around us and the hard/painful things we see in our lives & those we love. But it hurts!! And it drives me to Him for comfort, peace and strength, which is exactly where I need to be. So, He is good—always, all the time, in every situation."

"I do see the benefit in this trial and know I need it. James 1:3 says the testing of my faith produces steadfastness and I do want that so keep pulling my mind back to this truth when I want to get discouraged. I know trials are the way that Scripture becomes real to ME, for MY life."

"It's truly a moment by moment need for God to lead and give strength. I'm sure He is growing you greatly thru this no fun at all trial. Hang in there and just keep yelling "Help Lord"!! John Piper writes about "future grace", meaning grace for the next moment and the next one and so on. Trusting God for that grace to be there when we need it is faith. We're learning, my dear friend!"

Jo now has nothing left to learn- she no longer sees in a mirror dimly but face to face! I rejoice in that even as I mourn. All my love to Glenn as he presses on. We will laugh with Jo again Glenn- but in the meantime, who is going to admonish us to quit giving each other a hard time? Love you!
Ki Corley



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Ki Corley - September 12, 2019 at 09:52 AM



“ Dear Glenn,
Sandy and I were so surprised to hear of Jo's "graduation", and wanted to say that our hearts grieve with you during these challenging days. It was a true delight for us to spend time with Jo through our rather brief years in SC and with GRC. As Carey mentioned in her note to Jo (on this page), Jo always kept us focused upward! When conversations or even prayer turned the least bit sour or expressive of our unbelief - your sweetheart was quick with her gentle and faith-filled words and prayers, to reiterate who we are and Whose we are - getting us back on track!!
Knowing what we know, the influence of this precious woman of God will go on and on, for the glory of Jesus, Whom you have both served so well and for so long. Ironically, we have now been living in Michigan for 20 months (Niles). So, next time you're heading this way, perhaps you will be reminded to be in touch ...
In and Through the Love of Jesus,
Bob & Sandy McKee

Bob McKee - September 11, 2019 at 01:41 PM



“ I always felt loved by Mary Jo. I appreciated her love for the Lord and for people. She was the real deal. What a great lady. Praying for you Glenn!
Carole McDonald

Carole McDonald - September 10, 2019 at 10:52 AM



“ We are thinking of you, Glenn, during this time of your loss. It was always great to see you and Mary Jo whenever you could make it to a Herman Family Reunion in Michigan!

Sincerely,
Ed & Mary (Herman) Robinson

Ed & Mary (Herman) Robinson - September 07, 2019 at 10:41 AM



“ Mary Jo had a deep joy and practical wisdom, with a ready smile, that were rooted in her love for the Lord. It was sincere. She obviously will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

"A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

"She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

"She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her honor at the city gate."

Praying for you, Glenn.
And praying for you, Jean.

With deep condolences,
Gary and Gwynne

Gary and Gwynne Smith - September 07, 2019 at 08:34 AM



“ Jo, you were always a delight to work with. I don't know that I ever saw you have a bad day. You had a way of making bookkeeping fun and always kept us at GRC on our toes with your questions. The 'question queen' will be greatly missed! But, you were more than just a colleague. You became a treasured friend. You kept your focus on Father and were always there to point the way back to Him. I knew that I could always count on you to stand with me in prayer, and trust that you will still be standing with me, just in a better location! Your sweet spirit drew everyone in around you and never left anyone out. It was hard enough when you retired to not see you weekly. It was great to add in time at your place, swimming with my kids in your backyard, or lunches with Paula and Anne, or even quarterly at the board meetings. I deeply treasured your friendship and miss you greatly. I know that you are in a much better place, but I still miss you here. Say 'hi' to my dad for me. Thank you for being part of my life, and sharing yours with me. Love you.

Glenn, I continually pray for comfort and peace for you as you transition to a different stage in life. Thank you for sharing Jo with me and GRC. She means and meant more than I can express.

Love you brother,
Carey Hargis

Carey Hargis - September 06, 2019 at 11:32 PM



“ I have fond memories serving with Jo and Glenn in Budapest, Hungary. I especially appreciated our times of prayer together and also laughing together over various cultural mistakes we made. Jo was a special blessing to our leaders, Don and Bea with her administrative skills in our office. I am grateful to God for the opportunity to know show during that short time of her life. She was an encouragement and inspiration to me to keep walking close to the Lord. My heartfelt condolences to you, Glenn, and to Jo's family. May God comfort you in this sad time. In Christ, Norie Roeder

Norie Roeder - September 06, 2019 at 11:11 PM



“ Jo was a long-time time friend and mentor who spoke into my life through her words and her witness. She encouraged me but also helped me see my shortcomings in a kind and gentle way. She was a true testimony of a life lived well for Jesus. We celebrate that she is now with Him. She will be deeply missed. In loving memory. Becky Magnuson

Becky Magnuson - September 06, 2019 at 09:27 AM



“ We are so grateful for the life of Mary Jo and how God has worked through her for so many years. We are so glad that God gave us that week together in Alaska this past July. It would have been so easy for Mary Jo and Glenn to cancel out when her vision was going away. It will be a last, great memory of how upbeat and cheerful she was when she could only appreciate Alaska through our eyes and descriptions. She will be dearly missed. The picture of Mary Jo and Glenn with our names below it was taken in Alaska in July. Love, Bob and Jane Herman

Bob and Jane Herman - September 06, 2019 at 01:48 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bob and Jane Herman - September 06, 2019 at 01:42 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Rise Logsdon - September 04, 2019 at 04:09 PM



“ From: The Robinsons purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Mrs. Mary Jo Livingston.



From: The Robinsons - September 04, 2019 at 03:03 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Linda Dingeldein - September 04, 2019 at 08:56 AM



“ One of Many Daughters
A Tribute to Mary Jo Livingston

I am one of many daughters
Who will stand around God's throne
Proclaiming glory to The Lord
for all that He has done

Declaring His greatness
Proclaiming His worth
Passing on salvations message
Lifting up those who hurt

Living life with freedom
Because of who I am in Christ
Basking in His love for me
For giving me new life.

I am one of many daughters
That circle round the globe
Maturing, learning, growing,
Because of a life they've known

Our hands now join together
Across country, state and miles
We grieve the loss of Mary Jo
And miss her brilliant smile

She influenced us by example
She infused us with her grace
The fragrance of her beauty
Has touched our lives with faith

She blazed the trail before us
Showing us how to live
Through her listening, caring, gracious heart
She taught us how to give

We now live from what she taught us
Passing the baton of faith
Influencing women around the world
With community and grace

Now as we journey onward
Her legacy lives on
Through the women she has nurture
And all that we've become.

LJD

I am forever grateful for the gift of Mary Jo's encouragement, mentor-ship, patience, gentle leadership, gracious friendship and her hospitable home.

Mary Jo walked with joy and purpose. Ministering to women was her passion, of which my life has personally been challenged, changed and blessed.

I miss you immensely my dear-dear friend. I know that your smile must be warming the heart of Your Savior. I am sure by now you have already heard Him say; "Well done, my Daughter. Well done!"

Lovingly, Linda Dingeldein

Linda Dingeldein - September 03, 2019 at 09:20 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Video



Shives Funeral Home - September 03, 2019 at 12:12 PM



“ The life of my dear friend Mary Jo Livingston has touched women around the world. She was an encourager, mentor, confidant, great listener and never afraid to speak the truth with love. Her gracious spirit and brilliant smile will be greatly missed.

Linda Dingeldein - September 03, 2019 at 09:50 PM



“ I remember Mary Jo first as a prayer warrior and a caring friend. She and Glenn made an impact in many parts of Europe...and in our hearts. She will be missed...so glad we'll meet again one day! With love, Suzy

Suzy Grumelot - September 05, 2019 at 04:47 PM



“ Mary Jo was such a wonderful neighbor. She was always pleasant, kind and full of life. She enjoyed working in her yard tremendously although the deer were persistently annoying her. My family will miss her but the memories will always be there. Our condolences go out to Glen and Mary Jo's family.

The Storick Family

Steve Storick - September 01, 2019 at 02:12 PM



“ A friend went to be with the Lord this week. The kind of person about whom people should use superlatives; this isn't often the case. Funerals are a time for comforting the living, often at the expense of the truth. We bend it a little bit in order not to say bad things about the deceased, or make them sound better perhaps than they really were. Don't we all want a legacy? But Mary Jo isn't one of those.

I can never remember a time when she wasn't smiling. I'm sure she had her down days, and I'm sure she struggled. And the smile wasn't fake, at least it didn't seem so, even if she may have worn it as a mask. I sincerely believe she was a kind and jovial person. Most of us, even when we're standing still, are like a bottled-up storm waiting to be released, but Mary Jo seemed like the calm in the center of those storms. I think that smile was a reflection of inner humility, as well. She was always eager to serve, always donating her time to some mission or cause. See, there's those superlatives. I often wonder what it's like to be a person like that.

I didn't know that I would miss her, or at least the idea of such a person. My own wife is a combination of calm and storm in a way I can't comprehend, so I do get to continue having that sort of presence in the world. But we need more Mary Jo's, here and now, and I'm looking forward to meeting back up with her again. Someday.

Meanwhile, I'm going to try to smile more often, and be more kind. Enjoy the Glory, Mary Jo. *smile*

- Tod Arnim, Saturday, August 31, 2019

L. Tod Arnim - August 31, 2019 at 07:13 PM



“ Glen, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this most difficult time
Dick and Justine Hertzell friends from Grace Baptist Church Portage Michigan

Dick Hertzell - August 31, 2019 at 04:22 PM



“ Glenn, so sorry to hear of your loss. May the Lord hold you close and guide you through these difficult days. You're in my thoughts and prayers. Lou

Mary Lou Pratt Holliday - August 30, 2019 at 03:37 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear of the loss of Mary Jo, but rejoicing she is home with the Lord she loved and served so faithfully. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Glenn.

Dick and Judy Weddington, Bangor, MI

JUDITH R. WEDDINGTON - August 30, 2019 at 10:18 AM



“ Many prayers for you, Glenn. Hold on to your great memories. Sounds like both of you were deep into Gods service and God will say to Jo “ Good job, faithful servant” our thoughts and prayers, Ray and Carol (Hiscock) Patterson



carol patterson - August 30, 2019 at 09:58 AM



“ Mary Jo invited me to lunch with a few of the ladies in the neighborhood even though she and I didn't know each very well. Her kindness was very much appreciated and something I will never forget. Rest in peace Mary Jo and I'm sure you are having lunch on the 1st Thursdays of every month with the ladies.

Our Condolences to Glenn and the Family

Beth and Mike Marcis

Beth Marcis - August 30, 2019 at 08:14 AM



“ The passing of a dear friend brings forth many loving thoughts. We have so many cherished memories of Jo & Glenn from our college days, fraternity days, their wedding, our wedding and early marriage. There were many adventures and special days to celebrate and enjoy along the paths we traveled. Many stories told and many laughs enjoyed together.

Carol just found a note from Jo dated Oct. 26, 1967. It was enclosed with a book about the joys of motherhood. She sent it a few weeks before our first baby was born. She knew it would be another cherished memory. She was right. The book and note are together again on a shelf in our library.

Mary Jo is now home in a better place. Heaven has been graced by her arrival. Until we meet again, thanks for the memories.

Our condolences to Glenn and Family.

Carol & Bob Utley

Bob & Carol Utley - August 28, 2019 at 09:11 PM



“ To Mary Jo, my Sister in Christ,

When we first met, I was still a heathen but you loved me.

You taught me how to view life and death through a new lens, and I am blessed.

I am positive that you are currently organizing everything in heaven and that you are holding a spot just for me.

I'm so thankful to have known you here on earth, and I look forward to seeing you again. So...this is not goodbye, my friend; this is see you soon.

Love,

Nancy Maxfield

Nancy Sue Maxfield - August 28, 2019 at 03:05 PM



“ Always a kind and gentle soul, and always focused and interested in each person she spoke with. I always felt a welcomed presence in this dear lady, enthusiastic about life, about her Lord and about people. Jerry Fonte

Jerry Fonte - August 28, 2019 at 12:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Eric O'Dell - August 28, 2019 at 09:28 AM



“ Photo provided by family friend, Margaret Branigan.

Eric - August 28, 2019 at 09:30 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Eric O'Dell - August 28, 2019 at 09:27 AM



“ Photo provided by family friend, Becky Davis.

Eric - August 28, 2019 at 09:29 AM



“ Dear Glenn,

I am so sorry for your loss...though I rejoice at Mary Jo's homecoming.

I thought you might like a copy of this picture from Easter.

You are in my thoughts and prayers.

love

Margaret

Eric O'Dell - August 28, 2019 at 09:26 AM



“ A friend loves at all times... (Proverbs 17:17a)

&

The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense. (Proverbs 27:9)

There are people who enter your life who impact who you are in ways you don't fully realize until years and decades have passed.

When Greg and I first came to Calvary Bible in 1989-90, I'm pretty sure most folks didn't know what to make of us. Rocker Guy and Wife. Fairly New Believers: His hair was down to there, and my hair stood a solid 5 inches straight up off my scalp. We tried hard to stand out and make some ridiculous rebellious statement, daring anyone to challenge our own self-importance, but God had other plans. He gently and graciously opened our eyes and taught us about His love and His character through people who loved Him and His Word and loved us.

Mary Jo was one of those sweet people.

Mary Jo was always kind, considerate and thoughtful. She always greeted me with that million dollar smile and asked how I was doing, trying to crack whatever wall I had around my heart. I'm rather grateful for her tenacity as she faithfully tried to get to know me. She could manage any task seemingly effortlessly, and yet, alternatively, she learned to carve out time for people and give them her full attention. What a great lady! I liked her!

Still getting to know each other back in the 90's, she took the time to crochet a beautiful bright blue baby blanket for our son, Jacob, who's now 24. It was a special special gift. When he was just a couple of months old, we bundled him up for his Dedicaton wrapped in a flannel blanket made by a dear lady from Africa, Mary Muteti, and this crocheted blanket made by Mary Jo: 2 ladies who loved the Lord and committed themselves to the church and missions in different parts of the world. Little did I know the significance of this at the time. I have kept that blanket as a special keepsake all these years as a tangible reminder to wrap our children in warmth, love, and prayer.

In those years, Glenn and Mary Jo answered God's calling to work in Budapest, Hungary. It was during this time that I witnessed Mary Jo's faithfulness to not only Glenn, friends, and the overseas mission work, but to caring for her parents in the US as well. It was an enormous challenge for her and Glenn. At that time we became closer because I saw in her something that I wanted: Calm resolve, clarity of purpose, reliance on God, trust that He would take care of her and the people she loved. She met with me and I asked her to keep meeting with me whenever she was back or had time. The looming challenge of living overseas plus caring for aging parents was a source of anxiety for me. She was a gift, an answer to prayer! Was she a mentor? Yes...an experienced voice of reason that was so needed in my life. At that time there were a few women who took me under their wing and poured into me. Mary Jo was one of those wonderful, loving ladies. I needed them. I think we needed each other. We met multiple times at a Lizards Thicket or Cracker Barrel, and I bared my soul to this precious lady over gallons of bad coffee and lots of bacon.

And what God gave me through those times with Mary Jo wasn't just thoughtful answers or solid wisdom.

It wasn't simply clever wit or probing questions.

It wasn't just shared pains and honest conversations.

It wasn't simply hearty laughter and breathtaking smiles.

It was a friend. It was Mary Jo.

So God, thank you for Mary Jo, we love her and miss her! Our tears are still flowing, but they're happy tears cause she's with you!

And..., give her this message,

"Hey I can't wait to see you!...Save me a seat, friend, and order me a cup!"

"Love ya!... See ya soon!"

Becky Davis

Eric O'Dell - August 28, 2019 at 09:25 AM