



## Truman "Ted" Grant Bergman

November 29, 1938 - October 7, 2020

Truman Grant Bergman died October 7, 2020. Ted was born November 29, 1938 in a small house on his grandfather's place, the oldest of four siblings. He grew up on a farm 10 miles from Tulare, in California's San Joaquin Valley, the nation's most productive agricultural region. His fond memories of those years include raising rabbits, milking the black cow his father gave him, devotions at grandmother's house with his 14 cousins, and going to Hume Lake for summer camps. His high school years included working with his dad growing cotton and alfalfa, attending Young People's group at the Church of the Brethren, playing tennis, participating in the Bible Club, and his first car – a 1947 Studebaker Champion, earned from his first away-from-home summer job irrigating, mowing, raking, baling and stacking alfalfa hay. This was the beginning of a lifetime of love of old and unique cars, trucks, and tractors.

He went to Westmont College for three years where he met Gwen. Gwen had grown up on a sheep ranch outside of Laramie, Wyoming, the youngest of twelve children. They were married in 1959 when they were both 20 years old and had two daughters – Nannette (who died in 1977), and Roxanne, who is married and now lives in Ohio. Although Gwen passed away in 2017 after several battles with cancer and myelodysplastic syndrome, she lived many healthy years beyond any medical expectations.

After Westmont, Ted went one semester to the University of Wyoming to get to know Gwen's family better, then to the University of California Berkeley where he received a BA in Physics (1961). While employed by the Navy, he took classes through UCLA for an MA in Engineering Physics (1964). Finally, he studied at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins where he received a PhD in Physics (1970).

As a PhD physicist, Ted Bergman worked for 21 years as a civilian at the US Naval Weapons Center in China Lake, California designing optics, laser equipment and guidance systems for missiles. His job took him all over the world, including work visits on each aircraft carrier in the seventh fleet in the South China Sea during the Vietnam War to

maintain a laser designator system.

One day in February 1977, he flew to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. for a meeting. Four days later a phone call to his hotel room would change his life forever. “She’s gone,” were the only words that Ted could remember his wife, Gwen, saying. Ted had left Gwen with Nannette, their 15-year-old daughter, at the hospital in Loma Linda, California. Nannette had Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, plus a mild case of pneumonia the day he flew to Washington. He phoned her later from his hotel. “I love you Daddy,” she had said. And now, she was gone.

Unable to find a flight home until morning, Ted searched his Bible for something to quiet his aching heart. He found comfort in the reassurance that the Lord would return soon. He turned to Revelation: Let the one who is thirsty come... I am coming quickly. “Yes, amen, come, Lord Jesus,” Ted prayed, as he wept through the night alone in his hotel room. Always a scholar, the Bible took on new meaning for Ted as he searched the Scriptures during the ensuing years, seeking meaning for his life.

“What sort of person should I be? What can I do to hasten the Lord’s return?” he asked himself. Ted was happy being a physicist, but Nannette’s death had shown him just how short life is. It gave him a sense of urgency – if he was ever going to do anything for the Lord, he needed to do it now. But what would that be?

The phrase that showed up time and again was that we are to be a blessing “to all nations.” However, his studies revealed a more accurate definition was “to all ethnic groups”.

Matthew 24:14 says, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come.” Ted had found his answer. He could help bring God’s message to “all nations,” the unreached peoples of the world. Ted’s experience with statistics and data was a natural fit with language assessment.

So at age 44, Ted and Gwen joined Wycliffe. After two years in Dallas as SIL’s first International Language Survey Coordinator, Ted and Gwen moved to Nairobi, Kenya for thirteen years as field workers. In 2000 they returned to Dallas, Texas to the SIL offices, where they remained until 2006. Continuing their work with Wycliffe/SIL, they moved to Westerville, Ohio in 2007 to be near Roxi and Gordon and family, to their “ranchette”, returning to their roots with two horses and a few acres of farmland which they leased to immigrants to teach farming. Ted continued to travel internationally (he visited 59 countries in his lifetime) and worked for Wycliffe/SIL until his death. He always felt

amazement at how much of his previous experience God used in his work with language survey coordination.

Ted said: I was raised in a Christian family and church. I can't say when I became a Christian nor any period of special growth. It was a little here and a little there. Westmont was good for me. Also, when so many people prayed and God extended Gwen's life beyond expected, that was a faith builder for me.

By being a part of the team to bring the gospel to those without it, Ted was doing what Nannette's death compelled him to do – bringing God's word to all peoples. His latest interests included helping the deaf communities around the world to be included in unreached peoples needing the Bible in their language. The story of Ted Bergman, one of the notable pioneers in SIL, is a wonderful story of God's providence and direction. He is one of the original “finishers” moving in mid-life from one career to a second career of high impact in God's Kingdom through Bible translation and language development

He leaves behind his daughter and son-in-law Roxanne & Gordon Jantzen; four grandchildren: Jessica (Ben) Futoran, Drew (Amanda) Jantzen, Natalie (Tony) Corven, and Rachel Jantzen; four great grandchildren: Mckenna & Owen Jantzen, Kenzie Futoran and Milo Corven; and three foster great grandchildren: Mariah, Dakota and Jermaine.

A celebration of Ted's life will be held at Heritage Christian Church, 7413 Maxtown Road, Westerville, OH 43082 on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 3:00 PM. All those who loved Ted are welcome. Please remember to wear masks. For those unable to attend in person, the service will be streamed at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84985076178?pwd=V25VMepqTmlIVUJvNGZ2YnhMM2hUZz09>.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to: [www.wycliffe.org/projects/give-your-gift-in-honor-or-memory-of-a-loved-one](http://www.wycliffe.org/projects/give-your-gift-in-honor-or-memory-of-a-loved-one); please include a note “In memory of Ted Bergman.”

# Events

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

**15**

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Heritage Christian Church

7413 Maxtown Rd., Westerville, OH, US, 43082

# Comments

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“ TED BERGMAN fare thee well.

We at Sheepfold grieve the death of our dear brother.

I and our team write and send out prayer letters because TED would read. When we sent our last issue, we as always expected to hear the usual acknowledgement and comments. Ted was strangely silent. Not knowing that, he remained silent in death.

I met Ted at SIL in 1995, when the church and mission agencies in Kenya had embarked on identifying, surveying and writings about unreached people groups in Kenya. Ted, O. B. Jenkins and I took the lead in research and publication of KUPNET, which listed the unreached peoples in Kenya. The book remained an authoritative guide to would be missionaries and churches workers to the unreached peoples in Kenya.

Ted had a twin interest in seeing all unreached people reached with the Gospel and promotion of indigenous mission agencies in doing the task. In these our interests converged. Ted supported TSM an indigenous mission with work among the unreached in the region while in Kenya and long after he left for the USA in Ohio.

He brought his church into fellowship with TSM, Heritage Fellowship, in a new outreach among the Somali Bantu. Some stories from the field of ministry were horrific. Human induced danger of Christians from that background and natural disaster affecting the regions. After reading one prayer letter, he wrote:

“Thanks, E That last story is hard to read, but in the end it is hopeful. It is so well written. The flood problems are calling for prayer. Thank you for sending the letter. Ted,”

Ted Identified with indigenous mission initiative and did what he do, to leverage for them, To Sheepfold.: It was easy to stay in the white missionary colony, but not so with Ted. He sought us out, spoke with us and spoke for us. He sought to understand us better. In the process mobilized help where we needed it most. He prayed. He wrote to ask questings... and made me a writer too.

Ted wrote from nowhere:

“I thought of you and your colleagues in TSM immediately. In the last newsletter you lamented those workers who left the field for various reasons. Most missions have the same problem. We work hard to recruit new

workers who then have to spend time learning the culture, learning the language, making friends and building trust. But when one has completed all those steps leaves the field, it is a terrible loss. Anything that can be done to assist field workers to be successful and to enjoy their work is very worthwhile.”

He sought to improve our capacity in member care, angling for them to get scholarship and attend training, through his sister and her husband Jim and Susan DeVries.

This was 2014... He seem to have forgotten about the report of how beneficial the meeting was, but when he did in 2018, he wrote:

“I see that I didn’t reply to this email from you. It made me feel good that you benefited from this meeting and I appreciate it that you let me know. 2014 is a long time ago. Love to you, Ted.”

Ted appreciated excellent work and did it in small things that became subject of his letter in 2016 Ted wrote:

“The latest Prayerline has two good reports about the Somali Bantus in Dadaab. Please thank the TSM Reporter for the good reporting. We appreciate learning some of what is happening there.... That person did such a good job.”

He always concludes his communication in this order:

“In Him,

Ted.”

May you rest IN HIM dear friend

Canon Francis Omondi of TSM

Canon Omondi - October 15 at 05:49 PM



“ Dear Canon,

As I was caring for Dad in the final days, he had me read his emails to him and would dictate replies as I keyed them into the computer. I remember reading your newsletter and asking him a bit about it. He told me of your work and how pleased he was that it was going on.

Thank you for sharing your memories, and your kind words. Keep up the good work!

Roxanne

Roxanne Jantzen - November 05 at 10:56 AM

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“ Paul and Julie Boucher purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Truman "Ted" Grant Bergman.



Paul and Julie Boucher - October 15 at 09:57 AM

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“ I am deeply grateful that God saw fit to send Ted to Rural Chapel and partner with us in making the Alpha study happen. As I read over Ted's accomplishments today, I continue to marvel at his humility which did not need to make those accomplishments known. I also marvel at his heart to serve and care for others with the other that others would find faith in Jesus.

Craig Mook - October 15 at 09:03 AM

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“ AS Sheepfold Ministries we send our love and prayers for the family . We are grateful that Ted took keen interest in the missionary work here us in Kenya and often would respond to our prayer newsletters with encouragement. We will miss him May Gods peace be upon the family.

Esther - October 15 at 02:42 AM

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“ So grateful that God was willing to share Ted with us for these past 13 years or so since he and Gwen moved to the Westerville area. What a blessing he has been to our church and our lives. ~Brenda Ruesegger

Brenda Ruesegger - October 14 at 09:09 PM

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“ Dear Roxi and Family,

We are so heart sore for you all and yet so happy for your dad!

We love your parents and look forward to seeing them when we are all HOME!

Both your dad and mom had a HUGE influence on our whole family! We thank God dearly for them.

May the Lord comfort you all!  
Much love,  
Sue and Ken Sawka

**sue sawka** - October 14 at 06:25 PM



“ Thank you, Sue. I'm glad to know you, through them. We look forward to all of us being together some day!

**Roxanne Jantzen** - November 05 at 10:59 AM

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“ Appreciated working on a project with Ted and having other interactions over the years. He was very helpful, dedicated, resourceful, and easy to work with. He had a kind, caring heart towards people. I think he "ran the race" (Heb. 12:1) well.

**Loren Muehlius** - October 14 at 11:32 AM

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“ This gentle, selfless man poured so much into me, personally and missionally. I consider him a brother and a mentor and am so grateful for his generous spirit. Thank you, Father, for bringing Ted into our lives. I can't wait to hug him again!

**Lara Heneveld** - October 14 at 11:30 AM

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“ Ted had a huge impact on my life. I'm glad I was able to tell him so shortly after he announced there was nothing medically that could be done to stop the cancer. But his impact reaches much further than my life. He was a champion of unreached peoples, tirelessly recruiting and equipping people like me, and then my husband, to research unwritten languages, so that God's people could pray and the process could begin that would lead to their getting His Word. We look forward to the day we'll gather with Ted and speakers of these languages to worship Jesus before his throne! (Revelation 7:9)

**Beth Brye** - October 13 at 09:47 PM

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“ I knew Ted and Gwen for all their SIL and Wycliffe careers. I even got to be Ted's supervisor during his time as Survey Coordinator for Asia Area. That was a humbling experience. He did great things for SIL, but most of all I will remember his heart for the Lord and for the language communities of the earth without Scripture. The words "tireless" and "faithful" come to mind. Grace and peace to his family and to all who loved him.

**Steve Quakenbush** - October 13 at 04:24 PM

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“ I worked briefly with Ted at China Lake a "few" years ago. Recently I was in a ZOOM session, or so, with Ted and other China Lakers. Same ole Ted - smiles and cheerful, sharing in life and those past work memories. He was a good man.  
Gary W. Davis

**Gary W Davis** - October 13 at 02:46 PM

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“ 3 files added to the album Ted Bergman



**Day Funeral Service** - October 13 at 11:54 AM

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“ So sorry for your loss. Ted almost always had a smile going on. He listened well and shared well. To say that he affected thousands of lives would be an understatement. He and Gwen were very hospitable. Ted could make a person feel like they were just the right person for the job. He will be greatly missed on this earth, but I know he has a huge, HUGE smile on his face in the presence of God.

**Carol Magnusson** - October 13 at 10:51 AM