

My name is Kurt Schmidt, and I am the president of the Florida chapter of the Lois Stuber Fan Club...self-appointed, of course. As president of the Florida chapter of the LSFC, I feel it's important to begin with a few disclaimers:

1. For over 40 years, it's been almost impossible for me to call Mrs. Stuber "Lois" to her face, so let's not assume I'm going to start now...although I may let a "Lois" slip now and again in the next few minutes.
2. When Jodi called us to let us know Mrs. Stuber had met Jesus, she very kindly said, "I know she must have talked with Kurt and picked every element of her service." I only wish. The only thing I know for certain is that we just sang her favorite hymn, "Just As I Am." The rest of the service reflects choices that I made after knowing Lois Stuber for my entire life.

You see, Mrs. Stuber and I go way back, officially to the Kindergarten classroom at Zion, what is affectionally called Room #510 today in our preschool, Evergreen Academy. I have very few memories from that classroom, but of Mrs. Stuart playing her autoharp and singing, and Mrs. Stuber teaching “Jesus Time,” something for which she became universally well-known in generations of teaching children at Zion. To Mrs. Stuber, I was Speedy Gonzalez, because I was still using a walker then to get around, and I would race to and from the playground like Speedy, faster than a speeding bullet. For years, this became a cherished memory and a moment of levity when, for reasons most of us understand, this Speedy certainly slowed down.

Mrs. Stuber did, too, but not after years of influencing hundreds, if not thousands, of students with her quiet confidence, her encouragement, her kind heart, and her love for the Lord. She was definitely one of the ones who heard Jesus’ call in the gospel reading, that “none of the little ones should be lost.” For most of you that are here today, it is likely because you were one of her students –

either in the classroom at Zion during the week or the Sunday School classroom on Sunday – or you had the privilege of working with her or being a member of the Zion community. I don't have to tell you, then, what we all already know. To know Lois was to know someone who loved her family, loved her friends, and loved Jesus.

To Michael, Gary, Jodi, and all of Mrs. Stuber's family gathered here, we join you in the loss of a most cherished person...your mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, and friend. You are, I hope, encouraged by all of the happy memories you share of your beloved matriarch.

For years, we were definitely closer than Kindergarten teacher and former student. We traveled together, to multiple Night of Joy concerts at Disney. We enjoyed birthday dinners together—and Mrs. Stuber never missed one of my birthdays. We played many games of tiles...probably too many...and I truthfully can't even call that game by its real name. As a senior in high school, she asked me to be her designated hitter when she had hip

surgery and go back to Kindergarten every day and teach Jesus Time. Coincidentally, I taught that same group of kids when they were in high school at Zion and I returned as a teacher, over a decade later. Talk about things coming full-circle.

Together with Mrs. Stuber, we supported Laurie as she welcomed so many beloved children into her home, ending, of course, with Jeremy, who became the love of her life. And, until COVID hit, I could count on Mrs. Stuber being in her spot on Sunday mornings, greeting everyone as they came into worship and then moving quietly to her seat, right back there.

Even when she no longer worshipped with us in person, we brought communion to her apartment and, in what can only be described as a miracle, finally got her connected to watching worship on YouTube.

When we talked on the phone, which was admittedly not as much as I would have liked, I always had to time my phone calls around her naps and her sports schedules. Why she ever asked me if I had seen this game or that game, I'll never know. But, she always made a point to tell me about her family, especially how many great-grandchildren she was up to, always about Jeremy, and to remind me that she was always praying for me. I counted on those prayers, because I figure someone with her devotion to prayer and Bible reading must have a direct line to God.

This is why I don't think we need to discuss at great length today whether the resurrection promise is real and where Mrs. Stuber actually is. If ever there was someone who was sure of God and Jesus and the promises of eternal life, it was Mrs. Stuber.

This explains, maybe, how she was able to approach losing Laurie, and then Rick, with such strength of spirit. This explains how, when she reflected on the years since Laurie's death, she was able to see the hand of God working in bringing Jeremy to a place where he could grow into such an outstanding young man. She knew, as we heard from Romans, that "all things work together for good for those who love God."

For someone with such steadfast faith, we can rest with assurance that, on Tuesday morning, when Lois Ann Stuber took her final breath and opened her eyes again, she saw Jesus, who welcomed her into his loving arms and said to her, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your master."

This is why days like this are so special. We hold two emotions in tension. On the one hand, we know that Lois is no longer in any pain and is both resting and rejoicing in the loving embrace of Jesus. On the other hand, she's not here with us, at least in the way she's been for as long as we've known her. And that's tough.

A teacher can only hope that the seeds they plant will eventually grow into something that bears good fruit in their students. The same is true for all of us, in the relationships we cultivate and in the kind and generous things we do for others. The world is indeed a better place, full of good fruit, because Lois Stuber was in it, and we are all better people because she loved us.

When Fred Rogers was awarded the Emmy for Lifetime Achievement in 1997, he explained to the audience that “all of us have special people who have loved us into being,” after which he invited them to take 10 seconds to think about those people. I would invite us now to take 10 seconds to think of Lois, and the ways in which she has loved all of us into being, cared about us, and wanted what was best for us in life.

To the one who has finally received her heavenly reward, let us simply say: “Thank you.”



# Thank You

Ray Boltz

Key - D | Time - 4/4

## VERSE 1

D F#m<sup>7</sup>/C#  
I dreamed I went to Heaven  
Bm Bm<sup>7</sup> D/A D<sup>7</sup>/A  
You were there with me  
G A<sup>7</sup> F#m/A  
We walked upon the streets of gold  
G A<sup>7</sup>  
Be - side the crystal sea  
D A/C# A<sup>2</sup>/C#  
We heard the angels sing - ing  
Bm Bm<sup>7</sup> D/A D<sup>7</sup>/A  
Then someone called your name  
G A<sup>7</sup>  
You turned and saw this young man  
G G/A A<sup>7</sup> D  
He was smiling as he came

## VERSE 2

D F#m<sup>7</sup>/C#  
And he said friend you may not know me now  
Bm D/A  
Then he said but wait  
G G<sup>2</sup> A  
You used to teach my Sunday School  
G A<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup>/C#  
When I was only eight  
D F#m<sup>7</sup>/C#  
And ev'ry week you would say a pray'r  
B<sup>sus</sup> Bm D/A  
Be - fore the class would start  
G A<sup>7</sup>  
And one day when you said that pray'r  
A<sup>7sus</sup> G G/A A<sup>7</sup> D  
I asked Jesus in my heart

## CHORUS

D F#m/A Em/B Bm  
Thank you for giv - ing to the Lord  
G D/G Am<sup>11</sup> G/A D/A A<sup>7</sup>  
I am a life that was changed  
D<sup>2</sup> D F#m B<sup>sus</sup> Bm D/A  
Thank you for giv - ing to the Lord  
G Em/A F#m/A D  
I am so glad you gave

## VERSE 3

D F#m<sup>7</sup>/C#  
Then an - other man stood be - fore you  
Bm D/A  
He said remember the time  
G G<sup>2</sup> F#m<sup>7</sup>  
A mis - sionary came to your church  
E<sup>7sus</sup> Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup>/C#  
His pictures made you cry  
D A<sup>2</sup>/C#  
You didn't have much money  
Bm<sup>7</sup> D/A  
But you gave it any - way  
G A<sup>7</sup>  
Jesus took the gift you gave  
A<sup>7sus</sup> G Gmaj<sup>7</sup>/A Em/A D  
That's why I'm here to - day  
*in heaven*

## Chorus

## VERSE 4

D A<sup>2</sup>/C# Bm *your* D/A  
One by one they came far as the eye could see  
G A<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7sus</sup>  
Each life somehow touched  
G A<sup>7</sup>  
By your generosi - ty  
D A<sup>2</sup>/C# B<sup>sus</sup> Bm D/A  
Little things that you had done sac - rifices made  
G A<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7sus</sup> *you*  
Un - noticed on the earth  
G A<sup>7</sup> D  
In Heaven now pro - claimed

## VERSE 5

G D D<sup>2sus</sup> D  
I know up in Heaven you're not supposed to cry  
G D  
But I am almost sure there were tears in your eyes  
Bm  
As Jesus took your hand  
A<sup>7</sup> G/A F#m/A  
You stood before the Lord  
G  
He said My child look around you  
D/G Em/G A  
For great is your re - ward

## Chorus