

Memorials 2024 – 2025

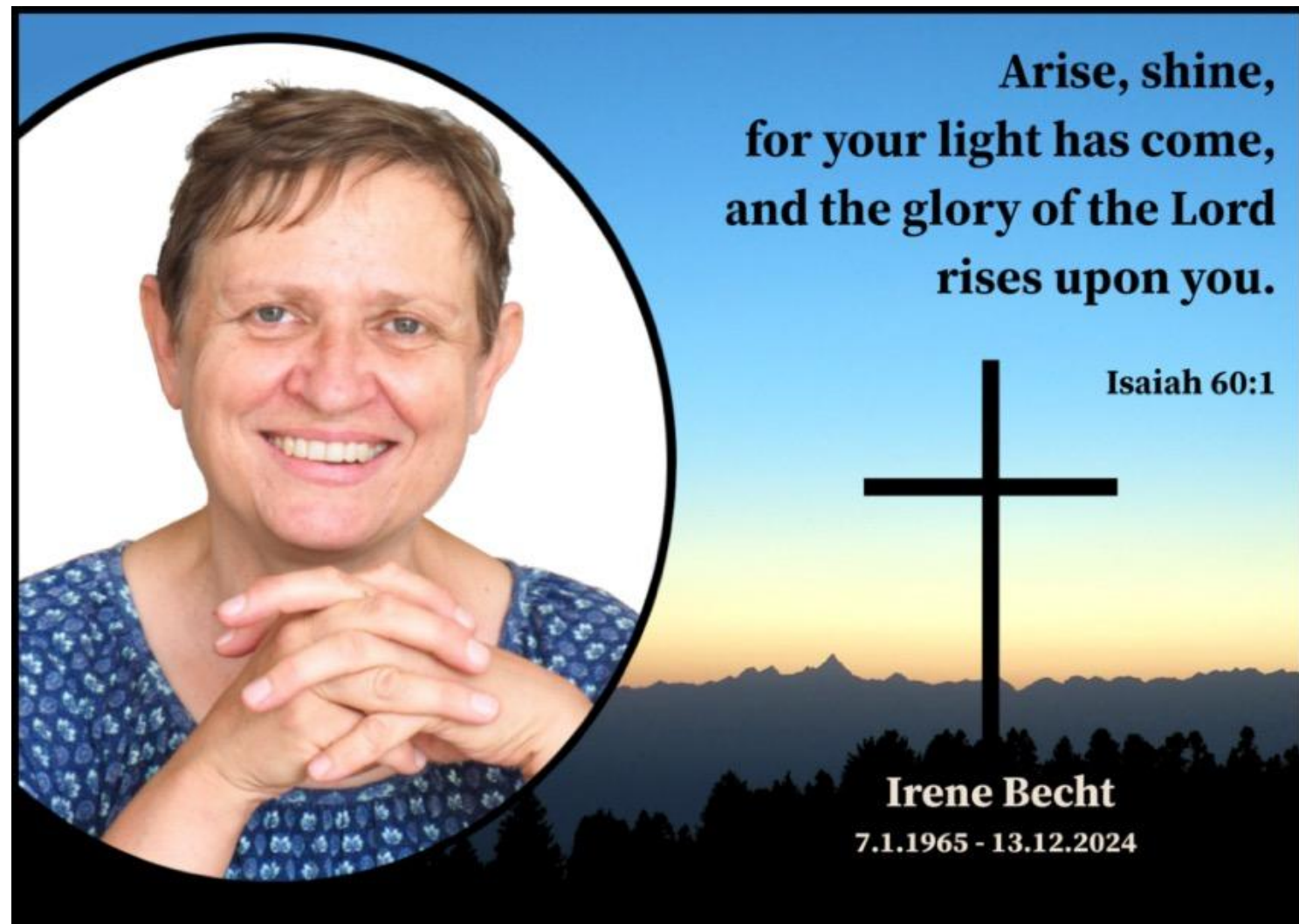
Organized by Ruthie Nygren Keller

Remembering those in our Pakistan Fellowship International who dedicated part of their life to Pakistan and passed away in late 2024 or 2025 (after the Pakistan Reunion in Sept 2024). We remember them in these pages and as we gather in person and online.

www.PakistanFellowship.org

- ❑ Irene Becht, 1965 – 2024
- ❑ Madeline Blanchard, 1934 – 2024
- ❑ Paul Gardner, 1947 – 2025
- ❑ Paul Johnson, 1956 – 2025
- ❑ Paul “Skip” Lundgren, 1945 – 2025
- ❑ Mary Jo McCurry, 1927 – 2024
- ❑ David Mitchell, 1932 – 2025
- ❑ Daphne Norris, 1937 – 2025
- ❑ Joanna Williams, 1965 - 2025

Irene Becht, 1965 - 2024





Madeline Blanchard, 1934 – 2024

- ❑ Madeline and Bob Blanchard traveled to Bach Christian Hospital (TEAM) from Canada in April 1966 with three tykes (Elizabeth, Jamie and Louise).
- ❑ Pakistan soon became Madeline's second home, but in 1967, something unforeseen happened. Jonathan, her fourth child contracted measles before his first birthday, which progressed to encephalitis with serious health issues.
- ❑ In 1973, the Blanchards went back to Canada for health care for Jonathan. He was miraculously healed (he did undergo intense speech therapy for 4 years to regain his speech ability.)
- ❑ For years, the Blanchards returned to Pakistan to fill in for 3-month stints at Bach Hospital. In 1984 at AgaKhan Hospital in Karachi and then in 1994-5 at Bach, Madeline helped design the Community Nursing curriculum.
- ❑ The Blanchards ministered through Member Care, bringing them to Pakistan for a month each year for 6 years.
- ❑ Madeline's greatest joy was her family. She is survived by many family members including 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren and Bob, her husband of 67 years.

Paul Gardner, 1947 – 2025

- ❑ Paul was born in Chicago to Arthur and Inger Gardner. He graduated from MCS in 1965 after which he served as an aircraft mechanic in the Navy from 1967 to 1972.
- ❑ Once back in the US, he joined the Jesus People evangelical Christian movement. It was during this time that his faith grew deep roots, and he also met Sara Hersey. They married in 1973.
- ❑ For the last 18 years of his career, he worked as a buyer for Boeing.
- ❑ Paul had an adventurous spirit and an insatiable thirst for knowledge – including recipes, hobbies and traveling.
- ❑ His greatest joy was his family and his walk with God. He was a member of Sound Life Church and supported Mission Forward plus many other missionaries.
- ❑ He is survived by his wife, Sara, of 52 years, all his children, grandchildren and eight great great-grandchildren.



Paul Johnson, 1956 – 2025



- ❑ Paul was born in Taxila Hospital and attended MCS through high school.
- ❑ Afterward he studied in three universities and completed a master's in International Relations and a Fellowship in Participatory Management.
- ❑ He returned to Pakistan in 1991 and set-up a Neem oil and soap manufacturing plant in Raj Mall in Rattanabad. He then married Philomena Drago in 1994.
- ❑ They moved to Kunri in 1995 where he managed Kunri Christian Hospital for 8 years. In Kunri he started a Rotary Club and initiated a "Rain Water Harvesting" project in the Thar desert where people could save enough water for their needs for up to 6 months.
- ❑ He opened a woman-owned, woman-run Mother & Child Center in Thar. He ran newly opened secondary care hospital in Chachro, Thar in 2012.
- ❑ He is survived by his wife and two children – son Daniel (and Miriam and their 3 children) and daughter Sindiya, and brothers, Bill, Phil, Tim.
- ❑ After a plus-three-year battle, Paul died in Mirpurkhas of prostate and bone cancer.

Paul “Skip” Lundgren, 1945 – 2025

- ❑ Paul, born in Chicago, moved to Pakistan with his parents (Paul and Virginia) in 1953.
- ❑ He loved Pakistan and attended MCS from second grade until he graduated in 1964.
- ❑ Once in the US, he attended Moody Bible Institute, singing in the chorale and, as he said, “majoring in ping pong.”
- ❑ After attending Office Training School, he was sent to Vietnam for a year.
- ❑ In 1971, he married Carolyn and attended Bethel College. In 1973, they moved to Santa Barbara, CA to attend Brooks Institute of Photography. His degrees were in Color/Industrial Design.
- ❑ Off they went back to the Chicago area; this time to open Lundgren Photography. Skip spent most of his career as a professional photographer.
- ❑ Skip attended the Orchard Evangelical Free Church in Arlington, IL, serving in the choir, audio/visual and board.
- ❑ He is survived by his wife, daughter Sharon, sister Nonie and Ray Wakeman, brother-in-law Bryon (Val) Weinstein and many cousins.



MaryJo McCurry, 1927 – 2024



- ❑ Mary Jo moved to Pakistan in 1957 and served with her husband Don in Lyallpur, Jhelum and Lahore.
- ❑ She had six children: Jo Ann, David, Mary Beth, Stephen, Ruthie and John (all students at MCS).
- ❑ She was a tremendous support to Don, including at the Zwemer Institute in Pasadena, CA, and the Ministries to Muslims in Colorado Springs.
- ❑ In “Tales that Teach” by Don, there is a faith story about how Mary Jo and Don opened their home to a man who was in a difficult position. As Don wrote: “Mary Jo was ‘having it out’ with the Lord. We had no money, and our three older children needed shoes. She prayed, ‘Lord, if you approve of what we have been doing, then prove it to me by sending me \$25 before noon today so that I can buy shoes for my children.’ At 11:50, a man named Bill Moore showed up with a large jar filled with money. He had been a chain smoker, and every time he wanted a cigarette, he put change into the jar. He said he had been asking the Lord what to do with the money. He gave it to Mary Jo and left. Don came home and found Mary Jo sitting on the kitchen floor, bawling her eyes out. There was a little over \$52 – more than twice what she asked for!
- ❑ Mary Jo is survived by her children, 12 grands, and 26 great-grandchildren.



David Mitchell, 1932 – 2025

- ❑ David was born in Los Angeles and spent his first eight years in Sumatra, Indonesia, where his parents, Hubert and Helen, served as missionaries.
 - ❑ His mother died in childbirth, and in 1942 Hubert and his four children escaped from Indonesia on the last ship out before the Japanese invasion.
 - ❑ After his dad remarried, their family moved to India and David graduated from Woodstock School in 1950. He was then ordained in the Open Bible Institute in 1955.
 - ❑ In 1959, he married Synnove whom he had grown up with in India. They went to Pakistan in 1961 and served there for 38 years with TEAM in Attock City, Abbottabad, Wah, Qalandarabad, Rawalpindi and Islamabad.
 - ❑ David was an evangelist who helped Muslim background believers worship together. He and Synnove spent hours of orienting and counseling other missionaries, visiting Pakistan regularly until 2015.
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- ❑ David introduced people to the joys of wild boar hunting, backpacking, and trout fishing, to name a few. He shared his love of Jesus with everyone he met!
 - ❑ Music was a huge part of his life. He and Synnove often spent an hour in the morning at the piano singing. They are famous for their duet “He Giveth More Grace” (music written by his father, Hubert.)
 - ❑ He is survived by his wife, three children, John, Joy and Jeffrey (MCS alumni), six grandchildren, and four siblings.



Daphne Norris, 1937 – 2025

- ❑ Daphne was born in South London and lived through WWII. In the 1950s she became a Christian at her church.
- ❑ After meeting her husband, Dennis, they attended the Billy Graham Revival, and in 1961, they headed to Pakistan. Dennis, an engineer, worked on the construction at MCS for three years. They went under BMMF (now InterServe).
- ❑ Their family spent most of their time in Pakistan in Lahore. While Dennis worked with ZOR Engineers, Daphne worked as a PE teacher at Lahore American School and other local schools.
- ❑ During their 50 years in Pakistan, they had four boys: Phil, Andy, Simon and Julian.
- ❑ For the last 20 years, Daphne lived on the Isle of Wight (UK) with Dennis. She kept busy with church activities and teaching English to summer students.
- ❑ She is survived by her husband, kids and grandkids.

Joanna Williams, 1965 – 2025

- ❑ Joanna was born in Karachi, accepted Christ at age 6, and started life at MCS at age 12.
- ❑ Although she intended to go to medical school, after getting her BS at Northwestern University in Iowa in 1987, she ended up at New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey and earned her Master of Div. She then moved back to Dubai to join her parents.
- ❑ In 1991, she and her family moved to Canada, where Joanna volunteered at Ebenezer Reformed Church. She then worked for Young Life in New York City. Two years later, she moved up to Winnipeg and worked with Teen Challenge.
- ❑ In 1992, she moved home to Mississauga, Ontario, to help care for her parents. For 24 years she worked at the Royal Bank of Canada as an associate adjudicator/mortgage specialist. She also helped as a youth pastor at Streetsville United for 7 years.
- ❑ Joanna lived and loved fiercely all those who struggled in life including the homeless, single mothers, prisoners, and drug addicts – anyone marginalized.
- ❑ In 2012, she established Rec4Youth, an organization that served at-risk-youth.
- ❑ Joanna impacted everyone she met. Her challenge: “Live a better life with God.”





Memorial

Prayer in Memory & Celebration of these lives – Irv Nygren

Eternal, caring God,

*As we remember and share the lives of many dear friends and colleagues.
Some of them have family members with us today.*

You have blessed us and Pakistan through them, and we are grateful.

*As we now face our futures, may the faithful obedience of those departed,
enhance our joy and faithfulness in our service of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

In that Name above all names, we pray.

Amen