



## Paul Dayhoff

October 8, 1925 - April 26, 2020

Paul Dayhoff was born October 8, 1925 in Brackpan, Transvaal, South Africa to Rev. Irvin Earl and Fannie (Longenecker) Dayhoff. Paul grew up in the Transvaal. He attended the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg and the Johannesburg College of Education where he majored in History and Sotho, graduating with his BA degree and Teaching Certificate. In September 1945 he was drafted into the United States Army at Accra, Gold Coast Africa (Ghana). He spent 20 months in the Army at the end of WW2. In 1948 he enrolled in Asbury Seminary, Wilmore, Kentucky, where he studied for an MDiv degree. While there he met Kathleen Taylor, and in September 1950 they were married. Soon afterward Paul was ordained into ministry by the International Holiness Mission (IHM). Kathleen died in February 1952. Later that year Paul met Margaret Stark.

After completing his degree at Asbury, Paul returned to South Africa alone as a missionary just in time to participate in a service of merger of IHM with the Church of the Nazarene. He corresponded with Margaret back in the States while she completed her education. Paul asked her in a letter to marry him. She replied, "Yes." After her college graduation she boarded a ship and sailed for South Africa, arriving in August 1954. They were married September 11, 1954 and were married for over 60 years. She preceded him in death on February 17, 2015.

Paul loved God and spent his life following God's call and direction. His life was spent teaching high school, Bible College, and degree education. He spent several years planting church congregations, building churches and parsonages, and of course, preaching and teaching every chance he got. He earned his Th.D. degree from The University of South Africa in 1980. Most of his missionary work was spent in South Africa and Swaziland. He was a wonderful husband and father and he loved his family. He was an avid reader, and he loved to fish and play games with his family. He was a lifelong learner and loved to teach. He loved Africa and the African people. He learned several languages and after he retired, he wrote a history of the African church people relating how God had changed their lives and used them to continue to spread God's word in Africa. He entered the eternal joys of Heaven on April 26, 2020 in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Paul and Margaret had 4 children: Paula (& Rev. H. Mark) Else, of Omaha, NE; Patricia Barnes, of Los Angeles, CA; Elizabeth (& Dayrel) Gates of Pella, IA; and James (Christy Overstreet) Dayhoff of San Diego, CA. Grandchildren include: Sherri (& Blaze) Criqui; Rachael Barnes; Anthony (& Jeanna) Else; Rebecca (& Lee) Williams; Emily (& Patrick) Heflin; Madalyn Gates; Julian Dayhoff, and Nicholas Dayhoff. Great-grandchildren include Abigail, Alexander, Jackson and James Else; Parker (& Jessica) Criqui and Hailey Criqui; Erin and Kaitlyn Williams; and Milo Heflin. A great-great-grandchild: Aiden Criqui. He also leaves his sister in law Elizabeth (& Dr. John) Taylor of Dayton, OH.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Kathleen Taylor Dayhoff, Margaret Stark Dayhoff, and son-in-law Ron Barnes.

As was his wish, Paul's body has been cremated and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. The Bates Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

# Comments

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“ Paul was an absolute treasure.  
I grew up across the street from him.  
I sat across the aisle from him each Sunday.  
In my personal mental dictionary his face has  
always been next to the definition of "Servant of God".  
He opened up the world to me with his stories of Africa.

A personal favorite memory came one day as I walked back from classes at Vennard College. Paul caught me just outside his house. "Bryan. Hello young man", he said. "I heard your band practicing the other day there in your garage. The drumming reminded me of the pagan tribes we heard in Swaziland." I didn't know how to respond. He continued, "Oh what a great talent God has given you. Remember to use it for His glory."

Thank you for taking the time to speak into the life of that noisy neighbor kid. Your words and life example have lived on in my heart and I pray I can be the "Paul Dayhoff" to so many children here in Bolivia.

**Bryan Canny** - May 04 at 10:45 AM

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“ Dear Wonderful Dayhoff family,  
We mourn with you. We love your family. Pat & I (Stotler), and our kids, Christy, Heidi, and Jonathan are praying for you. May "the God of all comfort", comfort and help you throughout the days ahead. Feel free to email us at anytime.



**Dale and Pat Stotler** - May 02 at 10:18 AM

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“ Gina McCombs lit a candle in memory of Paul Dayhoff





“ A flood a great memories fill my mind as I think of this great couple, Paul and Margaret Dayhoff. I was just a bare-foot MK growing up at Arthurseat when they came to live a few yards away, up the hill. Margaret could play a great game of checkers and would even let me win occasionally! Paul's Landrover with the loudspeakers mounted on top was recognized all over the bushveld. Blessings and Grace be on their family. The Kingdom has promoted a great warrior couple to Glory.

Dennis Schmelzenbach - April 30 at 11:47 PM

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“ I had the marvelous privilege of knowing Paul while we were together as faculty members of Nazarene Theological College, Muldersdrift, South Africa. The years, 1991 - 1993 were Dayhoffs' concluding years of missionary service. My family and I moved to NTC in January, 1991, where I would serve as the Rector (Principal) for 4 years. As I got to know Paul I learned very soon that his love for God was evident in his life, his teaching and preaching, his love for his students and for all the people of South Africa whom he knew.

Paul (and Margaret) taught me so much about the history of the Nazarene mission work in South Africa. He also gave me ongoing lessons in the culture and ethos of the African people whom he had served so faithfully and effectively. It was a privilege to sit in his office, or in the lounge of their house, and listen to him tell the stories he knew. I have been glad that he made the time to write down and publish the history which he understood so well. He kindly presented me with copies of his first manuscripts in the form of spiral bound booklets. Nancy and I still treasure them.

Paul had a special place on the program for the December, 1993 graduation ceremony for NTC. He was to bid farewell to the congregation for Margaret and himself. He spoke for at least ten minutes, if not fifteen, and as he progressed through his speech he spoke in four languages -- English, Afrikaans, Zulu, and Pedi. It was amazing to see and to hear. And as he moved to each language, those whose home language he spoke would, each time, cheer and clap as they heard him speaking to them. It was a most appropriate valedictory for the life of service which Paul gave to the people of South Africa.

In the latter portion of 1994, Nancy and I felt clearly that God's will for us meant I should accept the offer to come to Southern Nazarene University to serve as Professor of New Testament and Chair of the Department of Religion. In that capacity I would fill one faculty vacancy, but there was another that went unfilled. That provided the opportunity to invite Paul to come to SNU as our visiting professor of theology. He agreed, so he brought Margaret and they lived in a house in Bethany owned by the university. The English Department learned that Margaret's teacher training and experience included teaching English. So they offered her the opportunity to teach an English class as a substitute. and she accepted the

opportunity. It was such a joy to have them with us for those months.

A concluding comment: Our daughter and son, Melissa and Everett, had the privilege of knowing Paul and Margaret as Uncle and Auntie Dayhoff. That was a long-standing tradition among the missionary families. but it was far more than just a tradition for us. All of the Cauthrons felt and appreciated so much the friendship which we shared with Paul and Margaret.

Hal and Nancy Cauthron  
Bethany, OK

Hal A, Cautheon - April 30 at 06:24 PM

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“ Paul and Margaret Dayhoff were our gracious host and hostess when we were in Port Elizabeth for three months in 1987. They were great missionaries who had a vision of what South Africa could become. Paul's work, "Africa Nazarene Mosaic" (1999) is widely respected in missiological circles as being a forerunner of the Africa Dictionary of Christian Biography. He was a man ahead of his time. It was a joy to see him again recently at the Iowa District Assembly. He will be missed. We send our love and condolences to his fine family.

Chuck and Doris Gailey

Chuck and Doris Gailey - April 30 at 04:31 PM

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“ What a privilege it was to serve with and learn from Paul. He was mentor to us and uncle to our children. Many fond memories surfaced as I saw this wonderful picture of him and his smile. --Carol Rotz

Carol Rotz - April 30 at 12:21 PM

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“ I always seeing him in our church every Sunday

Heidi - April 30 at 08:21 AM

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“ We send our condolences to the Dayhoff families.  
My parents worked with Pauls parents in South Africa as well as the Paul and Margaret Dayhoff family. Dayhoff is a name fondly remembered from my childhood. A number of years ago my mother Betty Emslie would receive correspondence from Paul. He wrote "Living Stones in Africa" Pioneers of the Church of the Nazarene. He did a great job recording a part of South African history for the those who follow on.

Megan (Emslie) Cockwell, Durban South Africa.

Megan Cockwell - April 30 at 04:56 AM

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“ I dearly love and now I miss my father-in-law, Dr. Paul Dayhoff, who went to Glory last Sunday evening. He loved the Lord with his whole heart and freely told others about Christ when opportunity presented. He often told us that he prayed for Paula and me and our children, daily.

In 1991, Paula and I had the best vacation trip with our young children, Anthony and Becky; we went to RSA to visit the Dayhoffs on the mission field for 3+ weeks. What cherished memories!

When we last visited him, we offered a final prayer for him just before we left, thinking it might be our last time together on earth. However, SURPRISE! After our "final" prayer was finished, in typical Oupa Dayhoff fashion he began praying for God's blessing upon us! His unexpected prayer truly surprised and blessed us! I've felt privileged to have him as my Father-in-Law.

H. Mark Else - April 30 at 01:29 AM