

Bill Pritchard, Jr., 74, Nebraska

William Henry Pritchard, Jr., 74, of Omaha, Nebraska, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, Dec. 14, 2006, after more than 55 years of faithful service to God.

Bill was born in Wheeling, WV on July 5, 1932, to Ruth and William H. Pritchard Sr. Bill



became an older **B. Pritchard** brother, three-

years later to his brother, Bob. Bill went to Wheeling High School, where he excelled at his studies and graduated first in his class. He began wrestling at the local YMCA and won the state championship at 127 lb. class in 1950.

In college, Bill studied chemical engineering at the University of West Virginia where he continued to excel in studies and in wrestling. He never lost a match in four years and during his senior year, he won the coveted Southern Conference at 137 lbs. Bill can also be credited with helping to start the wrestling program at Lynnville-Sully during the time he served as preacher at the Sully Community Church.

Bill accepted Christ as his Savior at 19. He soon began preaching, in which his first sermon only lasted 10 minutes. Bill then applied to Princeton Seminary and began divinity studies. After meeting Dr. Lewis Johnson from the Dallas Theological Seminary, he transferred to Dallas. He hitch-hiked his way to Dallas, which made his mother very upset.

While at seminary, he met his wife, Geri. They were married in May of 1957 in Dallas. Their first daughter, Lydia, was born in February of 1959. After graduation, Bill and his family, moved to Idaho. He served as preacher for the Donelly Bible Church. After two years at Donelly, Bill was called to the Sully Community Church. The Dutch community was a wonderful place to live and minister for the next seven years. Their son,

Paul, was born in Pella, and he thinks he is Dutch because of his wonderful childhood there.

The Pritchards moved to Memphis, TN, in 1968, when Bill became the Dean of Students at Mid-South Bible College. His professional duties included teaching Bible and Theology, as well as history and P.E. He began his doctoral studies at an extension of the University of Tennessee.

In 1972, the family moved to the University of Tennessee where Bill finished his doctoral work. He also served as the part-time pastor of Berean Bible Church and loved to visit the Smoky Mountains. They later moved to Michigan where Bill was chairman of the department of Systematic Theology and Detroit Bible College. He often did pulpit supply as well as serving as an elder at Fellowship Bible Church, and the interim pastor of the Chinese Bible Church.

In 1976, the family moved to Omaha so Lydia could attend Grace College of the Bible. He took a position as chairman of the Pastoral Ministries Department. Bill taught at Grace and Lydia and Paul both graduated during this time. Soon after arriving in Omaha, Bill and Geri began a pastoral ministry at Oaks Community College in Emerson, where they ministered for 27 years.

Bill was a wonderful dad who always had time for his kids. He gave good advice and encouragement to them. He was a faithful and committed husband to his wife, Geri, and next year would have been their 50th anniversary.

He is survived by his wife, his two children and their spouses, and his eight grandchildren: Sarah, Rebecca, Nathan, Anna, Maria, Rachel, Katherine and Alexander.

Bill's memorial services were held Dec. 18, at the Community Bible Church in Omaha, Nebraska with his son-in-law, Reverend Charles Tschetter officiating. Graveside services were held at the Cedar Dale Cemetery in Papillion, Nebraska.

DT- Jan 17, 2007

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DT- Jan 10, 2007