Ruth Jennings
A Life Well Lived

Eulogy: Wilfried Kramer, Carmichael, California; Dave Jennings, St. Helena, California
Sermon: Henry Dering, Cameron Park, California

On December 24, 2010, after an eighteen-month battle with cancer, our dear Sister Ruth Jennings drew her last breath. At her bedside were her precious children, who had faithfully walked beside her as she journeyed through the valley of the shadow of death. They had given her courage, comfort, and strength. She had continued to impart words of wisdom and never-ending love to each one until she finally could speak no more.

On December 31, she was lovingly laid to rest. More than 200 people gathered to remember her life, her work, and her love for Jesus. The following is a summary of the eulogy written by her brother and fourth son, as well as the sermon delivered by Pastor Henry Dering.

Eulogy

Ruth Esther Kramer Jennings was born on July 5, 1926, at a dog kennel owned by her grandfather in Royal Oaks, Michigan. Shortly after her birth, the Great Depression hit, and Ruth’s parents struggled to make ends meet. Her father, Pastor Oscar Kramer, worked at whatever job he could find to support his growing family. They didn’t have much money, but in miracle after miracle God provided for their needs.

One miracle directly involved Ruth. At the age of nine, she came down with appendicitis. Antibiotics were in their infancy at that time, so surgery was risky but necessary if she was to live. Infected appendices often rupture and can cause massive abdominal infection that without antibiotics is usually fatal. When the doctor went in to remove Ruth’s appendix, he found it had ruptured; but, miraculously, a sack had formed around the appendix preventing the infection from leaking into the abdominal cavity.

In 1937, the Kramer family moved to Sacramento, California. By this time, there were two more siblings in the family, and Ruth took care of them while her parents worked. As soon as she was old enough, Ruth went to work as well. She got a job as a switchboard operator at the California Hotel in Sacramento where she worked with her father, younger brother, and younger sister. Each day, their mother brought them a hot meal wrapped in newspaper. All of Ruth’s earnings went to supplement the family income.

On September 3, 1950, Ruth Kramer became Ruth Jennings when she wed Orville Jennings. Soon after, Ruth began the most important job of her life as a stay-at-home mother.
mom to their six children—Alayne, Steve, Phil, Jon, David, and Shari.

Every year Ruth and Orville planted a large garden. They would also buy a lot of fruit from nearby orchards to can. One year they canned a thousand quarts of fruits and garden vegetables. The house did not have air conditioning and the kitchen would become stifling hot and humid. But Ruth, Orville, and the kids kept up with the work until the job was done.

Tragedy struck in February 1971, when Orville was killed in a motorcycle accident. Now a single mother, Ruth had to take on the roles of mother and father. The family struggled financially for several years until Ruth was able to gain employment with the Rancho-Cordova School District.

In the years following Orville’s death, Ruth took the kids on a number of road trips. Many of these were to church events; but on the way there and back, the family would go to national and state parks and historical landmarks. Ruth wanted her kids to be able to see and experience a variety of things.

Ruth loved the Lord and at the age of 14 dedicated her life to Him. She witnessed for Jesus every chance she got. Even while recuperating from colon surgery she was able to witness to one of her nurses at the hospital and send an evangelistic DVD home with him.

She was also a very dedicated member of the church and held many offices, including American Union Newsletter Editor and local church secretary. She kept up her secretarial duties at the Sacramento church for over 20 years and, even though battling cancer, agreed to again accept this position at the beginning of 2010. These duties she faithfully carried out until November 2010.

Ruth was never wealthy, but she always had just enough to help others. She gave rides, made phone calls, and wrote letters of encouragement to many. She always took an interest in others and had a kind word for everyone.

Ruth was a hard worker. Over the last several months of her illness, she expressed how she did not have energy to do the things she wanted to do and felt guilty because she thought she would give the appearance of being lazy. Ruth was also fiercely independent. Although in severe pain, she delayed taking potent pain medication because it meant she would be unable to drive.

Two days before she passed away, Ruth lapsed into a coma. Very soon she will awaken to hear her Lord saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant;… enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” Matthew 25:23.

Sermon Excerpts

We read in Psalm 90 these inspired words of King David: “For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are three-score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.” Psalm 90:9, 10, 12.

Again we read in Job: “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.” Job 14:1, 2.

And from the apostle James in the New Testament: “Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.” James 4:14.

Scripture compares life to transitory and ephemeral things. Funerals remind us that, until Jesus returns, death is near and inevitable for us all.

When Jesus returns, the faithful will be called out of their graves. Those who have died will live again. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.” John 11:25.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4.
Ruth was positive and courageous even near the end of her life. She understood the story of Job and never once questioned God or blamed Him for her failing health. She was at peace with God, even while suffering from cancer. She knew this life is temporary and that eternal life with the Lord is what truly matters.

About a month ago, Alayne talked with her mother about Christ’s second coming. She pointedly asked her mother. “You have waited all your life for Jesus to come again. Are you disappointed that you will not now see Jesus?” Ruth’s faith was unshaken and she replied, “No, I will see Him at the resurrection.” What a faithful testimony from a faithful mother in Israel!

I believe that the most significant work of Ruth’s life was raising and educating her six children—Alayne, Steve, Jon, Phil, Dave, and Shari. Theirs was a big family ruled by love and respect. Ruth taught them good moral principles and old-fashioned values. Her dear children are a testament to her self-sacrificing and loving investment in them. I believe that, next to God, a loving Christian mother is the greatest treasure on earth.

Besides her many daily chores associated with raising six children, Ruth lovingly sowed the gospel seeds of truth to those with whom she came in contact. She shared her beliefs with countless people. It was a joy for Ruth to reach out to the unsaved. God blessed her efforts, and they were successful. Many years ago, she witnessed to one lady who was disillusioned with life and searching for meaning—her name was Dorothy Demarest. It was Ruth who was instrumental in leading Dorothy to Jesus Christ. Dorothy, in turn, was used by the Lord to lead her children and many others to Jesus Christ. Also, it was Dorothy who was instrumental in leading me to the foot of the cross when I was a young man living in New York City. I am deeply grateful to Ruth for reaching out to Dorothy Demarest, who in turn reached out in love to me. I am very grateful and personally indebted for their missionary zeal. John the Revelator wrote: “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.” Revelation 14:13.

Are you ready to meet Jesus? How can you get ready for the heavenly kingdom? Here is the answer: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

Editor’s Note: The slide show shown at Sr. Ruth’s funeral may be seen at www.youtube.com. Simply enter “Ruth Jennings” in the search box. The video is entitled, “In Memorium: Ruth Jennings.”

The Mystery of God
Christian Nelson, Wilton, CA

The year 2010 is over! 2011 is here! We are closer to our Lord’s return! Hallelujah!

I can confidently declare to you the season in which we are living. The branch is tender, and the fig tree has put forth its leaves showing that summer is indeed nigh. Matthew 24:32. What does the faithful Word of God declare of those who enter into summer? “This generation shall not pass, till all these things [the gathering of the elect] be fulfilled.” Matthew 24:34.

Brethren, we are entering summer! The fruit of His kingdom (the 144,000) will be gathered! The nations are coming together! The ten toes are seeking to be united! The beast with lamb-like horns is giving power and authority to the first beast! It’s all happening so quickly!

So what are we to do today? Who are we to be? Watchmen! We must blow the trumpet and proclaim the everlasting gospel from the rooftops, “Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come.” Revelation 14:7. The gospel proclaimed by Jesus Christ was the close of probation for the nation of Israel. Today we have that same gospel to proclaim as earth’s close of probation is near at hand.

There’s a special message, a promise of fulfillment, given to us who enter summer. In Revelation 10:7, we read:
“But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He hath declared to His servants the prophets.”

The seventh angel began to sound in 1844. At that time, the anticipated close of prophetic time was sweet as honey to God’s people. However, the joy they experienced soon turned to bitter disappointment after October 22, 1844, when their Lord Jesus did not come back. But then, the book of Revelation was opened to them, specifically Revelation 11:19. Here the mystery of God begins to be revealed.

What is the “mystery of God” that is mentioned in Revelation 10:7? Colossians 1:26, 27, gives the answer. “Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” The mystery is “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

From 1844 until today, this mystery has been, and continues to be, fulfilled through the proclamation of the full gospel—not just a partial, perverted gospel, but the full gospel of Jesus Christ.

What does this full gospel encompass? It gives each person the experience of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, of being cleansed and made perfect, being made a new creature in Christ Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:17. It includes a new mind and a new heart. Ezekiel 18:31; 1 John 3:9. It is about walking worthy of the Lord, being fruitful in every good work, increasing in the knowledge of God, and being strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power. Colossians 1:10, 11. It is a gospel of overcoming and of gaining the victory against Satan, temptation, and sin. Ephesians 6:12. It requires the working out of our own salvation with fear and trembling to make our election sure. Philippians 2:12; 2 Peter 1:10. It warns of the upcoming close of probation and judgment. Revelation 22:11. It shows us the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary being opened which no man can shut, and the Holy Place being closed which no man can open. Revelation 3:7. This is not a gospel of peace and safety but of watching and blowing the trumpet. Ezekiel 33:3-20. Finally, it is the gospel of hope, joy, and peace with God through Jesus Christ.

Jesus is leading a people to stand in the days ahead. Only those who have the mystery fulfilled in them; who are sealed in their forefronts with the living seal of God; who are truly born again, born of the Spirit; perfect, without guile or deceit; who are clothed in the pure white garments of righteousness; who are overcomers, victors; those who have conformed their lives to what the Spirit teaches, will be able to stand.

The enemy of souls is striving with all his mastery and subtlety to overthrow the messages of God’s prophet before the close of this world’s history. All his energies are directed against not only the Bible and prophecy but also against the prophetic foundation that was laid in 1843. Satan is roaring about seeking who he may devour. Hold fast!

Dearly beloved, 2011 brings us closer to that most dreadful, yet glorious event. The shoots are coming out! Summer is at hand! The end is almost here!!

Are you born again? Is His seed in you? Is your mind pure and holy? Is the love of Jesus flowing out to every soul you meet? Are the words you speak pure and noble? Are your actions good, holy, honest, and upright? Looking unto Jesus as your example, are you a child of God? Are you proclaiming the full gospel message by your actions and words?

Let us confess all of our sins to our Father through Jesus Christ! Let us repent and be baptized into a new life! Let us open our heart’s door to let the Saviour in so He may dwell with us, make His abode in us, and then sup with us.

Then, with confidence and assurance, let us look ahead to 2011 with the determination of a soldier, ready to fight and conquer all—ready to herald the coming close of probation and our King’s triumphant return to claim His bride.

2011 Calendar

- **August 23-24, 2011**: American Union Delegates’ Meetings
- **August 24-27, 2011**: American Union Conference at Cohutta Springs Campground in Crandall, Georgia