

ALMA MAY SCARBOROUGH

SCARBOROUGH, ALMA MAY. Died (date) at the age of (age). She was born January 2, 1913, in Alta Mira, Mexico. She was the second child of Belle Laughlin Clark and Walton Chandler Clark. In 1913, the family moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, and lived in and around the area for twelve years, before moving to Robstown, Texas. Alma May graduated from high school in Robstown; then graduated from Texas A&I College in Kingsville, Texas, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics. She did post-graduate study at the University of Texas and Peabody College. She taught in public schools in Texas—at La Gloria, Falfurrias, Benavides, and Karnes City. Alma May received her Master of Science degree in Child Development from Iowa State College in Ames, Iowa, in 1938. She later taught Child Development at Louisiana Tech (Ruston, Louisiana); West Texas State Teachers College (Canyon and Amarillo); Oklahoma A&M (Stillwater, Oklahoma); and Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, Louisiana). She attended Belmont College (Nashville, Tennessee) and Southern Baptist Seminary (Louisville, Kentucky).

She had experiences which helped guide her in ways she felt God was leading her. Her first year of teaching at the ages of 19-20 helped her wonder about her life. During the summer she went to business school in Corpus Christi, TX, where she stayed with a friend she had in high school. Alma May passed all the tests except she didn't quite pass short-hand. She taught second grade the second year and suddenly knew her life was not to be with machines but with

people! Surely God let her know that helping people learn was her goal. There was no doubt in her decision.

Alma May taught preschoolers in the morning and students in the afternoon Preschool Education at Louisiana Tech. During the year a friend, Nan Morgan, talked to Alma May about becoming in charge of Baptist students on the campus. She had always gone to church morning, night, and Wednesday night, but had never been a leader. Nan Morgan wanted her to be in charge of taking students to a Southwide Baptist Student Convention in Memphis, Tennessee. Alma May hesitated but finally went. The students were very outgoing in their Christian living. She heard outstanding speakers. Toward the end of the week a minister touched her heart—she was changing. Another minister also amazed her. She was changing. God touched her heart. She wept. She had never taught in Sunday School or Training Union. She wept often on the way home as they motored in a bus during the night. For the first time she knew God wanted her to teach in the church. A week later the associate pastor appeared and asked Alma May to teach 11 year olds, and she said indeed she would. Her life changed.

Alma May delighted in teaching and learned so much. She began reading the Bible more (and religious books). She was amazed at what she learned in class and through contact with other Christian teachers.

She moved to Louisiana State University and was asked to teach college students. There she met two special ladies, Ann Lee and Grace Else, and they remained friends until they died. How great they were. Alma May learned so much from them. She taught at LSU for three years. The thought kept coming to her. She would like to go to the Seminary, but didn't know how to do it.

Then one day Truett L. Scarborough, a lawyer in Ruston, Louisiana, came to town asking friends from Louisiana Tech, Dr. and Mrs. Lockridge, about Alma May. Well, after two dates, she was engaged to Mr. Scarborough! A few weeks before that, she had awakened one night and heard, "You are going to marry Truett Scarborough." She said, "I am not." But she did. Gone were her seminary thoughts. She married in 1946.

Truett had three children: Elizabeth Scarborough (Indiana), Dorothy Kinard (deceased), and Truett Lee Scarborough (Louisiana). Alma May and Truett had two children—Bettie Lynn Scarborough (Nashville, Tennessee) and Clark L. Scarborough (Houston, Texas). Her husband, Truett, died after 2 years. What a blow! "God, you will surely have to see me through," Alma May prayed.

Today, Alma May has seven grandchildren: Steven Scarborough, Cathy Goodman, David Goodman (wife Tracey), Kelly Ford, Kris Prince, Melissa Trice, and Lee Scarborough and seven great-grandchildren. Alma May has two sisters: Louise White of Dallas, Texas and Bonnie Haner of Alice, Texas—one a year older and one a year younger than she. She has one nephew (Toxie White, Jr.) and three nieces (Linda Leach, Yvonne Everton, and Peggy Itheme). She also has two great nephews (Jonathan Leach and Todd White) and three great nieces (Kristin Rigsby, Anna Haas, and Zina Everton).

Alma May was an active member of Baptist Churches through the years. Her family attended Sunday School, Church services, Training Union, Vacation Bible School, and Bible study courses. Her mother and father always had Bible readings and prayers each night. Her mother always taught classes at the churches they attended. Alma May called her mother a saint. Alma May also taught preschoolers for many years.

Alma May moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in July 1955, and became editor of preschool materials for the Baptist Sunday School Board, where she was employed for 23 years. She edited several magazines, led many preschool conferences, and wrote many preschool songs and articles for preschool teachers and parents. She authored two preschool books—*I Help Too* and *Sing Me a Bible Song*.

A work experience changed her life while she was a preschool editor at the Baptist Sunday School Board. After a few years there, personnel changes were being made. She told her boss which magazines she wanted to edit. Well, he openly announced that Alma May would edit a different age-group publication than the one that she wanted. She was crushed and thought about leaving, but stayed on. She wasn't friendly to her boss. One day walking to town, a voice came to her, "You are going to get another job." She felt so happy. She went home happy and went to bed happy.

The next morning she was reading in the book *Habitation of Dragons* by Keith Miller. Suddenly, she read something that caused her to understand, "Hey, you are not leaving, you are staying here." She jumped for joy. God revealed it to her. She went back to work so happy. Friends were amazed. Why the change? She was so joyful that joy became her theme song. Her special friends, Deane Langdom, Gail Linam, ^TDeenie Tearheiley, and Polly Dillard, shared her joy. Joy became her favorite word. She concentrated on friends and that enriched her life. Joy was her special theme song every day. God revealed so much to her and her life expanded. She concentrated on friends and that enriched her life.

Somehow, Alma May Scarborough had mastered the profound, heart-warming art of being a true friend. Fostering long friendships which only

deepened and flourished over the years, her delightful calls, letters, cards, and soul-nourishing remembrances cultivated joy in those she lavishly loved. Her deep celebration of the lives of family and friends saw only their best.

Alma May was an active member of the Southern Association on Children Under Six (SACUS), serving as vice-president for two years. While an active member, she wrote the history of SACUS.

After retirement, Alma May traveled to Israel, England, China, Spain, Hawaii, Mexico, and Canada as well as extensively within the United States. She moved to Richland Place in 2000 and to the Richland Health Center in 2006, where she died.

Memorial services will be held at Glendale Baptist Church, 1021 Glendale Lane, Nashville, (give date). Mark Caldwell, Amy Mears, and April Baker will assist with the service. Alma May Scarborough was an active member at Glendale Baptist Church for many years. She enjoyed her family and the many friends she made over her lifetime and loved to share her time and possessions—always with a joyful smile.

All of the good that she has fostered in others lives on today! Of Alma May Scarborough, Jesus will say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

You are invited to share your thoughts and memories of Alma May at her memorial service.

(AMS composed 5/2007)