

Christian Studies

A PUBLICATION OF THE FACULTY OF AUSTIN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

VOLUME 20 / 2004

In Memoriam



Dr. William Stewart
1941–2003

ἡ ζωὴ ὑμῶν κέκρυπται σὺν τῷ Χριστῷ ἐν τῷ θεῷ . . . ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς φανερωθῇ, ἡ ζωὴ ὑμῶν, τότε καὶ ὑμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ φανερωθήσεσθε ἐν δόξῃ.
Colossians 3:3–4

Dr. William (Bill) Wayne Stewart, son of Roy and Gladys Stewart, was born June 8, 1941, in Austin, Texas, where he died on December 4, 2003. Bill graduated from the University of Texas, Texas Tech University, and the University of Southern California.

Bill had a lifetime interest in education, serving as a director at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. He was especially interested in Christian education, serving on the Board of Brentwood Christian School and as an adjunct faculty member of Austin Graduate School of Theology.

Bill is survived by his wife Becky, his son Landon and daughter-in-law, Lana, two grandsons, Christian and Casey, and his sister, Jan Colley. Bill's first wife, Daphren, died in 1986.

From 1973 Bill was a member of Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ where he taught classes and for several years faithfully composed prayers for the order of worship. He was a man of deep personal faith who was sensitive to all those around him. He viewed all life as God's gift and sought to live in a manner showing gratitude for those who have gone before and concern for those who follow.

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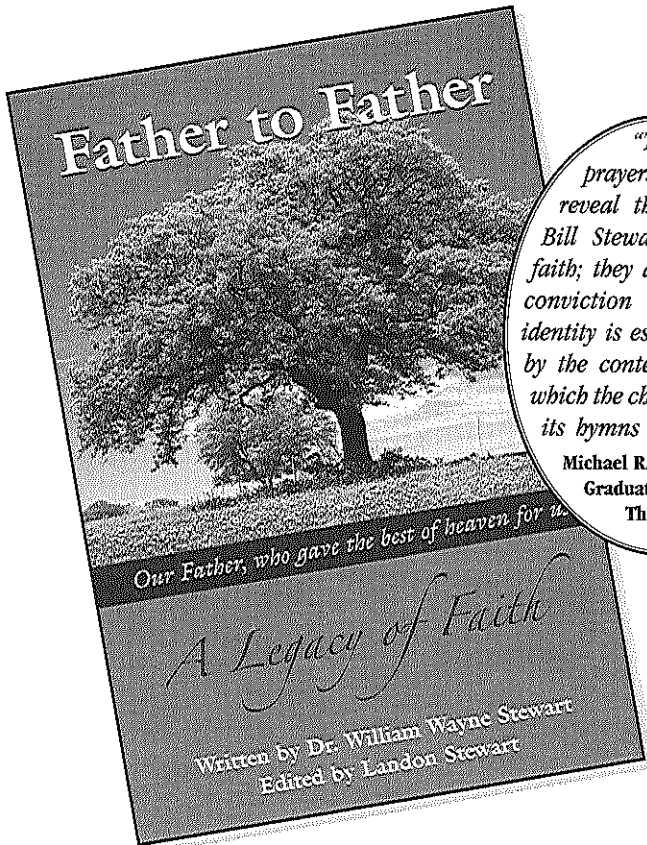
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There are times in life when prayer is needed, but the words just won't come. We know it's appropriate to cast all our cares on Him—as well as our thanksgiving and praise—but we struggle to find the words. To that end, the prayers in *Father to Father* are offered as models of thoughtful, contemplative prayers to assist us in our own prayer life.

– from the Foreword by Landon Stewart



"These prayers not only reveal the depth of Bill Stewart's personal faith; they also convey his conviction that Christian identity is essentially shaped by the content of the faith which the church affirms in its hymns and prayers."

Michael R. Weed, Austin
Graduate School of
Theology

218 pages – soft cover
\$16.95 plus shipping/handling
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Remembering a Friend
A Tribute to Dr. Bill Stewart

Austin Graduate School of Theology
CHRISTIAN STUDIES
Number 20 2004 ©

David Worley

Our colleague and dear friend, Dr. Bill Stewart, fell asleep in Christ on December 4, 2003. Bill's day job until his retirement had been skillfully administering financial aid for students in Texas. For many years, however, Bill had graciously taught English courses at our school when called upon and, more recently, was beginning to help us in our accreditation office. Bill always responded with kindness and encouraging words relative to our work.

Bill thought long and hard about Christian education, and not only at the college level. Bill understood the history and philosophy of higher education through his own doctoral studies and he was able to clarify issues facing us all with much insight. Bill served on the board of Brentwood Christian School (and as its chairman), carefully crafting policies and directions for its present and future. Bill was generous with his time and resources as Brentwood Christian School expanded its high school programs.

A quiet and studious man, Bill loved the church extending his graces to her in teaching and writing. His Bible teaching was always the result of thoughtful reading and rereading of the text. His prayers, printed weekly in

the order of worship, gave the Brentwood Oaks Church of Christ fresh ways to pray. These prayers have been edited and published by his son Landon, that another generation may benefit from his father's own discipleship.*

Bill left no stone unturned, not only in his own careful study of the scripture (and English literature) but also, literally, in his own loving observations of the physical world. Hikes through the mountains of the Southwest stirred his imagination and refreshed his spirit. His life was richly blessed through the common interests he shared with his wife, an educator as well, Becky Stewart.

Bill was so proud of his son, his wife, and grandchildren. We learned so much by watching Bill's love and care for his first wife Daphren through her own long battle with cancer. We also benefited from Bill's presence in church assemblies even as he experienced the ravages of cancer.

Dear Bill, we remember your faithfulness to the church, to your family, to your friends, and to the schools you loved. We remember your deliberateness and thoughtfulness in all you did. What you composed, in poetry or prose, was refined and intentional. We all learned from you, more than you know or perhaps accept. We thank you for the words you gave us to express our thoughts and feelings to the Father, words far beyond our own, gifts of the Holy Spirit. Like the Lamentations, you have given us ways to express and understand our grief and pain. You were a man of sorrows in many ways but "faith, hope and love abide."

The Father's love protected you, until you fell asleep in His son. Grace and Peace.

* *Father to Father: A Legacy of Faith*, 218 pages, is available through the Austin Graduate School of Theology Bookstore, or by writing StrawHat Publications, 9875 South Florence Place, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126 at \$16.95 per copy (plus shipping).

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