



## Reverend Melvin L. Schaper

August 30, 1920 - August 9, 2015

Reverend Melvin L. Schaper departed this life on Sunday, Aug. 9, 2015, in Ochelata, OK. Services will be held 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, at the Bible Holiness Church in Ochelata. Graveside services will be 4 pm on the same day at Mount Hope Cemetery in Independence, KS. Visitation will be Friday, Aug. 21, 6 p.m. at the Bible Holiness Church. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home.

Melvin Louis Schaper was born Aug. 30, 1920 in Troy, MO, the first child of Albert Henry and Willie Mae (Conley) Schaper. He grew up on the family farm and was his father's main helper. He began high school at age 18, after his younger siblings were able to help carry the load at home.

After graduation he went on to college, obtaining several degrees. He attended God's Bible School and University of Cincinnati, Ohio, 1941-1943, then transferred to Greenville College in Illinois. He earned degrees in Education and Theology: BA, Greenville College 1945; BD (now MDiv), Asbury Seminary 1947; ThM, Princeton Theological Seminary, 1948; and MS Ed, Pittsburg State Teachers College, 1962. He later received an Honorary Doctorate of Ministries degree from God's Bible School.

He was married to Carol Joy Firkins on Nov. 11, 1948, in Downey, CA, and they moved to Independence where they assisted in founding the

Independence Bible School. Seven children were born into their loving home at Independence: Nathan Louis, Ruth Elizabeth, Charles Melvin, Albert Keith, Stephen Neil, Quentin Philip and Kent Firkins.

In 1964, God called Melvin and Joy to the island of Grenada, where together they founded the St. John's Christian Secondary School. Melvin also taught at Independence Junior College, Pittsburg State Teachers College Lab School, Kansas City College and Bible School, and God's Bible School and College.

He was a licensed minister of the Bible Holiness Church (formerly Fire Baptized Holiness Church) headquartered in Independence, and a member of the Bible Holiness Church, Ochelata. Rev. Schaper pastored churches in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Grenada, as well as serving on various governing boards and leadership positions for his denomination. He also served on the Board of God's Bible School in Ohio.

In 2001, Rev. and Mrs. Schaper were honored by the Prime Minister and Gov. General of Grenada for outstanding service in the field of education in the nation. He was also recently given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Committee of the Grenada 2015 Award Week, as the Principal who had the most uplifting impact in Grenada during the decade of the 1970s.

One of the hardest days of his life was Nov. 12, 2010, when God called his loving wife Joy home to heaven. On Oct. 26, 2013, Melvin was united in marriage to Evalyn Rose Nielsen in Bethany, OK. For the last 22 months of his life, Evalyn beautified his home with her loving ways and beautiful paintings.

His first love, after God, was his family. He was a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He enjoyed gardening, traveling and spending time with family and many friends.

He leaves to mourn: his wife Evalyn of the home; seven children, Nathan, Ruth, Charles, Albert, Stephen, Quentin and Kent; five daughters-in-law, Diane, Janette, Della, Lavonna and Pam; one son-in-law Gary Schenck; 23 grandchildren; 51 great-grandchildren, one sister Irene Bergfeld, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He also leaves his church family in both the U.S. and Grenada, as well as present and past students and faculty of the Independence Bible School, St. John's Christian Secondary School and God's Bible School.

He was preceded in death by his wife Carol Joy Schaper; his parents; one sister Mildred Miller; three brothers, Benjamin, Albert Jr, and John; and one great-grandson Austin Hollenbeck.

Memorials have been established with the Independence Bible School, Independence, KS; St. John's Christian Secondary School, Gouyave, St. John's Grenada; and God's Bible School, Cincinnati, OH. Memorials may be sent care of Albert Schaper, 304 Camp Drive, Independence, KS 67301. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared with Rev. Schaper's family at [www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com](http://www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 21. 6:00 PM (CT)

Ochelata Bible Holiness Church  
309 W Vera St.  
Ochelata, OK 74051

## Celebration Of Life Service

AUG 22. 10:00 AM (CT)

Ochelata Bible Holiness Church  
309 W Vera St.  
Ochelata, OK 74051

## Graveside Service

AUG 22. 4:00 PM (CT)

Mount Hope Cemetery  
Independence, KS 67301  
<http://www.independencesks.gov/cemetery-49828.asp>


# Tribute Wall

WM

“*Bro. Schaper always liked to talk about the older Ministers how they worked and preached. I loved to talk with him. He is enjoying Heaven now.*  
*Wilma*

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**Wilma Miller** - August 22, 2015 at 09:26 AM

  
Wallace  
Thornton

“*Brother Schaper has had a profound impact on my life--one of the most formative professors from whom I was privileged to learn at God's Bible School. His sharp intellect was matched only by his humble devotion to the Master. I will miss his annual phone calls/letters at Christmas and the encouragement and prayers he sent our way. May the Lord give comfort to his family and help all of us who have known him to be faithful as he has been.*  
*Wallace Thornton, Jr.*

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**Wallace Thornton** - August 20, 2015 at 12:27 PM

DF

“*I have many fond memories of Bro. Schaper. As faculty colleagues at GBS, we used to eat lunch together in the cafeteria in order to discuss politics. We had many lively discussions. Later, as a GBS board member, he served on the Academic Affairs Committee. I was VP for Academic Affairs at the time and was happy to have sage advice. It was a privilege knowing him! - Dr. Ken Farmer*

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**Dr. Ken Farmer** - August 19, 2015 at 03:19 PM

EM

“ E Mark lit a candle in memory of Reverend Melvin L. Schaper



E Mark - August 14, 2015 at 09:59 PM

HW

“ I was in Asbury Seminary when Melvin attended there, too. Also, Alfred was a student. I have many fond memories of those times, and admire Melvin for all he has accomplished for the Kingdom and education... I even got to visit his home, and have memories from that time. God bless you all.. in your separation. We'll be reunited one day. Our sympathy and love.. Hugh (and Betty) Wayman

Hugh Wayman - August 14, 2015 at 05:01 PM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Reverend Melvin L. Schaper.



August 14, 2015 at 03:36 PM

TF

“ *The Beachner Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Reverend Melvin L. Schaper.*



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**The Beachner Family** - August 14, 2015 at 10:25 AM

GB

“ *Reverend Schaper was such a kind, and godly man. Three generations of our family have been blessed by knowing him, and Sister Joy.  
Earth's loss is heaven's gain.  
With prayers for his family, Gail Blackwell and Gloria Emerson*

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**Gail Blackwell** - August 10, 2015 at 10:15 PM

EM

*"I had the privilege of being a student of the St. John's Christian school. Rev Schaper had made a sacrifice to come to Grenada so that I could have had that privilege; may his Soul Rest in Peace"*

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**Edris Mark** - August 13, 2015 at 02:50 PM

CJ

*Grateful for the opportunity of my secondary education at the St. John's Christian Secondary school. May his soul rest in peace.  
Curlyn*

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**Curlyn James** - August 17, 2015 at 10:01 AM

JS

*So very sorry to hear of your loss... Sounds like Reverend Schaper was a wonderful man who loved his immediate family & church family greatly, and was loved greatly in return. Holding you in our prayers.  
Janice Sack*

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**Janice Sack** - August 20, 2015 at 08:54 AM

PS

*Bro Schaper made a tremendous contribution to education in G'da but heaven will reveal the extent of the moral and spiritual impact of his life on students and overall population of Grenada*

*Pansy*

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**Pansy Small-Hosten** - August 22, 2015 at 08:36 AM