

Date: August 13, 2018  
From: Alisha DeJesus/Cathy Holmes  
To: Members of the IM Board, Missionaries, IM Board Alumni, Missionary Alumni, NLC and Staff  
Re: Glenn F. Boice, ABFMS Philippines alumnus, goes home

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## **Glenn F. Boice, ABFMS Philippines alumnus, goes home**

Glenn Francis Boice, American Baptist Foreign Society (ABFMS) alumnus passed away on July 2, 2018 in Indianapolis, Indiana at the age of 96.

Glenn was born to Gilbert and Allia Boice on September 6, 1921 in Reno, Ohio. He was the oldest boy in a large farm family. He felt a calling to become a minister, but there were many obstacles to overcome. He was obliged to drop out of school after 10<sup>th</sup> grade to go to work. At the age of 19 he met Shellie Mae Ogle at a dance. A few months later he asked Shellie to marry him. The following morning the newspapers were full of the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Glenn enlisted in the Navy and asked Shellie's father if they could marry before he left for the Navy. Her father, fearing what might happen to Glenn in the war, advised them to wait. Over the next four years, they saw each other only once when he returned for a three day leave. By then, Shellie was a live-in nanny. When the woman she was working for refused to give her off for the weekend Shellie quit her job to spend the weekend with her fiancée. She was able to get another job riveting B 24 bombers. In 1945, with the war about to end, Shellie took a bus from Ohio to California where Glenn was stationed. They were married on April 4, 1945 in a First Baptist Church.

Glenn finished high school and earned a Bachelor's degree from Denison University in 1951. He went on to earn a Master of Theology degree from Crozer Theological Seminary. Between the last two years of his studies he was licensed to preach by the First Baptist Church, Marietta, Ohio. He held rural student pastorates, assisted with summer youth camps, and later was pastor at Hepzibah Baptist Church in Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

On March 17, 1958 Glenn and Shellie were appointed ABFMS missionaries to serve in the Philippines. Glenn's service was that of an evangelistic missionary to rural or semi-rural churches on the Island of Negros. American Baptist work on this island had not been built back to its pre-war strength, and there were opportunities to cooperate with Filipino pastors in evangelizing large numbers. Glenn traveled a great deal while Shellie stayed at home in order to home school their two daughters. One of Glenn's trips was into an area never before visited by American Baptist missionaries. The transportation up the mountain to a conference of 200 delegates consisted of three horses, a cow and a caribou. The Filipino promotional secretary of the convention ministered to the people in the evenings by kerosene lantern, dedicating 18 babies and marrying a young couple. In order to bring his ministry and humanitarian assistance to the isolated mountain people, Glenn learned to fly a Piper Club, with the help of two Filipino colleagues.

In 1963, the Boice family returned to the U.S. for furlough (home assignment) and settled in Granville, Ohio. Glenn traveled to American Baptist churches from New Hampshire to Nebraska to speak about their mission work. In early 1964, Glenn and Shellie resigned from service with ABFMS. Glenn accepted a call to pastor in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Glenn and Shellie went on to serve a church in Mount Vernon, Illinois. They next moved to Indiana where Glenn worked for Presbyterian Ministers Fund. The last church they served was the Tuxedo Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

When they retired, they moved to Arizona where Glenn had always dreamed of living. Glenn and Shellie enjoyed traveling to many places including Alaska, the Caribbean, the Panama Canal, Australia, France, Israel and Jordan. After several years in Arizona, they moved to Florida to be near Shellie's sister. Being homesick for their grandchildren, they moved back to Indianapolis where they enjoyed being 'home' again. Shellie contracted lymphoma and passed away on July 23, 2009.

Glenn recently published a book entitled: 'Glenn and Shellie Boice: Their Missionary Experience in the Philippines, 1958-63'. In retirement, Glenn took up painting and produced over 800 canvasses. His sense of social responsibility, love of humanity and warmth of personality stayed with Glenn throughout his life.

Glenn is survived by his daughters, Corinne Raynor (Daniel) and Connie Peck (Jeffrey); granddaughters Ashley and Alexandra and two great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life Ceremony for Glenn was held on July 15, 2018 at Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel in Indianapolis.