



F. Merle Dye Jr.

December 31, 1935 - August 19, 2024

F. Merle Dye Jr, finished his earthly journey and passed into eternal life with his Savior Jesus Christ on Aug 19, 2024.

He was born December 31, 1935, in Winston Salem, NC, to F. Merle Dye, Sr and Katie Holshouser Dye. Merle grew up in Salisbury, with 2 brothers, David and Dick. He graduated from Ben Lippen High School in Asheville. He attended Columbia Bible College, Columbia, SC, where he met his life partner, June Crawford. They married in 1958, and answered God's call to take the Gospel to Ethiopia and Sudan with SIM. They faithfully served for 21 years, followed by 20 years of representing SIM in the southeast United States.

Merle was an avid sports fan; he enjoyed watching football, the UNC Tar Heels and the LA Dodgers. With his positive outlook on life, he had a cheerful greeting for anyone he met. He loved his family, and prayed and cheered on his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed family gatherings, a good joke, and challenging others to take the Gospel to the world.

He is survived by his wife, June, and 5 children: Ruth (Darrell), Mari, Mark (Annemarie), Katherine (David) and Mike; 16 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by a brother, Dick Dye, and a grandson, Caleb.

His life of service and dedication was lived by the goal "that I may know Christ and the power of his resurrection" Philippians 3:10.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, August 25 at 3:00 p.m. at Maranatha

Bible Church, 2320 Statesville Blvd, Salisbury, NC. The family will receive friends following the memorial service.

Memorial gifts may be sent to: Mt. Pleasant Bible Teaching Association, PO Box 763, Mt. Pleasant, NC 28124 and Sim.org, 14830 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28273-9105.

Summersett Funeral Home is serving the Dye family. Online condolences may be made at www.summersettfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

AUG **25**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Maranatha Bible Church
2320 Statesville Blvd.
Salisbury, NC 28147

Visitation Following Service

AUG **25** (ET)

Maranatha Bible Church
2320 Statesville Blvd.
Salisbury, NC 28147

Tribute Wall

PD

“ June, it's been almost a year since Merle passed and I'm so sorry for your loss. I remember your family through Northside Presbyterian Church; our families shared many meals together. I remember visiting years ago in Statesville and it was so good to see the two of you. I will keep the family in my thoughts and prayers.

Patricia Martin Dodson - August 22, 2025 at 12:06 PM

PB

“ Dear June and family
We were sorry to hear about
Merles homecoming.
We knew him as faithful servant and saint of God.
He's rejoicing in the glories of Heaven
Now where there is no more pain or tears.
May God be your daily Comforter.
Love,
Pastor Bob and Karen Freitas

Pastor Bob Freitas & Karen Maranatha Bib - August 26, 2024 at 12:04 AM

MS

“ Merle and June worked at Ben Lippen School while I attended. Their kindness and caring spirit was evident to all students. We have stayed in touch over the years and many a prayer request was shared with them. So grateful for this kind Christian man. Praying peace and comfort for June and the family.

Mrs Donna Stepp - August 25, 2024 at 11:41 AM

DB

“ June and family, we mourn with you over your loss. His home going is a loss for us all, but now he is able to rejoice in the presence of our faithful Lord, so we rejoice with him in that. We greatly appreciate you both for allowing the Lord to use you in our lives as well as in the lives of so many others. Through you guys, we were encouraged and able to see how great and faithful God really is and that He is worthy of our confidence no matter what and in all things. We are so thankful that one day soon we will all be able to to celebrate Him together, no longer being separated from Him or each other. We love you and are praying for you as you walk through this hard time.

Darryl and Rose Bolden - August 25, 2024 at 09:58 AM

JS

“ We lived on the same station in Ethiopia as the Dyes for a number of years. "Uncle Merle" and his sweetest wife were some of the kindest, yet fun, people I knew. I just loved them and spent a lot of time at their house. They raised beautiful, wonderful kids. I would love to have seen the celebration, Uncle Merle, when you entered heaven. What a beautiful life you lives!

Julene Hodges Schroeder - August 24, 2024 at 11:02 AM

BG

“ Bonnie Goodson lit a candle in memory of F. Dye



Bonnie Goodson - August 23, 2024 at 06:54 PM

WF

“ Dear June and your precious family, I miss Merle as our families have enjoyed

Willie Fullam - August 23, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of F. Merle Dye Jr..



August 23, 2024 at 11:37 AM

PR

“ Merle was my SIM supervisor in Soddo, Ethiopia in the 70's. He was always easy to talk to and a good listener. His love for people and his desire for them to know his Savior was evident in all he did. Merle was also a lot of fun and had a great sense of humor. His love for June was a wonderful example of how a husband should treat his wife. When we had to quickly leave Soddo he was a calming influence. Knowing Merle and his family is a blessing.

Patricia Robertson - August 22, 2024 at 11:51 PM

FI

“ We are saddened by the passing of Mr. Dye, our dear brother in Christ. But we are very grateful for his service in advancing the Kingdom of God in Ethiopia following the example set by the Apostles. We pray the the Lord will give His peace and comfort to Mrs. Dye and the whole family. 2 Timothy 4:7

Helebo and Amelework (Zena)
Hossana, Ethiopia

Fikru - August 22, 2024 at 07:12 PM

JM

“ *John & Lisa and Liz & Mike purchased the Sweet est Sunrise Bouquet for the family of F. Merle Dye Jr..*



John & Lisa and Liz & Mike - August 22, 2024 at 02:19 PM

BR

“ *I loved Merle Dye and I love June! I loved to hear Merle pray!. I pray for comfort and peace for June and their very special family.*

Barbara Ritchie - August 22, 2024 at 09:01 AM

JW

“ *My wife and family have known the Dye's since the 1980's. Merle and June were and are the most inspirational couple we have ever known . On the mission field abroad and at home they exemplified Gods mission and love. I would so enjoy visiting with them in their home and in the nursing homes. I would often bring my guitar and sing . We would have a great time and Merle's strong voice would always join in with June's sweet voice right behind. They were both so kind and always helped others who were down or sick, when they were able to do so. God has a new and much welcomed addition in heaven. Jeff and Phyllis Warner*

Jeffrey Warner - August 22, 2024 at 07:34 AM

TR

“ *What a sweet, kind man he was. Always a smile on his face. He will be missed. See you later, Merle*

trish - August 21, 2024 at 07:16 AM