

Joy (Reid) Muir

December 9, 1935 to
September 14, 2017

By Randy Vick



Milton Zeon (from Liberia) with Joy

We recently lost a wonderful sister, a dear friend, a wife, a mother and grandmother to many – Joy Muir. We shall never forget her wonderful smile, her joyful attitude and her servant’s heart! We are better for having known her and better off for having worked alongside her.

Known to many of those active in the Conference through the years, Joy was a staple – a dependable cheer leader, a go-to worker and an advocate for both missionaries and those with needs, whether at home or abroad. She loved the Restored Gospel and she loved serving the Conferences to help further the goals of the Kingdom whenever and however she could.

After gathering to the Center Place a little later in her life, Joy went right to work and never asked a penny for her labors. Many of those who did not know Joy when she moved to the Center Place met her at the Conference of Restoration Elders’ (CRE) office at 500 N. Union in Independence. Someone there recognized her great desire to assist in the work, enlisted her to help at the office, and Joy quickly came to know everyone in the area as she recruited and organized a staff of capable, willing volunteers. She developed a list of contacts and could be counted on to help coordinate efforts between priesthood members and saints who needed ministry. Her efforts might involve someone who needed administration anywhere in the country, or helping saints find Restoration branches/groups near where they lived, or guiding traveling priesthood members to locate scattered saints and branches. Joy and her volunteers manned the office, answered the phone, did mailings, assembled conference notebooks, processed bulk mailings, etc., etc., and there were a lot of etceteras. Joy never asked the volunteers or anyone else to clean the office, and in addition to her other duties she would happily perform janitorial labor along with her husband Richard.

In 2006, very excited about the work that was launched in the Center Place through the new Conference of Branches, she became the Office Manager for the new conference office at 1100 W. Truman Road in Independence. In addition to all of the same duties she had done at the CRE office, she also took on the responsibility of arranging housing for international delegates that came to the annual conference. With delegates coming from 8 or 10 countries that was quite a challenge, but she loved it because it gave her the opportunity to meet and get to know the international saints that came to conference. Like the rest of us, they too fell in love with Joy. When you came to the office you could always count on receiving a bright smile, warm greeting and maybe a hug. She brought light and life to her work.

If you had a project and you needed manpower, Joy would call on her cadre of volunteers. It was always great fun being in the office when the volunteers were assembling conference notebooks. If there was a financial need for an individual or a program, Joy would put out the word and the saints would respond. She served on the board of directors of Storehouse Ministries of Zion and as the

Remembering Joy

Secretary for the board of directors of Give Back Hope International. Both organizations tasked with helping those in need, both here and abroad.

When she adopted the orphans at the Future Hope Orphanage in Liberia, she gave her heart and soul to help make life better for those 60 children. She did everything from having a coin jar in the office so children visiting the office could contribute to the cause, to collecting barrels of clothes, toys and books to send to the orphans. Using her extensive contacts she made arrangements for herself and others to visit various branches to present programs introducing the saints to the plight of the orphan children.



Joy and Richard Muir

As usual, the saints always responded to Joy's pleas. Joy's labors of love had a profound impact on the daily life of the children in Liberia. When her family, friends, brothers and sisters gathered for Joy's memorial service at the Waldo Restoration Branch in Independence, the saints also gathered at the Buchanan Branch in Buchanan, Liberia, to honor the memory of "Sis Joy".

Joy was born and raised in Michigan and never lost her deep love for the Wolverine State. She did not love the wolverines but she loved her childhood memories, growing up with so many who were actively involved in the church, and of course there was her blue water and her freighters. You only had to know Joy for a little while before she was showing you pictures of her river and her freighters. The fact that one of her Facebook "friend groups" was the Boat Nerds, tells you all you need to know about her love for those ships.

Joy was married to Richard Muir for over 54 years. They had three children – daughter Wendi Weiss, and sons Kevin (Trula) and Michael (Darlene) Muir; five grandchildren (Justin, Jeff, Sarah, Chandler & Ashley); and one great grand-child (Zoey).

Something you may not have known about Joy, is that she was once had a run in with the law! As a young mother in New Orleans she was arrested for chaining herself to a "Colored People Only" water fountain. The only white person and the only woman involved in the protest, she felt strongly about injustice no matter the personal consequence.

Did you know she was also a prison worker in the New Orleans Parish Prison? When she felt compassion for a parolee, she invited him to live with her family until he could get back on his feet. She was also an actress! Joy would dress up in costume to tell the story of the "Exploding Cow" to children in the Independence schools for an annual celebration of Independence history.

Joy was also an author of books and numerous articles in various church publications? In fact, she had her own recurring column in *Glyph Notes* and later *The Latter Day Saints' Beacon*. All of her labor for the Lord was a labor of love! We will miss you so, until we meet again Sis Joy!



Photo by Trula Muir

Salutations may be sent to Richard and the family at 820 N. Delaware, Independence, MO 64050.