

Lois Fern Likes

De Moss

APRIL 7, 1930 – OCTOBER 10, 1992



Lois was born in Putnam, Oklahoma, to Marion and Gertrude Likes. The family home was next to the Methodist Church, and around the corner of the parsonage. The large Likes family provided church sextons, choir members, Sunday School teachers, and made up much of the congregation. It was natural that church and faith became foundational in Lois's life.

Marion Likes was the village blacksmith and mechanic. From her father Lois got enjoyment in working with her hands, the ability to fix anything and a life-long love of fishing. Gertie, was a homemaker and gospel singer. From her mother Lois inherited cooking skills, a love for children and a fine alto singing voice. Lois had natural athletic talent and enthusiastically played basketball. All her life she possessed the ability to stun boys and men by beating them in free-throw contests and informal scrimmages.

Lois graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. She was an apt student who developed a passion for reading, became an avid writer and was an articulate public speaker. She was active in Wesley Foundation and the state Methodist Student Movement.

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Upon graduation from college, Lois took a teaching position in Hydro, Oklahoma, while informally engaged to a pilot in the Air Force. His death in combat in Korea had a profound impact on Lois's life and thought. She became a life-long pacifist and decided to live her life for social justice and reconciliation.

In response to her friend's death she applied for service as a missionary of the (United) Methodist Church and was appointed to Algeria. She worked in a girl's home and learned to speak French fluently. It was during her time in North Africa that the Algerian War broke out. Missionary service fostered Lois's global consciousness, political awareness, racial acceptance and inter-religious understanding.

Upon completion of four years of service overseas, Lois enrolled at Garrett with the intention of doing graduate work in preparation for return to Algeria. But she met Lynn DeMoss, who was preparing for the pastorate. As a result of this meeting, Lynn and Lois fell in love. He followed a call to the Belgian Congo as a short-term missionary and Lois went to Weatherford, Oklahoma to serve as Wesley Foundation Director at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

Following Lynn's return after three years service in Congo, Lois and Lynn married on July 23, 1960, and embarked on a life of ministry together. In due course, their two children, Jeffrey and Jennifer, joined the family and were the delight of Lois's life. She had a knack for mothering.

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Though Lois gladly gave years to the loving parenting of Jeff and Jen, her life was not restricted to that role. She was a well-rounded person, serving in local church, conference and social activities. She was a mentor to many young women, especially Albion college students. She served as a Trustee of Lake Louise and was Board President at the time of the Kresge Dining Room fire and the building of the Retreat Center.

Lois lived long enough to attend the marriage of Jeff and Heidi Diehl and to get to know Jen's future husband, Dan Vander Ploeg. She did not live to see the birth of twin grandsons, David and Drew, whom she would have adored.

Lois died suddenly on October 10, 1992. Gone were her spontaneous laugh, her hospitable, loving nature, her ability to speak the truth in love, and her passion for life. What remained was the memory and influence of someone who was self-aware, good humored, considerate of others, intelligent and a loving wife and mother.

Lois DeMoss lived life lovingly, fully and responsibly. She was a faithful servant of Jesus Christ.