

Her Greatest Adventure

Barbara Roley was a very adventurous woman. She loved to travel to different places and experience new things. Her life was full and full of adventure. Here, in summary form, are a few of her exciting activities:

In the late 1990s, Barbara joined the Peace Corps and traveled to the Philippines. There she taught women skills to help them earn income.

She also volunteered for years with the American Red Cross, serving others in time of need.

Barbara loved traveling with Roebuck Parkway Church of Christ mission teams to states and countries near and far.

Once she traveled to Hawaii. During her stay, she proudly earned a certificate for hiking Diamond Head Summit.

So many of her adventures involved serving other people in faraway places, locally, and with her church family. She served in the Meals on Wheels program of the Creekwood church.

Many of Barbara's adventures included her family members. Her grandchildren remember the adventure of walking a few blocks from home and crossing four lanes of traffic to eat breakfast at Hardees. Reflecting on such occasions, one of her granddaughters, Andrea, said, "She really showed us that any day could be an adventure."

Some of Barbara's "adventures" were unplanned and difficult, like her battle with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Yet even when she lost the ability to plan new quests and travel whenever and wherever she wanted, her family tenderly cared for her and created some special times for her. A granddaughter, Ali, said of her Mom, Anita (Barbara's daughter): "My mom created the most beautiful days out of such a hard situation, she gave us memories with Meemaw that we never would have had."

With all of the adventures that Barbara experienced in her lifetime, I believe her greatest adventure is still to come. Barbara was a Christian, a child of God. For the faithful child of God, an eternal home in heaven awaits. To be with God, Jesus, and the redeemed of the ages in a place where "God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:3-4) – now that's an adventure!

Barbara embraced the truth that God wants all of us to know and accept: despite our sin, God loves us, desires to save us, and provides eternal life to those who will accept the salvation offered through the sacrifice of His Son on the cross (John 3:16).

God will save and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

Barbara Roley loved to sing praises to God, and she loved to hear good singing. I'm told that one of her favorite songs was "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder." She liked to change the wording a bit to: "When the Roleys are called up yonder, I'll be there." She had that confidence because of her faith in Jesus, who paved the way to the greatest adventure ever. Jesus did this for Barbara and for anyone who will accept His offer.

-- David A. Sargent

* In loving memory of Barbara Jean Roley (1934 – 2026), until we meet again and share in the greatest adventure of all.