



Miss Opal “Ruth” Evans, age 88 of Peachtree Corners, passed away on Monday Evening, March 18, 2019 at Village Park Senior Living, formerly Noble Village, following an extended illness.

Funeral services are scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 2:00 pm in the Chapel of Memorial Park Funeral Home with interment to follow in Memorial Park Cemetery. Mr. George Lee, Miss Linda Woollum and Mr. Robert Flipppo will officiate. The family will receive friends on Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm, prior to the service, at the funeral home.

Miss Evans was born December 4, 1930 in Hartselle, Alabama to the late James Evans and Clara Speigle Evans. Ruth was the oldest of their seven children. She began her work in the ministry in October of 1961 and continued until her death. Ruth is preceded in death by her parents, her two brothers, Joe Evans and Ray Evans, one of her sisters, Ruby Nell Geddes and her brother-in-law, Jack Wiley.

Miss Evans is survived by her siblings, Martha & Hubert Dawley of Pace, Florida, Elizabeth Wiley of Huntsville, Alabama and Margaret & Ron Vidairre of Huntsville, Alabama and numerous nieces & nephews. Also surviving are many friends that were just like her family.

Memorial Park Funeral Home, 2030 Memorial Park Road, Gainesville, GA 30504 is in charge of arrangements.

The Workers sang hymn # 404. There is No Gain.

Charles Vaughn prayed: Father, we are glad to be here today to honor a life that has been submitted to your call and to your will. We are thankful that you are able to supply grace and strength for the journey. And we are thankful that our sister was able to rely on this means of strength to take steps in your will, and we are glad that we have this for our own portion. Today as we go forth from here that we can look up and we can know whose we are and we can receive the needed grace and strength also to continue further and deeper in your will. We're most of all thankful for your Son, Jesus, who came and showed that it was possible to live in this body of flesh and blood and to redeem us by His living and by His death, His resurrection. We're so glad to understand, at least in part, that there is so much more to go on to as we have faith in your words and believe it in all that Jesus taught. We pray that we can be a full partaker of what He lived and taught that we would be those that would be able to look up and see that our redemption draweth nigh. So we are glad to know the leading of your Holy Spirit these days even as our sister would have known in her day, that lead her aright and helped her to separate between darkness and light. So we're glad that we have this help available to us today too, since Jesus left the help of your Holy Spirit. Help us to be ever responsive to that tender influence in our life. We want to be those that can be used by thee, so that fruit can be born in us even as it was in our sister's life. We are glad for the many ways that she touched us and because she, herself was submitted to you. We want to be inspired ourselves to go forth and to likewise be subject to you in all your thought toward us, so that the fruit that we bear could not only glorify you but it could also be an honor in your kingdom here. So we pray now that you would just bless our gathering together, we ask in Jesus name. Amen.

Linda Woollum: For several days now since hearing about Ruth's death, there's been a verse that Paul wrote to the Corinthians that has been on my mind. 2 Cor. 8:9 It says, "Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich yet He became poor so that we through His poverty might become rich". The thought that has been going through my mind again and again, hearing different ones say things about how Ruth affected their lives. This thought has just gone over and over in my mind: it was the Lord who made her rich. He gave her things that she could have never given herself and that no one else could have ever given her. I've just enjoyed thinking about that. He made her rich in ways that count and rich in ways that will be hers for all eternity. It's wealth that she doesn't have to leave behind. I was thinking about that hymn, and it's going to be sung later in the service. It says, "I never can forget the day the lowly Savior came my way and filled my soul with life divine. The wealth of Heaven now is mine". Those of us who were with her often heard about the time that the gospel came. We heard about those two sister workers that came and she went to listen and later her parents listened. I think she was about 18 when she made her choice to serve God. The Lord brought riches to her through that message that she had never tasted of before. It was riches that she came to love dearly. There was no question in our hearts about what Ruth loved. No question that she loved the Lord, no question that she loved God's will for her. I remember her telling us that later, they didn't have much fellowship those first years after she had made her choice, but God was teaching her. She began to be troubled about the work. I remember her telling that

she didn't know if it was just her own thoughts or if it really was God calling. So she asked for some particular, she had a particular sign that she asked of God. That if it was really Him that He would give her this sign, and it was given to her. So when she was 30 years old, not feeling able, she launched out by faith into this ministry. She continued there until she wasn't able to be in the field any longer. But it's where her heart was and it's what she loved. When we were singing that first song, I just noticed that line about not keeping from the multitude their share of her life. She gave God her life and then she gave it in the fields where she was, gave it to others. We are glad for that. I just think about one way that God made her so rich. We were hearing about the Holy Spirit when Charles prayed and that's one thing that was given to her when she began to obey the Lord. The Holy Spirit to be her guide and to be a very present comfort to her and a helper to her. It was something she couldn't give herself and nobody else could give her but the Lord Jesus, through His sacrifice and through her obedience to Him, made her rich by giving her that Spirit. He made her rich by bringing her into a family that she could have never had otherwise and never been a part of otherwise. She loved her natural family and she spoke of you all often. We heard your names. But God brought her into another family. In our study recently we had that verse in Matthew 12 where someone came to Jesus and they said, "Your mother and your brothers are desiring to speak with you". It says that He said, "Who is my mother, who are my brethren"? The He turned to His disciples and stretched forth His hand and said, "Behold my mother and my brethren. For whosoever doeth the will of my Father is my brother and sister and mother ". The Lord made her rich, I just think of all of you here today. A family that she'd come to love and the Lord made her rich in sharing that with her. He's made us rich through His poverty. It says, "The Lord Jesus, through His poverty..." He was willing to come here as a man and take upon Him the form of a man and live for us and die for us and give Himself to be a ransom for us so that we could be rich, so that we could be a part of the family of Heaven, so that we could have the blessing of His Spirit, so that we could know the cleansing and forgiveness of sins, so that we could know what living bread and living water is, and so that we could be partakers of the promises that will never fail. I just think of another way that God is going to make Ruth rich. Someday He's going to give her a new body that she can dwell in for all eternity, that's going to be completely suitable to do the will of God. I just have valued that we love what Ruth was to us, but most of all we love the one who made her rich and who gave her and enabled her to be what she was.

George Lee: I've been reading in Ephesians, the second chapter beginning with verse 18. "For through Jesus we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God. Are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple of the Lord in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit". I appreciate so much thinking about the building that God has...that's in the earth today, that He is building through His people. Sometimes our friends take us to show us where they are going to build a new home, a vacant lot...this is where the house is gong to be. A little bit later, they take us and they show us the foundation has been put down. Then later you want to see the walls are up and then the roof is on. The time comes they take us to show us it's been painted,

it's almost ready to move in to. I just think about God looking down every day in the earth and seeing people that's a part of this building. Jesus Christ, the chief corner stone, the apostles and prophets. He talked about the strangers, the foreigners, and people that wouldn't have any hope except for His mercy and the love that God has for his people. All of us that's been around Ruth, we heard her tell numerous times her story, how she went to the gospel meetings and how she believed and she was thankful that in her youth that the Lord spoke to her and gave her the years that she had. Over in second Thessalonians in the third chapter, "That the Lord is faithful who shall stablish you and keep you from evil. We have confidence in the Lord touching you that you both will do the things which we command you and the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and in the patient waiting for Christ". Verse 13, "But ye brethren, be not weary in well doing". I can just picture Ruth reading these verses and thinking about patient waiting for the Lord. I thought about a hymn yesterday when thinking about our sister and the life that she lived, the struggle that she had. The second verse, "the world, flesh, and devil all try to hinder me and show me things I'm missing to go on with Thee. But thou to me hast opened a better grander view, a crown in Heaven awaiting thy chosen faithful few". One of our friends said to us just this week, the world, flesh, and devil...I need to get every meeting that I can. We saw that in Ruth in her latter years, she wasn't feeling good part of the time but she wanted to be in meeting. A few years ago when Ruth saw that she wasn't as able as she had been, we talked to her about going to Texas and she was very willing. One of the things she said was, "if I die here, I want to be buried in Georgia". And we said we will try to make that happen. And it turns out today that would be her wish that she is going to be buried in Georgia. Ruth was easy to make plans for. We could talk to her about the field and companions and where she should go for visits and she was always very willing. We appreciated that. So like the hymn was saying, she had the struggle with the world, flesh, and devil and they would try to hinder her and make her think about all the things she was missing in life but she gained so much more. She loved her natural family, she loved her brothers and sisters, and she loved her friends in every field she was sent to. There's evidence today that she has a lot of friends that cared about her during life time, and are here today in deep respect. I first met Ruth in 1968 in Alabama. We were over for some special meetings. In 1971, I met her parents who came up to TN for a special meeting. It was pointed out, that's Ruth Evans' parents and I was glad to meet them. In 1977 and 1978 we were in that field and I was in their home quite a few times. We have a few things in common, Ruth and I both started in the work in the fall of '61. We both came from a large family, we both grew up on a farm and knew a little bit about work, and Ruth was always willing at preparations or projects, or whatever to do her part. We're thankful today that we have the wonderful privilege to be here and to have a little part in this service. When I think about Ruth's parents, we enjoyed being in the home there in Huntsville. One day the shuttle was going to be brought in to Redstone for some testing. One of the first shuttles that was built, to be brought in on a 747 airplane. It told the time in the newspaper, so we were outside and I can just picture the home and think about Jim and Clara. Seeing this plane come in, the pilot circled the city twice so everybody could see it and get a good look. That plane carried that shuttle only a few miles high, not very high. The other shuttles that were built were up into the sky, maybe 250 miles or so but they never went much above that. I was thinking what we have in the first chapter of Acts when Jesus was taken up into the clouds and His

apostles were standing watching Him. Just thinking about Ruth, she went far beyond what any shuttle or any rocket would go. Just a week ago down in our field we could see 50 miles away a Delta rocket that went up into space. It didn't go very high before it got into orbit, we were 50 miles away. I was a little bit disappointed, I thought surely we would see it go higher than that but we didn't. It just made me think that what man makes can't go very high and it really can't go very far. But Ruth went a long distance in her life time. To think about her spirit and we know what a verse in Ecclesiastes 12 says, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was and the spirit return unto God who gave it". When we heard the other night about Ruth's passing, I thought about the spirit that will return to God who gave it. She left a wonderful testimony and she loved the privilege that she had of giving her life in this work. We are grateful that the Lord can reward her far better than we can. He knows her prayers, He knows her reading, he knows her meditation. We're glad to be here today, we appreciate the family and what they have done to stand by their sister and auntie. We want today that the testimony will continue to go forth that she was a handmaid of the Lord.

Congregation sang hymn # 284. I Never Can Forget.

Robert Flippo: In Matthew 11 in verse 28, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light". I think about Ruth now and the rest that she came to know in her soul is so complete. There's nothing disturbing that anymore. We heard about her testimony, her beginning when she came to know God. She heard the message to her own heart, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest". Then the exhortation, "take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart", what's the result? "you will find rest unto your soul". Not a rest of body, Jesus was talking about. We all understand how necessary that is for life to function. God has planned for those that will love and serve Him that there can be a rest in their soul. It can only come through obedience to the will of God, and Ruth proved that. She had a rest in her soul in her life time. She was giving herself in the yoke with Jesus and that's necessary. She was there and like we were hearing, she was very easy to plan for and willing to fit in and we appreciate that so much. It's because she knew, as we've come to prove ourselves, that's where rest of the soul is. It's in the will of God, it's in fitting in to all of His plans, and the plans of those who are guided by His Holy Spirit. Ruth proved that and we appreciate that about her life. Now she has entered fully into the rest of God. She was willing to take the yoke of Jesus upon her and walk with Him in the yoke. That's how she learned about Jesus...it was walking in the yoke with Him. That's how we get to know people. When we are abiding with them and when we are working together with them and communicating with them. That's the way that we come to know Jesus. We can't come to know Him just by reading the scriptures or by hearing other people talk about Him. But it's in taking the yoke of Jesus upon ourselves and learning of Him. What we find out so clearly and so wonderfully is that there's rest in our soul as a result of that. Rest in the soul...that's the part of our being that God created when He created man and He breathed into us the breath of life. No other creature that God created in this world has ever possessed the soul like man has. But

God put in him a soul for this purpose that we would seek God. Without God, there's a very empty place in our being. Often we don't know why we feel so empty. We are needing something and we can't find it. It drives people to try many different things in this world and they all come up empty. Still there's the emptiness until God comes and fills that void. That happens when we are just willing to take the yoke of Jesus upon us and walk with Him and work with Him in the yoke in the will of God with Jesus. The yoke would just speak to us about the will of God when we are willing to walk in that. And that's the wonderful part about the will of God. Like we've been hearing, we don't have to do it alone. God teaches us by His Holy Spirit but Jesus is with us in spirit. The very spirit that was in Jesus when He was in the world comes and abides in us and so it's like we are in the yoke with Him. We're not doing it alone, but He guides us and strengthens us and He helps us along the way. The grace that He was so full of comes to us and we just prove like Jesus did how wonderful, how beautiful, how sweet is the will of God. And how perfect. When we are walking in the yoke with Him, then He gives rest to our soul. There's fulfillment and we're not just wandering blindly in this world seeking things of this earth to satisfy but God is fulfilling that urgent need within us and that's why He gave us the soul. He wants to fill that and He wants to give it rest. Life is so wonderful when that takes place. The promise that Jesus was giving to those He was speaking to in that day when He spoke those words...they're to us too. Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light". "My yoke is easy". I'm not of the generation that knew what it was to work animals in a yoke, but I've heard from those who have, and the animal worked so well with the master when the yoke is easy. In other words when the yoke is comfortable if we want to put it that way. It doesn't chaff the animal and when the animal is willing to submit to that yoke, that's when it makes it so much easier and more comfortable. Really, when we are submitting to the will of God, it's a wonderful, easy, comfortable yoke. It means dying to ourself...that's very necessary but when that is so, the yoke is a very easy thing for us because we love the one who's given it, and the burden that He gives us to bear is so light. If we've ever come to know that in our experience and we remember what life was like before that...when it brought many burdens and they were hard to bear and very difficult in our own wisdom and our own way. Like in disobedience to God...like Solomon said, "the way of the transgressor is hard". If we are not bearing the yoke with Jesus, we're bearing the yoke of sin and unrighteousness and that's very hard. But when we fit into the will of God, even though we wouldn't have believed it before, but by experience we've proved that the yoke is easy and the burden that God gives us to bear is so light compared to all the burdens that come with self will. We are so thankful that Ruth had proved that in her experience. Her life inspired others to do the same and we're so glad to hear and to know, having experienced too, Ruth's kindness and her care and her love for souls begotten in her because God was abiding, and His rest was abiding in her own soul. It just inspires us today to bear the yoke with Jesus which is to take His yoke, so that we can learn about Him more and more and more. There's such sweetness in that. There's a hymn that's been meaning a lot to me in recent days and it speaks about the rest. "Sweet is the rest that comes with dawn at last, after the night of dark defeat is past, breaks the day the dawning of God's will, thy purpose Lord in my life to fulfill". That's talking about the day when we surrender our heart and life to God and life begins anew. The night of dark defeat is over and the new day dawns. It's like we are new creatures in Him. All the past, as far as

God's concerned, is gone. It's just forgotten. He doesn't see it again. It's a new day in our experience. The reason is that His will has triumphed over our own. It brings such sweet rest. Ruth experienced that. Along the way, there were experiences that came and sweet rest came also. She proved, and we can prove that sweet is the rest in bearing of the cross. That seems so foreign to our human reasoning. Bearing of the cross is a hard thing to the human. But "sweet is the rest that comes in bearing the cross...death to a life that only brings me loss". Sometimes we don't understand that until we've begun to bear the cross, that the life that we've been living is only a life of utter loss and no rest. But sweet is the rest that comes in bearing the cross. Then there is the dawning of a new day, the resurrection. From this death a resurrection sure. A Christ filled life, acceptable and pure. That's talking about right now. We bear the cross, we die to ourself and our will, and the will of God triumphs. It's fulfilled in us and that's like a resurrection. Every day when we submit to the will of God, it's like a new day. Resurrection is like life begotten when we die to ourselves...the resurrection life comes. That's the life of the Spirit abiding in us and with it brings such sweet rest to the soul. We don't want to forget the end of it all. Sweet is the rest that comes at close of day, when life is ended the spirit flies away to be with Thee, the one that I adore, to be with Thee and thine for evermore. That's the result of a Christ filled life, of bearing of the yoke with Jesus. I don't believe we can even begin to imagine the sweetness of the rest that's going to come that day. We don't want to lose sight of that because that will help us to remain in the yoke with Jesus. This hymn that we are going to sing, I was appreciating a little bit of that this afternoon as I was looking at it. It talks about the few short years of service. Christian awake, no longer heedless be. The need is great for souls around thee perish. Redeem the time for God has need of thee. Just think...about just the workers. When we see the need is great for souls around you perish. Souls around every one of us are perishing. What can we do about it? Just keep laboring on, redeem the time, God has need of you. And you know, you folks, there are few people, the world the way it is today, that we as workers can reach. But you have contact with so many more and it can be through your light. Redeem the time so that some soul who is laboring under the burdens of life and sin, can come to know the rest of the soul that comes with the yoke of Jesus. By seeing you in the yoke and redeeming the time, it might draw them. We see that happening, so don't ever get the thought you're a worthless being. But your life is so important to God. God has need of thee, redeem the time. Keep toiling on though stony be the way. The sunset side of life's steep hill is leading to God and home and rest and endless day. The sunset side of life's steep hill is leading where? Not down to despair, but it's leading to God and home and rest and endless day. I hope we can keep that in view. Like Ruth did. Walk in the yoke with Jesus because it's going to bring such wonderful rest into our souls today, but to think what lies ahead when this life's short day is over. We don't want to miss it.

Congregation sang hymn # 101. "Only One Life".

Graveside.

Congregation sang hymn # 412 When Life Is Ended

Kelvin Naef:

Lev. 6:10 And the priest shall put on his linen garment, and his linen breeches shall he put upon his flesh, and take up the ashes which the fire hath consumed with the burnt offering on the altar, and he shall put them beside the altar.

Lev. 6:11 And he shall put off his garments, and put on other garments, and carry forth the ashes without the camp unto a clean place.

Lev. 6:12 And the fire upon the altar shall be burning in it; it shall not be put out: ...

In the Old Testament there were many different sacrifices that were to be offered, but one that was very special was the whole burnt offering. It was simply the Lord's people coming and bringing the very best that they had whether it was a bullock or a sheep or a dove, and they were to give it to the priest to be placed upon the altar, the fire would be burning and that sacrifice would be kept there until it was totally consumed and then the priests would carefully carry the ashes out to a clean place. I feel today like I understand a little more the feeling that must have been in the hearts of those priests as they the offerings that were brought and the ashes that they carried away. It must have been very touching to see the Lord's people coming and bringing the very, very best that they had and wanting to offer it in service and in sacrifice to the God of heaven. It just reminds us of even today our sister Ruth, like we've already heard, in her youth she was wanting to, and willing to, lay down her life upon the altar of sacrifice and service to the God of heaven. And, later offering her life even further and in deeper sacrifice in giving her life in this ministry. And, not only that but keeping that sacrifice upon the altar and the love of God like a fire that was burning that consumed her sacrifice until there was nothing left until the close of her days on this earth. And then the priest carrying the ashes out to a clean place, and I could picture them doing it with great care and with great reverence and respect and great appreciation for the sacrifice that had been made. And we're touched today because we have seen and have experienced that with our sister Ruth. We appreciate her life that was given so completely in sacrifice and service to God and to us. And, we're very humbled as we think of that life, the spirit with which she served amongst us and her willingness, like it speaks there about the sacrifice being on the altar through the night until the morning and I am sure there were night experiences along the way for Ruth, there are night experiences for all of us. But, we come to the end of our days and it's like the dawn of a new day, it's a new morning, an eternal morning, and that was what we read about here. And so, like I said, we're very touched, we think of Ruth's sacrifice and her service, the way that she service amongst us and the fire of love that was burning in her heart for the God of heaven, a love that was burning for us as God's people, and that love continued to burn to the end of her days. And, also thankful for those of you that have helped to put wood on the fire and help to keep that love burning. We appreciate all you have done in such respect and such love and such care for our sister and even throughout the years and even especially in these last months and years when health and

strength were limited. You stood by her and did so much for her, and, you did it with love in your hearts, didn't count it a burden. And, that helped her to keep her sacrifice on the altar, helped to keep the fire burning till the sacrifice was consumed, the ashes were carried out to a clean place. We think about what remains today, it's just her influence and memories of Ruth's life and her service amongst us, and that's something that we can treasure, we can appreciate it very highly, it's just like the ashes, like the memory that is being kept in our own hearts and minds of her life and her ministry amongst us and we give thanks to God for that.

A verse in Colossians, Paul expressed appreciation for those people and for the steadfastness of their faith in Christ.

Col. 2:5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.

We appreciate that about our sister, just that steadfastness of her life and of her service to God and to others.

There's a line of hymn that I'll just mention in closing, (Hymn 339) it speaks about finishing with honor the work we've begun and do for his sake all we do, we'll reap golden sheaves when our sowing is done, if we always keep steady and true.

We give thanks today for our sister that kept steady and true. And, there's a reaping of golden sheaves because of that. And may this inspire all of us keep steady and true in our place that we too could have an eternal reaping as a result. And, above all, we give thanks to the God of heaven that made it possible for our sister to finish in victory.

We'll close now in a word of prayer.

Father, we give thanks to Thee for our little while today together this afternoon, we feel touched, we feel humbled as we consider what you do in your great love and with your great mercy and what your kindness can do a human heart and life. We are grateful for our sister and thankful for the spirit of her service amongst us, the spirit of humility, her labor of love amongst us and for all that has moved us to love her in return. We pray Father, that, as a result of our time here that we could be inspired to go out and to want to give our best to you and to one another. We pray that we could see more clearly the worthwhileness of living our lives within your will and placing our lives upon your altar of sacrifice. Most of all, we're thankful for Jesus, thankful that he trod the path of life before us, he proved that it's possible to do your will in a human body and then in victory went to Calvary's cross and laid down his life there and shed his blood for us. We're grateful that there was a power that could raise him from the grave. We find comfort this afternoon to know that same power is available to us today to live our lives within your will. We look to the day when there could be that eternal resurrection and we can meet Thee face to face. We pray now that you would remember this family and draw very near and be a comfort and strength to them. Again, we give Thee thanks for a life lived well within the circle of your will. We pray that it would help each of us as we go forth from here to remember what we've heard and what we've felt and the effects of our time together that it could help each of us on our journey of life. We ask these things in Jesus name. Amen.