



## Bruce W. Miller

June 21, 1939 - October 10, 2018

Bruce William Miller was born June 21, 1939 in Newark, New Jersey, the son of Minnie (Hall) and Ernest Miller, and grew up in a multi-generational household in Irvington, NJ. After graduating from Frank H. Morrell High School in 1957, he moved with his family to Florida where he found work as a private chauffeur. It was in Florida that Bruce gave his life to Christ. He would eventually start college in Grand Rapids at Kuyper College (formerly Reformed Bible Institute). It was there that he met his future; Colleen Bonnema. The two were married at the College on May 31, 1968.

Following their wedding, they took two missionary trips, one to Mexico, and the other to Scotland where their first child was born. Once back in the states, Bruce began his ministry - preaching at Sugar Ridge Church of the Brethren. He also drove school bus for Mason County Eastern Schools and decided to become a full time truck driver. After a long career, he retired from Mason County Fruit Packers.

Bruce was an active member of the Mason County Reformed Church where he served as a deacon, elder, occasionally preached, taught Sunday school, and wrote articles for the crossroads. Recently, Bruce enjoyed directing the bell choir at the Scottville United Methodist Church. He volunteered with HELP Ministry, drove for the Scottville Senior Center, participated in BINGO at the Optimist Club, and was member of the Old Car Club. He also enjoyed

participating with his wife and friends in Trivia Night as a member of team Avengers.

Bruce joined the Scottville Clown Band in 1980 and became a Life Member. He was a supreme clarinetist who became known for taking the ride on "When the Saints Go Marching In" Playing his horn and joking with fellow clowns gave him great joy and made him beloved in the band. Everywhere he went he made friends easily and his warmth and laughter will be missed by many.

Bruce was preceded by his parents and his only sibling Ernest D. (Janice) Miller.

He is survived by his wife Colleen with whom he shared 50 years of marriage, and will be greatly missed by his children Amanda (David) McAuliffe of Katy, TX; David (Tracy) Miller of San Diego, CA; Jeffrey (Heather) Miller of Cincinnati, OH; and Jeremy (Jennifer) Miller of Cullman, AL. Among his brood were nine grandchildren: Michael and John McAuliffe, Breanna and Chloe, Solomon, Alexander, Kimberly, Madison and Tiffany Miller.

A Celebration of Bruce's Life & Ministry will be held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, October 16 at Mason County Reformed Church. Friends may meet with his family for a time of visitation on Tuesday at the church from 5:00 – 6:00 and immediately following the services. Those who wish to remember Bruce with a memorial donation are asked to consider Mason County Reformed Church.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **16.** 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Mason County Reformed Church  
45 South Amber  
Scottville, MI 49454

## Memorial Service

OCT **16.** 6:00 PM (ET)

Mason County Reformed Church  
45 South Amber  
Scottville, MI 49454

# Tribute Wall

JZ

“ Colleen, so sorry to learn about Bruce's departure from this life but know that the life he's living now far surpasses his life on this earth...as blessed as it was. Marilyn and I have so many memories of you guys during our days at RBI. He brought joy and laughter to our lives as well as the lives of so many others. You guys were newlyweds less than 3 months when you served as master & mistress of ceremonies at our wedding! I still remember some of Bruce's words that he shared on that occasion. I still take credit for you guys moving to Scottville since I had recommended him to the Sugar Ridge Church after I had spent a summer assignment there as a seminary student. :- ) I know your relative (Jacob) and cross paths with him and his family at church and at my grandson's football games (he plays with the Bonnema boys). May God continue to uphold you and your family and bless you all abundantly in the days ahead!

Jim Zinger - October 17, 2018 at 08:28 AM



Colleen Miller

Thanks, Jim. We did have a lot of good times together, and I'm so glad you got us here!

Colleen Miller - October 22, 2018 at 08:41 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bruce W. Miller.



October 16, 2018 at 09:36 AM



“ I am so sad that Bruce is not going to be sharing his music, his love of trains, his love for children, and his weird humor. I remember him always laughing. He was so sweet to show my little Ariel his giant train set when she was just old enough to walk. He was always kind. I'm so sorry, Miller family. I'm praying for you to be held close in Jesus's arms.

---

**Mimi Stansell** - October 15, 2018 at 12:26 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Bruce W. Miller.



---

October 15, 2018 at 10:51 AM



“ So sorry to hear of his passing. My prayers are with you all. A kind and intelligent man that touched so many lives.

---

**Kittycross2002@yahoo.com** - October 15, 2018 at 10:38 AM



“ My heartfelt condolences and prayers to you, Colleen, and to your family. I was very shocked to read of his passing. I have many memories of you and Bruce from our RBI days. He would always come bounding over to our dorm (to see you, of course) with jokes and smiles and enthusiasm. He was so fun but yet a true man of God. I have enjoyed being Facebook friends with him and reading his posts. They were so often profound and witty. I know this is very difficult for you and your family and I will continue to lift you up in my prayers. Blessings!

---

**Carole Zinger Barber** - October 15, 2018 at 09:15 AM

HH

“ We extend our sympathy and pray that God's grace may be abundant as you grieve his loss. We didn't know Bruce real well, but it was interesting to hear this story and of course we remember Colleen since she was our flower girl 65 years ago,. Our love and prayers. Howie and Vicki Hall

---

**Howie & Vicki Hall** - October 14, 2018 at 09:20 PM

MK

“ I will always remember and love Bruce. Meeting him at church, a restaurant, bar, or just walking down the street. He always had a story, dumb joke or deep thought conversation to make me smile.i can't wait for all those stories in heaven someday.My prayers for the family.

*Mark Kerkstra*

---

**Mark Kerkstra** - October 14, 2018 at 06:18 PM

FH

“ I met Bruce and Colleen and 1967 I was best man at their wedding in 68 he was my roommate at the reformed Bible institute I love the man dearly. He excepted me immediatly. we recently reconnected and our friendship continues without skipping a beat I am truly going to miss my friend rest in peace Bruce

---

**Fred Steve Harris** - October 14, 2018 at 06:17 AM

DB

“ *What a shock to read that Bruce had suffered an aortic aneurysm and entered the presence of Jesus in a few short hours, Colleen. It was such a joy to see you and Bruce at MCRC's 50th Anniversary celebration just weeks ago. Having that reunion so recently and hearing about the fullness of your life together after 50 years of marriage makes this news even harder to fathom. I have both tender and hilarious memories of Bruce during our tenure at MCRC. He was both a man of character and a real "character"...and most of all, a devoted follower of Jesus. I hold you and your precious children and grandchildren in my prayers as you grieve the loss of your beloved husband, father and grandpa. And I celebrate with you the gift of God's assurance that Bruce is more alive than ever in His presence! May He surround you all with His comfort, fill you with His peace, and cover you with His grace as you navigate this new chapter of life.*

---

**Deb Borst** - October 14, 2018 at 12:45 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bruce W. Miller.*



---

October 13, 2018 at 05:02 PM

LQ

“ I will never forget the funny little stories that he brought with him to bell choir - he kept us going and will be greatly missed !! I hope he knew how much we appreciated him coming to our church and helping us out - he had a lot of patience with us- and he could take our teasing with a smile on his face! He brought out the best in us and I believe that we played our best for him!!! Hopefully he will look down on us as we play and have a smile on his face! Your favorite d and e. !!!

---

**laura quick** - October 12, 2018 at 05:37 PM

JF

“ Bruce was a great friend, great musician, great comic, great Christian and was loved by many. Being the other side of Hogan's Hero's I enjoyed playing next to Bruce for over 40 years. I enjoyed his wit, smile and willingness to tell some sort of story. Bruce, you will be missed. Thanks for taking on the bell choir and being there to entertain me every time we got together. I will miss you more than you will ever know.

*Jim "Tiny" Frost*

---

**Jim "Tiny" Frost** - October 12, 2018 at 01:22 PM

JM

“ To Bruce; You will be missed by more people than you could know. You have touched a lot of lives, We love you with all our hearts. To Colleen and the kids, So sorry for your loss. God Bless the family.

*Love to all Janice*

---

**Janice Miller** - October 11, 2018 at 11:45 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bruce W. Miller.*



---

October 11, 2018 at 11:09 PM



“ *I remember watching Monty Python's Meaning of Life and being so embarrassed, and he just kept making dad jokes. I'm so sorry to hear he's gone. I also remember learning about model trains. He was a kind and wonderful fellow.*

---

**Sarah Magnolia** - October 11, 2018 at 10:36 PM

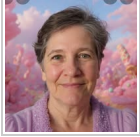


“ *Bruce worked hard on getting my son Ethan a scholarships so he could attend blue lakes fine art camp I love talking music with him. Choose one of the easiest persons to talk to. I'll miss listing Some great music with you. You will be missed my friend.*



---

**Cathie Funke** - October 11, 2018 at 10:31 PM



“ Bruce was my neighbor for many, many years. I grew up with his kids. Bruce was a wonderful, kind man. Always waved when he walked by our house. My family and I moved away from Scottville 2 years ago. But, I kept in touch with Facebook with his whole family. The Scottville Clown Band was just in Hudsonville and I made a point to go, hoping he was here. He was! He was so happy to see me, he gave me a big hug, almost squishing me. I fully enjoyed the concert and Bruce's solo. I'll miss you Bruce!

---

**Patsi Wertz** - October 11, 2018 at 10:17 PM

DQ

“ I met Bruce when he became our bell choir director. His patience and great talent made us better performers. I am grateful that I got to know Bruce and had a chance to enjoy our Wednesday practices and monthly performances. I will miss his smile and funny stories. Till we meet again! Dawn Quick

---

**Dawn Quick** - October 11, 2018 at 07:34 PM