



Richard Oestreicher

June 20, 1934 - April 17, 2020

Richard George “Dick” Oestreicher (born June 20, 1934) and Roberta Belle “Bobbi” Oestreicher (nee Bradley, born September 12, 1936) were married on August 30, 1958 at Grace Bible Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan. They enjoyed 61 years together and went home to be with the Lord on April 17 and 14, 2020, respectively.

Red dots on a wall map in their home marked all the places they had been, including Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Russia, and Ukraine just after the wall came down. Dick and Bobbi were some of the best traveled home missionaries you could ever meet. Their work was always personal, as together they shared the love they had experienced in Jesus with the wider world.

Graduates of the University of Michigan, the Oestreichers bled maize and blue for the rest of their life. Active members at Ward Church, they were friends to all they met and faithful servants of the Lord. Missionaries at heart, they served in a host of mission fields over the course of their life together.

A consummate preschool teacher even beyond Montessori school walls, Bobbi loved to engage young children at their level. Through SEND International and as Director of World Outreach for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Dick resourced international church planting with innovative leadership. Spiritual mentors for more than six decades, Dick and Bobbi were an inspiration to many.

The family home was perhaps their greatest mission field, where they lovingly raised their children, established a legacy of faith for generations after them to follow, and extended hospitality far beyond the normal bonds of family. Compassionate, humble, and genuinely loving, the Oestreichers always had an extra place at the table. Faithful and welcoming, frugal yet generous, they held themselves to the highest Christian ideals while extending love and grace freely to everyone around them. Their lives bore unmistakable evidence of the Holy Spirit’s work over the decades.

When their love on earth was spent, and their love of God made perfect, the Oestreichers died well – Dick having fought the good fight and Bobbi having embraced the peace of God which passes understanding. Billy Graham once said, “Someday you will read or hear that I am dead. Don’t you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God.” The

Oestreichers, spiritual giants in their own humble way, changed their address this past week. We grieve, we mourn, but we do so in the sure and certain hope of resurrection which is offered to all who trust in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Dick and Bobbi are survived by children Lori (Joe), Lisa (Rod), and Mark (Jeannie), grandchildren Zack (Rachael), Kirsten (Geoff), Rachel (Dan), Shana (Anthony), Jake (Kristin), Rachel (Isaac), Riley, Wade, Vance (Alyssa), Max (Bailey), and Shelby, by 12 great-grandchildren, Dick's sisters Ruth and Carol (Jim), Bobbi's sisters Kay (Bruce) and Kathy (Jim), and a host of nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Bobbi was preceded in death by her sister, Bonnie (Terry).

We will notify regarding a Memorial Service when plans can be made.

If you would like to donate in memory of Richard & Bobbi, two organizations they were passionate about are: SEND International (send.org), an interdenominational global church planting organization. Use the form line "Add instructions to the receipting department" to specify "In memory of the Oestreichers".

Central Detroit Christian (centraldetroitchristian.org), empowering individuals to reach their highest potential while transforming the community to be a place of Shalom. Use the form line "Add a memo" to specify "In memory of the Oestreichers".

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Comments



“ My mom and dad were next door neighbors to Bobbi and Dick. Dick did our taxes and my parents until Dick retired. They were such a lovely, lovely couple. My parents passed first, now Dick. I am sure that they see each other now on the next plane of existence. I was incredibly sad to learn of Dick's passing when our 2020 Christmas card was returned. But, I am quite sure that he is ecstatic on the other side. Sincere sympathies to the family. Vicki and Luke

Vicki Shy-McGrail - January 24 at 06:59 PM



“ To the family of Dick and Bobbi, I want to tell you how very sad I am to learn of their deaths, but happy that they are now with their God and Savior. It was through Bobbi that I came to know Jesus as my personal Savior when we were in High School, through Grace Bible Church. She was new in our neighborhood and we would go to and from school together and became best of friends. She invited me to go to church with her and the rest is history My life was changed through the grace of God. My experience in the youth group matured me in my faith, but also in my life. I am ever grateful to Bobbi.
Her marriage to Dick was surely meant to be. I'll love them forever.

Marilyn (Cook)Landane. God bless you all
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Marilyn Landane - July 06, 2020 at 08:49 AM



“ We can think of no more a giving couple than Dick and Bobbi. We have known them thru Ward Church for many decades, and their gentle, loving presence has been a blessing to both of us. Never was the conversations all about them; they always inquired about our health, our latest events at I.C.E.A., how we were handling the challenges and could they help. We will miss both very much but rejoice with them in their "new home," Thanks, Bobbi and Dick, for the privilege of being your friends and for all you contributed in furthering the Kingdom of God.

Love in Christ, Howard & Dianne Phelps

Howard & Dianne Phelps - April 29, 2020 at 01:02 PM



“ We recognized Dick and Bobbi when we walked in to vote at our precinct many years ago. I recognized them from Ward, although I was a young teen or in my early 20's when I was there, and probably never met them personally. Yet, we knew we knew each other and I looked forward to a short chat with them at the polls each year. Their love for Christ was always obvious and I will miss their gentle, faithful presence. Sending love and condolences as you miss them in this life, and wait for eternity with them

megan orsini - April 28, 2020 at 09:00 PM



“ Dear Family of Dick and Bobbi,
We are so sorry for the deep loss you are experiencing right now. Your mom and dad will be sorely missed I am sure. Thankful for the hope of Heaven more and more each day! It was always a joy to run into your parents at SEND events or see them pop into the offices on occasion. It was a blessing to us to know and hear of their faithfulness through the years after retirement. What an encouragement to those coming up behind them. May Jesus Christ be praised for the lives they lived well for His goodness and His glory.
Bryan and Marcie Williamson
SEND International

marcie williamson - April 28, 2020 at 02:36 PM



“ Ramona Mooney lit a candle in memory of Richard Oestreicher



Ramona Mooney - April 27, 2020 at 12:18 AM



“ I got to know Dick and his golfing partner Bill Parmentier thru the Ward Men's Golf League. I loved giving Dick the business about his supporting U of M, and he gave it right back to me regularly! Dick was a very kind man who obviously lived out his faith in God! I will badly miss both he and Bill (who had moved out here to Fox Run where I live).

Safe ~ Home ~ Dick!

Jim Vandenberg

JAMES VANDENBERG - April 24, 2020 at 03:10 PM



“ Deacon Bobbi greatly blessed all who knew them. They made and incalculable impact on send international. Dick and Bobbi joined the ministry of send international after graduating from U of M dick worked in finance and donor relations, his wisdom and integrity served our organization well. He wanted to ensure that donations enable to colleagues who work overseas to do their gospel work. Dick and Bobby lived out there faith not only at work but at home and in the community. It was a great privilege to know them and work with them my life has been deeply in Riched by their testimony and consistent love. We show miss them greatly but rejoice to know they are home with our Lord.

Frank Severn - April 24, 2020 at 08:40 AM



“ “We’re going to be out of town next week, could you water our flowers?” This was an often repeated request from our neighbors of twenty three years. Oh our flowers got a lot of TLC too when we were away. Countless front yard chats, countless soup and cookie exchanges, countless updates on the kids and grandkids. And through any kind of weather we were witnesses to a Michigan flag raising for every one of their football games. So many fond memories. Dick and Bobbi were the best neighbors and friends anyone could hope for. We loved them and will miss them dearly.

Mark Motz and Kelly McCarthy

Mark Motz - April 24, 2020 at 12:13 AM



“ Dick was always so kind and loving. A couple of things that I will remember are how he loved his wife and family. So loyal and dedicated. Another will be the twinkle and laughter in his eyes. He lead by example and was gentle and kind. He loved a good joke and really understood people. His compassion for my parents never ended. My Dad had Parkinson's for years and he still called on him and took him to lunch and helped him get in and out of the car but still showed him respect and compassion.

Susan Justice - April 23, 2020 at 07:49 PM



“ If it was not for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ; this would be a very difficult times. I am so encouraged that Dad and Mom have not left home but they have gone home. For the four years that I studied at Moody Theological Seminary - Michigan, Dad and Mom opened their house to me and my family. They were a great encouragement to me especially when the Greek and Hebrew classes were heavy on me. When it was time for me to graduate, they opened their house for a time of celebration. I will surely miss them. Even coming back to Kenya, they kept following our ministry here of training Pastors and Church leaders. I am so grateful to God that I got to know them and really admired their love for the Lord and people.
Joseph, Jane, David & Grace.



Joseph Wainaina. - April 23, 2020 at 06:36 PM