

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

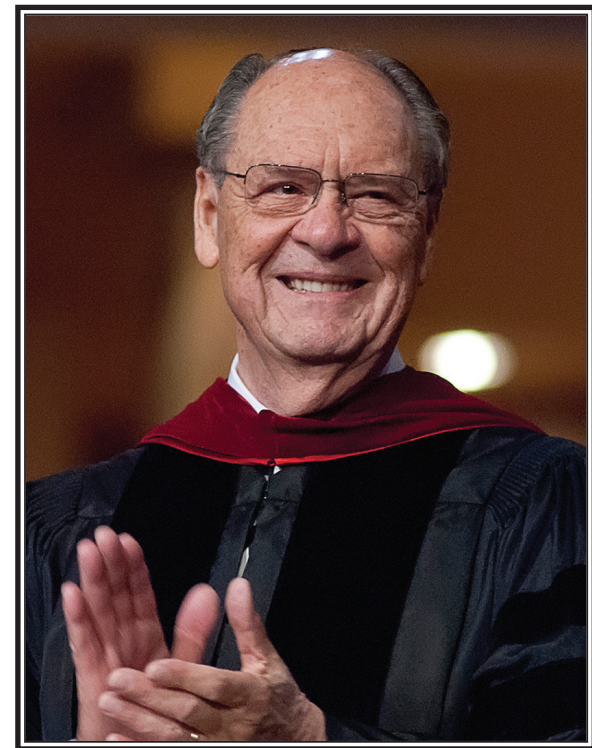
"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain:

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

*Honoring a
+ Life
Well Lived*



Man of Faith

Robert Herman Spence, 84, passed into the presence of the Lord on Feb. 19, 2020 in Springfield, Mo. His was a life spent in service to his family, his church, his community, and to the students, faculty, and friends of Evangel University.

Dr. Spence was born on Sept. 13, 1935 in McComb, Miss., to T.H. & Lucille Spence. He grew up in Montgomery, Ala., and earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Alabama.

On Aug. 11, 1956 he married Anne Tindol, and they had five children — Jennifer, Tom, Jon, David and Steve.

An ordained minister, Dr. Spence held pastorates in three Assemblies of God churches over a 20 year span and served as a presbyter in the Alabama AG District for seven years, before joining the Evangel Board of Directors in 1968.

Dr. Spence began his tenure as president of Evangel on May 1, 1974, and retired on April 30, 2014, serving for 40 years. At the time of his retirement he was the longest-tenured college president in the state of Missouri and the second-longest in the nation.

During those years he oversaw the transition of the campus from WW-II barracks into a fully completed university. Under his direction, enrollment doubled, Evangel gained university status, and ten master's degree programs were added. Most importantly, he was part of the transformation of tens of thousands of students' lives as they were nurtured and taught under his leadership.

Active in civic affairs and respected as an advisor, he served where needed, including as President of the Board of Directors of CoxHealth; Chairman of the Board of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of the Board of City Utilities; and Chairman of the Springfield/Branson National Airport Board of Directors.

He also served on the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God, the Assemblies of God Chaplains Commission and the Board of Directors of Maranatha Village.

During his final three years at Evangel, Dr. Spence participated in the work leading to the approval of the consolidation of Evangel University, Central Bible College and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.

His awards and honors are extensive. On Feb. 10, 2020, Dr. Spence was awarded the "Key to the City" by Springfield Mayor Ken McClure, honoring his many years of service. In 2004, he was named "Springfieldian of the Year" by the Chamber of Commerce. He was also honored by the *Springfield Business Journal* with both the "Men of the Year" and the "Lifetime Achievement in Business" awards.

Dr. Spence is survived by his wife of 63 years, Anne, and three sons: Jon and his wife, Danica, of Springfield, and their children, Jon Thomas, Jordan, Jared and Karleigh; David and his wife, Andrea, of Matthews, N.C., and their children Connor and Libby; and Steve and his wife, Sandi, of Neenah, Wisc., and their children, Michael and his wife, Ashley, Lauren and Emily. He is also survived by his sister, Judy Griffin of Tupelo, Miss.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Joanne Hart; and two children, Jennifer and Tom.

*"The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed,
I have a beautiful inheritance." Psalm 16:6 (ESV)*

Celebration Service

EVANGEL UNIVERSITY
ROBERT H. SPENCE CHAPEL
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020, 3 P.M.

Jordan Spence, Grandson Piano Prelude

Carol Taylor, President of Evangel University. Welcome and Obituary

Blessed Assurance, Congregational Hymn Michael Spence, Song Leader
Jordan Spence, Piano

Reflections
Roy Blunt, U.S. Senator
Jim Anderson, former President of Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Orville Mills, EU Board of Trustees

He's Been Faithful. Evangel Chorale
Kayla Kernsmaal, Soloist
Tom Matrone, Conductor

Reflections
Steve Spence, Son
Jon Spence, Son

Great is Thy Faithfulness, Congregational Hymn Tom Matrone, Song Leader
Mark Bowdidge, Organist

Denny Duron, EU Original Football Coach Speaker

Carol Taylor Dismissal

There will be a private Graveside Service.
Please remain seated until the family has left.



The family has requested contributions be made to the
Robert H. Spence Evangel University Memorial Fund,
1111 N. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, MO 65802

or online at the Memorial page
<https://www.evangel.edu/drspence/>