



### Alice Florence Mickelson

(February 14, 1910 to August 6, 2003)

Alice Florence Mickelson died August 6, 2003 in Santa Ana, California at the age of 93. Alice and Einar Mickelson were Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA) missionaries for over 38 years in Borneo and New Guinea of the Dutch East Indies, and in the Philippine Islands.

She was born Alice Florence Patterson on February 14, 1910 in Seattle, Washington to Florence Abrams Patterson, a Free Methodist evangelist, who died at her birth. Her father, Robert Edward Patterson, was a carpenter who built many homes and churches on Whidbey Island, Washington. After her father died when Alice was 12 years old, she then lived with her married sister and husband, Hazel and Harry Vischer, near Brooklyn, Michigan. After high school, Alice attended Nyack Missionary Training Institute (now Nyack College, Nyack, N.Y.), training to be a nurse.

In 1932, while attending Nyack, she met and married Einar Mickelson. After two years of Alliance pastorates in Wisconsin and Michigan, Einar and Alice (now with two young sons) went to Borneo, Dutch East Indies as CMA missionaries, where they ministered for five years. After furlough, in the fall of 1941, Einar went to New Guinea (today called Irian Jaya, Indonesia). Due to the threat of World War II in that part of the world he went alone to continue pioneer mission work. Because women and children were not permitted to travel outside the USA, Alice remained in California with her sons Robert and Rollen and baby Jacqueline. Einar was in New Guinea when WWII broke out, and by a dramatic rescue escaped from the Japanese. He returned to the USA in 1943. During his two plus years in New Guinea, Mrs. Mike (as Alice was called by missionaries and nationals) had little communication with her husband, and for a period of 18 months didn't know if he was dead or alive.

After World War II, in 1945, Einar returned to New Guinea to the Wissel Lakes area, while Alice remained in California now raising four children, including a new addition, baby Cynthia. In 1947 Alice took on the daunting task of traveling on a freighter with her four children, now the ages of 2 to 13 years old, from New York to New Guinea. In 1954 Einar was part of the much talked about dramatic amphibious plane landing on the Baliem River in the Baliem Valley, New Guinea to begin the CMA's pioneer missionary work among the Dani stone age people. The account of Einar's work in New Guinea is recorded in his book, "God Can" and in a Reader's Digest article by C.W. Hall (Feb. 1957).

After many years' work in New Guinea, Einar and Alice went on to the Philippines to work among the Indonesian people in the southern islands of the Philippines with a vision of raising up tribal Bible Schools. Einar died in 1969 and is buried on the Mickelson Memorial Bible School property on the southern tip of Mindanao, Philippines. After her husband's death in the Philippines, Alice returned to the USA to retire and to enjoy her children, now married with grand children.

Alice, like her husband, made great sacrifices to fulfill the Great Commission. One day at the throne in heaven a great throng of people will be behind Mr. and Mrs. Mike praising God that they and other missionaries had come and told them the good news of Jesus! Over the years as a missionary, Mrs. Mike often served by showing hospitality to others. Memories recalled by fellow missionaries tell fondly of her encouraging and warm hospitality to others. Her firm "You can do it!" attitude inspired others to make rugged shelters more like home, and local foods more palatable to western appetites. Her creative thoughts helped new recruits adapt and adjust to strange new surroundings. Her laughter lightened many and her ability to make "something out of nothing" inspired others to embrace a foreign country and make a new "home" for themselves, as they pioneered in bringing the gospel to lost and unreached people of a stone age culture.

At her 90th birthday celebration at Town and Country Manor in Santa Ana, California, she made a comment that she couldn't believe she was that old. Shortly thereafter her health failed until her death.

Her son Robert of Laguna Woods, California, Rollen of Pleasanton, California, Jacqueline Matthews of Coon Rapids Minnesota, Cynthia Harvey of LaMirada, California, 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren survive Alice.

A memorial was held August 13 in Santa Ana, California where Alice's children, grandchildren, and friends (some by email) gave tribute to her. Alice's son-in law, Rev. John Matthews officiated.

Alice is now celebrating in heaven with her husband, Einar, and many others and seeing her mother's face for the first time.