



# HBS Newsletter

Hôpital Bon Samaritain

Limbé, Haiti



## TRIBUTE TO:

**MARGARET JOANNA HODGES**

04/18/1923 - 11/07/2016



Margaret Joanna Hodges was born 04/18/1923, the oldest of four girls to Presbyterian Minister, Clayton Montgomery and wife Sadie Kidd, in Long Beach, California. Following her birth, the family moved to New Jersey and Kansas for work before moving back to California early 1930's.

Joanna was an active Christian who loved to sing, always participating in the church choir and youth ministries. It was at a church convention in Los Angeles in 1940 that she met her future husband, William H Hodges of Chicago, IL. Joanna attended UCLA where she graduated with a BS in Nursing. Bill Hodges also went to UCLA studying engineering. When the World War II broke out, Bill Hodges joined the ROTC and became an Air Force Meteorologist stationed in the Philippines. Bill and Joanna were married June of 1944 just prior to his deployment overseas.



After the war, Bill Hodges returned to California where he changed his major to pre-med at UCLA. Bill and Joanna dedicated their lives to become medical missionaries to help "rebuild" countries devastated by the war. Bill studied Japanese while stationed in Japan following armistice. Returning to California, Bill and wife, Joanna joined the Evergreen Baptist Church of the Japanese community in Los Angeles.

Bill and Joanna had four children, Susan, Barbara and David in Los Angeles, CA followed by Paul several years later when Bill, recently graduated as a doctor and was in residency in Kern County, CA.

Bill and Joanna's Christian faith never wavered. A God-sent, chance encounter at the American Baptist Seminary in Berkeley, CA with, Baptist missionaries, Harold and Ivah Heneise, opened the way for them to join them in Haiti. Bill and Joanna were dedicated in 1957 by the Evergreen Baptist Church to be their appointed medical missionaries to Hôpital Bon Samaritain, a small grassroots Baptist clinic located in Limbé, Haiti founded in 1953 by Baptist Pastor Ludovic St Phard.





Traveling to Limbé with their four small children in April 1958, Bill and Joanna Hodges, with a lot of help from churches, volunteers and donors alike, oversaw the hospital which grew over the years to become a primary care center with a large outpatient clinic complemented by Surgery, Pediatrics, Maternity, Adult Ward and a Special Needs Orphanage.

It is there, in later years, encouraged by daughter Barbara, that Bill and Joanna adopted five more children, Peter, Anacaona, Olynda, Tamara and Jonathan.

Dr. William Hodges died of a heart attack in 1995 and was laid to rest at the small family cemetery at Chateaufneuf, Haiti where Joanna will be joining him.



Though the loss of Bill Hodges was a devastating blow to his family and HBS, Joanna continued to be positive and insisted on carrying on their "mission" until she passed away quietly in her sleep at the TrustBridge Hospice in Palm Beach Gardens, FL on November 7, 2016.

Joanna Hodges was a remarkable woman, deeply religious, hardworking, courageous and full of hope. Her memory lives on though her presence will be greatly missed.

HBS continues to provide much needed medical help and hope in Limbé. Joanna's grandson, Shawn Hodges, since 2006 has chosen to follow in their footsteps, keeping Bill and Joanna's dream alive at Hôpital Bon Samaritain.



Celebration of Life - 11/19/2016 - Jupiter Florida



Memorial Service - 11/19/2016 Limbé, Haiti

We have started a **Joanna Memorial Fund** to be used for the children of HBS in her memory. Please send contributions earmarked as such to HBS Foundation, Inc.

***"~ whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge, thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me~"***  
*Ruth 1:16-17*

**WHERE NEVER AN EAGLE FLEW**

*Flying up above the earth so high  
 All around so blue the sky.  
 Down below lies a turquoise sea  
 Stretching as far as my eye can see.  
 We've left behind the bonds of earth  
 My heart now overflows with mirth.  
 Up, up we go in the delirious bright blue  
 Where never a hawk or eagle flew.  
 Chasing the shouting wind this craft has flung  
 And wheeled and soared and even swung,  
 Guided through a footless hall of air  
 So high in the sunlit silence the there  
 Above the clouds we dance on silver wings  
 I sit, I think, I ponder on so many things.  
 And as my mind explores the sanctity of space  
 I feel I could reach out and touch God's face.*

*Joanna Hodges 2001*

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