



Balachandra Theodore

July 6, 1941 - October 18, 2019

Dr. Balachandra Theodore, peacefully passed at home on October 18, 2019, surrounded by family.

Bala is lovingly remembered by R. Goldha, his wife of 48 years; Nihil and Nimel, his sons; Nija and Kate, his daughters-in-law; Nalin, Nevin, Luke, and Marc, his grandsons; the rest of his extended family; and by all his former students, who are serving throughout the world.

Bala lived in Virginia most summers since retiring 10 years ago from a lifetime career in education.

On August 30th, just a day before he planned on returning to his home in India, he suffered a massive heart attack. Bala persevered through his difficult hospitalization to give his family more time to enjoy his presence. His wife and children were by his side during these difficult days. Even through his pain, weakness, and delirium, he would show hospital staff glimpses of his great sense of humor and profound intelligence. Bala deeply missed his home and repeatedly mentioned to anyone and everyone how badly he wanted to go home.

Throughout his life, Dr. Theodore had worked at numerous high schools, colleges, churches, and seminaries, teaching and inspiring students to pursue their passions and find their calling. He possessed a strong faith, a commitment to excellence, and an infectious smile and laugh. He had a unique ability to relate to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Services celebrating Dr. Balachandra Theodore's life will be held on Saturday, October 26th at Grace United Methodist Church, located at 9750 Wellington Road, Manassas, Virginia. The viewing begins at 10am, followed by a funeral service at 11am. A reception will follow at noon in the lower Fellowship Hall.

Our family plans to fulfill Bala's final wish to get back home to India where his body will be

buried at Kaliancaud Church of South India Cemetery.

His memory, however, will remain in our hearts, and his legacy of education and service will grow forever.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to support the Diocesan Missionary Prayer Band (DMPB), a ministry program of the Church of South India that supports the education and health of tribal people living in underdeveloped areas. The transfer of funds will be arranged by Grace United Methodist Church. Please make checks payable to Grace UMC with "Bala Theodore DMPB" in the memo.

Events

OCT **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

26

Grace United Methodist Church
9750 Wellington Rd, Manassas, VA, US, 20110

OCT **Service** 11:00AM

26

Grace United Methodist Church
9750 Wellington Rd, Manassas, VA, US, 20110

Comments



“ 22 files added to the tribute wall



Vinotha Vijayakumar - October 25, 2019 at 08:07 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Balachandra Theodore.



October 23, 2019 at 07:16 PM



“ It was a wonderful privilege to welcome Bala and Golda to United Wesleyan College in the early years of my Presidency. Bala and Golda came to us from the very strong South India churches. He brought a strong commitment to Christ and His Church and was a passionate disciple of our Lord. His teaching challenged the students not only to live holy lives but to serve the message of the Gospel to a world. Sylvia remembers, so fondly, that when their first child was born Golda asked my wife to help her care for this baby boy. Sylvia spent hours with Golda assisting her in his care. Bala and Golda hold dear places in our hearts. Bala's life has impacted so many of us, students and fellow-laborers. I thank God for allowing me to be associated with such a wonderful man of God during the years when I served as President of UWC. His life lives on in the work he has done. May God bless Golda, her sons and grandchildren, with His presence and comfort. Earle and Sylvia Wilson

Earle L. Wilson - October 23, 2019 at 10:53 AM



“ The loss of a loved one is never easy. I will surely miss Theodore maama's impact on our family. No words will ever do justice to the impact maama left on our family. May God give us the peace that we seek. May his soul rest in peace ..



“ My brother and I had the privilege of taking classes taught by Professor Theodore at United Wesleyan College. What a wonderful man and teacher. So thankful for the life he lived and the lives he touched. Our sincerest sympathies to his family. Love and Prayers, Kimberly Chevalier Harris



Kimberly Harris - October 22, 2019 at 06:58 PM



“ It was my privilege to be Bala's friend and colleague. He was a true scholar and teacher who cared about his students and fellow professors. He was always quick with a greeting, smile and hearty laugh as we shared our lives. Beth and I express our heartfelt sympathies to Goldha and family with recognition Bala knew Christ as his Lord and Savior.

Dr. Robert and Beth Mavis - October 22, 2019 at 10:50 AM



“ Professor Theodore was a favorite of mine when I attend United Wesleyan College from 1976-1980. I remember when their son was born. I would go over and help Mrs. Theodore care for the baby, help with housework and iron her sarees for her. They were such a loving family and I loved helping out when I could. Prayers of comfort and peace extended to his loving family.

Peg Munyan Fallstick - October 22, 2019 at 06:55 AM



“ Professor Theodore was one of the most influential persons in my early theological development and in my faith in Christ. I am indebted to him as one who encouraged a serious study of scripture and the development of a Christian imagination in teaching and preaching. He also served as a steady witness to the truth and grace of Jesus Christ. He poured in to me as a young, immature believer and I am blessed to have had his active witness of Christ in my life. Pastor Matt Mabey

Matt Mabey - October 22, 2019 at 06:36 AM



“ Dr. Theodore challenged his students and pressed them to higher levels of learning. Part of who I am today came through his teaching. I speak for many students from United Wesleyan College who say thank you for his ministry of teaching.

Dr. Mark Berry - October 21, 2019 at 10:46 PM



“ Thank you Dr Theodore, you were an inspiring professor. I learned a lot from you. It has served me well through the years

Christina L Warren - October 22, 2019 at 01:15 PM



“ A lovable, gentle, smiling personality Uncle Theodore, a man full of positive thoughts will be remembered in our hearts. May HIS soul rest in our Lord with peace

Dr. Ethayarajan and family - October 21, 2019 at 10:41 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Balachandra Theodore.



October 21, 2019 at 09:05 PM



“ Dr, Theodore was one of the best educators I had the privilege of learning from. As a second career student at United Wesleyan College (1983-1987), I majored in Christian education and soon learned that Dr. Theodore was a master at "discovery learning." This teaching aid served me well in 25 years of pastoral ministry and now as a second-year substitute teacher at Central York High School. May God bless his memory. Rick Fischl

Richard J Fischl - October 21, 2019 at 06:31 PM



“ Uncle Theodore was a very kind and gentle person He always welcomed us with a warm smile and treated us with great hospitality when we went to visit him. He will be greatly missed . Our sincere condolences and prayers to help them get over this great loss. God Bless!

Ezhil , Madhu and Anika Rajan.

Michigan.

George Rajan - October 21, 2019 at 08:55 PM



“ Uncle Theodore,

A gentle and loving person, very much loved by all, had high appreciation for myself and our hospital. He willingly attended all our family functions, and served as a motivator for our development. His loss is a personal loss for all in our family. May his soul rest in peace.

Ethayarajan - October 21, 2019 at 10:06 PM



“ It was my honor to work with Bala at LED HS. He was a kind, funny, caring and insightful man. Most of all he was known as a true gentleman. Rochelle Durepo Spokane

rochelle Durepo Spokane - October 24, 2019 at 12:09 PM



“ Golda and family, how sad we are that Bala has passed to be with the Lord. But what a celebration there must be in heaven to receive him. Our deepest sympathies as you grieve the loss. Bala was instrumental in our faith journey and we love you all. Ken and Cindy Grieshaber

Cindy Grieshaber - October 24, 2019 at 07:20 PM



“ Fondly remembering our beloved Balu mama- yes that is how we called him.He was my mother's youngest brother and while ,he was studying in Annamalai University and we were living in Dindivanam,he used to come and stay with our family a lot-
Though I can not remember those times,I remember while I was growing up,he was our most favourite uncle.we used to spend a lot of time playing games and hearing stories from him .He always had a sense of humour and used to change the lyrics of the rhymes and made everything interesting and entertaining for us his nieces and nephews.
After he moved to The USA,we missed him a lot and always were looking forward to his visits to India.

I vividly remember his wedding in Nagercoil,when I was in year 8 ,,feeling so proud sitting next to him.We always waited for their visits every few years.

The latest memories we have of him ,are his visits to Melbourne Australia,for our children's wedding.He was the only one of his generation in my side of the family to represent,at our son Priji's wedding in 2008.We had a lovely time together.iln 2017, when he joined us ,to celebrate our daughter Prinisha's wedding.

Still very fresh in our memories.My mother was also visiting at that time and we watched the siblings sit and talk for hours about their childhood days

It was such a pleasure and honour to have Balu mama with Golda mamy join us in celebrating very special times in our and our children's lives

He always said I was his favourite niece.

Balu mama has a very special place in our hearts and lives and we will always cherish his memories.

We thank our God almighty for his life and we join the rest of the family in celebrating his very fruitful and rewarding life on this earth.

Vinotha Vijayakumar - October 25, 2019 at 07:55 AM



“ When we think of Bala wonderful memories come flooding back of all the many Thanksgiving weekends and Christmas weekends spent with him and Golda, Nihil and Nimel.

Our kids had a great time.

The Christmas service, abundance of food, board games table tennis and watching sports made the days spent fun packed.

We will miss his loving smile and heart and the times spent will always be in all our memories.

Our love and prayers go out to Golda, Nihil, Nija, Nalin, Nevin, Nimel, Kate, Luke and Marc
May God's peace be with you all

Cyril, shantha, John, suchita and their families

Shantha Edwards - October 26, 2019 at 01:25 AM



“ The Theodore's were exceptional examples of the faith. Not only was Bala an academic, he was athletic as well. Kind, gracious, loving and gentle were a few of the many characteristics with which he was graced. He was a deeply valued friend, and his many contributions will continue to live on. He made the world a better place. Deepest sympathy to Golda and the family. Dave Wooten. Cambridge Md.

Dave wooten - October 28, 2019 at 12:03 PM



“ I have just learned of the passing of my fellow-worker in Christ, Balachandra Theodore. We taught together at United Wesleyan College in the late '70's and worshiped together at Calvary Wesleyan Church. What a deep Christian and serious scholar of Christian education. At a time when diversity was not the hot issue, Bala brought new perspectives to the students from another place on the planet. Prayers rise for Golda and those two awesome boys--now adults.

Clarence (Bud) Bence - November 15, 2019 at 09:01 PM