



Bertha Leonor Sanchez De Santa Cruz

June 24, 1951 - May 10, 2016

(*Scroll down for an English versión of the obitुरay)

Bertha Leonor Sánchez Lemos falleció en su hogar en Salt Lake City, Utah el día 10 de Mayo de 2016 rodeada de su familia, después de librar una valerosa batalla contra el cáncer. Le sobreviven su esposo José Luis, sus hijos Patricia Leonor, José Santiago y Paola Andrea, su nuera Liliana Barragán, su yerno Brian J. Walton y sus nietos Samuel, Joseph y Thomas.

Berthica nació el 24 de junio de 1951 en Pasto, Nariño, Colombia. Fue la décima hija dentro de 15 hermanos. Sus padres fueron Jorge Alberto Sánchez Ortiz y Bertha Leonor Lemos Villota. Completó sus estudios de académicos y obtuvo un título en Secretariado Ejecutivo y Contabilidad. Por diez años, trabajó en diversos sectores; en una compañía de publicaciones, un centro de negocios y en el instituto nacional colombiano de geografía Agustín Codazzi. Estas posiciones le ayudaron a desarrollar algunos de sus talentos como la excepcional atención a los detalles, caligrafía, taquigrafía, ortografía, y precisión de la geografía colombiana.

Se bautizó en La Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Últimos Días el 28 de abril de 1972, a la edad de 21 años; tan sólo 6 años después de que la Iglesia entrara oficialmente en Colombia. Esta decisión cambiaría y forjaría el resto de su vida mortal y eterna. Durante los primeros días de la Iglesia en

Colombia, el vivir fielmente como una miembro pionera le requirió determinación, valentía, y la habilidad de desafiar pacíficamente las normas religiosas y culturales de su época. Entre 1975-1977 sirvió una misión regular convirtiéndose así en la primera misionera de tiempo completo que saliera de Pasto, y una de las primeras en Colombia. Se le asignó a la misión de la Iglesia Cali, Colombia bajo la presidencia del Elder Jay E. Jensen, con quien desarrollaría una relación paternal que continuaría por el resto de su vida. Con su suave tacto, pero al mismo tiempo potente testimonio del Salvador atrajo a muchos a Cristo.

Su compromiso con Dios superaría las expectativas que se tenían para los miembros de la Iglesia en Latinoamérica de aquella época. Con apenas escasos templos en el mundo y casi todos en Estados Unidos, y con un número reducido de misioneros retornados en Latinoamérica, Bertha contrajo matrimonio con José Luis Santa Cruz, un misionero retornado, y lo hizo en el templo de Provo, UT el 6 de abril de 1982. En un aparte de su diario personal, describió a su esposo como “un hombre de fe y obediente al Señor” a través de quien su “familia ha sido eternamente bendecida”. Después de su matrimonio, se radicaron en Lima, Perú y vivieron allí por 9 años. Luego se trasladaron a Pasto, y más adelante a Bogotá, viviendo en Colombia por un total de 22 años. Estos lugares forjarían la identidad de la familia. Berthica se dedicó a servir a su familia y en la iglesia y apoyó a su esposo al hacer lo mismo. Juntos tocaron los corazones de las personas por donde fueron e inspiraron a muchos a seguir a Cristo.

En octubre de 2013 fue diagnosticada con cáncer, justo después de que ella y su esposo se mudaran a Estados Unidos, lo cual no le dio tiempo para que se adaptara a su nueva vida, cultura e idioma. El estar lejos de sus hermanos y de sus amistades más íntimas fue algo devastador para ella. Sin embargo, luchó con esperanza, especialmente cuando por más de un año lidió con los síntomas de metástasis en el cerebro. Constantemente debió re-aprender

muchas habilidades cognitivas y fue éste quizás el proceso más doloroso para ella y su familia. Pero con la gracia de Dios y Jesucristo hizo progresos increíbles y desafió de muchas maneras las expectativas médicas de su enfermedad. Siempre estuvo agradecida con los cuidados médicos en Salt Lake y en Nueva York y por la bondad de muchas nuevas amistades aprendiendo así a disfrutar su nueva vida de muchas maneras.

Su batalla contra el cáncer, fue la batalla de toda su familia también. Sin embargo, en el período más desafiante, el último año, su esposo José Luis dio todo de sí; la abnegada dedicación y total entrega fueron el sello de su amor que se fue puliendo cada día bajo el calor incandescente de la enfermedad. Como hijos, no podríamos haber pedido mejores padres y deseamos estar con ellos por la eternidad; un don que sólo podremos obtener a través de seguir del evangelio restaurado de Jesucristo y de confiar en su Expiación.

A Berthica se le conocía por su dulce personalidad y firme carácter, lleno de atributos cristianos. Su buen sentido del humor, hermosa sonrisa, prudencia, bondad, amor puro y una habilidad única para leer el alma de las personas, serán por siempre recordados. Su abnegación como madre y esposa fue inmensurable. Ella inspiraba una profunda confianza y sabiduría, lo cual atrajo a aquellos que buscaban consejo y oídos atentos. Fue confidente de muchos, ya que ella sabía bien cómo guardar sus asuntos en privado. Sus sinceros atributos cristianos serán siempre extrañados. Dios, su familia, y amigos de confianza significaban todo para ella.

Estamos seguros que su amor sobrepasará las barreras del tiempo y de la mortalidad para poder estar en contacto con los suyos mientras ellos estén en la tierra. Ella los visitará en sueños, les hablará en sus mentes y estará presente en momentos determinantes, dirigiendo así sus vidas de regreso a ese Dios en quien ella puso siempre su confianza.

Bertha Leonor Sanchez Lemos de Santa Cruz passed away on May 10th, 2016 surrounded by her family at her home in Salt Lake City, UT, after a courageous fight against cancer. She is survived by her husband Jose Luis, her children Patricia Leonor, Jose Santiago and Paola Andrea, her daughter in-law Liliana Barragan, her son in-law Brian Walton, and her three grandchildren Samuel, Joseph and Thomas.

Berthica was born on June 24th, 1951 in Pasto, Nariño, Colombia. She was the tenth of 15 siblings. Her parents were Jorge Alberto Sanchez Ortiz and Bertha Leonor Lemos Villota. She obtained an Executive Assistant degree in college. She worked for ten years in Bogota, in diverse sectors, including a publishing company, a business center, and in the Colombian national institute of geography (Instituto Geográfico Agustín Codazzi). At these positions, she developed her talents of exceptional attention to detail, calligraphy and orthography as well as efficient stenography, and an impressive precision in Colombian geography.

She was baptized a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on April 28th, 1972, at age 21, only six years after the church was officially introduced into her country. This decision would change and shape the rest of her mortal and eternal life. Especially in those early years of the church in Colombia, living as a faithful pioneer member required from her determination, courage, and the ability to peacefully challenge the religious and cultural norms of her time on her own. Overcoming several difficulties, she became the first female full-time missionary of the church from Pasto, and one of the first ones from Colombia. Between 1975- 1977, she served in the Cali Colombia mission under the presidency of Elder Jay E. Jensen, with whom she would develop a paternal relationship for the rest of her life. Her gentle touch and powerful testimony of the Savior drew many people to the

fold of God.

Her commitment to God would overcome the expectations of members of the church in Latin America at that time. When church temples were scant and mostly located in the United States, and returned missionaries were few, she married Jose Luis, also a returned missionary, in The Provo, Utah Temple on April 6th, 1982. In her personal journal, she described her husband as “a man who is faithful and obedient to the Lord” for whom her “family has been eternally blessed”. After their marriage, they lived in Lima, Peru for almost 9 years, then in Pasto, and later in Bogota, Colombia for 22 years. These places played a significant role on the identity of her family. During these times, she fully committed herself to serve her family and God, the most important things to her. She lovingly served in several leadership positions in the church and supported her husband as he did the same. Together they touched the hearts of people wherever they went and inspired many to follow Christ.

She was diagnosed with cancer shortly after moving to the United States in October 2013, which did not give her time to fully adapt to the new life, language, and culture. Being away from most of her family and closest friends while fighting cancer was devastating to her. However, she fought with hope, especially when she battled for over a year with brain metastases. She constantly had to relearn many cognitive skills and with God’s grace she did an amazing job that challenged the odds of her disease. She was always grateful for the professional care she received in Salt Lake City and New York, and for the new friends she made. Along with her faith in God and the help of her family, she was able to remain strong and cherish life in many different ways.

Her battle against cancer was the battle of her family as well. During her most challenging last year, her husband gave everything up for her and stood by her side at every breath. His total abnegation to her sealed their eternal love,

which was polished in the furnace of fire of this disease. As their children, we could have not asked for better parents and not wish to be with them for eternity; a gift that we could only have through the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

She was well known for her sweet personality and firm character, rich in Christ-like attributes. Her good sense of humor, beautiful smile, prudence, tenderness, faithfulness, pure love, and her ability to read people's hearts will forever be remembered. She inspired trust and wisdom, which drew people to her when they sought for counsel and attentive ears. She was the confidant of many as she knew very well how to keep things private. Her sincere Christ-like attributes will be greatly missed. God, her family and trusted friends, meant everything to her.

We are most certain that her love surpasses the barriers of time and mortality and it will enable her to be constantly in touch with those she loves on this earth. She will visit them in dreams, thoughts, and special experiences to guide their lives back to God in whom she always trusted.

The Funeral Service will be on Saturday, May 14th at 1:00pm at the Mountain Zion 3rd Ward located on 225 W 500 N, Salt Lake City, UT 84103. A viewing will be held prior to the service from 10:00am to 12:30pm at the same place.

Interment will be at the Bountiful City Cemetery located at 2224 S 200 W, Bountiful, UT at 2:30pm.

Previous Events

Viewing

MAY 14. 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM (MT)

Mountain Zion 3rd Ward
225 W 500 N,
Salt Lake City, UT

Funeral Service

MAY 14. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Mountain Zion 3rd Ward
225 W 500 N,
Salt Lake City, UT

Interment

MAY 14. 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM (MT)

Bountiful City Cemetery
2224 S 200 W
Bountiful, UT 84010

Tribute Wall



“ *Bertha Leonor Sanchez De Santa Cruz*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *m so sorry for your loss. There is nothing that can prepare a person for the feelings of losing a family member.*

The Bible describes Jehovah as a God of all comfort, at 2 Corinthians chapter 1 and verses 3-4. One scripture that has brought so many people comfort is Revelation chapter 21 and verses 3-5 because that describes a promise from God that is specifically touching to anyone who has experienced the pain of losing someone. Again, my deepest sympathies for your loss.

thomas knorwaski - May 27, 2016 at 06:30 AM



“ *My heart is too heavy to struggle to write my feelings in Spanish. My love and a Brazos to my friend Jose and his children. The last few days I have been remembering my days as a young missionary in Pasto, and the great spirit of Bertha in the small branch of Pasto with perhaps 35 people attending Sunday meetings in 1974. Of course my birthday was celebrated at her mom's house and I got the wooden cake with birthday icing -- great sense of humor. Ha, ha. I saw Bertha enter the mission field at the end of my mission when we opened the Cali mission. And I knew Jose well too. We worked as missionaries together in Ciudad Kennedy in Bogota. I still have the corbata he traded me in 1975 for my best red paisley corbata. Bertha and Jose are saints of the highest order. I was saddened by her battle with cancer. Now she is at peace con el Senor.*

Jack Haycock - May 17, 2016 at 09:29 PM

FA

“ *Familiz Sanchez Alban lit a candle in memory of Bertha Leonor Sanchez De Santa Cruz*



Familiz Sanchez Alban - May 14, 2016 at 12:22 PM

FC

“ *Familia Santa Cruz Cruz purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Bertha Leonor Sanchez De Santa Cruz.*



Familia Santa Cruz Cruz - May 13, 2016 at 05:03 PM

JH

“ *Julia Santa Cruz e hijos purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bertha Leonor Sanchez De Santa Cruz.*



Julia Santa Cruz e hijos - May 13, 2016 at 03:47 PM

AD

“ *En memoria de Bertha Leonor Sánchez de Santa Cruz*



Angela Duque - May 13, 2016 at 10:06 AM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bertha Leonor Sanchez De Santa Cruz.*



May 12, 2016 at 10:42 AM



“ *Diana Acosta sent a virtual gift in memory of Bertha Leonor Sanchez De Santa Cruz*



Diana Acosta - May 12, 2016 at 09:43 AM



“ *Diana Acosta lit a candle in memory of Bertha Leonor Sanchez De Santa Cruz*



Diana Acosta - May 12, 2016 at 09:43 AM