



2014 -2016

## MARY LOU RILEY



**Biography:** A Brief History of the missionary work of Jack (deceased) and Mary Lou Riley, Missionaries in the Church of the Nazarene. (Compiled in 2012)

Jack and I went to the mission field in 1960 after graduation from Pasadena College, in Pasadena, Calif.

I was born on October 16, 1930 in Monroe, Iowa. I believe my parents loved the Lord but we did not go to church.

Later when we were old enough my sisters and I did attend Sunday school in a church near where ever we were living at the time.

I didn't think about Eternity until the death of my mother when I was 12 years old. Then I began to worry about my own destiny if I should die.

After Mother's death we struggled along but one day my father told us he wanted to go to Church and as no one else was interested, I told him I would go with him. We visited a little Nazarene Church in Marshalltown, Iowa. I was so impressed that I asked my father on our way home if I could continue to attend. So the four little Steward girls soon found not only good friends but the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

Later we moved to Colorado Springs where I found another wonderful group of friends in the Central Nazarene Church there. I received my call to the mission field while there and also my call to Africa. The Church was very supportive.

After High school graduation I enrolled at Pasadena College and during my sophomore year I met Jack Riley who was also called to be a missionary to Africa. We were married in 1951. We graduated in 1957 and 1958 after having taken time out to pastor three churches and supplying in others.

We were appointed to the mission field in 1960 and sailed for Africa in the fall of that year with our two children, Michael and Lucinda, ages 8 and 7 that was the thrill of a lifetime

Our first assignment was in the Location work around the large cities in South Africa. Jack was involved in construction of buildings and evangelism, holding tent meetings all over the Southern Transvaal. I was involved in children and youth ministries as well as women's ministries, teaching and general missionary work.

Over the years we have worked in the cities and in the country. We have worshiped under trees and in rickety buildings and in nice brick buildings such as Jack and Rev. George Hayse were building at the time. Jack was involved in tent meetings and church revivals at night but building construction during the day.

During our first term of service the Lord gave us two more sons, Daniel and Jonathan, to help in the work. We served in Africa for 24 years together before Jack went to be with the Lord. Then I went back and taught in the Bible College for an additional 6 years. I took early retirement because of a problem with my eyes. I am now legally blind but can see to get around and with magnification can do many things.

I have had a wonderful life and thank the Lord for the privilege I have had of being a missionary in the Church of the Nazarene.

Mary Lou Riley,  
Retired missionary to Africa

Last Name	<b>Riley</b>
First Name	<b>Mary Lou</b>
Last Field	<b>Africa Region</b>
Birthday	<b>10/16/30</b>
Languages spoken	<b>English/Zulu, Xhosa</b>

**Contact Information**

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**Briefly list responsibilities and activities on your last field.**

Women's and children's work; Sunday school work, teacher; secretarial work and general missionary work.

**Educational background (include college/university name, degrees and years of completion):** Pasadena Nazarene College BA (major – education; minor – religion).

**Ministries or positions held prior to appointment:** pastor's wife.

**Briefly share your call to missions/your current vision:**

Called to be a missionary at 15 in a mission service. As a retired missionary, I am doing all I can to keep missions alive in my local church.

**List some "Get Acquainted" facts i.e. hobbies, interests, family, favorite foods, hymns, Bible verses, books, quotes, etc. and some possible gift suggestions.**

**Hobbies:** Due to my visual handicap, I cannot pursue my hobbies anymore.

**Gift Suggestions:** stamps and Wal-Mart or HyVee gift cards