



Guillermo Encarnacion Bethancourt

Reverend Guillermo Encarnacion Bethancourt, 71, died Saturday October 11, 2008 at Lancaster General Hospital. He was born in San Jose de Ocoa, Dominican Republic, the son of Deomares Bethancourt and Horacio Encarnacion.

He served as Executive Secretary of the Mennonite Church in the Dominican Republic and Field Coordinator for the American Bible Society in Puerto Rico, before devoting the rest of his career to ministering churches affiliated with the Church of the Brethren in Castaner, Puerto Rico, Falfurrias, Texas, and

Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

After his retirement he served as interim coordinator of theological education in the Dominican Republic. He is also remembered for his political activism, for which he was imprisoned at Beata Island Prison in the Dominican Republic from 1957-1959 for leading student protests against the Trujillo dictatorship, and for his volunteer service and advocacy on behalf of prisoners, political exiles, and immigrants in the United States.

In addition to his wife, Gladys Montero de Encarnacion, Reverend Encarnacion is survived by his sons Omar Guillermo Encarnacion and his partner John Kinney of Brooklyn, NY, Jonathan David Encarnacion and his spouse Maria Luisa Encarnacion of Reading, PA, Samuel Guillermo Encarnacion and his spouse Teresa Govan Encarnacion of Bel Air, MD, and Guillermo de los Santos and his spouse Elba de los Santos of Tampa, FLA, and daughters Kenia Brown and her spouse Ruben Brown of Buffalo, NY, Carolyn Pina and her spouse Stephen Pina of Philadelphia, PA, and Adriana Abreu and her spouse Cesar Abreu of Reading, PA. Also surviving are thirteen grandchildren, one great grandchild, and brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic and the United States.

A memorial service will be held Monday October 13, 2008 at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 1601 Sunset Ave., Lancaster at 3:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, 1601 Sunset Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601.

The Gundel Funeral Home, Inc. is assisting the family with arrangements. For additional information or to send a condolence, please call 393-1776 or visit

www.gundelfuneralhome.com