

William Lee Holladay, 1926-2016

William Lee Holladay, 89, of Amherst, Massachusetts, died unexpectedly on May 6, 2016, with his loving wife Patricia Appelbaum at his side. Bill was born on June 23, 1926 in Dallas, Texas, and grew up in California. His parents were William Lee Holladay and Louise (Cook) Holladay.

Bill graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1948 after serving as a chaplain's assistant in the Army. He received a B.D. from the Pacific School of Religion in 1951 and a Th.D. from the University of Leiden (Netherlands) in 1958. From mid-1951 until 1955 he was a pastor in rural California. After receiving the doctorate, he served as a chaplain at the University of Colorado at Boulder and then taught at Elmhurst College (Illinois).

From 1963 until 1970, he taught at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut (Lebanon), an experience that formed him deeply. From 1970 until his retirement in 1997, Bill was Lowry Professor of Old Testament at Andover Newton Theological School. He continued to write and teach after retirement.

As a scholar, Bill was best known for his works on the prophets and the psalms. Trained in historical, textual, and linguistic studies, he later added the analysis of poetic structures to his repertoire. His most significant works include *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of The Old Testament* (1971), which has been continuously in print in several languages; *Jeremiah 1* (1986) and *Jeremiah 2* (1989), a major commentary in the Hermeneia series; and *The Psalms through Three Thousand Years* (1993). He was one of the translators of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (1989). Bill also wrote effectively for nonprofessionals in *Jeremiah: A Fresh Reading* (1990), *Long Ago God Spoke* (1995), and other works. He contributed articles to many journals and served as an editor for *Vetus Testamentum* and for the *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

Alongside his meticulous scholarship, Bill possessed an ebullient optimism and a sense of adventure. He traveled widely, was a gifted musician, and pursued a rich and complex spiritual life. He loved being in front of a classroom and was an important teacher for ministers and academics around the world.

Bill is survived by his wife and by their daughter Margaret Holladay, as well as by his former wife, Jean Grosbach, and their three sons, David, Martin, and Peter Holladay. The family grew to include Clark MacKenzie. Bill is also survived by his brother Richard Holladay, his sister Nancy (Holladay) Weger, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. A daughter, Catherine Holladay, preceded him in death.

--- Martin Holladay and Patricia Appelbaum