

FAITH CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

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"From the Pastor's Desk..."

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“OUR TRIBUTE TO RUBY MURDOCK”

After reaching 100 years of age

Editor note: These were some of my personal remarks made at Ruby Murdock Memorial Service which we conducted at Forest Lawn Chapel in Cypress, CA this past week.

We come here today, not to mourn the passing of a dear woman of God, but to celebrate a life of 100 years that was devoted completely to the things of God. Just a few days prior to her passing, we joined her and her two daughters and their husbands to celebrate her 100th birthday. She sat there and ate a hot fudge sundae like a teenager at Farrell’s Ice Cream Parlor letting everyone around there know that she had reached the 100 year goal. She lived her life up to the day of her death and even before she passed on gave witness to her faith, participated in the election by sending in her absentee vote for the next President of the United States. She made full use of every moment that God gave her on the face of this earth...and why not?

Ruby was born near Moose Jaw, Sask. in September of 1916. She was the oldest of six children. Life was not easy for her family in Canada. When she was five years old her parent’s house burned to the ground and they were forced to spend the winter months living in an old farmhouse that belonged to a friend. They lived there through the winter, but then got the opportunity to move to Lawson. However when her father’s health began to fail they found it necessary to leave Canada and move to the United States. So when Ruby was around eight years of age, she, along with her mother and siblings moved to Long Beach, California.

Ruby learned early in her life to deal with adversity. Maybe that is why she became productive in her life. When she was 19 years of age, Ruby and her sister Mary felt a call to the ministry and ended up going to Beaumont, Texas to conduct some revival services there. While in Texas, her sister found herself a husband and Ruby decided to return back to California where she met the man that soon became her husband, Sam Murdock, who was attending Colonial Tabernacle where Dr. O.C. Harms was the Pastor.

Dr. Harms felt everyone should preach the Gospel and with his encouragement they soon found themselves answering the call to ministry. They pastored churches in Gardena, CA; Monitor, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington where they gave leadership for nine years. Ruby felt a change in her calling and after attending Clark College in Vancouver, Wash. she became a nurse and became a healing handmaiden of the Lord in hospitals both in the Northwest and in Long Beach. She retired at 67 years of age. But in retirement she continued in service to the Lord in leadership of the Ladies Missionary Group both in Colonial Tabernacle and afterward at Faith Christian Assembly.

Ruby Murdock loved life, she loved God, she loved her family, and she loved her church and World Missions. She did not merely talk about these things which she loved, but she mustered all her energy and resources to see to it that what she professed to love and believe, she proved it by her unceasing efforts to give it her entire support.

Our history with Ruby Murdock goes back over several decades (58 years ago). My wife’s history goes back to the day she was born. Ginny and I personally feel that we have lost more than a colleague in ministry, a church member, a member of our staff, an advisor to our church council. Rather we feel we have lost more of a member of our family. But let me hasten to say while we will miss her very much, she will still remain in our hearts.

RUBY WAS ALWAYS PRESENT IN SPECIAL TIMES

Ruby has been present in special times of our life. She was present when I was introduced to Ginny for the first time. She was present when Ginny's mother came down with cancer. She was present with Sheri and Gary, our daughter and son-in-law, when they blessed us with our first grandchild, Lauren. She was present when I became the Lead pastor of Faith Christian Assembly. And she has remained a member in good standing until the day of departure from this life.

Her active role as ***Director of the Ladies Missionary Group***, which she gave leadership to for more than 25 years in which she raised thousands of dollars for various missionaries around the world. I know that during my term as her pastor the amount well exceeded \$80 to \$90,000 dollars. This does not count the money her group raised at Colonial Tabernacle. Which I am confident was the same amount, if not more.

Her role on our ***Pastor's Advisory Board*** was a tremendous blessing to this pastor. When we presented our desire and intention to relocate our church facility to the Seal Beach area, she was among the first to pledge her support of the idea. When we did find the facility that we felt would be good for a church...she was the one who encouraged us to take a step of faith in that direction, without having yet sold our facility in Bellflower. We did take that step of faith, and God honored the bold move. Within five months we not only were able to move to Seal Beach, but God gave us a cash buyer for our Bellflower church facility to complete the purchase of the new facility which we now own...debt free.

I have lost count of the times when we needed to raise funds for some project that before I could even take the lead by personal example in challenging our people to give, she would raise her hand in the middle of my presentation and declare her commitment of \$1,000 or whatever I was asking from our people. She truly possessed the spirit of the generosity which the Holy Scripture teaches that it is "*more blessed to give than to receive.*" Acts 20:35

Ruby never seemed to me to get old...she aged in years, but lived life to the full. She even drove her car that way. When my wife rode with her to a ladies meeting in the Ventura area, eighty miles an hour was not too fast for Ruby. Even though, Ginny, under her breath, reminded the Lord to give His angels charge over them on this particular journey.

I think I would be remiss if I didn't mention Ruby's reaction to humor. We all enjoyed her response whenever she became the object of someone's kidding. We all loved to tell her something which she had a tendency to accept as the Gospel truth, when in truth we were teasing her. When we did this...she was always a great sport and went along with it even though she had been the victim of someone's joke. Yet, there are times I wondered if she wasn't playing a game on us. She may have known all along what we were doing. We loved her for having such a wonderful sense of humor.

Yes, Ruby lived her 100 years to the full. Now being absent from this body, but present with the Lord, I can almost hear Him say it even now: "Ruby, you have been faithful since I redeemed you to serve your family, your church, missionaries around the world, the sick and broken, now enter into the joys of the Lord. I have built you a mansion. I have given you a place in this Kingdom where you can serve throughout eternity. Except, please slow down, for there is no need of speed here. Heaven will not limit you to 100 years; you can have a 1000 years plus to accomplish whatever you desire...and then you have just begun.

Spend some time to celebrate the fact that you have overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of your Testimony. Spend some time to enjoy the angels that accompany you along life's way. Meet the ones that helped you avoid the accidents. Meet the ones that aided you when you got tired and worn out in strength. Meet the missionaries, the pastors, the various ministers that you helped along the way. Look at the place that I have been preparing for you while you have been faithful in your labors for the Lord. And you thought Lawrence Welk's place was wonderful. Amen.