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“From the Pastor’s Desk”

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TRIBUTE TO ARLENE WOODROW

Editor Note: Recently, Ginny and I lost in death a dear friend of many years who has been most instrumental in helping us have several of our books published. We were asked by her husband, Ralph Woodrow to participate in her service. Here is a portion of our remarks.

If there was one major quality which we would consider enriching and outstanding about Arlene Woodrow, it is the fact that she was not only godly, faithful, and kind....she was also an encourager. When I decided to write ten books before I died, of which I have only partially completed at this point, the first people I contacted about this adventure in faith were the Woodrow's. They have become my greatest means of support both in counsel, wisdom, editing, and encouragement.

All of us here who know the Woodrow's know who is the greatest when it comes to writing. This couple's books are read throughout the world and have been for many years. Their love for the Gospel and truth exceeds that of many writers of which I most admire about them. They have been willing to set the record straight, and pursue truth regardless of the consequences and to seek the greatest honor which can be bestowed on any of us...and that is the honor of our precious Lord.

Our friendship with these folks has been long and most enduring. It has been so long, that in our senior years we are uncertain as to the actual date of our acquaintance except we are confident it was in our younger years. However due to both our travels and theirs throughout these years and pastorates we have not been able to have the kind of contact as often as it has been these past 27 years. But these later years of our lives have been most rewarding to which we give God all the glory.

But all the good which is being charged today about Arlene I can say amen without attempting to repeat her most admiring qualities. She truly has lived a life that brings honor both to God and her family. She never compromised her faith for favor among mankind, but remained true to her Lord and Savior. She was loyal both to her husband, children, and friends and was most supportive in helping others succeed in living productive lives.

She will be missed by us all here today as well as hundreds who were unable to be in this service. Ralph has shared with me how the news of her passing as reached clear across the ocean and he has received calls, emails, and cards from different parts of the globe. This is the kind of influence these people are having around the world.

WOMEN WHO HAVE HELPED CHANGE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER

Arlene lived the kind of life that will forever leave an impact on the living who read her books as well as those who will write of her influence on them and who will tell the story of her generosity; faithfulness and support of those who seek to live a life pleasing to God. After Ralph shared with me that I would be given this opportunity to share a few moments in this service today.....I considered several examples of people whom I have known of over the years, or which our history books have told of such persons who possessed qualities such as Arlene...but being limited in time today to mention all such persons...I will say this...some of them were women who eventually helped change our world...but not while they were alive. Some brought change due to their influence long after they passed away.

Today we could talk about several amazing women who have left their mark in this old world. For instance we could talk about **Jane Austen**: who lived in 1775 - 1817. She started putting pen to paper when she was just a teenager and went on to write six major novels which revealed what life was like in the late 1700s and early 1800s. Four of them were released within just four years of each other! That's some seriously rapid writing. But her writings even today have made a mark upon people.

Then there is another world changer such as Florence Nightingale: 1820 - 1910. If there was ever a true hero who dedicated her life to helping others, it was Florence Nightingale. Born in wealth in Italy in 1820, she went against what was traditionally expected of her, by becoming a war-hero nurse. She moved to London and was asked by the Secretary of War to put a team together to go to work in a place called Crimea during the Crimean War, and look after British soldiers. She was the first woman allowed to serve in the army. The conditions there were terrible; shortage of beds, filthy conditions, rats everywhere even the Army medical doctors refused to help her....But she wouldn't go away and soon got to work cleaning up the awful conditions there. She quickly got the more able soldiers to work making them scrub the hospital clean.

Then there was Marie Curie: 1867-1934 a Polish scientist – who is probably one of the most famous scientists of all time. She was born in the Polish city of Warsaw, but later moved to France where she made an incredible discovery which would change the world. In France, she met her husband - a man called Pierre, who was also a scientist. Together, they earned a Nobel Prize in 1903. As if that wasn't enough, Marie went on to win another Nobel Prize in 1911. She was the first woman in history to win it.

And then who doesn't know about Mother Teresa: 1910 – 1997 and her work among the homeless, the dying, the outcast of India....who left her mark not only on the dying but the living as well.

Many of these women who are memorialized today who when living were not always accepted, or even considered to be world changers. But the work they did left their mark on enough people that history could not refuse to record their names and their life's work. I don't know if the writers of history will talk about Arlene Woodrow as they have the women that I have mentioned....but I know there is One in heaven whom will one day soon hand her a crown and place her in a place of honor that will far exceed anything written in the pages of history here on this earth.

ARLENE DEDICATED HER LIFE TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S HEARTS

"You are loved by all of us who have related to you either as family, work associates, church members, neighbors and friends, as well as by God Himself. You fought a good fight, you have finished your course, you have kept the faith, so now rest from your labors, enter into the joy that God himself provides for those as yourself who have remained faithful to the end."

Arlene, knew how writing could influence people to change and improve their daily lives But more than anything she desired to change people's destiny who had not as yet given their lives to Christ. It was this that compelled her to start Bible Studies both in Sacramento, in the halls of government as well as among the elite in Palm Springs. She was a sought after teacher as is Ralph, her beloved husband. She considered herself a partner in encouraging other writers to put in print their thoughts. She never considered any to be her competitors but as a member of a team that could influence change and make this a better world. No wonder her presence is missed by so many today. Thank You Arlene for living a life to support those who are sharing the truth of the Gospel...the Good news.

But for me, prior to my coming here today, I received a call from a lady in my church that knew Arlene while in school. She called to send her regrets that she would not be able to attend this service. But this is what she said;

"I don't know how I ever made it through my "troubled teens" except a beautiful Christian young lady named Arlene Lotts, made me come to her YFC club (on campus) and made Linda Opie her Vice President. She was two grades ahead of me, and loved me and never gave up on me. I can't wait to spend eternity with her."

With Linda, I too share that if there is regret that we will have it would be that we can no longer share with her the deep appreciation and respect that we have had for this woman of God. But if we could speak with her once more it would be that we would say "Thank you Arlene for living a life in this wicked world that people can see God at work in your life. That part that makes us all want to be better people, better parents, better neighbors, better citizens, and yes, better Christians."

Amen