



COME OVER AND HELP US ...

"Turn from dead idols to serve the living and true God. "
Acts 16:9 I Thessalonians 1:9

March 30, 2021

Red Hill Church of Christ
P.O. Box 144
Manchester, TN 37349

Dear Brethren,

It is with love and appreciation that we greet you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Over those years it has been my privilege to work with some of the great missionaries of our time. Early on I found myself working with Brother J. C. Bailey, Brother Charles Scott and his wife, Ann. Then there were some very fine Indian evangelists with whom I worked in so many places such as M. J. Samuel, B. Ratnam, and P. John. All these and many, many others have now been called home to God. As the Apostle Paul said, "We mourn, but not as those who have no hope." In this little epistle I wish to pay tribute to three more "who have fought the good fight" and have now gone to be with the Lord.

Melba Deitrick, January 27, 2021

I have earl memories from the 60'S of seeing Melba at Abilene Christian University. We were classmates in Brother Abraham Malherbe's well known class, Thessalonians. Prior to this, Melba had been a missionary with her husband Donald Deitrick, in South Korea. Later the Deitricks would find themselves living in Martinsburg, West Virginia. There Don would be appointed to the Eldership of the church. Also at that time, around 1997, I was fundraising for the India Mission work, and had an appointment to speak to the congregation there. After my slide presentation, I met with the Elders. In a short time they began to support our Manassas India Mission Work, and have done so generously ever since. That was the beginning of a wonderful friendship, cemented together by Melba's introducing me to Juanita Evans, a member of the Martinsburg congregation, who would become my bride. That was almost twenty-four years ago-the date was July 4th (I may forget the year, but never the date). Heaven is now full of Melba's vivacious spirit. Our tears are more for ourselves since we miss her so much, but how much more must Don, her loving husband of 56 years, miss her! I cannot adequately express my love, and that of Juanita, for Don and Melba, and the wonderful congregation of the Martinsburg church of Christ for their support of the India work. I can only imagine the great host of Indian brethren who must have welcomed Melba to Heaven. We are left here for a while to continue the work the Lord has given us, but I feel she is not alone and must be enjoying the many souls

whom she, Don, and the Martinsburg brethren have led to the Lord through their support of Juanita and myself in the India work.

Royce Frederick, January 28, 2021

Rarely have I ever met such a kind gentleman as Royce Frederick. He was a very gracious and loving person. He showed us what it meant to walk as a Christian. He lived for Christ and let his light shine. He did not seek attention, but his presence was readily noted. He and his wife, Susie, were married for 51 years. They enjoyed singing and teaching the Word of God. Royce's career in the ministry was of two parts. First, one he was a located preacher for about twenty years. Secondly, he was a missionary to India for 28 years. He was known as the Editor of the International Gospel Teacher which he began writing in 1980. Even though his work was vast and required all the energy he could muster, it was commonly known that Royce carried a heavy burden. He had serious kidney disease which required a kidney transplant. Through all the difficulty that entailed, Royce kept on serving the Lord. In addition to being a preacher, missionary, editor and writer, he was also a deacon for his home congregation, the West Freeway church of Christ, Fort Worth, Texas. The India work benefited much from his unending toil for the souls of the lost and the training of Indian preachers for the work of ministry. Royce was a thoughtful and gracious man.

On several occasions we found ourselves working in the same area and with the same people. He was gracious about this, and observed that I was doing a fine job and he would discontinue working in that area so that he could go work in a new place in order that our ministries might be multiplied for the Lord's purposes. Not only that, but he had arranged support for his work in that area. He talked with his Elders and asked that they transfer a portion of his support to my work. This became a great blessing to all involved. His love for the work was greater than any personal joy or ambition and therefore, his desire to build the church without having any conflict or jealousy among the native brethren became a great and wise contribution on his part. He was loved in that area and visited there several times, preaching the Gospel, and all the congregations loved and appreciated him even as I did.

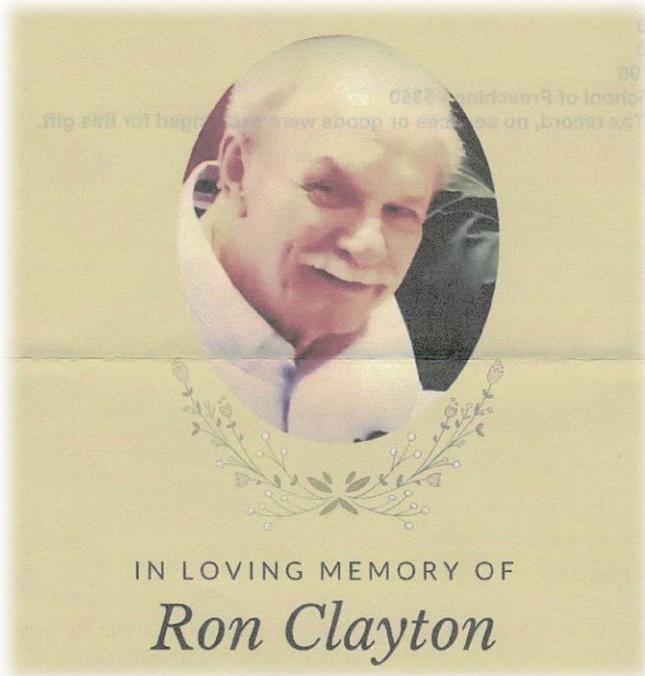
Ron Clayton, March 3, 2021

I met Ron Clayton in 1986 and in 1987 we formed the India Team. By mutual consent our evangelistic team would have no human name. It was God's Team. However, human nature being what it is, brethren began to refer to us by various names, such as the Bullard-Clayton Team and eventually it was common to call us the Clayton Team.

That was natural. Ron had a very strong personality and a commanding presence which was his nature. He often reminded those of us who knew him best of Teddy Roosevelt. Ron was not particularly tall, but he stood head and shoulders above all others in the India Mission Work. He was an excellent preacher of the Word. More than just being a preacher or a minister, he was an evangelist. In all his local works he was constantly going from house to house teaching the Bible and leading people to salvation in the blood of Christ as they met the Lord in their baptism. His zeal for winning souls for the Lord led Ron to the white fields of India where his talents shone with thousands being taught and baptized.

Ron challenged me to be a better missionary, a harder worker for the Lord, a fundraiser beyond my ability and to recognize the value of extremism for the sake of winning souls to the glory of

God. This and so much more might be said about Ron. To me he was a fine companion who made us laugh and enjoy life to the fullest. He was an excellent entertainer. He helped us see each day as an opportunity to win souls for the Lord, and that is what the India Team was and is all about. We shall all miss Ron, but he would remind us, we are still on God's Team. "To the work, to the work ... "



The work in India is going very well. We will re-open our four schools of preaching the 22nd of March. The COVID problem is still in India, but it is waning, and the government there is allowing us to open our schools at this time. Thanks for your contributions to the work. Every gift is special and needed. There is so much work to do in the fields that are white unto harvest.

According to our records, we received gifts from you in support of the following:

P. Daniel
P. Joseph
P. Mark
P. John
P. Philips
Pamidipadu School of Preaching

Grace and Peace,

Sincerely in Christ,

Jerris N. Bullard, Missionary

Sam McLarty, India Treasurer

Under the oversight of the Elders
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