

Lighted Pathway

FIRST BAPTIST DALLAS WIDOWS FELLOWSHIP
NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2016

“THOU WILT SHOW ME THE PATH OF LIFE. IN THY PRESENCE IS FULLNESS OF JOY.” PSALM 16:11

NOTE FROM ROSE-MARY RUMBLEY

February is the month of love—Valentines, chocolates, red roses and romance. Here in the United States, over a thousand couples marry on Valentine’s Day each year. My son Phil and his wife Karen married on the day of love, February 14, here at First Baptist Church. Dr. W. A. Criswell married them on the very date that he, the pastor, and his wife, Betty married—Valentine’s Day.

I was Single Adult Director here at First Baptist where my son was in the singles department and that was where he met Karen. Oh, it was all so romantic. Dr. Criswell met his future wife, Betty Harris, in Kentucky while he was in the seminary. He had originally planned to go to Yale Divinity School, but later felt the Lord was leading him to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

“I didn’t have any money or a church to support me, but I just trusted God for the support and he honored that faith,” remembered Dr. C. The church that he served while at Baylor, gave him a special offering of \$69, which he had in his pocket when he arrived in Louisville. There he met a friend from Baylor who asked W. A. to ride with him to the various churches to see if any of these churches needed a preacher. “I found out later, he invited me to ride, because he wanted me to pay for the gasoline.”

Dr. Criswell was pastor at two different churches. Oakland was southern—open, outgoing, and happy. The other, Mount Washington, was northern—conservative, aloof, slow to make friends. Nevertheless, he

served both well. All loved the young preacher. When he went to Mount Washington, he met the Harris family and their daughter, Betty, who was the church pianist and a schoolteacher at Sugar Valley School. She impressed him very little and he didn’t impress her at all.

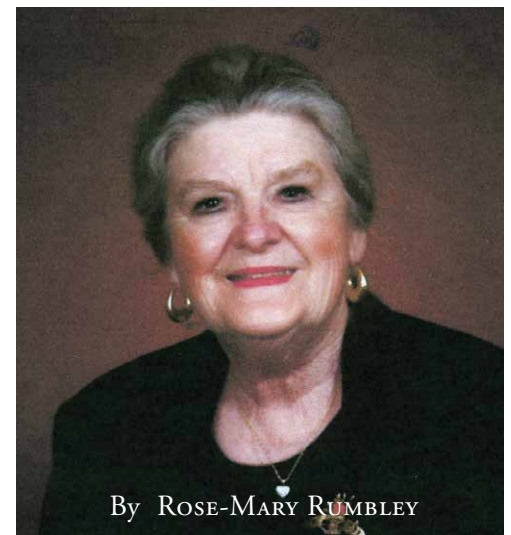


At one service, he asked a woman to pray. No! Women could not pray in public. He asked Betty, and she prayed. This impressed W. A. Betty had a boyfriend at the time who played the guitar and would serenade her. W. A. later admitted he was jealous. W. A. Criswell was prim and proper, Betty was full of fun, and she managed to play some tricks on him which he did not think were funny. Three years passed before W. A. proposed and Betty said, “Yes!” They were married on Valentine’s Day, 1935.

When he finished his PH. D. he received a call to preach at Chickasha, Oklahoma. Then later, W. A. was called to Muskogee. In 1944, W. A. Criswell became the pastor of First Baptist, Dallas, and served here until his death in 2002.

Dr. Criswell always loved the color of red. Because my son and Karen were married on Valentine’s Day, I, mother of the groom, decided to wear a red dress. I can still hear Dr. C now, “Ahhhhhhhhhh, I love that red dress! It’s the greatest.” He always spoke in superlatives. Everything was the best, the greatest, the finest.

I gave my son a \$100 bill to give to Dr. Criswell for his service, not knowing that my husband and mother had done the same. Phil offered Dr. Criswell \$300, which he promptly refused. Phil left with an extra \$300 because Dr. C was loving and giving. And besides that, he loved the color red.



By ROSE-MARY RUMBLEY

LETTER FROM JACK

Photos from our last luncheon

DEAR LADIES,

It's 2016! A new year has arrived, bringing it our chance for a new beginning. The old has gone, the new has come (as in 1 Cor 5:17) if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature! And, if I may quote Dr. Criswell, he would say, "we are now in our twelfth year". Hard for me to believe!

As I promised at the November luncheon, we will have VALET PARKING available to you for the February 20 Luncheon beginning at 10:30AM. We will observe how many take advantage of this service for future decisions. Be sure and tell all your friends it will be available.... now can they can come and take advantage of it.

What fun we'll have with Susie Hawkins, our program guest! We all love Susie!!! She will be speaking on Dr. Criswell and partners in his ministry. Susie is the wife of our former pastor, Dr. O. S. Hawkins, mother of 2 and grandmother of 6 and has been recently received her masters degree and is actively involved in teaching and speaking and writing for Women's Ministry. Rose Mary will introduce in her special style....did you know Rose Mary is writing a history of our church?? In this issue you will read with interest "Above and Beyond", about Noelle, the daughter of Jim Haines, our Minister for Adult 3 & 4, and written by his wife, Nan.

Make your required reservations or to request a ride before February 15. In order for Chef Tim to properly prepare for us, please honor your reservation. Always leave your name and guests name for Michelle Schilling at 214 969-2466, as she prepares the name tags for us.

Blessings to each one of you and your family,

Bless you all!

Jack Smith

"Honor widows"...
1 Timothy 5:3



Anyone who knew Dr. W. A. Criswell always had a story to tell about him. Thus, there are hundreds of Criswell tales to tell.

Charles Bristow, who served on the staff here at First Baptist for many years, loved to tell about the time he was driving Dr. C. to some event. Dr. Criswell was always dressed to perfection. However, it was while driving the meeting that Dr. Criswell noticed he had a spot on his tie. I imagine that the tie was red. Besides liking red dresses on ladies, he loved red ties on men.

Rose Talks

Discovering the spot, Dr. C licked his forefinger and began to rub the spot. He licked his finger several times and continued rubbing. The spot disappeared.

With all seriousness, Dr. Criswell turned to Charles and said, "Spit will clean anything."

ABOVE AND BEYOND

Nan Haines c. 2015

One of the hardest things we do as mothers, and, from what I understand, even harder as grandmothers, is to be left behind when our children and grandchildren follow their dreams and God's purposes. Not that we begrudge them their turn to soar, nor would we ever want to tie the apron strings so tightly as to keep them from adventuring into the realms of service that God designed for them. After all, we did the same thing when we left our homes as young adults once upon a time. Today, however, we live in a global society where technology and ease of travel have seemingly shrunk the world. Now, with our children and grandchildren growing up in a culture that links us in real time with people on the opposite side of the world, we watch them consider hopping a plane to time zones that are a day away, as easily we once considered a road trip across the state.



In 2010, our oldest daughter, Noelle, was one of a team that went on a mission trip to Lebanon. That trip turned out to be life changing for two families, more than 6,000 miles apart, both of which had prayed for God's best in providing a spouse for their child. On the last day in Lebanon, the woman who led the ministry needed another driver to transport the team to dinner. She enlisted her younger brother to take two of the young women in his Jeep. One of these was our daughter. Her brother later recalled that he decided, over dinner, that he had met the woman he wanted to marry. Two years, two more overseas trips, and countless hours on social media later, Noelle and Wissam were married in Atlanta. It was truly a storybook romance, and two and a half years later, they are living happily in Beirut.

Noelle had an opportunity to work for the Lebanese Baptist Society for a year after arriving, and now serves as a volunteer for several different ministries in Lebanon: Her brother in law pastors a church in another town that ministers to hundreds of refugees, delivering 1,800 packages of food monthly. This same ministry partnered with a stateside group to provide



medical care to 1,700 refugees in November. Yet another part of the ministry provides tent schools for refugee children, many who are illiterate. Most importantly, the Gospel is going out and being received joyfully by many who are hearing the Good News for the first time.

Many have asked if we are not fearful having a child living there, given the current the situation in that part of the world. Our reply is always the same: We have asked God's blessing and direction for all of our children, and we know Wissam's parents have prayed the same for him. How can we not rest in God's provision when it might look different than what we had thought? "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church, and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21)

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NEWSLETTER

First Baptist Dallas 1707 San Jacinto Dallas, TX 75201



Widows LUNCHEON

SUSIE
HAWKINS
GUEST SPEAKER

February 20 | 11:30am | CenterStage

For reservations or transportation requests
call 214-969-2466 by Monday, February 15.
Valet Parking Available.