

Tribute to Dr. Ron Noll



August 2004, Prayer letter from Barbara Rohnert-Noll (excerpt, shared with her permission)

Memories come up and often as I just sit and let my tears run freely....Ron hoped and lived up to the end with high intensity. In spite of his weakness, he played ping pong two days before his death, and on the last day, he went for a walk. He was a man of humour up to the end. And his personal development, emotionally and spiritually, mattered for him until he died. He lived and worked so that people should grow to be what God created and called then for. But he also knew that he had to be an example. His intense fellowship with the Lord helped him not to stagnate. During the time of his sickness he became more quiet, more reflective. On the outside he rarely showed his inner fights and pain; instead he actively participated in the life and growth of other people. Ron was by no means perfect, but he was a helper, a healer and encourager. And this memory we want to keep in our hearts....Once again, thank you very much for all your support. I feel richly blessed through all your faithfulness.

Yours with love, Barbara

From a family member who is helping to carry on the work, March 2017

I often am encountering other missionaries that are in need of the help that Ron freely gave to field workers around the world. Seeing what he did helped me to realize that I need to check in with others to make sure that I am in balance and not drifting off into unhealthy lifestyle patterns. It helped me to realize that my work comes from a connection with my heavenly Father and what He is asking me to do and not just through busy work that has no eternal value. By his example of listening to others, he showed me that by letting my co-workers voice their opinions, so that they are heard, because they themselves also could be burned out and are not feeling valued in their work, that I am being a servant to help them get refreshed. His work was well invested in a select group of individuals who were in turn empowered to serve longer in the fields that they are called to work in and in return will refresh and sharpen others.

Some reflections from Ron, circa 1998 (shared by Barbara)

In 1987 I received a call from God to close my lucrative private practice in Chicagoland and return to the mission field where I started my professional life and failed. I prepared for years for Latin American mission assignment by learning Spanish. But since 1958, on the mission committee and missionary training camp of IVCF, I prayed I would not be sent to Asia. This was because I worked very hard to befriend and evangelize Asians and failed.

My prayer to return to the mission field was answered but not the part about avoiding Asia. I received a word from what I believe was the Holy Spirit that said go to Singapore to set up an emotional support, healing and growth program for missionaries and their families serving in Asia. And network the resources to them with computers. As you probably know I receive about 50 to 100 Emails a week from missionaries and supportive contacts. I also receive broken laptop computers, fix and send them out to poor pastors and missionaries in the 10/40 window.

Since brain storming with Dr. Kelly O'Donnell ten years ago when we were both in YWAM, Barbara and I have been encouraged to start Member Care Associates-Asia here in Singapore since about three years ago when Dr. Darv Smith came to help us with a one week long intensive workshop. With the help of Link Care, the last meeting, Feb. 16, 1998, saw 45 recently returned missionaries, missionary counsellors, physicians and nurses (and some dir.s and wives) meet for a day of sharing on problems and services of MKs.

Now with all this happening and my involvement in the missionary training program of the largest Singapore church, I cannot blame my CCC leadership for not letting me pursue what I feel is the appropriate program of missionary care for Asia. At this time I must follow what I believe is my calling from God.

Some time after March 15th 1998, (my 62 birthday and a US Social Security retirement age) I am considering retiring from CCC E. Asia and my position as Member Care Coordinator, for CCC, E. Asia. As a retiree of CCC I would of course remain available on a volunteer basis to CCC and the other mission organizations and churches I now serve.

My wife Barbara, 18 years with CCC, will continue to pursue her PhD in Missions/Missionary Care and as professor of Pastoral Counselling in the CCC seminary I came to Singapore to help start in 1992.

I trust that the years I have left to serve and the few years I served IVCF, CEF, CAM, YWAM, CCC mission efforts in the past will multiply in the future as Member Care becomes a high priority for the proactive mission directors of the 2000s. We thank you for your support and as always welcome any response or feedback on our present considerations.

VITA [partial]

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