



Rev. Buford H. Clark
August 13, 1916 - May 19, 2009

On Tuesday, May 19, 2009, Rev. Buford H. Clark went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We can almost hear the Lord saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant... come and share your master's happiness." Buford Homer Clark (92) of Allen, Texas, formerly of San Diego, California, was born on August 13, 1916, in a sod dugout on a homestead in Jordan Montana. His parents were Homer Theron Clark and Lettie Likes Clark. He was one of the last of America's true pioneers. Growing up in Washington State during the Great Depression, he, along with his brothers and sisters, worked during their teen years to help support the family. He even panned for gold when other work was not available. When Buford's family moved to Cashmere, Washington, he received Jesus Christ as his Savior and was baptized. This was the beginning of his lifelong commitment to Christian ministry. He graduated from Cashmere High School and went on to attend Western Washington College of Education in Bellingham, Washington and Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, where he earned a B.A. degree. Buford worked at many jobs, including selling shoes, to support himself and pay for his education. It was during this period that he began to preach in several churches in Western Washington. In 1942, Buford entered Berkley Baptist Divinity School in Berkley California. This was where he met the love of his life, Elizabeth (Betty) Ann Livingston of San Diego, California. She responded to his ad for a piano player and soloist to help with his campus outreach ministry; they were married in San Diego on June 11, 1944. Both Buford and Betty graduated from Berkley Baptist Divinity in 1945, Buford with a Master of Divinity degree and Betty with a Master of Christian Education. Back in San Diego, Buford served as an assistant pastor at Fairmont Baptist Church and soon took a pastorate at Brea Baptist Church in Brea, California. In 1948 Laurel Road Baptist Church in Bellingham, Washington called him to be their pastor, and in 1951 he became pastor of the First Baptist Church of Raymond, Washington. In 1953, Buford and Betty, with their growing family, moved back to San Diego where he was pastor of the Logan Heights Baptist Church for the next 17 years until 1965. After an additional two years of serving in the ministry at First Baptist Church of Coronado, California, Buford semi-retired from the ministry and was owner/broker of East San Diego Realty until 2005 when he and Betty moved to Allen, Texas. If only one word could be used to describe Buford Clark's lifetime of ministry it would be faithful. He was a man of integrity, who remained true to the calling of the Lord Jesus Christ. He loved his Lord, the truth of the Bible, his family, the people in the churches where he served, and people wherever he met them. Even after he retired from active ministry, he faithfully shared in word and action, with anyone who would listen, the Good News about

Christ that is found in one of his favorite scriptures. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10). Buford's passion and purpose in life was to glorify Christ through worship, preaching the Bible, and service, and to bring as many people as possible into God's kingdom. He has touched so many people during his years here on earth that it is impossible to estimate the effect he has had on the lives of people who knew and loved him. He is survived by his wife of nearly 65 years, Elizabeth Livingston Clark; son, John Clark and his wife Ruth of Granger, Washington; daughters, Carol Cocking and her husband Robert of Allen Texas, Marcia Kawamoto and her husband Richard of Clovis, California, and Sylvia Foust and her husband Thomas of Grand Haven, Michigan. He has eight grandchildren: Jeffrey Cocking, David Cocking, Beth Mills, Perry Clark, Katie Kawamoto, Kimmie Kawamoto, Sarah Sprague, and Erika Bengry. There are also fourteen great grandchildren: Christina Cocking, Jonathan Cocking, Daniel Cocking, Mason Leech, Dawson Leech, Zachary Cocking, Matthew Cocking, Logan Dye, Robert Cocking, Elizabeth Cocking, Samantha Mills, Caleb Mills, Liam Sprague, and Emilia Sprague. Buford is also survived by his brother, H.T. Clark and his wife Lena of Tucson, Arizona, sisters Opal Haptenstall of Richland, Washington, and Melva Spurgeon and Ora Lee Bartolomay of Spokane, Washington, and sisters-in-law, Margaret Clark of Spokane, Washington and Beth Livingston of Bellingham, Washington. He was preceded in death by his parents, Homer and Lettie Clark, sister, Vella Hayden, brother, Glenn Clark, and infant daughter, Melva Lucinda Clark. Buford Clark's interment will be at Ridgeview Memorial Park, McKinney, Texas. Visitation is planned for Friday evening, May 22 from 6-8:00 P.M. at Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home in McKinney. A graveside memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2009 at 11:00 A.M. at Ridgeview Memorial Park. Flowers may be sent to Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home, 2525 Central Expressway N., Allen, TX 75013, or gifts in memory of Buford Clark may be given to the charity of your choice. A TRIBUTE TO MY BELOVED DAD My dear dad has gone to God and to his heavenly place. He is now looking into Jesus' face. Jesus said, "Welcome my child, well done. By my grace and by my blood your victory has been won. My arms are open wide for you, and there is nothing more for you to do. Run to me, you have finished the race. Now you may rest and enjoy my grace. I know you were sick and had a stroke. You left behind so many beloved folks. They will miss you dearly, not seeing your face, but they all know you are in a much better place. Look and see, here is your mansion I prepared just for you, and your crowns for all the trials you came through. Now your earthly life is over, and eternity has begun. Enter into my presence and enjoy yourself, my son. Because your heart was turned toward me, in my presence you will ever be." JOHN LIVINGSTON CLARK

Memorials

I am writing this on the weekend of Father's Day, 2018. It has been over 9 years since my dad passed away. As I have read about his life again, and have done some reflection, I wished I had known him better. His life and ministry is continuing to this day in the lives of those who were impacted by his ministry of preaching the gospel. It lives on in an entire family which is now scattered across America serving the Lord in various capacities. I wonder what he has been doing all these 9 years in the presence of God? It may not be long before I see him again. You see, I believe in a literal rapture, and we are approaching the end of the church age prior to the Tribulation. Period. "For the dead in Christ shall rise first, then we who are alive and remain shall be brought up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall

always be with the Lord" (I Thessalonians 4:16-17). See you again, dad.

JOHN CLARK, JUNE 17, 2018

Uncle Buford "Buff" will be greatly missed by us. He and Betty always had a place for us when we visited San Diego. He was a Grandfather to my daughter, always there to help her in her problems. We will miss all his bad jokes and exciting stories of his early life. I am sure that he is watching over us even now.

RON AND CHARMAINE CLARK, JUNE 4, 2009

I spent many a happy day with the Clark family when I was a child. His ministry to children was filled with warmth and caring and created a foundation for loving our Lord with all of our hearts. His dedication as pastor of our little church was never ending. I wish I had not left so soon. He is with the Lord and I will see him in heaven some day soon. May the Lord bless and keep his family.

JOAN LEOPOLD, MAY 31, 2009

Blessings to you and the family, Zell and I tried to be with you today, but the airlines were very uncooperative on a short notice flight. So Zell and I would very much like to share the thoughts about OUR Pastor Buford Clark. I started attending Logan Heights Baptist Church in 1953 after attending another church in the city. For the first time in my life, I heard the Gospel preached by Pastor Clark. I walked forward and received Christ as my Personal Savior and Lord. I was the first to receive Christ in my family of 7 brothers and sisters. The Sunday after Easter I was baptized by Pastor Clark. Praise God. Because of Pastor Clark's faithfulness in preaching the Word, all my brothers and sisters have received the Lord and are to this day walking with Jesus. My Mom and Dad also came to the saving knowledge of Christ under Pastor Clark's ministry. Oh yes, my Grandfather and Grandmother also accepted Christ under Pastor Clark's ministry. He was so very faithful preaching the Gospel Sunday after Sunday. Mrs. Clark's faithfulness in standing with Pastor Clark Sunday after Sunday, Wednesday after Wednesday demonstrated to me and my family a true servant's heart. Zell and I can still remember the marriage

counseling we received from Pastor Clark; his emphasis on our relationship lasting a lifetime still resounds in my ears. Then on that beautiful day of January 28, 1962, he asked me if I would take Zell to be my wife, which I said yes to before he got all the words out of his mouth. Pastor Clark also renewed our vows at 25 years of marriage. Praise God. In closing, I would like to confirm that the Lord Sovereignty place Pastor Buford Clark into the lives of the Warners for the Salvation of a family. Praise God for his faithfulness to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the ministry of the Gospel that saw many souls ushered into the Kingdom of God. We will miss seeing him at different events, especially his wonderful smile and MANY JOKES! Praise God, the missing will only be for a short season.

GUY AND ZELL WARNER, MAY 24, 2009

I remember when I was a little girl, walking with Grandpa into the grocery store. We were holding hands and he looked at me and told me that we had a very special bond, and so we did. Even though we did not see each other very often, Grandpa always made me feel loved. I loved hearing his stories and his jokes. There is so much about him that I will miss but I will always have our love in my heart. I am so thankful for Grandpa's example of a loving husband, father and Christian. I was under his roof when I realized that I needed to ask Jesus to come into my heart as an adult. Seeing him and Grandma so content and loving and peaceful in the Lord was so moving. I close my eyes and I can see Grandma playing the piano and the two of them singing hymns together. I cherish the memories I have and praise God for the promise of eternal life. One day we will all go home and see Grandpa again!

SARAH LEE SPRAGUE, MAY 22, 2009

We will miss you Buford. I will never forget the day you performed the Marriage for your brother, Tex and me. Things were quiet strange for me then. Over the years we had lots of fun with you and you will be in our hearts always. Love Lena

LENA BLUM CLARK, MAY 22, 2009

We will miss your brother ! We know you are with the good Lord. Our best

wishes ana Love to all the family !

HEZEKIAH TEX & LENA CLARK, MAY 22, 2009

Uncle Buford... Although many miles seperated you from our family here in Spokane, I always looked forward to your visit's with great anticipation. I will always remember you as Dad's (HT) "funny" Brother...my "funny" uncle. Your wonderful sense of humor and wit showed your true compassion for life which always gave such a warm and welcoming reunion. It was like time and distance never seperated those close family bonds...It's those memories of you that I will cherrish for a lifetime...

KRISTI CLARK-KNAPP, MAY 20, 2009

We will miss Mr. Clark's sweet, sweet smile and lovely Godly spirit! What a wonderful man and a wonderful legacy he leaves behind!

RANDY & RENEE JONES, MAY 20, 2009

May the fruits of his labor here on Earth be reflected in all those he touched! God bless you all and you are in our prayers.

BRENT AND ELIZABETH EAKINS, MAY 20, 2009

Uncle Buford was such a Godly man. What a wonderful example of a the way to live one's life. Thinking of all of you!

STEPHANIE CLARK PERREIAH, MAY 20, 2009

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