

RONALD J PARK

A Tribute by David C F Wright DD

Countless people in addition to those in the Prophetic Witness movement International will be saddened by the Homecall of dear Ronald Park on October 19th, 1989 after a long illness which he bore with courage and without complaint he was 80.

Christian men of his calibre are irreplaceable and, while we rejoice that Ronald is with the Lord he so loved and faithfully served, we shall miss him. His like we shall not see again this side of eternity.

Mr Park was born in Hammersmith on 9th January 1909 and was commended to train for the Baptist ministry and entered Spurgeon's College. Among his fellow students were the late Geoffrey King, another stalwart of the Prophetic Witness Movement.



Ronald's first pastorate was at Griffin Road, East Plumstead, from 1934-43 followed by a memorable ministry at Muswell Hill from 1943-1970 where he is still recalled with fond affection. From 1970-1977 he was the minister at Boscombe Baptist Church in Bournemouth. This church dates from 1875 and was the first Baptist church in Bournemouth.

It may be that some only know him as a speaker on prophetic subjects. If that is the case then they missed his outstanding ability as a preacher of the Gospel and a faithful expositor of the Word.

A series of studies in Bournemouth in the early 1970s on the Person and Work of Christ is one example of his exaltation of the Lord Jesus. His 1981 Bible readings at the Isle of Wight Keswick Convention on Joshua were exemplary and even more remarkable because he delivered these addresses a matter of a few weeks after his first wife died. They had two children David and Jill,

Later, he married Kate at Lockersley Baptist Church in Hampshire in August 1982. She was born in April 1932 and was the district Nurse.

He was a shy man and very humble as all great men are. He would delete the prefix 'Rev' before his name on as many occasions as he could. He may have given the appearance of being somewhat aloof but this was down to his natural reticence. I had this view of him when I first met him. Ronald did not go in for trivialities and idle talk. He was a man of few words and, when you got to know him, you realised that this was another aspect of this extremely wise and sensible man.

He was very courteous and genuinely appreciative of all that was done for him. He was a gentleman in the correct sense of that word.

The Isle of Wight of the branch of the Prophetic Witness Movement are especially thankful to this servant of God. He was one of the first speakers, if not the first, to speak at our branch when the meetings began in the Queen's Hall, Newport during the war. He came to us through all the war years and regularly until 1986. When the meeting came to St James's Church Hall in Ryde we would give him hospitality.

He was a good friend to me and he would get on the floor and play calmly with my daughters, while they were very young, and they loved him too.

I often asked him questions, and his replies, sometimes in writing, were of more help than that of anyone else.

He accepted my invitation for a weekend conference in Ventnor. When he came to the Gospel Hall, Shanklin the place was packed.

The last time I spoke to him, he knew his health condition and told me, "I have lived a long and happy life. I have been fit and healthy until now. I have proved the Lord and His goodness all these years. He has never failed me. I have no fears for the future for I know the One who holds the future and I am His. I have not done enough for him. He has done everything for me."

At his funeral service one of the speakers was the Rev Alec Motyer, formerly principal of Trinity College, Bristol (1971-1981)

For Ronald, the trumpet has sounded on the other side and, like His Beloved Lord, he is alive for evermore.

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