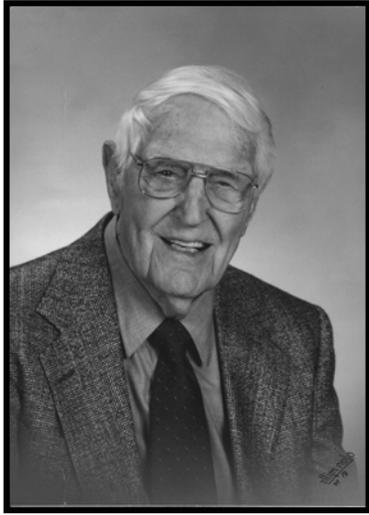


Pastor Bruce Caldwell



While Bruce Caldwell's time of ministry with the Castle Rock Christian Church was only a month short of five years, his teaching and influence spanned a period of about 43 years. While teaching at Central Washington Bible Collage, he taught both pastors Martin Lee and Ed Miller and taught our missionaries Dr. G. V. Mathai, Dick and Edith Hugoniot and Ken Davis. Long after these students left school, Bruce maintained contact with his students and followed their ministries.

Brief Biography

Pastor Bruce Caldwell

Here is a brief history of his life. As a young man in his early 20's, Bruce Caldwell was invited to attend a youth meeting at the Court Street Christian Church in Salem, Oregon. He quickly became a Christian and soon enrolled at Northwest Christian College in Eugene, Oregon in 1927.

Five men from the Court Street Christian Church each contributed \$1.00 once a month to help in his schooling expenses. His benefactors were unknown to him until about 60 years later when one of the men's daughters found a little black book detailing all of the \$1.00 gifts from each of those men. Bruce was in his 80's when this book was given to him. The ministry and faithfulness of those men and that book blessed Bruce greatly.

Bruce continued his education for three and a half years, and with only six months left to graduate left school to join Teddy Leavitt in evangelistic meetings. He never made it back to college to complete his formal education although throughout his entire life Bruce was a student, was always studying the scriptures and was a voracious reader.

MINISTRIES

He started his ministry in Oakland, Oregon and had pastorates in Chelan, Washington, then moved to Stayton, Forest Grove, Astoria and Amity, Oregon.



Bruce and Leona Caldwell

Pastor Bruce Caldwell

He then ministered for a year at McKinley Indian Mission at Toppenish Washington, and another year at the Christian Church in Payette, Idaho. His next move was to Walla Walla, Washington where he did evangelistic work and worshipped with a small home church group and worked a job. He then moved to Yakima, Washington for a year, and back to Walla Walla, all this time without pastoring a church.



Bruce, Lindarae, Colleen and Leona Caldwell

he ministered for 14 years on a part-time basis while continuing his teaching at the Bible College.

In 1966 Bruce's first wife, Leona, passed away from cancer. A year later he married Mabel Schaeffer, and resigned the Naches Heights Church because retirement looked appealing. A short time later he retired from the Bible College also.

AT CASTLE ROCK

Retirement did not last long because Bruce was soon called to minister at the famous Yakima Christian Church, which was a very large church in the 1920's and 30's. He stayed there for about one year, then left to join Martin Lee in ministry at Castle Rock, Washington.

Bruce became associate pastor and elder under Martin Lee in July 1975. He also joined his daughter Lindarae Hovde in ministry, as she was the choir director at the time.

After resigning in the summer of 1979, he joined the Columbia Heights Assembly of God as calling pastor and elder beginning September of 1979. He ministered in that capacity until his health required him to resign from his duties as calling minister in 1996 and resign as elder in 1997. He was called home to be with the Lord October 28, 2000.

It should be noted that even after leaving the Castle Rock Christian Church in 1979 he would often remark how he loved the people of the church and felt very much a part of them even though he was a member of another body of believers. Pastor Miller called him to fill the pulpit from time to time, and he always enjoyed those experiences with us.

His last ministry with us was a brief five-minute exhortation on one of his favorite subjects, the Lord's Supper, in preparation for communion. He was barely able to stand, but he was very pleased that he was able to minister just one more time around the Lord's Table.

Memories and Comments by Pastor Miller.

There were many things about Bruce's life that many people did not know. First and foremost he was an icon of stability for all the young men and women of the Bible College and of the churches he served. His life never wavered, faltered or even had a hint of unfaithfulness to God. This man deserves much credit for the influence that the men and women of Central Washington Bible College have contributed to the ministries around the world. Much of what he taught and lived was reproduced in their lives. Not every one realized his influence or gave him the due credit for what formed in their lives.

Perhaps what stands out more than anything else was his advice to the many who found their way to his doorstep in times of crises. He literally helped save ministries that were floundering because of inexperience. If his advice had been taken more often, many things would be different in lives, in the churches and on the mission field. He was a man of study and a man of wisdom. He was truly a prophet of God to his generation. His wisdom would have changed the outcome of many things if we had more clearly recognized his depth of understanding.

As pastors and teachers we have to lament our loss, for seldom has a man been as wise as Bruce Caldwell. Seldom has anyone been able to minister the deep things of God as he could. When we lost Bruce we lost a wealth of experience that we might never again see in our lifetime.



Bruce Caldwell had a great sense of humor. Here he is, clowning around.