

Roger Bothwell

The following tribute was written by the class of 1974 to recognize Roger Bothwell's impact on their lives:

Roger Bothwell may not be a man of imposing physical stature, but to many of GCA's alumni he stands head and shoulders taller than most.

His arrival on our campus our junior year, 1973, was as the successor to Elder John Strickland whom we had all grown to love. It must have been daunting to stand before all of us young people. He quickly put us all at ease by assuring us that he hadn't come to "take anybody's place." He just asked us to give him the chance to make a place for himself; and he certainly did! We came to love and respect both him and his wife, Ian, in very short order.

Before he started every service he would make eye contact with each one of us. He would walk up to the podium, take hold of it, and for just a moment look from one young face to another. It made us all feel as though he was speaking directly to each of us and that we were important to him.

His sermons were full of word pictures that brought us clearer images of God and His love for each of us. All of his sermons were about one thing – Jesus. They were variations on a theme. One sermon in particular has stuck with many of us. Its topic was, "God Wants You to Succeed." In it, Elder Bothwell explained that God wants the best for us in life. From the success and blessings we received from God we could then bless others. Wow! What a concept for teens in the 70's.

There are at least two of us in the class of 1974 who literally owe their lives to Roger Bothwell. Tim Eberhardt, now a health care chaplain, and Ruby (Shaw) Wiseman, an RN, were seriously injured in a horrendous auto accident shortly following the wedding of classmates Mike Fleischmann and Debbie (Brown) Tripp. He took the responsibility of signing transfer papers to larger hospitals for these two. They are deeply grateful and hope that in some small way their lives are a tribute to him.



Elder Bothwell continues to minister to us through his daily devotionals, which we enjoy and share with others. Until we reach heaven he will never know how many lives he has touched and the profound positive effect he has had on so many people. Those of us who sat in your religion classes where you brought the Bible to life, or attended the chapel and Sabbath services where you taught us lessons that helped mold our young lives, thank you!

