



THE PRESBYTERY OF THE CASCADES
The Synod of the Pacific, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
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Dear Sisters And Brothers Of The Presbytery Of The Cascades,

It is my sad duty to report the news received this morning of the death of The Rev. Harold A. Fisher (HR) who died on Sunday, January 24th in Salem, OR at the age of 89.

Harold was born as the eldest of five children in Cleves (Hardin County) Iowa on November 4, 1921. He remembers his test before the congregation on the Westminster Shorter Catechism as "the number one crisis in my life!". He worked on his father's farm until he entered the United States Air Force in 1941, where he was a Master Sergeant Radar Technician in Guam. Following his military service, he attended The University of Dubuque (where he was president of the student body in 1947-49, led the University Gospel Team to witness and lead services in the area, and was listed in the "Who's Who Among College Students"), receiving a B.A. degree in Bible and Communications in 1949. He then attended San Francisco Theological Seminary, receiving a B.D. degree (with honors) in 1952. He later received an S.T.M degree (with honors) from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1959, an M.A. degree in Journalism and Media from Indiana University in 1967, and, after receiving a 1969-72 Indiana University Fellowship, earned a Ph.D. degree in International Communications from Indiana University in 1973.

Following his ordination as a Presbyterian Minister on May 29, 1952 by Waukon (now North Central Iowa) Presbytery, he was commissioned as a PCUSA Fraternal Worker and served with his wife in overseas missions through the PCUSA Commission On Mission And Ecumenical Relations for sixteen years: ten in Lebanon, three in Ethiopia, and three in Kenya. His service was primarily in training church workers in communication skills and in producing radio/television programming using national church member talent over the national stations. He produced a film on the churches of Kenya. He also taught religious and communication courses at Beirut College For Women (now Beirut University College) and at The American University of Beirut.

In 1970, Harold began a twenty-two-year career as Professor of Journalism, Broadcasting and International Communication at Bowling Green State University. He was Director of The School of Journalism for six years and Director of Graduate Studies for the School of Mass Communication for three years. He had two leaves of absence while at Bowling Green State: in 1974-75 as a Hays-Fulbright Professor at The University of Cairo and American University in Cairo (where he taught courses in Arabic) and in 1981-84, as USAID Chief-of-Party for the Liberia Rural Radio System training staff and rural programmers to develop a national radio system to be used for national development.

While on the faculty of Bowling Green State, was named Bowling Green State Professor of The Year for the 1976-77 academic year, was Advisor to Kentucky Educational Television (1976-78), Consultant to the Institute For International Research in Washington, DC (1984-87) and received the Master Teacher Award from the University in both 1985 and 1988. He was named 1983 Alumnus Of Distinction by The University of Dubuque.

Harold taught Voice Of America/USAID classes in broadcasting for Afghan refugees in Pakistan (1991) and classes for Arabic-speaking countries of the New East and North Africa (1993). In addition to his academic and other duties, he was an active interim and pulpit supply pastor at many Ohio congregations in The Presbytery of Maumee Valley. At his retirement from academic service in 1992, he was honored by being named as Professor Emeritus of Bowling Green State University.

Harold was granted the status of Honorably Retired by Maumee Valley Presbytery in 1992 and his membership was transferred to The Presbytery of the Cascades in January of 1994, where he provided interim and temporary "fill-in" service at Cascades' congregations in Woodburn, Pacific City/Cloverdale, Dallas, Aurora, Shedd, and Keizer.

He served for five years (1994-99) as Editor of Cascades' OMNIBUS newspaper. He was part-time professor at George Fox College (1994-96) where he taught classes in international relations and journalism and as part-time professor at Linfield College (1995-97) teaching broadcast news writing, visual communications, television production, and international communications. He was co-author of the book *The World's Great Dailies* (1980; Hastings House) and provided a total of 11 chapters in other published books, as well as numerous journal articles and monographs on the use of communications in development.

Harold is survived by his wife, W. Elaine (who he married in June of 1950 after meeting her at San Francisco Theological Seminary), a daughter (born in Lebanon in December, 1956) and by two grandchildren.

A service celebrating Harold's long life and remarkable career in ministry will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Salem (3737 Liberty Road S.) at 2PM on Saturday, February 6, 2010.

Let us mourn with all who mourn Harold's death and let us give thanks for his many ministries of love and care and faithful service to God in the name of Jesus, Our Christ.

John C. Huenink, Stated Clerk
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