

Remembering Jerry Roberts

The key word (for me) that personifies Rev. Jerry Roberts would be:

PERSISTENT

In *pastoral life* he was a pastor's pastor. If I am facing the valley of the shadow of death, I would want a Jerry Roberts to walk with me. People who interacted with Jerry during his pastoral ministry knew that he had their back, he would be there for the duration of life's battles. He was a shepherd for whom every person was unique and worth his time.

In *language learning* he was a rarity. Who tackles another language at 50 years old? It is one thing to learn a few words to go on vacation in a Spanish speaking country. But Jerry learned Spanish so he could preach and minister in Spanish and continue his persistent commitment to pastoral and evangelistic ministry. He did that throughout Latin America and among Spanish speakers in the USA until our Lord called him home.

In *life-long learning*. Some pastoral leaders proudly boast that after their college training they never read a book completely through again. Jerry was doing graduate work when he was in his 60's. I know, he took classes from me. He not only wanted to learn and get a degree, but he saw it as a pathway to enrich his preaching and his pastoral ministry.

When people like Jerry Roberts pass from our current life, we often respond with comments like, "who will replace Jerry, they simply don't make leaders like him anymore." I echo that sentiment except for one key item: God calls men and women in every generation. The truth is that there are scores of men and women who can carry on the work that Jerry participated in . God is still calling and raising up leaders for the Church in this generation. We can support the Spirit's continuing work of calling leaders for His Church by funding these young emerging

leaders through the Jerry Roberts Memorial Fund. Jerry's life and ministry can and will persist into coming generations.

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