

Eulogy for Dan Waldo

Daniel Richard Waldo was born August 1, 1940, in Corvallis, Oregon, to George and Ruth Waldo. He has one sister, Ruth, born three years later. He was raised by Christian parents, attended First Baptist Church of Corvallis and accepted the Lord as a young man. His father served many years as an elder and a Gideon. His mother was actively involved with the Sunday School program.

Dan grew up in Corvallis on Sunset Drive where he first met Sharon when he was seven years old. One of the earliest pictures Dan's mother found of Sharon is from Dan's seventh birthday party. They grew up together as friends and later became sweethearts at fifteen years old.

One of Dan's fond memories from his high school years was working for a neighbor who owned a chicken farm. Dan would laugh as he recalled how cheap the neighbor was, and how dilapidated the equipment was. But Dan learned a lot about hard work, and how not to run a chicken farm!

Dan graduated from high school in 1958, and immediately joined the Air Force where he embarked on a technical career. After one four year tour he spent a year at Oregon State University, then rejoined the Air Force. He traveled all over the world in the service of his country, including postings in the Philippines, Japan, Korea and Vietnam. Dan's work included building the NORAD headquarters in Colorado, monitoring a French nuclear weapons test, and a tour in Vietnam. Dan recalled one event in Vietnam where his group came under enemy fire, and he outran everyone else to the fox hole. I think he was a bit amazed that he could run that fast.

Dan became his sister Ruth's hero on Columbus day 1962. Ruth was coming home from school, and Dan was to meet her at a bus station an hour from their home in Corvallis. A major storm had gone through the area, taking out trees and making travel difficult. Ruth's bus arrived at the station in the middle of a power outage. She sat in a dark corner for an hour and a half waiting for Dan until he finally arrived, flashlight in hand. He explained that he would have been there earlier, but he had to keep stopping and help people move trees out of the roads. Dan drove them home safely that night.

On April 7, 1963, Dan returned to Oregon to marry his childhood friend and high school sweetheart, Sharon. The newspaper account called it the Simpson-Waldo wedding service. Dan and Sharon always got a laugh from that, and it described their marriage. They moved to Biloxi, Mississippi to continue his Air Force training. They spent the first few years of their marriage traveling with the service, including three years in Japan. They were welcomed to Japan by a hurricane -- one of the worst in the area's history! After surviving the hurricane, their stay in the Tokyo area was a time of growth for both of them and they found fellowship in a Southern Baptist church. During this time the Lord stirred a desire in them to do His work. It did not take long for them to discover that there was much work to do. Sharon had a ministry to military wives who were often unhappy and lonely because their husbands would be gone for weeks at a time -- including Dan. Dan, and the men he was with, "adopted" an orphanage in Korea. During their time in Japan, God blessed first them with the birth of their daughter, Deb. After returning to the states, they were stationed at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska.

It was during this time Dan and Sharon were praying that the Lord could use them in Christian work. It was through their pastor in Omaha that they heard about Back to the Bible, a ministry they were not familiar with because they were not from this area. After meeting with different people from Back to the Bible and applying, they decided this is what the Lord wanted them to do. One problem - they had not been accepted. Their lease was up on the apartment they were renting in Omaha and they

needed to make a decision about moving or staying. It was on this very day, when a decision had to be made and while they were praying, that they got the call from Back to the Bible to come to Lincoln and work for them. This began 30 wonderful years of working for the Lord at Back to the Bible. Dan's job was in their studio department putting his technical skills into use. Through the radio, the message of God's word was proclaimed around the world in people's own languages. It was always Dan's prayer to see that others were led into knowing God through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ taking away man's sins through His death on the cross and resurrection into new life.

Shortly after moving to Lincoln, their son, Peter, was born. With two young children to care for, Sharon was privileged to stay at home while Dan faithfully provided for the family. He kept up his work with the National Guard for 16 years. One of the jobs he was able to do included helping after the Omaha tornado disaster in 1975. If you've ever been to the SAC museum near Ashland, the F-4 fighter there is one he worked on in the Guard. He was honored to do both jobs – serving his country and serving in Christian work. Those were not his only jobs. Dan also worked for the University of Nebraska, doing the sound for “Backyard Farmer,” and other technical support. At one point he worked four jobs so that his children could go to Lincoln Christian. He ran sound for their church for every service, weddings, funerals, and special events. Dan also installed sound systems for many churches in the region.

Even in the National Guard, Dan was involved in ministry. Dan reached out to some of the single men in the Guard, having them over for dinner. He helped one move to Minnesota to go to Bible college in a memorable trip that featured stopping and adding oil to the young's man car every 30 miles.

Politics were important to Dan. Dan was well known for researching politicians and their positions. Many relied on Dan for his insights on specific issues during elections. He was a delegate to the state Republican convention. In later years, he worked at polling places for the election commission.

Dan loved to travel and was able to go to several different countries to set up new studios for Back to the Bible in India, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. Dan made many friends from around the world in those travels. He also declared the food in India as the best he had. As the years progressed, he assumed the manager position of the studio department. Dan also ended up working with a young radio engineer who took an interest in his daughter... Dan was good to work for. I recall a time when a couple of us messed up and ruined a couple hundred dollars worth of tapes. Dan called us to his office and sternly informed us that we had messed up, and they would have to garnish our wages to pay for it. He then brightened up, laughed, and told us to get out! He worked for a total of 30 years and retired in 2001. He and Sharon also enjoyed personal trips to Israel and to both the east and west coasts.

Dan dearly loved his family. He loved to travel with them, packing the family into the station wagon to take them to see the grandparents on the west coast. It was also an expression of his great patience to drive halfway across the country at 55 miles per hour with two restless children in the back. Along the way they would stop at national parks; half-day trips to Yellowstone Park were common. He later walked his daughter down the aisle, giving her hand in marriage to Neal Thompson, who worked with Dan in the studio. And, later, saw the birth of three grandchildren: David, Zach and Katie. His family was always very important to him. He and his son, Peter, played golf together, or as Peter says, at least acted like they were playing; and spent many enjoyable hours watching Husker football games.

In his retirement years, Dan's work with the Gideon's International picked up. He enjoyed

doing Bible distributions at the Nebraska State Fair and to schools. He was the Scripture Distribution Chairman for the Lincoln North Camp. This involved seeing that the Bibles that are placed in motels and hotels are in good condition and always available and distributing Bibles at the University of Nebraska, Wesleyan University, in high schools, hospitals, doctor and dentists offices. He also served as an elder in the churches of Lincoln where he and Sharon attended at the time. As his life progressed, one of the things he was known for was his deep care of others. His prayer life, lifting the cares and needs of others before the Lord, became one of his greatest joys.

Dan's favorite verses were Matthew 6:33 and John 15:5: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." And, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

During retirement, Dan also helped several broadcast engineers as they kept Christian radio and television stations on the air.

Dan was known for being organized. As a boy, his room was neat, and his toy trucks were lined up just so. He stayed that way his entire life. He was also meticulous in his work. Technical jobs were done to perfection, and when researching he was always thorough. Dan was also giving. Sharon recalls that he taught her how to do without so that their children would have what they needed.

Another great joy for both Dan and Sharon was celebrating 50 years together on April 7, 2013. One week after, they learned Dan had terminal cancer. Through the help of many kind and caring medical professionals and in the final days with Tabitha's Hospice, Dan received the best of care. His number one physician proved to be the Lord, who led him on a beautiful journey to the end of his life on January 6, 2014. He went home to heaven into the presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Like the apostle Paul, Dan can say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."