

An Elder's Legacy

by Wayne Goff

Ken Young passed from this life last Sunday at the age of 91. He and Ray Harris were the elders who hired me to work with this church back in 1994 – 26 years ago. Both of these men have been staunch supporters of my preaching and teaching from the beginning. It is really nice to know that good men “have your back.” One of the last substantial phone calls I received from Ken was his ongoing admonition for me **not** to leave this congregation.

Ken served as an elder in this congregation until his health no longer permitted it. It has been a few years since he served, so some of you may not remember his leadership and spiritual legacy as an elder.

Ken was a “people person.” He was always calling on people to see how they were doing. If they had a problem, Ken tried to find a way to resolve their issue. If a member missed a service, Ken was either on the phone calling them to see where they were, or at their door checking on them! You didn't get away with absenteeism with Ken. And he didn't take kindly to poor excuses either. He would sharply rebuke those who were trying to shirk their duties. He viewed the local church as a “family” and considered that everyone needed to be with the Lord's family at times of worship. During these years when Ken was so active, I didn't have to worry a bit about weak or wayward members. Ken did the bulk of the work, and when he needed me to go with him to visit someone, I was more than glad to assist. But he was an elder who did the work of a shepherd – gathering up the sheep. In my forty-six years of preaching for five different congregations, I have never seen an elder work with people as well as Ken did. What a blessing he was to this church, and how well the church did while he served as an elder.

Everyone loved Ken Young as a person, too. He would do more for you than you could ever do for him. He was thoughtful, energetic, and busy. Laziness was never a word associated with him.

Knowing Ken Young as I did, he would be pretty embarrassed to read this about himself. But he loved the souls of men and women, and simply wanted them to love the Lord, His Word and the church as much as he did. He has finished his spiritual fight, he has finished his spiritual race, and he has kept the faith (**2 Timothy 4:7**). Therefore, I believe that he has “*the crown of righteousness*” as his reward. Follow his example. If he were still here, he would grab you by the arm and make sure you did!

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