

I wish to say thank you to all who attended my retirement reception or sent cards of well wishes. It proved to be a great time together. The only regret is that I was not able to spend the kind of time with each of you I would have liked.

My journey which brought us to that day began on World Wide Communion Sunday in 1955. It has been a wild trip some times, with unexpected turns and twists along the way. Some were more difficult than others but God has been faithful and a constant companion all along the way. Never once has He not met our needs in His way and His time (which was not always mine and I plan to ask Him why He waited so long sometimes). Never once has He taken us in the wrong way nor left us without hope or assurance that it will all work out for good. For that I am grateful every day and can have the hope that the end of the journey, which is now closer than it was in 1955, is in His hands and will be ok too.

In Seminary I learned one thing from one sentence in one book which has guided my 57 years of ministry, "God does not expect of us success but only that we try." I soon learned that success is His business not mine, I am only to be there for Him to use along the way. I highly recommend this bit of wisdom to all who minister in His Name. It sure has lowered the stress level over the years.

These past 10 years has been a joy in being able to serve you as Assistant to the District Superintendent. My hope and prayer is that I have been able to make a positive difference, leaving things better than I found them in many of your churches and lives as your paths have crossed.

I thank each of the Superintendents under which I have served for allowing me the opportunity to minister in this way. I thank each church for allowing me to come in and minister in your midst and each Pastor and lay person with whom I have had the privilege working over the years.

Thank you for your kind words and presence as you helped to send me out to pasture.

Rev. Dr. Kenneth P. Ladd and Kay