

LUTHER RICE COLLEGE & SEMINARY, INC.

3038 Evans Mill Road
Lithonia, Georgia 30038
Phone: 770.484.1204 / 1.800.442.1577
www.LutherRice.edu



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Great online program!	"Great online program. Professors are great, and they make online learning easy and affordable."	
	★★★★★ 5/5	2019-07-30
Great Education Experience	"Although this is my first semester, I firmly believe the faculty and staff at Luther Rice are dedicated to the success of students, and to the provision of a quality education.."	
	★★★★★ 5/5	2019-07-27
Top notch online Masters Degree Program	"I have had bad experiences with two other Universities' online Masters Programs. Not so with Luther Rice. My professor, Dr. Mapes, was very understanding and helpful. He replied to all my emails promptly and courteously. I even has an advisor call me to check if everything was going well. I can't recommend Luther Rice more highly than a five star or I would! I'm looking forward to next semester! "	

Fall 2019 Recruiting Events

H.B. Charles – Cutting It Straight Conference – Jacksonville, FL	September 17-19
Pastors & Leaders Conference - Stone Mountain, GA	October 2-4
AACC World Conference - Nashville, TN	October 9-12
North Carolina Baptist State Convention - Greensboro, NC	November 11-12
Alabama Baptist Pastor's Conference - Daphne, AL	November 11-12
Florida Baptist State Convention - Orlando, FL	November 10-12
Georgia Baptist State Convention - Fayetteville, GA	November 11-12

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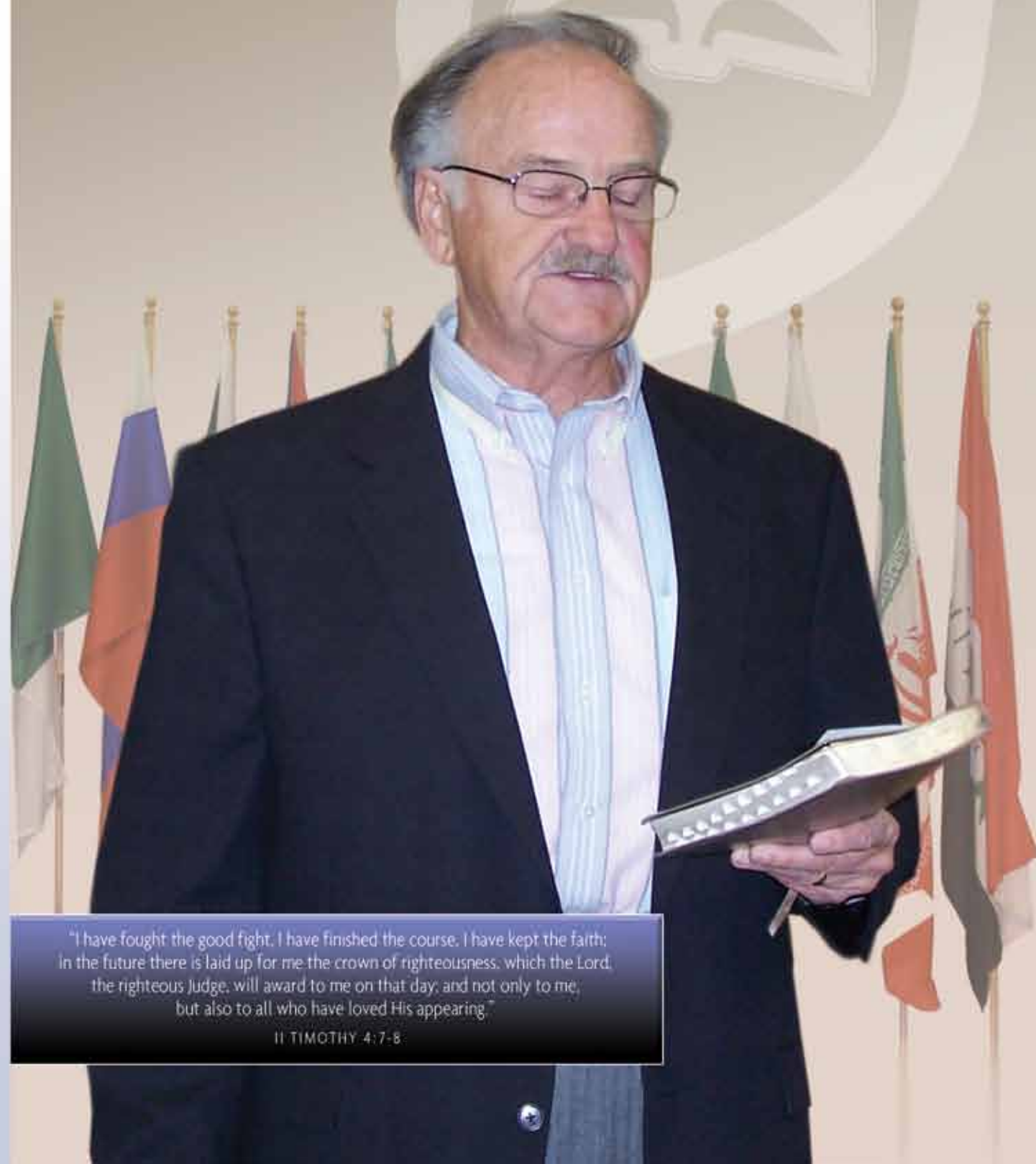
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October 2019

PIONEER

Luther Rice College & Seminary

*A Special Edition
Dedicated to the
Memory of
Dr. Ron Long*



"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."

II TIMOTHY 4:7-8

A Personal Word



from **DR. FLANAGAN**

This Pioneer is a tribute to Dr. Ron Long who served Luther Rice for over 27 years. I was greatly blessed to have served with him during those years. Through his efforts, Luther Rice relocated to Lithonia, Georgia, and the International Mission Ministry was created. After serving as a pastor for many years, Dr. Long came to Luther Rice as the Director of International Ministries. He traveled extensively around the world and was instrumental in engaging alumni, students, and churches in missions. He was a friend and encourager to many pastors and those serving on the mission field.

As I reflect on our friendship, I am so grateful God brought him into my life and ministry. He and his wife made a lasting impact for the cause of Christ.

Luther Rice continues to reach around the world with students in 46 states and 21 foreign countries.

As our school's namesake and missionary statesmen Luther Rice said, "How can we remain indifferent when immortal souls hang in the balance?"

Let us go forward and continue to provide biblical education to those serving the Lord around the world.

James Flanagan
President



Tribute to Dr. Long

Dr. Ron Long was born July 24, 1937, in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and passed away May 30, 2019, at the age of 81. He came to faith and was baptized when he was 12 years old at West End Baptist Church in Rock Hill.

A fan of the University of South Carolina football team, Long played when he was young, but decided to forego the collegiate level in order to fulfill his calling to the ministry. Instead, he attended the Columbia Bible College in Columbia, South Carolina. Long married Lethia Propst and the couple had three children: Stanley, Christine, and Kelly Anne.

Long surrendered to God's call to preach in 1959 and was ordained in 1960 at West End Baptist Church. He served at Providence Baptist Church, in Leesville, South Carolina, for three and a half years, assisting in the construction of a parsonage and additional educational facilities.

Next, the Longs moved to Gaffney, South Carolina, where Dr. Long served as pastor of Crestview Baptist Church for four years. During this time the pastorium and other educational buildings were constructed. Church attendance was at an all-time high, and the number of baptisms was record-breaking. Dr. Long continued this trend at Woodside Baptist Church in Greenville, South Carolina, where he served for two and a half years.

The Longs eventually left South Carolina and landed in Lithonia, Georgia, where Dr. Long served



as Lead Pastor at Glenwood Hills Baptist Church for 20 years. During his tenure, the church's membership grew to over 2,700 and a strong evangelistic outreach program was established. Glenwood Hills ranked among the top in the state for the number of baptisms and gifts to the Cooperative Program. Dr. Long relinquished his role as Senior Pastor in January 1992 after over 30 years of pastoring Southern Baptist Churches.

God then called Dr. Long to Luther Rice where he became the Director of International Ministries. The purpose of this new department was to train national pastors in foreign countries. This was a continuation of the Longs' extensive ministry to countries around the world. Dr. Long touched so many lives, brought countless individuals to Christ, and assisted in training and equipping leaders in order for them to make an impact for the kingdom of God.

***His reach is palpable
and his legacy will last
for generations to come.***

Throughout the years, Dr. Long continued his education receiving numerous degrees from Luther Rice. He served on various committees at the local, state, and national level of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Long wrote articles for Christian magazines and local newspapers and published a book entitled *In All Your Ways*. He also served on a number of boards, including the Home Mission Board, Refuge Crisis Pregnancy Center, and the Luther Rice Board of Trustees. Until he could no longer travel, the Longs went near and far to spread the Gospel. His reach is palpable and his legacy will last for generations to come.

The Three Musketeers

Dr. Len Turner

What an honor and privilege to speak on behalf of the best friend that I have ever had this side of heaven: Dr. Ronald B. Long. For over 50 years, he has been a brother, a mentor, an advisor, and the dearest friend that a man could hope to have walk with him through life. Just prior to his home-going, I was able to say to him personally “traveling through life with a friend like you has made the journey worthwhile.” I was a personal recipient of his love, and he was always there for me especially when I needed him most. He was a lion who not only led us but also loved us. Without a doubt, he was motivated and prompted by the love of Jesus Christ.

He sure did pack a lot of living into 82 years, and he enjoyed every minute of it. He really enjoyed being who he was, and was comfortable in his own skin. It became increasingly obvious that his strength and love of life came from our Lord Jesus. He was the epitome of a Christian brother.

His love for the Lord, for his family, for lost souls, and for Christian brothers was a great inspiration to all of us. He certainly had a heart for God and for people.

When he died, his light here was dimmed, but his light is shining brighter now because he is with the Light of the world—and his light will be among the brightest. He had obviously finished the work that the Lord sent him to do, and the Lord called him home within His perfect timing.

It is certainly obvious that his love for Luther Rice was one of the prime motivations of his life. No one was more devoted to our institution, nor has there been anyone who put forth more time, prayer, and effort into promoting this great school. He will always be positively associated with Luther Rice, and his spirit lives on. I would compare his life to a line from Hamlet, “He was a man, take him for all in all. I shall not look upon his like again.”

The Lord constantly reminds me, when I think about how much I miss my friend, that we have not lost him because we know where he is, and because of Jesus Christ, we will see him again. I would sum up my relationship with him with this phrase, “A lifetime is not too long to live as friends.” Thank God for Ron Long and may God bless everything that he touched in this life until Jesus returns again.

L-R: Dr. Len Turner, Dr. Ron Long, Dr. Fred Wolfe



FRED H. WOLFE
Senior Pastor

August 20, 2019

Dr. James Flanagan
Luther Rice Seminary
3038 Evans Mill Road
Lithonia, GA 30038

Dear Dr. Flanagan and Luther Rice Family,

I am writing to express to the Luther Rice family my great love and respect for Dr. Ronald B. Long.

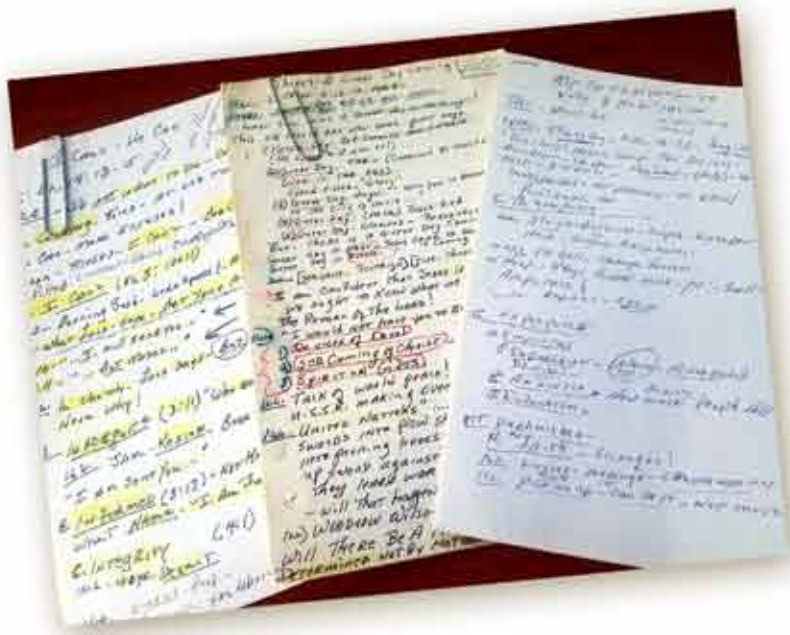
We met in 1954 when he was a sophomore in high school and became extremely close friends. I spent my first night as a married man with my new wife at the home of Dr. Long's mother and father. I will not try to explain why.

Luther Rice Seminary had a strong ambassador in Dr. Long. His love for the school and promotion of the school wherever he went was tremendous. I believe that hundreds of young men and women attended Luther Rice because of the testimony and encouragement of Dr. Long.

As one of my very best friends, we had some wonderful, fun times. We vacationed together with our families for a number of years. At times, when together, we were deeply spiritual, but at other times, I am not free to discuss. Dr. Long was not only my friend but also my brother in Christ, and I look forward to seeing him again when we gather at the feet of Jesus. He loved preachers, he loved Luther Rice, and he left a great legacy.

Jesus Is Lord!

Fred H. Wolfe



October 21, 2008 ~ Luther Rice Chapel Service
“Bearing Fruit”

John 15:4-5

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Today we have all kinds of convictions and conventions on the “How to’s of Ministry.” I said to somebody some time ago, “we’re going to do a convention for preachers.” I mean, I love preachers, that’s who I am and that’s who I’ll be, and when I go to heaven, I’ll be a preacher. Let me suggest a convention for preachers. Let’s have a national procrastinator’s convention and that would get the brethren out! But if we’re not going to have that,

then we’ll have an FPA — a Fruit Pickers of America convention. We’ll go to this convention and get all of the tools. We’ll get tools on how to pick fruit. We’ll get baskets and learn how to load up the baskets. We’ll get seminars on how to pick it faster. And then, they’ll bring in a top gun, an inspirational speaker that will have you jumping out of your shoes. You can’t wait until you get out to go pick fruit. Only, a few days later you find yourself discouraged and somewhat disgusted. I’m not sure that the emphasis — well, I am sure in my humble but most accurate opinion — I am sure that the emphasis is not on picking fruit because Jesus put the emphasis on bearing fruit. And there’s a difference. You see, picking fruit takes time, effort, and energy, but bearing fruit is a product of a lifestyle, and there is a difference.

Excerpts from Three Sermons
by Dr. Long

November 3, 2011 ~ Luther Rice Chapel Service

“Sin of Arrogance”

James 4:13-17

“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”

What does it mean to be crucified with Christ? What does it mean to be a servant for the Lord? What does it mean to humble yourself before the Lord?

It dawned on me that you better be careful about who you are and what you’re doing. Because if arrogancy sets in, you will be capable of doing anything and everything. When arrogancy takes over our lives, it’s easy to put everything else on somebody else — it’s their fault. The two people we blame everything on is God and Mama — poor old Mama!

Ms. Bertha Smith always said, “Not I, but Christ.” What happened to me is that I had clear cut goals, and in fifteen minutes, they were changed abruptly. I’ve got to be careful and acknowledge the fact that it is not me, but all in who He is. Ms. Bertha was right, I do have to crucify the flesh — I must die to myself and enthrone Christ in my life and not walk around like a grand peacock patting myself on the back, telling God, “you sure got a great prize when you got me!” You see, when God got me, He just got a bundle of sin.

What the book of James is teaching me is that you will travel if it is the will of God. I want to be at the center of His will for me. I want His best. I don’t want His second best. I want the best He has for me. I want to give my life to who He is. There are times when I will get into it, and I’ll do it, and I’ll have to be reminded by the Holy Spirit of God that I better “back away, big boy, because I’m getting ready to mess some stuff up!” You’ll travel, only if it is the will of God.

July 13, 2014 ~ The Path Worship Center ~ Augusta, GA

“Heaven”

2 Timothy 4:6-8

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 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.”

In Thomas Payne’s closing hours, he said, “I would give the world if I had not written The Age of Reason. It is hell to be left alone,” and then he died. Now, folks, that is one way to die, and if you are without Jesus Christ this morning, that would be your way to die. But there is another way. I’ve always said this publically — God’s people die well. I’ve been with so many when they were going on to glory and the angels of God carry them on in to meet the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! God’s people die well.

The last words of Dr. Lee were “Ah, there it is. I never did it justice.” Implying that as he preached about heaven, he could not even come close to describing it. “I never did it justice!” Then all of a sudden he said,

“There’s Mama!” Those were the words he used to describe his dear wife for years and years. And then he paused and said, “and there’s Jesus” — and he went out and met the Lord. I’d rather go home like Dr. Lee than to go home like Thomas Payne.

Oh, what happens when we get to heaven? I’m going to give you two things it marks.

1 – It marks an ending to this earthly life, to this earthly ministry. It’ll come to an end. The struggles that we go through in our life will come to an end. One of the greatest desires that I have in my heart right now is I want to finish well. I want to finish well, brother. I don’t want to go out a loser. I don’t want to go out on the sideline. I want to go out in style. I want to keep the faith. But there will be no more death, no more sorrow, and no more pain.

2 – It marks a beginning. It marks a revelation. Let me ask you, saints of God, do you love His appearing? Let me ask you, young people, if He would come today, would you be ready? I cannot imagine in my soul people going a day not knowing if they died if they would go to heaven. Glory to the King! Here I come. Get them ready!

Testimonials to Dr. Long

My first experience with international missions came in the summer of 1993 while a college student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Our church, Liberty Baptist Church in Chelsea, Alabama, had been very active in local evangelism but had no real mission activity beyond our community. Our pastor, Dr. Jimmy Dean, completed his Doctor of Ministry degree through Luther Rice Seminary where he met Dr. Ron Long. He asked Dr. Long to help our church get involved in international missions. So, in the summer of 1993, we took our first international mission trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica, to conduct a vacation Bible school for the city children during the day and revival services in the evenings at a church up in the hills. The rest, as they say is history.

I have now, as a pastor, led or participated in over 32 mission trips to many different states and 18 different countries. I have had opportunities to do evangelism; train pastors and church leaders in evangelism, discipleship, and church ministry; and to teach, encourage, and pray for missionaries serving on the field. I still look back to Dr. Long's love for Christ and heart for the nations as the spiritual impetus God used to call me to greater faithfulness in obeying Him and seeking to fulfill the Great Commission. Hundreds, if not thousands, of people have been impacted for the sake of the gospel because of Dr. Long's example and impact on my life. I am grateful. To God be the glory!

Dr. Randy Mann

Lead Pastor - Central Baptist Church, Henderson, North Carolina

Brian and I were very sad to hear about Dr. Long's passing. However, we did notice that he chose to leave this earth on Christ's Ascension Day which is quite appropriate (Christi Himmelfahrt – a big holiday here in Austria). We will be praying for Lethia and the family as well as for the Luther Rice faculty and staff and people from all over as you gather for the funeral on Monday. We're just sorry we can't be there. Dr. Long had such a significant impact on our lives and we will miss him.



L-R: Brian Williams, Pearl Williams, Dr. Ron Long

Brian and Pearl Williams

Missionaries - Vienna, Austria

During my early days as a student at Luther Rice, both Dr. Long and Mark Oliver decided that I should take my first mission trip, alone, to Southern India. Their decision was monumental in my life. Although the trip taught me many lessons, the one I will never forget is the timing. I have often reflected on the timeliness of the trip. I went at just the right time (Isa. 52:7 and Rom. 10:15 may reflect a nuance of being timely or the correct season). I went at a time when

I needed to learn an important lesson. I needed to learn that God is much bigger than anything my overly Western mind could have imagined. I suspect Dr. Long would have agreed that his hundreds of excursions were just as much about the timeliness of the trip as they were about why he went. I will forever be grateful to him for opening my eyes to missions and for never missing an opportunity to encourage me and tell me he was proud.

Dr. Joshua E. Stewart

Professor of OT and Hebrew at Luther Rice

My sincere condolences to Dr. Long's family and to the Luther Rice Family at large, during this season of pain and sorrow. On the other hand, we all know where he is now and all who are in Christ have the comfort and hope of seeing him again! Praise God! Dr. Long had been a dear friend for many years (since 1996). I had the privilege of traveling and teaching together with him in a number of places in India. He believed in training national leaders and used every opportunity to fulfill that vision. In fact, I have many stories of my adventures with him. He has been a great encouragement to me personally and, I have learned many valuable lessons from

him. Occasionally, I even have heard him call me "son," and that really added value to my spiritual relationship with him. I will cherish my fellowship with this man of God for a lifetime. He always had, and will have, a special place in my heart, and I miss him dearly.

Please know that I am praying for all of you and for the service. I am halfway across the globe, and I am so sorry that I am not able to make it. May we all be encouraged to love and serve the Lord as did this man until the end of his life. Leny and I sincerely pray for his dear wife and children, that the Lord will comfort and strengthen each one of them.

Georgey and Leny Varghese

Missionaries in India

I am sorry to hear the news of the passing of Dr. Ron Long. He was such a great man, an encourager to many and to me. Dr. Long was also a powerful preacher and a pillar of God's work and that of Luther Rice. I still remember preaching for him at

church and visiting with him at other churches. He was such a support to me when I started a Bible Institute in Beirut. Praise God for his life and testimony. Please pass on my condolences to Mrs. Long and to the faculty and staff of Luther Rice.

Edgard Traboulsi

Pastor - Lebanon

Thoughts regarding Dr. Ron Long ...

1. Referring to the Word of God and sound Biblical Doctrine in ministry, he would say to me every time we parted "stick with the stuff my man."
2. When he or I experienced difficulties, he would frequently say, "Jesus is still Jesus, and because He is still Jesus, we are going to keep on going."
3. One of the first times he came to Crossroads, we were in the worship service, and the choir and congregation were rocking to one of the old

hymns. I was sitting next to him and, getting caught up in the moment, started singing my heart out. All of a sudden, he elbowed me in the ribs and said: "just hum man, just hum."

4. And of course, there is the story of the "affectionate monkey" that he drop-kicked at the pagan temple. For some reason, that story serves to help me when I needed boldness!
5. He would often remind us, "God wants to do something in you that He might do something through you."

John McMillian, Jr.

Senior Pastor - Crossroads Baptist Church

Our lives are forever changed because of Dr. Ronald B. Long. He was much more than a mentor to us. He made our daughters call him Pa, and he has been a

godly, loving, encouraging father figure. Our hearts are broken and yet rejoicing for his home-going.

Randy and Melissa Swearengin

CONTINUED
Testimonials



What can I say about our beloved? Dr. Long has touched so many lives and invested in so many lives. It would be hard to narrow down, except on an individual basis. I firmly believe I would not still be in ministry without his pushing and encouragement. I was asked to resign after 9 months at my first pastorate. Dr. Long took me under his wing, nurturing and loving me back to health. Dr. Long invested in me after that as well. Every year, the day after Thanksgiving, Dr. Long would call and say, "Beloved, it's time for you to come to my house and get the Christmas decorations down for Mrs. Long. Need you to bring your truck, too, so we can get the trees." Without fail, the day after Christmas there'd be another call in which Dr. Long would say, "Beloved, it's time for you to come to

my house and help get the Christmas stuff down and into the attic." In 2018, Dr. Long preached his last Homecoming with us before his home-going came. I am so thankful he could be there. I will forever miss our time together, and I know he's fine. Probably correcting Paul on how he would have done things. I will forever miss our conversations of encouragement and being challenged. I can only imagine when Dr. Long entered into heaven's gates, "My Beloved!" The ministry of Dr. Long is not complete nor fully written even after his passing. His legacy continues today in the lives that he touched and that are touching others today. Dr. Long's focus was always one thing, "To build the kingdom." He did that the most by investing in pastors like me. Thank you, Dr. Long. I love you beloved.

Lance Sumner
Pastor, The Connection Church



I met Dr. Long during my studies at Luther Rice Seminary. In 2000, he invited me to go to Jamaica on a mission trip. That was a trip that changed my life. For the next 10 years, I went to Jamaica and pursued other mission opportunities. I have traveled to seven other countries with Dr. Long doing missions. He inspired me to be a better missionary and a better pastor.

During one of his mission trips, he got an infection in his foot. It hampered his walking from that day until his passing. He never let it hinder his passion to do missions though. He absolutely drug himself all over the world for the cause of Christ. I have never met a more dedicated man of God in my life. It was his passion that caused other people like me

to get involved in the mission field. My life has been enriched because Dr. Ron Long and his dear wife motivated me to go into all the world and make disciples. His legacy will live on through those of us whom his life has enriched. My church loved them and looked forward to him coming every year to spend time with us.

We were a lot alike in many ways. One of those is that we both have booming voices. When the two of us got together, we were loud! We joked all the time with one another. One of his favorite sayings was, "Dr. Riser, stick with me son and I will make you a star." It was a privilege to be associated with this man and his mission.

Dr. Mark Riser
Retired Pastor & Luther Rice Board Member



Ron Long taught me so much about ministry, loving people, and staying true to the Word. As a teenager, he allowed me to preach for him and work with him one summer at the Crestview Baptist Church in Gaffney. His friendship over the years has meant

so much. In so many ways, I was always one of his preacher boys, even though I didn't begin under his ministry. I am 68 years old now, and Ron's determination to keep preaching has been such an inspiration to me as I have reached these years.

Dr. Jerry C. White



Dr. Ron Long was by far a 5-star general in God's army. He and his wife were true examples of worldwide evangelism. From Glenwood Hills Baptist

Church to the Jordan River, this man opened my eyes to the work of ministry. Well done Sir! The Chapel First Baptist Church salutes you.

Pierre Sheppard
Pastor



Dr. Long introduced me to Luther Rice. I still remember when he invited me to speak in chapel in 2007. In 2011, he defended my cause, and I received a scholarship to study at Luther Rice. I graduated with a Master of Divinity in 2014. Thanks to Dr. Long, I finished my Doctor of Ministry this year and graduated on May 17, 2019. I obtained an "A" in all my doctoral classes, including my doctoral research.

I would like to thank Dr. Long for giving me a chance, and I am forever thankful for the opportunity given to me to be a Luther Rice doctoral graduate.

I love Dr. Long, and I thank God for his life and service, for spending and being spent to maximize the kingdom of God, and for investing in me. I am living proof that his mission work has not been in vain.

Jean Marc Desire
Pastor in Haiti

