



*Celebrating the Life of
Robert (Bob) Arrington*



Photography by Marianne Lettieri

Menlo Park Presbyterian Church

Friday, January 29, 2016

2 p.m.

Celebration Service for Bob Arrington

“I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8: 38-39)

Piano Prelude

Call to Worship

Prayers

Hymn: 202 *“Amazing Grace”*

Family Remembrance

Tom Arrington

Scripture/Tribute

Chris and Susan Arrington

Colossians 3:23-24

Karl Rahner, S.J., Foundations of Christian Faith, 1978

Celebration in Music

“On Eagles Wings”

“I am the Bread of Life”

Sr. Annette Burkhart

Sr. Margaret Hoffman

Sr. Roseanne Murphy

Missions or Charities – Bob Arrington

Many people have kindly asked what charity they could donate to in our dad’s name. Not so easy. When asked what his favorite mission or charity was, all our dad would say was **“they are all my favorite.”** It seems our dad believed that each of them had their special place in reaching out to those in need.

The following is a list of local, global, and/or non-religious organizations I know our dad was involved with at some level. For more information about any of these programs, you can call Menlo Church at 650-323-8630. If you feel the need to SERVE, or donate, pick one that fulfills a need for you.

MPPC Ministry Partners in THE BAY AREA:

Bob Arrington (our dad) was the Local GO Team Leader for following mission partners with Menlo Church. You can see why he couldn’t pick just one.

Able Works	Jeremiah’s Promise
Bayshore Christian Ministries	Live in Peace
Bread of Life EPA	Jail Ministry
Bridgmont High School	New Creation Ministries
City Impact	New Door Ventures
City Team, San Francisco	Project We H.O.P.E.
City Team, San Jose	Ravenswood Education Foundation
Donaldina Cameron House	Ravenswood Youth Athletic Assn
Familia Cristina Verbo	Reach Potential Movement
First Resort	Safe at Home
Freedom House	St. Francis of Assisi Youth Club (EPA)
Habitat for Humanity, GSF	SpiritCare Ministry to Seniors
Habitat for Humanity, EB/SV	Sports Challenge
Help One Child	Youth Community Services
Hillcrest Chaplaincy and Ministries	Young Life
Hope House	2nd Mile
InnVision Shelter Network	

Global Ministries: These were the global missions that he went on with our mom:

Ezra International (Kiev, Ukraine) - Father’s House - Orphan Children
Hearts and Hands (China) - working with deaf population
Agape—Rahab’s House (Cambodia) - human sex trafficking
Ellilta (Ethiopia) - human sex trafficking
Life and Missions Ministry (Poland) - counseling supports
New Hope (Ukraine)

Non-Religious Organizations: **Rebuilding Together.** This organization was very involved in many of the above local programs.
rebuildingtogether.org



Robert (Bob) Newton Arrington

May 22, 1933 – January 18, 2016

Robert (Bob) Newton Arrington died on January 18, 2016. He was 82. He lived a life loving God, his family, and serving others. He died on a day celebrating Martin Luther King Jr., a man committed to service. In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” Bob never was silent, and always spoke for the causes and people he believed in.

He was born on May 22, 1933 to Carl and Beulah Arrington in Houston, Texas. He attended Lamar High School where he met his future wife, Doris Banowsky Arrington, who he married in 1953. He graduated from the University of Houston. He and Doris moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1968.

Bob worked 28 years for Southern Pacific Transportation as the General Manager for their Land Company. He then operated a private consulting firm working in the San Francisco Bay Area mentoring small business development.

For the past 20 year he served as both a board member and president for a number of non-profit charitable organizations on the San Francisco peninsula. In addition, he received political appointments to positions on various commissions at the city and county level, including serving on the 2001-2002 and 2013-2014 San Mateo Grand Jury.

Bob found adventure and joy over the last ten years providing leadership in both local and international missions at Menlo Church. He worked closely with international partners in the Ukraine, Belgium, Spain, Mexico, Poland, China and Ethiopia and locally with partners in Redwood City, East Palo Alto, San Francisco and San Jose.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Doris Arrington. He is also survived by his three sons, Robert (Melany), Thomas (Tamara), and Christian (Susan); seven grandchildren (Rett, Ryan, Courtney, Amanda, Connor, Wesley and Haley) and one great-grand child (Logan). He was preceded in death by his brother (Donald) and his grandson (Chris).

Pastoral Word

Reflections from the Grandchildren

Courtney, Rett, Ryan, Amanda, Connor, Wesley, Haley

Remembrance

Rev. Mark Swarner

Ministry Partner Reflections

Dr. Roman Korniyko, Father’s House, Kiev Ukraine

Phillip and Masha Barnett, Christ’s Cathedral, Kiev Ukraine

Henryk and Alina Wieja, Life and Mission Ministry, Ustron Poland

Reflections

Pastor Paul Bains – Saint Samuel/Project WE H.O.P.E

Hymn: 479 “*Onward Christian Soldiers*”

Prayers

Benediction

Piano Postlude

Pastor: Frank VanderZwan

Pianist: Anton Nel

Please join us in Fellowship Hall for a reception immediately following the service this afternoon.

Whose Your Daddy? Reflections about my dad - Chris Arrington

My life changed on Monday, January 18, 2016 as my dad passed away. I am still in shock but I am at peace because of who my dad was, what he had taught me, and what I have learned about him in the last three weeks. I also find it fitting that my dad died on MLK Day because of how for the last 20 years he lived a life of service. I've been lucky because I have always had a good relationship with my dad but there are so many things I never really knew.



Growing up, my dad always came to my sporting events and supported me in whatever I did. He made all my scrapbooks with pictures and newspaper clippings. When I started middle school, both my brothers were out of the house and my mom taught nights at a local college. So, you can say, my dad and I spent a lot of alone time together. He taught me how to eat liver and onions, and to value the "Yellow Brand/No Label" food. Ok, my dad was cheap.

My dad rarely raised his voice but did make powerful suggestions. When I would come in past my curfew, he would always ask what time I got home even though he knew when I came home. Yes, I would fudge the truth but he never busted me for not being truthful. At 17, when I got fired from my first job, my dad made me write an apology letter, drove me to the front door, and made me hand deliver the letter to my boss and apologize. I worked at a liquor warehouse and I was fired for taking beer. In my defense, I did pay for it.

As I got older, my dad was someone I would call on with big financial decisions or if I had a construction question. I may not have taken all his advice but I wanted and relied on his counsel. My dad was an amazing father and grandfather to all of us. He set an example of what it meant to be a husband by being committed to my mom for 62-years of marriage. He loved his grandchildren and wanted to see them anytime they were around. He was "Big Bob" to them.

God was always important to my dad. My parents went to many churches over the years but attending MPPC has been their longest church connection. I believe that this connection was due to the service MPPC provides to missions around the world. Mission work became my dad's passion. During the 80's my parents really didn't go to church but attended church in their kitchen. My dad would watch the 700 Club and Robert Schuller at the Crystal Cathedral every Sunday.

Three weeks ago, my dad was diagnosed with Lung Cancer. By the time it was detected, it has spread to his liver, heart, bones, and brain. Three weeks is too short to say good-bye but I am glad I got the chance to be with my dad, tell him how much I loved him, hold his hand, and learn who my dad had become.

It was during his time in the hospital that I began to learn so much more about my dad. As I listened and watched the numerous church and community leaders, long time friends, and those I didn't know go into his room, I became overwhelmed to learn how much he did to serve others and how many lives he touched. I saw my dad all the time and I never knew the breadth of his service and the lives he touched locally and around the world. While in the hospital, I had the gift and opportunity to see my dad in action with the people he served. The words that came out of his mouth were compassionate, poetic, wise, and selfless. He continued to build relationships with people even though he was dying. This was who my dad was.

Over the course of the last weeks, I watched and listened to over 20 pastors visit (or video) from over 10 different churches. They were White, Black, Hispanic, Polish and Ukrainian. They prayed for him in English, Spanish, Polish, and Ukrainian. They even got "Evangelical" and raised hands, sang "Hallelujah," and "Amen Brother." I saw videos of orphan children pray and sing for him from the Ukraine and local children write get well cards for him from a local Hispanic Church. What touched me the most is the children knew him by name. I always heard about my dad's adventures but did not realize the impact he had on so many.

I can't even begin to tell you the highlights of what I learned but at one point I felt like my dad was the Pope and people were coming to kiss his ring. I say this jokingly because this is not who my dad was. My dad did things to serve others but never anything for his own glory.

What is becoming very clear is that my dad was actively and currently involved in over 30 programs that served people locally and abroad. And what amazes me most is that he did all this in the last twenty years and never got paid a cent. This was his life, this was his gift, and this was the plan God had for him.

My dad has worked with programs ranging from Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, Adopt a Teacher, Jobs Program for Hillcrest youth, Safe at home for the elderly, and various education programs for youth in EPA and Redwood City. These were both Christian organizations or just organizations that served people.

This, however, doesn't include the many Mission Trips he took with my mom: 14 times to the Ukraine to work with a Christian Orphanage that serves street children; he was there just last year, 1 week before the war broke out in 2014. 9 medical missions to China to support rural village children get cochlear implants. 4 trips to Poland to educate mental health professionals. Trips to train caregivers in Ethiopia, Russia, Cambodia and Spain.

My dad did what he needed to do as long as it benefited those that were less fortunate. He advocated for those that didn't have because he had the means to advocate. He was able to play the "Political" or "Church Game" that others couldn't play. He found money to support programs when no one else could. Many of my dad's frustrations were with the red tape within organizations or those that struggled to practice what they preached. And even this never stopped him from moving forward and finding ways to make programs happen. I never heard my dad marginalize the poor or those that were doing the work to serve others. Over the last 20-years, these were the people he served. I heard pastors appreciate my dad's **toughness** with making things happen, his **frankness** with not saying the nice thing because he had to, and his **bottom line attitude** that didn't hide the truth.

I could end here because my dad's life was so full. However, if I did, I would not have learned anything from my dad. So, this is a call to action for everyone, even me. What I learned over the last three weeks is that my dad had a passion for serving others. He understood how to use his gifts and connections to make things happen. And, he understood that having long relationships with those you served impacted the lives of so many more. You are never too old to start. I believe the richest part of my dad's life began after the age of 65. So, what are you going to do to serve others and what lasting relationships will you make? I truly believe that my dad would say the decisions he made over the last 20-years were some of the best decisions he ever made, besides marrying my mom.

I will miss my dad greatly but he has provided me so many memories that I will never forget. God gave me a gift in my dad and he has taught me so much.

Thanks Dad! You continue to inspire me by what you have done and those you have inspired.