

WHO IS HARRY DENMAN?

Harry Denman was once described by a bishop as the kind of man who could carry the flag at the head of the parade and at the same time beat the drum, setting the cadence for the march. His leadership in evangelism was unique as was his personal life and witness. He was one who went up to persons and always held out his hand, saying “Where do you preach?” His friendships encircled the world, and he was at home in a variety of settings.



Dr. Harry Denman

Dr. Billy Graham refers to Harry Denman as “one of the Lord’s greatest servants.” He further states “I had no better friend or greater supporter or better counselor in my evangelistic work than Harry Denman.”

Maxie Dunnam states that “Harry Denman was a person filled with the Spirit who patterned his life after our Lord, living the life of a servant. In his unique and powerful way, he challenged us to a life consistent with our prayers, for his life was consistent with his own prayers. He was humbly dependent upon God. Christ was the center of his life and his daily living reflected a style of self-giving.”

To meet Harry Denman was to feel the force of his personality and to be challenged by it. The impact of his spiritual and physical presence is not easily forgotten. He moved tirelessly, confidently, dedicated to one objective: to witness for the Lord, Jesus Christ. When he was part of a group, whether with colleagues or strangers, businessmen or politicians, the conversation was shifted by Harry

to the Bible, prayer, and the Risen Lord whom he sought continually to serve. He commanded attention by his dedication and singleness of purpose. Harry Denman was a layman who had the gift of making people want to listen whether he was speaking with one person or to a multitude. He was a person who never accepted “no” as final. He sought to try that which others thought could not be done, and he succeeded.

Love for the Lord and his fellow human beings was the keynote of his life. He stood for many things that are today coming to pass, but were not popular causes in his own day: the equality of persons regardless of sex, nationality, or race; simplicity of life-style, disregard of false values of materialism; and a search for the true values of life taught by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

Harry Denman was truly a “fisher of all persons.” He sought to lead the Board of Evangelism into wide presentations of the Gospel to reach people. His personal dedication forced him to follow Christ totally, and he sought to lead others to have what he had: total commitment to a life of faith. He told it like it was as best as he understood it. He did not hesitate to give answers to the tough questions of personal faith, nor did he fail to admit his own personal weakness and frequently asked another person to “pray for me.”

Harry Denman died on November 8, 1976. As a driving force which had been felt all across North America and into the far reaches of the world, his voice was silenced, but his memory lives on in the thousands of men and women who were touched with the love of Jesus Christ as shared through him. It is little wonder that he bears a reputation as “The St. Paul of The United Methodist Church.”



The **DENMAN EVANGELISM AWARDS**



The Foundation for Evangelism
P.O. Box 985
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Denman Evangelism Awards

The Denman Evangelism Awards were begun in 1980 to honor a United Methodist lay and clergy person in each annual conference who have exhibited unusual and outstanding efforts for work in Christian evangelism by faithfully carrying out the mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ."

The award is named for the late Dr. Harry Denman, distinguished lay evangelist, whom Dr. Billy Graham called "my mentor in evangelism." The awards are made possible by The Foundation for Evangelism, which was founded in 1949 by Dr. Denman. Dr. Denman felt it was the business of every Christian to be an evangelist. It is most fitting that annual conferences today honor persons who carry on the spirit of Dr. Harry Denman.

Those eligible for these prestigious awards are persons who are effective in developing true disciples of Jesus Christ! This can involve personal witnessing, speaking, and inspiring individual persons or the local church to be actively involved in effective evangelism and outreach. The size of the local church with which the person is affiliated, the age

or gender of the person, nor the length of time of involvement are not primary criteria for selection. One's accomplishments in the area of evangelism are what really count, as they establish the person's lifestyle, provide witness to that person's ministry, and bring honor to Christ and the church.

Each annual conference is encouraged to honor one lay person and one clergy person from their conference each year and to present

the awards at the session of their Annual Conference meeting. Nominations are sent from each district to the conferences for their selection.

Information on selected nominees is sent to The Foundation for Evangelism at least four weeks prior to the presentation date. This information must include the proper name, address and telephone number of the recipient, along with some biographical information and a brief statement justifying the selection, as well as the date the award is to be presented. The Foundation for Evangelism will provide, without cost to the annual conference, a beautiful certificate in an attractive binder for each person who is honored. Recipients will later receive a letter of congratulations from The Foundation, along with a Harry Denman biography.

Materials and nomination forms are sent to all annual conferences in January. Information on Denman Awards can also be found on The Foundation for Evangelism's web site, www.evangelize.org or contact us at P.O. Box 985, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745.

