

May 20, 2024 is the 15th Anniversary of the death of Ralph D. Winter, co-founder of WCIU with his wife Roberta. We thought we'd gather a few thoughts from folks who wrote a tribute to him around the time of his death in 2009.

Charles Kraft wrote:

This led to seven exciting years on the same faculty as Ralph D. Winter, the most creative and sometimes exasperating person I've ever known. It was exciting, though, because we never knew what he'd come up with next. He usually came to faculty meetings with some new plan for revising or revamping whatever it was we were doing. Or some new idea for extending the Kingdom of God to the unreached or to those blocked from coming to Christ by present approaches.

And,

But when we felt we needed a publishing outlet for the research being done at the School of World Mission, he went out on a limb and started Wm Carey Library. And when the new discipline of Missiology needed a professional society, he, with others, started the American Society of Missiology. And when we felt we needed a more practice-oriented organization to go along with the academic approach that Fuller provided, he started the US Center for World Mission at great cost and great risk.

T.V. Thomas wrote:

Dr. Winter's legacy is more than the U.S. Center for World Mission, William Carey International University, Theological Education by Extension, American Society of Missiology, Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Study Program, Mission Frontiers, etc. but how he lived a simple lifestyle and sacrificed so much of his energy, time and resources to expand the frontiers of God's Kingdom.

As a catalytic missiologist, brilliant strategist, pioneering entrepreneur, global networker and tireless mobilizer, Dr. Winter was truly a giant among us!

Tetsunao Yamamori, former CEO of Food for the Hungry wrote:

He was also a missionary statesman who helped engineer a paradigm shift from going to all the countries of the world to people groups without which the Great Commission mission would not be accomplished. Ralph was all these things and more. He was a soft-spoken gentle person who always found time for you as though you were the only person that mattered. He will be greatly missed.

Luis Bush, former director of the AD 2000 and Beyond movement wrote:

Ralph Winter has served us all by providing mission perspectives that not only made those of us who seek to follow Christ think, but also, to act.

Roger Greenway wrote:

I came to know Ralph back in the 1960s when he and Roberta were serving in Guatemala. In many ways Ralph was a genius.

But what made him stand out most was his unwavering passion for introducing people to Jesus Christ.

To that end he dedicated his talents and energy, and by it he left an indelible mark on missions.