

MINISTERS PAY TRIBUTE TO LIFE OF LATE BISHOP EDWARD RONDTHALER

We, the members of the Ministers' Association of Winston-Salem, would hereby give expression to our sincere love for Bishop Edward Rondthaler, and to our great appreciation of his many years of fruitful labor. He has been a tower of strength for every worthy cause and for every righteous purpose in this city and throughout the Southern Province of the Moravian Church. He has shown the power of his great personality as preacher, pastor, teacher, college president and bishop.

At the time of his death he had become not only our leading citizen, but also our best-loved man. The Chamber of Commerce awarded him the "distinguished service cup," and the whole city echoed its warm approval.

This association of ministers, his fellow laborers in the gospel, has always held him in most cordial affection as a brother-beloved. His genuine modesty and his unflinching courtesy, and his sincere love for his brethren in the ministry has maintained a most happy and blessed fellowship with us all, at all times. There has never been the slightest misunderstanding or friction between him and the manifold church interest which he represented and the others of us who labored in the same territory, building up our churches at the same time in which he was enlarging and extending his own.

To him is due in a large measure the unusually cordial fellowship among all the ministers and churches of this city and province. This is evidence of a real greatness of spirit which was his, and his un-faillingly.

His studious habits and wide readings were inspiring to us. His diligence and his fidelity encouraged us.

His wealth of love and sympathy which he spent so liberally in the homes of the people challenge us to go and do likewise.

We feel that not only is a prince and a great man fallen today, but we feel a sense of personal loss in his going from us. The shadow which rests so heavily in this community gathers us likewise into its gloom. There is perhaps no other body of men which knows so well his value to the spiritual interests of this city, and no other group here which will miss his leadership so sadly.

We extend our loving sympathy to his family, and to his fellow workers of the Southern province of the Moravian Church.

D. CLAY LILLY,
V. M. SWAIM,
R. E. GRIBBIN, *Committee.*

BISHOP RONDTHALER

"I am after the resurrection and the life." Year after year, the world at the spring, in the chill of Easter dawn, the assembled multitudes have been stilled to hear the trumpet voice of Bishop Rondthaler proclaim before the hallowed ground where the Moravian brotherhood sleep, "The Lord is risen; he is risen indeed."

Faith has had no other such spectacle of manifestation. The good bishop passed his threescore and ten, passed fourscore, neared fourscore and ten; the throngs for the annual ceremony at the burying ground of old Salem increased. As a spectacle attracting the curious, it began with the era of rapid highway transportation; before that it had mainly attracted the truly devout. But of the great audience that has regularly filled that part of the city in latter years, surely every one who has any reverence, any sense of the sublime, and smallest endowment of faith, no matter what motive started the pilgrimage, must have felt a benediction from it.

But a few months ago the Winston-Salem community which, like others, is accustomed to make awards to citizens from time to time for distinguished merit, said "Why not an award to Bishop Rondthaler?" It was not for any isolated thought or achievement; it was for the life he had lived, the sum of his thinking, of the influence of his spirit on the life about him. Why not, indeed? Therein Winston-Salem, if belatedly, took thought of the higher values. A little later, and the honor would have had to be to his memory. The city honored itself honoring this aged and saintly scholar, who kept a spirit sweet and youthful.

Now he rests with the brethren. Another voice will make the proclamation of resurrection, to be answered by the echoing harmonies of bands of music, to be echoed in the hearts of the throng of believers. But surely his spirit will dwell in that place while time lasts—Greensboro News.



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