

**THOMAS M. RALEY**  
**Director Emeritus**  
**June 21, 1941 – June 26, 2021 (Age 80)**



On June 26, 2021, Tommy Raley passed into his eternal home. This is a passing he had looked forward to; a rest after over 50 years of service to our Lord and Savior. Tommy was born June 21, 1941 to Elbert and Margaret Raley in Frost, TX. After being called to the ministry, he attended Bible Baptist Seminary and worked in his home church for nearly 10 years. He then felt the call to missions and began traveling the US raising support for a future ministry in the country of Colombia, South America with a happy and bold heart. He was also privileged to serve in the country of Mexico and pastor three churches in Florida, Kansas, and Texas. His guidance for being a good pastor came from I & II Timothy,

which he read weekly. One of his greatest accomplishments was to lead the World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency in Arlington, TX for 25 years. Some of Tommy's greatest loves were for missions, pastors, and churches. He demonstrated that love throughout his life.

He treasured his sons and when speaking of them would call them "my boy." He was so proud of them and their families. He was a wonderful "Pawpaw" who showed his family what it meant to serve the Lord. Each year at Christmas, he would read the Christmas story from Luke 2, while grandchildren and great-grandchildren laid on the floor, listening intently. At each family member's birthday, he made a point to sing Happy Birthday in Spanish to them, whether in person or over the phone. He was a man of few words, but when he spoke his words were full of wisdom. His life at home mirrored what he preached from the pulpit.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elbert and Margaret Raley. He is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Linda of the home; sons Michael and wife Kim of Arlington, TX; Andy and wife Tracie of Azle, TX; David and wife Cindy of Keller, TX; and Joel and wife Shannon of Mansfield, TX; granddaughters Rachel Green and husband Bruce, Brittany Womack and husband Stephen, Talia Barker and husband Asher, Rachel Raley, Chloe Raley, and Kailey Raley; grandsons Brandon Raley and wife Sarah, Cody Raley and wife Lindsay, Curtis

Raley, Jake Raley, Kyle Raley, and Johnnie Wilds; ten great-grandchildren, a sister, Oris Patterson and husband James (Bud) of Crowley, TX, as well as a host of family and friends.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at Pleasantview Baptist Church, 4400 Pleasantview Dr., Arlington, Tx 76017 with Pastor, Jimmy McNeil officiating. Interment was at Emerald Hills Memorial Park following the service.

Memorials can be made in Tommy Raley's name to World Baptist Fellowship Mission Agency, P.O. Box 13459, Arlington, TX 76094.

### **Tommy Raley home with the Lord**

*By Dr. Ben Langley*

*(Taken from "The WBFMA Commission Chronicle" Fall 2021, p 5)*

Tommy Raley; husband, dad, son, preacher, pastor, missionary, friend. A man that was loved by multitudes around the world. It has been said that Biblical love is not chemistry, not impulse, it is not emotion. IT IS SELF-SACRIFICE! And when you love like that, the world will know that you belong to God. The world that he came in contact with knew that Tommy Raley belonged to God!

We knew him as a man of character and integrity, but most of all we knew him because of his love and giving spirit. We saw his love for his partner in life and ministry Linda. We knew of his great love for "his boys". We remember his love for his Mother which was demonstrated by him visiting her several times a week in the nursing home.

Brother Raley loved to preach, and what a preacher he was! With his unique voice and his deep knowledge of Scripture he could make you want to hear more every time he preached. What a blessing it was to have available to all at his memorial service a copy of his sermon from 2015 "Lessons I've Learned in Life" . As Hebrews 11:4 says of Abel, it also speaks to us of Tommy Raley, "*God testifying of his gifts; and by it he being dead yet speaketh*".

Tommy Raley loved missionaries! His great desire as Mission Director was to help and promote missionaries. I had the honor of serving with him on the mission committee for many years. I traveled with him to other countries, I sat in committee meetings with him and witnessed his compassion for those he served, his missionaries! He would always strive to find the good in every situation.

The World Baptist Fellowship, his family, his friends, and the world has seen one of the best be promoted to his reward in heaven with his Savior Jesus Christ. It could be said of him as Paul said to Timothy, "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge; shall give me at that day.....*"

Farewell my friend, we will meet you in the morning!