



*The
memory
of the
righteous
will be
a blessing.*
Prov. 10:7

Harold Longenecker (1926-2014) hailed from the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, area. A lifelong learner, his education included Lancaster Mennonite School, Moody Bible Institute, Northern Baptist Seminary, and Luther Rice Seminary. (A Doctor of Divinity degree was conferred on him by Western Baptist Seminary in recognition of his outstanding service to the Lord and the Church.)

Harold and Esther (married in 1947) were church planters with RHMA from 1952 to 1958. At that point they moved to Morton, Illinois, to become the new Director of the mission, a position he held till 1966.

Then it was on to Montana to serve as president of Montana Institute of the Bible for 13 years.



In 1952 the Longeneckers head to Alabama to church plant.



Harold followed RHMA founder C.J. Rediger.

In 1979 the Longeneckers returned to Illinois for Harold to pastor Des Plaines Bible Church. Eight years later they moved to Wisconsin to pastor Racine Bible Church. During these years he also had the opportunity to teach an occasional course at Moody Bible Institute.



Harold became RHMA's General Director in 1957.

RHMA's annual conference was a highlight of both their ministries.



In 1993 Harold “officially” retired – which freed him up to return to Morton and take the newly-created position of Minister-at-Large with RHMA, a position he held for the next 13 years. Upon his second retirement, the RHMA Board conferred upon him the title of Director Emeritus.

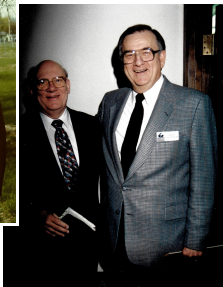


Harold was able to join us for RHMA's 35th and 50th anniversary celebrations.

Church planter, field director, mission director, Bible college president, pastor, professor, minister-at-large . . . our beloved Harold Longenecker filled each of these ministry roles remarkably well through a long and fruitful life.



Harold had a decades-long friendship with author – and frequent RHMA Conference speaker – Warren Wiersbe.



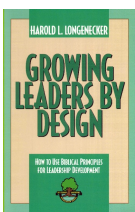
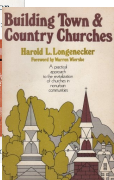
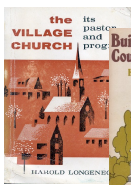
It was a long afternoon of countless goodbyes when Harold & Esther moved from Morton to Des Plaines to be near their daughter in the summer of 2009.

“Just as it was common in the ancient East to yoke a younger, ‘green’ ox with an older, more experienced ox, so that the younger would be tamed and trained, so Harold many years ago walked alongside me when I was a novice Director, guiding, calming, and showing me the way. I am forever indebted to him.”

Ron Klassen,
Executive Director,
RHMA



Harold's best friend and helpmate for 62½ years, Esther went home to heaven in September 2009.



Harold wrote two books. Moody Press published *The Village Church* in 1961. It was revised and renamed in 1973. *Growing Leaders by Design* was written in 1995.



In his later years Harold blessed many through his phone calls of counsel and encouragement!