
WHAT IS THE DENMAN AWARD?

The Denman Evangelism Award was established in 1980 by The Foundation for Evangelism to recognize and honor pastors and lay persons who are doing the vital work of responsible evangelism in ways that are in keeping with United Methodist history and tradition.

Many conferences have established two annual Denman Awards, one for a lay person and one for a clergy person. Those eligible for these prestigious awards include lay persons and clergy persons who are effective in developing disciples of Jesus Christ! This can involve personal witnessing, public speaking, or inspiring individual persons or the local church to be actively involved in effective evangelism. The size of the local church with which the person is affiliated, the age or gender of the person, the length of time of involvement are not primary criteria for selection. One's work in the area of evangelism is what really counts

as they establish the person's lifestyle, provide witness to that person's ministry and bring honor to Christ and the Church.

**To
Encourage
United Methodist
Lay and Clergy
Persons to
Share Their Faith
in Jesus Christ.**

DENMAN EVANGELISM AWARD



THE FOUNDATION FOR EVANGELISM
P.O. Box 985
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745
800-737-8333 or 828-456-4312

WHO WAS HARRY DENMAN?

Harry Denman was born on September 26, 1893, in Birmingham Alabama. His parents had immigrated from Gloucestershire, England to America. He is most remembered for his leadership of the Board of Evangelism of the Methodist Church. He 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 the field of evangelism was unique as was his personal life and witness. He led the Board of Evangelism into wide ranging presentations of the Gospel. His friendships encircled the world, and he was at home in almost any setting.

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 said of him, “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. Love for his Lord and for people was the hallmark of his life. He moved tirelessly, confidently, dedicated to one objective — to witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. When meeting a person he usually extended his hand to shake, asking, “Where do you preach?” When he was part of a group, whether with colleagues or strangers, businessmen or politicians, Harry shifted the conversation to the Bible, prayer, and the risen Lord whom he sought continually to serve. He was truly a “fisher of all persons.”

People wanted to listen to Harry whether he was speaking with just one person or to a multitude. He would not accept “no” as final. He

tried what others thought could not be done and often succeeded. He advocated many causes which were not popular in his own day, at least some of which are today being realized: the equality of persons regardless of sex, nationality, or race; simplicity of lifestyle; recognizing the false values of materialism; and actualizing the true values of life taught by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

By his example he inspired others to commit themselves to a life of faith. He was forthright and courageous. He did not hesitate to give faith answers to the tough questions of life, He was quick to admit his own personal weaknesses. “Pray for me,” was a request he frequently made.

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