

## **EDWIN PLUEDDEMANN**

(1916 - 1991)

Saturday, July 22

**John 12:26** *Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves Me.*

Growing up in Michigan my parents were area missionaries with the American Missionary Fellowship. Among other ministry activities, dad oversaw several small community churches in rural areas. One of these churches was Olson Community Church in Midland County. It was there that I met Edwin Plueddemann. For 14 years, he and his wife Mary Margaret (MM for short) ministered to this little congregation that averaged around 20 to 50 people each Sunday. I still remember “Mr. P’s” preaching and the weekly reading installments of classics like C.S. Lewis’ ‘Chronicles of Narnia’ and John Bunyon’s ‘Pilgrim’s Progress.’ He loved going hiking and camping with the youth and MM was a wonderful Sunday School teacher. I knew that Mr. Plueddemann was a chemist for Dow Corning in Midland. One year he was the speaker at the Summer Youth Bible Camp my dad directed. He held us all riveted with his science demonstrations and experiments to illustrate his message.

It was not until after his funeral (where my dad was a pallbearer) that I found out the other side of Ed Plueddemann’s life. He was not just a chemist at Dow. He was one of the top chemists in the world! He was nicknamed “Dr. Glue” because of his expertise in adhesives and plastics. He developed the first commercial silicone adhesive in 1958. He held over 100 patents, received numerous awards, and was inducted into the Plastics Hall of Fame. It was not uncommon for him to receive 30+ calls a week at Dow from researchers looking for his help on a problem. He worked with NASA to create the adhesive to keep the heat shield on their spacecraft from melting. During the first Gulf War, when the U.S. missiles were malfunctioning due to the heat, they called Ed Plueddemann for help and he solved their adhesion problem allowing the missiles to accurately destroy the Scud missiles being fired from Iraq. He worked at Dow for 35 years, right up until the time of his death. He travelled the world lecturing, wrote numerous articles and papers, and taught many college courses on adhesion.

But with all these accolades and accomplishments, Ed Pluedemann’s faith is what really shaped his life. His service to the little congregation in Olson was just one sample that I was privileged to witness. He also served as a Gideon and regularly visited in the jails. He often told the inmates, “I just want you to know we’re interested in you. God has been good to me, and I want to help you.” He also was good at playing the stock market and this money was used to support many missionaries and ministries. He passed his desire to serve God to his children, three of whom became missionaries themselves.

Ed Plueddemman was a humble servant of God. When you met him you would not have guessed he was a scientific genius or a sought after expert. All I remember is his kind, loving character and his servant’s heart.

\*\* Taken from the personal experience of Ray Olling & Dale Olling and the following article:

Jerry Klosowski (1991) Dr. Edwin P. Plueddemann, The Journal of Adhesion,

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