

A whole lot can happen in a lifetime of 104 years, especially when that life is dedicated to emulating the generosity of Christ.

MEET CLYDE O. FRANZ.

Some called him “Cappy,” but most knew him as Clyde. I think he had a little soft spot in his heart for his name. You see, Clyde grew up with two lovely sisters, Millie and Maisie. When it got boring around their house, and the pot of sibling rivalry needed a little stirring, he would liven things up by referring to them as “Silly Millie” and “Crazy Maisie.” Naturally, they were less than fond of their nicknames, but try as they would, they never could think of a single insulting adjective that rhymed with Clyde.

Clyde was born on March 1, 1913, in Camaguey, Cuba, to self-supporting missionary parents. Clyde attended Southern Junior College where he met the love of his life, Lois Mae Clark. They were married soon after graduation. He later returned to Havana, Cuba, in the 1950s as a missionary.

While Clyde worked at Southern Junior College for a short time after graduation, his first real job was secretary/treasurer of the Alabama/Mississippi Conference. At his last job he was secretary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. In between, he served the church he loved so much in two conferences, two unions and a division. His professional career, all in the Lord’s service, spanned 48 years.

Clyde was a life-long member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a life-long vegetarian. Clyde was a great healthy-living role model for all. His commitment to exercise and health was no secret. Even after living for a full century, he continued to walk two miles a day through the halls of Fletcher Park Inn with his dear friend, Lorraine.


Clyde was truly a joy to be around. We will certainly miss his jokes, lively conversations and quick wit.

Living for 104 years is an amazing feat, but the way Clyde lived was what was inspiring. Clyde was a lifelong, faithful, determined servant of God. Clyde was also faithful after death by providing for the continuation of God’s work in his estate plan.

Rest in peace, Clyde Franz. May the Lord you loved so much bless and keep you.

IT IS ALL OF US IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM!

—by Sue Smith, Clyde’s daughter



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