



Orrick W. Hampton Jr.

Orrick was born on August 6, 1937 in Pasadena, California, the oldest of five children born to Orrick and Ruth Hampton. He had two brothers, Francis and Philip, and two sisters, Arlis and Arleta. Orrick attended Willard Elementary School, Wilson Junior High, Pasadena High School, and graduated from U.C.L.A. with a master's degree in Astronomy. As a very young child, he remembers the attack on Pearl Harbor and going to a basement at Wilson Junior High for cover in case there were other attacks. He joined Boys' Christian League in 1950 and his father was his leader. He did well in sports, but excelled in Bible Basketball. On December 27, 1970, he married Marla Johnson and they had three girls, Crystal, Pauline, and Marina. His children fondly recall his love for hiking and their yearly family overnight hikes and family trips to Yosemite.

As a child and an adult, Orrick always loved to solve problems and find different ways to do things. At times he was laughed at for his ideas but that never kept him down. He was always pursuing a better way to get things accomplished. This desire to improve made him an excellent coach and teacher. As one of the JV head coaches in football, he was part of teams that accumulated an incredible winning streak that lasted more than half a decade. He was also the line coach for the varsity football team that won 10 CIF Championships. By coming up with innovative ideas, he enabled smaller linemen to find success against much bigger opponents. Orrick was a big part of the math and science departments at Rio Hondo Prep from the time it opened in 1964 until his retirement in 2020. As in his coaching, Orrick was always trying new ideas to help his students excel. But, whatever he was teaching, there was never anyone who was better prepared than he was. For years and well into his eighties, he taught Astronomy at Rio Hondo Prep Science Camps near Wrightwood. Whether there was good weather or bad, he always had a plan so that the students could learn to love the wonders of the sky. He loved Astronomy and knew every constellation and seemingly every star, but most importantly he loved to teach and loved his students.

Orrick became a leader at a very young age in the Boys' Christian League (Kare Youth League) program. He was a great coach, but an excellent teacher. Just as he excelled at Bible Basketball as a child, he excelled at teaching Bible truths as a leader. Dave Reid, who played for Orrick as a child said he was Kares best leader for explaining God's truths to young men. He never looked down on anyone because they didn't understand something, but true to his nature would look for a different and better way to clarify any issue. He always made things simple, straight forward, and easy to understand, sometimes to the point where you wondered why you hadn't figured it out on your own. Dave will always be grateful to Orrick for explaining Gods' Salvation in a way that was simple and easy to understand even for a 9 year old boy.

Orrick was a leader in the Crystal Area of Boys' Christian League for many years. He was a very vibrant leader who always planned lots of activities and outings. The boys on his teams remember fondly the many hikes, sleepovers, hamburger fries, and Bible Basketball games. Crystal was always on top at the end of a Bible Basketball Tournament with other areas. The boys would challenge Orrick often with Bible questions and there was never one he couldn't answer. He was one of the most patient leaders that Kare has ever had, and he would always listen to what his boys had to say. One boy remembers that the team he was on was extremely rowdy, but their leader, Mr. Orrick, was always on their side and never gave up on them. He was

also very knowledgeable about sports and knew the rules extremely well. His boys still remember several games played under protest which in the end was upheld. Orrick loved his work and he had a unique ability to relate to the boys he cared about deeply.

Orrick enjoyed taking boys to camp. He spent many summers assisting Mr. Philip Ostergard at Camp Marion where he would play an old pump organ for Chapel. He was a great hiker who loved taking boys on the mountain trails especially up to the top of Mt. Baden Powell. He would push the boys to move faster, but no one could match his ability to climb.

As a young man, Orrick was drafted into the Army and served his country for 2 years. He served as a computer programmer, but also taught Bible classes to his fellow soldiers.

Orrick was greatly influenced by his mother and father, the founders of Kare Youth League and Rio Hondo Prep. In his own words, Kare was his life. He enjoyed coaching (at all levels), teaching, going on summer trips, taking trips to San Felipe with boys at Easter time, or just going to San Felipe to help the children in Mexico. When Orrick could no longer coach and his children were on their own, he and his wife began hosting international students in their home.

This was an incredible blessing to the students and the hosts as well. Orrick will always have fond memories of traveling to Vietnam to attend the wedding of one of his students and the wonderful way he and his wife were treated there. He also remembers how God was with them especially in the way He handled the weather issues to their advantage.

A leader of boys, a coach, a teacher, a communicator, a musician, a Bible scholar, a hiker, an innovator are all ways to describe this great man. But, probably the way to best describe him is to say he was a simple and humble man who loved God and trusted Him in every area of his life. He surrendered himself completely to God's Will which allowed God to use him to be a blessing to everyone he met.