

Mr. Roy's Ties

I remember when we first visited our church, and there he was. He was extremely tall, and he had the most welcoming smile and laugh. His salt and pepper hair stood on end from where he had pushed his reading glasses up, resting on top of his head, and he was wearing a bright, blue tie with a picture of Scooby-Doo right in the middle of it. It was an adorable picture of the silly, cartoon dog, yet it matched his personality perfectly. It was obvious the children of the church loved this man who was really just one big kid himself!

Mr. Roy's ties are a natural part of his character. Christmastime is especially festive, because his ties might have a big and jolly Santa, or a Santa Mickey Mouse, or Yogi Bear and Boo-Boo in the snow. On more serious occasions like Easter, his ties are toned down a little, and he wears a more subtle colored tie with multiple crosses or one of my favorites, the lion and the lamb lying down together in a field. They say some of us wear our hearts on our sleeve. Mr. Roy wears his on his ties.

This giant of a man is at every church event whenever he is able. He is also one of the leaders of a special summer camp for handicapped children, where he takes his home-made, automatic water-balloon-filler, and super-powered air gun that shoots water balloons fifty feet into the air! No wonder the kids love this crazy child-man. As he shares stories about camp, he openly wipes away the tears that well up in his eyes and roll down his cheek. His love for the Lord and for the children is something to behold. One of his favorite outreaches during the holidays is filling Christmas shoe boxes through Samaritan's Purse. One desire he has always had is to be able to personally hand out the filled boxes to the children who are going to receive them. Again, the tears flow freely when he starts talking about the possibility of seeing their little faces when they receive their gift.

The generosity and outreach from this man doesn't stop with him. His wife Jodi is always participating in one function or another, mostly for our older church members. She arranges Valentine's Day events and birthday luncheons, as well as being Mrs. Santa Claus to Mr. Roy's Santa every year. Their daughter, and my friend, Lori is constantly on the move, serving where she can. Whether she is doing the dishes after a fellowship supper or filling the role of director/head coach/referee for Upward basketball, she is serving her Lord, and with a genuine smile along with it. In addition to this, she is homeschooling her two boys, who are becoming powerful servants of God in their own right. Lori and her dynamic trio make fine elves to Mr. and Mrs. Claus, and believe it or not, there is a toy workshop between their homes, where they collect used and new toys all year long, in preparation for the next Christmas to come.

When I think about how Mr. Roy's family has served in so many ways that aren't even included here, I realize that the ties within his family are reflected on the ties he wears so well. They are humble, yet bold; silly, but joyful; bigger than life, yet reverent. And there is just something comforting when you meet this kind-hearted and light spirited man and his family, who are the first to tell you they are so thankful for their blessings of which they don't deserve. This is one man, and family that I believe will hear those sought-after words when our time on earth is done... "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

I also wouldn't be surprised if the Lord tells Mr. Roy, "I like your tie!"