

Jean Pierre Verstraeten



In the early morning of Saturday 22 February, Jean Pierre Verstraeten passed away peacefully and started his journey into the Spiritual World. He had been seriously ill for quite some time, suffering from diabetes and a number of complications connected to that illness.

Jean Pierre was born on September 16th 1943 in Belgium in the city of Ghent.

In 1970 he came into contact with the Unification Movement in Utrecht in The Netherlands, where he was studying mathematics, physics and astronomy. He soon became completely convinced by the truth of the Divine Principle and, from then on, invested himself wholeheartedly in spreading of the Heart and Word of God and True Parents.

On Feb 8th 1975 he was blessed in Holy Matrimony, as one of the 1800 Couples, with his wife Elfi, who has also been a very active and deeply committed member of the Unification Movement. They have one daughter Renate. JeanPierre, Elfi, their daughter Renate, son in law Robbert Jan and granddaughter Emma now form a happy three generation family.

In the Netherlands Jean Pierre participated in various activities as a missionary. Jean Pierre was a “natural” witnesser and an enthusiastic teacher of the Divine Principle. He liked to share God’s Word with people in any situation, on the street, going door to door, or by receiving people in his own home; when he was in hospital, he even witnessed to the specialist who treated him.

He participated in the great rallies of our movement in USA in the 1970’s, he was member of the One World Crusade in Japan and Korea. In Holland in the eighties he was passionately involved in CAUSA-work, giving lectures on “victory over communism”. After the wall came down, Jean Pierre went to Hungary together with his wife and daughter, where they invested themselves fully as a family and could bring in several new members into the Church.

In the Netherlands Jean Pierre had worked as an accountant with an unchanging dedication for many years. In recent years, despite his deteriorating health, he continuously supported his wife in her successful mission working with Peace Ambassadors.

On Wednesday Feb 26th we will bid goodbye to our beloved brother through the Seonghwa ceremony and wish him bon voyage on the way to his new existence in the Spiritual World.

written by Mr. Jan van Winden.

**Seonghwa Ceremony for
Jean Pierre Verstraeten**
Netherlands – Wednesday 26th February 2014

Message from European FFWPU President, Rev. Young Shik An

Dear Jean Pierre,

As the representative of our Founders, Father and Mother Moon, here in Europe I want to express their deep appreciation to you, Elfi and your family for your many years of dedication to God and attendance to the providence to liberate God by loving humanity.

Your life was completely transformed by God, our Heavenly Parent, through meeting the teachings and example of Father and Mother Moon in Utrecht and by their blessing you in marriage with your precious wife, Elfi, nearly 40 years ago, as part of the 1800 Couple Blessing in Korea.

You have practiced the precious teaching of living for God and others in the Netherlands, but also around the world in the United States, Hungary and your native Belgium. I am sure that Elfi, your daughter Renate, son in law Robbert Jan and granddaughter Emma are very proud of you as you peacefully ascend to the next stage of life.

This is a time of joy in which to celebrate your earthly life, because it is a joy to leave behind a legacy of serving God and of contributing so sincerely to the establishment of a world destined to become 'One Family under God'.

As our True Parents teach us:

When we are bound together in true love, we can be together forever, continually rejoicing in each other's company. The attraction of true love brings all things in the universe to our feet; even God will come to dwell with us. ... A life lived for the sake of others, a life of true love, is the absolute prerequisite for entering the kingdom of heaven.

Thank you, dear Jean Pierre – I have no doubt that you will continue to be connected in heart with your beloved family and Church community as you watch over us from the next world.

May God speed you on your way to His Kingdom, Cheon Il Guk.