

In Memorium Russell Earl Walters

December 14, 2013

Russell Earl Walters was born in Dayton, Ohio on July 27, 1943. He was the youngest child of Francis and Gladys Walters and the youngest of three siblings with two older sisters. While in high school, he moved to Birmingham, MI, and subsequently attended and graduated from DePauw University in Indiana. During summers in college, he volunteered at a camp for troubled teenagers and one summer he organized and led a three month canoe adventure from Northern Minnesota all the way to the Hudson Bay.

After college he joined the Peace Corps, serving for three years in Chile where he organized the building of a city, centered around the church and school, just as the Pilgrim Fathers did. Upon returning to the US, he completed a training program in COOP housing in Washington, DC.

There he met Peter Mullen and joined our church on December 12, 1971 - exactly 42 years, to the day, before his passing.

He moved into the church center on Upshur St. and later joined the fundraising team for several years. Because of his careful and caring nature, he was entrusted to guide a group of early disciples on a tour of the United States before becoming manager, together with Nanette Dorosky, of the Ginseng Tea House, a popular health store in Washington, DC.

And then, on February 8, 1975 he was chosen to participate in the historic 1800 couple blessing in Korea. He was blessed to the former Anita Jaspers, a national leader in Belgium, and after the blessing, while in Tokyo, Japan, the True Parents appointed Russell as one of the first missionaries to Chile. He attended missionary training at the Barrytown Seminary in New York and returned to Chile in 1975. Anita joined him there in May 1976 and they had their first daughter Teresa who was born September 6, 1977.

The family returned to the United States a few weeks after Teresa's birth. Russell worked for several years in the interfaith program, while also developing a housing counseling program for low-income families. He also worked for Monumental Construction Company (MCMC) as a salesman in the early stages of the business.

Russ and Anita had three more sons and, additionally, were able to make the precious gift of one offering child. They have lived in the Washington, DC area since 1978. In June of 2013, Russ fell ill with brain cancer and soon underwent extensive surgery. Astounding the doctors, he made a miraculous recovery, regaining full strength and becoming almost fully functional. He was able to return home to spend time with his family, and was particularly grateful to be able to enjoy more time with his delightful grandson. Unfortunately, the cancer progressed, and he passed away peacefully at home the morning of December 12, 2013. He is survived by his wife Anita; his son Eric; his son Ryan and wife Frinny; his son Michael and wife Ashley; and his grandson Cameron.

Your prayers and support are deeply appreciated. In lieu of flowers, donations to assist with funeral expenses will be gratefully received by the family, c/o **Anita Walters, 3818 Gawayne Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20906.**