

## In Memory of Bryan Lopez (1954 - 2017)

Crescentia DeGoede

May 17, 2017



Name: Bryan Lopez

Birth Date: January 10, 1954

Ascension Date: May 7, 2017

Local Church: Harlem Family Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our beloved brother, Bryan Lopez, of the Harlem Family Church in New York, ascended to the spiritual world on Sunday, May 7, 2017. Bryan joined the Unification Movement in 1976 and after committing his heart and life to God and True Parents, joined the activities to prepare for the Yankee Stadium and then the Washington Monument rallies. He has kept his faithful heart and love for True Parents, and never stopped sharing their teaching with everyone he met.

Let us support Bryan's continued journey at this special time, and pray for his victorious transition to a glorious new life in the spiritual world, where our True Father and many saints are waiting for him with open hearts and arms.

Following is a biography and information of the Seonghwa service from Rev. Edner and Rev. Juanita Pierre-Louis, Pastors of New York District and Harlem Family Church.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ki Hoon Kim  
Continental Director

Dr. Michael Balcomb  
President

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Bryan Lopez was born in Brooklyn, New York on January 10, 1954, son of a Cuban American seaman and a North Carolina African American woman. He delighted in telling stories about his early years growing up in the city and in Wilmington, North Carolina—one nuclear family, but two locations he considered his hometowns.

A few months prior to the June 1976 Yankee Stadium Rally, Bryan Lopez, newly minted army veteran, met our Unificationist brothers and sisters in midtown Manhattan, attended the Divine Principle lectures, embraced the teachings, and began his journey as a disciple and child of True Parents. Wherever he was,

at work or home, Bryan always delighted in sharing the truth of the Divine Principle to whoever had an ear to listen.

He took great pride in the mobilization work he did supporting the Yankee Stadium Rally, and later on, the very successful rally at the Washington Monument in D.C. It was with much pride that he received his 40-Year Yankee Stadium Rally commemorative pin in recognition of his dedicated work.

In February of 1977, Bryan joined as staff at Jacob House in Tarrytown, NY, which was then a workshop center for 3- and 7-day workshops. He was the tall, always ready to share a good word young man we delighted to hang with during lunch. His stories were always encouraging.

In the mid 80s Bryan returned to Wilmington, NC to care for his parents and close relatives. During this time he kept close contact with church members and never wavered in his love for True Parents.

In the early 90s, Bryan felt a calling to return to New York to fully reengage in church activities. Encountering and wrestling with some difficulties, he settled in the Bronx, and made time to attend Sunday services in Manhattan and Harlem, often after night shifts as a security guard. No matter where he was, Bryan loved to witness and share the teachings of the Principle with workmates and others he'd met along the way.

Bryan's heart was like a compass, always directed towards True Parents. On this he never wavered.

In the past few years, diabetes and its complications began to affect his health, sometimes gravely. On May 5, he was due to travel to Ecuador to meet his match for the first time in person. His hope was to attend the Blessing later this year. However, a few days before his travel date, he fell terribly ill, was taken to the hospital, and passed early Sunday morning, on May 7. He was 63 years old.

### **Seonghwa Ceremony**

A Seonghwa memorial service will be held for Bryan Lopez at the Harlem Family Church on Wednesday, May 17, at 7 p.m., at 147 West 120 St., New York, NY 10026.

All who knew Bryan are welcome to come, share, pray and wish our brother, a son of the True Parents, a loving journey to his eternal home.

### **Seonghwa Ceremony**

Time: 7:00 PM (EST)

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Location: 147 West 120 St., New York, NY 10026