

Passing of Our Beloved Brother, Russell Walters

Michael Balcomb
December 17, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

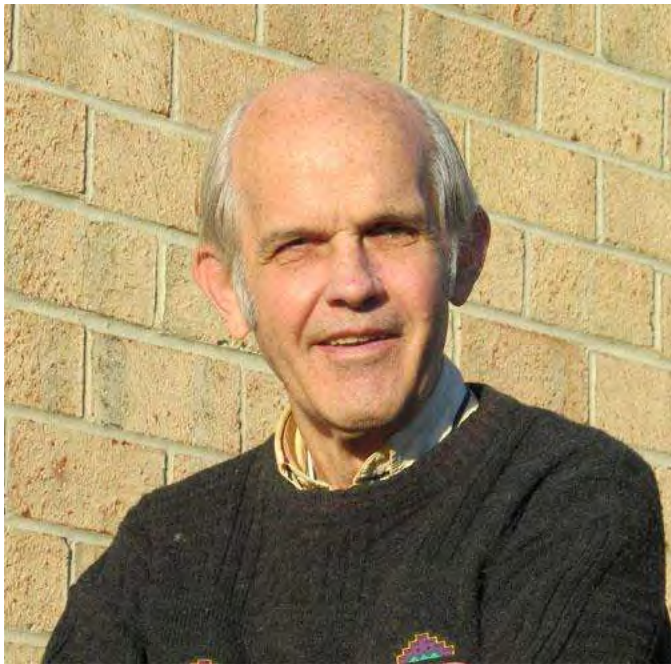
Following is a biography and Seonghwa information for our beloved brother, Russell Walters, who passed away on Thursday, December 12 in Maryland. He is one of the earliest members of our church in America and served True Parents and God's Providence with great dignity and devotion.

We pray for the Walters family during this important time and for Russell's victorious transition to a glorious new life in the spiritual world.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Balcomb
President



Victorious Life of Russell Earl Walters

Russell Earl Walters was born in Dayton, Ohio on July 27, 1943. He is the youngest child of Francis and Gladys Walters, and had two older sisters. While in high school, he moved to Birmingham, Michigan, and later 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, Russell joined the Peace Corps and served 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. When he returned to the United States, he completed a training program in COOP housing. While in Washington, DC, he met Peter Mullen and joined the Unification Church on December 12, 1971 - exactly 42 years, to the day, before his passing.

Russell moved into the church center on Upshur Street 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.

On February 8, 1975, Russell was chosen to participate in the historic 1800 couple blessing in Korea. There he was blessed in marriage to the former Anita Jaspers, a national leader in Belgium, and after the blessing ceremony, while in Tokyo, Japan, True Parents appointed Russell as one of the first missionaries to Chile. He attended missionary training at the Unification Theological Seminary in Barrytown, New York and returned to Chile in 1975. Anita joined him there in May, 1976 and their first daughter, Teresa 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. Subsequently, he worked for Monumental Construction Company (MCMC) as a salesman in the early stages of the business. Russell and Anita had three more sons and, additionally, were able to make the precious gift of offering a child for adoption by another loving couple. They lived in the Washington, DC area since 1978.

In June of 2013, Russell 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.

Ultimately, the cancer progressed, and Russell passed peacefully at home the morning of December 12, 2013. He is survived by his loving wife Anita; his son Eric; his son Ryan and wife, Frinny; his son Michael and wife, Ashley; and his grandson, Cameron. Russell joins his daughter, Teresa, who predeceased him in 1991.

Seonghwa and Won Jon Services

The Seonghwa service for Russell will be held on Wednesday, December 18, at 9:00 AM at the Washington Family Church, 1610 Columbia Rd., NW, Washington, DC 20009. Ample parking is available at the Scottish Rite Center on the lower level. The parking entrance is around the corner, on Mozart Place.

The Won Jon service is immediately afterwards at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 13801 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20906. A reception will follow at the Walters home at 3818 Gawayne Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20906.

The family of Russell and Anita wishes to thank you for your prayers and support. 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.