

Prayer Request for Reiner Vincenz

Leena and Jario Vincenz-Gavin
January 14, 2015



Please pray for Reiner Vincenz, the first member to join the Unification Church in Europe in 1963.

Rev. Vincenz is expected to ascend soon due to his health. Four years ago, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and it quickly progressed leaving him with little mobility. On Sunday, January 11, he had a severe choking incident and it was determined then that he is no longer able to swallow anything.

Letter by Reiner Vincenz's daughter and son-in-law

“Marching on.” This was Reiner Vincenz's famous phrase when facing any new challenge. Reiner Vincenz life is a testament to a living relationship with God. His passion, his life has always been for True Parents and the victory of God's providence, and nothing was ever too big of a mission for him.

Reiner Vincenz is the first person to have joined the Unification movement in Europe in 1963. He joined under the mentorship of Peter Koch, who would later become his brother-in-law. They had a small church center outside of Frankfurt, Germany which included; Peter Koch, Barbara Koch (Vincenz), Ursula Schuman and Reiner Vincenz. Just six months after joining, the group decided to send missionaries to three other countries: Austria, Spain and France. They quickly had two missionaries for Spain and Austria but there was no one to pioneer France.

Reiner then volunteered himself to go. Peter refused him as the members thought he was too young in his faith to survive. Reiner was persistent and finally asked if he could write a letter to True Father asking for permission to pioneer. They agreed, thinking surely True Father won't let him go, but True Father was in fact enthused to hear of Reiner's determination and blessed him to become a missionary to France.

Peter said he would agree to send him then if Reiner could pass a Divine Principle test. Reiner agreed, not knowing that Peter intended to write a test that Reiner wouldn't be able to pass. Reiner was determined to pass and so he rented a room at a hotel in Schmitten, Germany where he stayed over during Christmas for three days. He came back to Frankfurt after studying and passed the impossible test.

Reiner was sent to Paris shortly after to learn the language and begin finding disciples. After three long years of searching, Reiner found a young man named Henri Blanchard. He would become the first Unificationist in France. Upon the shoulders of these two men would be seven new churches in France and north Africa in four years.

To make a long story short, Reiner's faith in God and True Parents has allowed him to always overcome his difficulties and claim victory for the providence. Reiner still has this same determination.

Over the past four years, however, his body has not matched his will. He was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and it quickly progressed leaving him with little mobility. He has been staying near his family's home in a nursing home where his wife, Barbara Vincenz, visited him every day for the past two years.

This past Sunday, January 11, he had a severe choking incident. It was determined then that he is no longer able to swallow anything. He is in no pain, but is passing soon.

Our family would like to ask for your prayers at this time to support Reiner as he faces this new mission.

A year and a half ago, True Father appeared to Reiner in a dream and explained to him that he had a mission for him and asked that Reiner come with him that night. True Father said he need another rally done in Yoido, Japan, and it needed to be bigger than the first. Reiner was shocked. True Father came to him again later and said, " Reiner, I see you need more time, I'll come back for you later."

We believe that True Father is calling him now and asking him to begin his mission in the spirit world.

Please pray that he can have strength and courage during his last few weeks.

Please pray for Barbara Vincenz, who is faithfully by his side, that her health can be sustained and her spirit comforted.

Please pray for us, Leena, Jario and Mirelle, that we can cherish these moments we have.

We are so proud of Reiner and the legacy he leaves behind. We've received already many well wishes and are amazed at the lives touched by Reiner. We thank you for your support at this time.

Marching on and God Bless,
Leena and Jario Vincenz-Gavin