



Donald E. Helmer

November 13, 1956 - April 6, 2019

It is with great sadness that the family of Donald Helmer, 62, announces his sudden and unexpected passing on Saturday, April 6, 2019. He was born November 13, 1956 in East Lansing, Michigan to Jerry D. and Janice V. Helmer. Don was a graduate of Upper Arlington High School in Ohio. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from the University of Illinois and his MBA from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom. Don was a missionary to Russia for over 40 years, and helped build the mission organization Leading Edge International. He was a member of Truth At Work Business Club and the Bonsai Club of Indianapolis.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held Friday, April 12, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel, 9900 Allisonville Road, Fishers. Don is survived by his loving wife, Sheryl C. Helmer; daughters, Katrina M. Helmer, Larissa A. Helmer and Nadezhda C. Helmer; mother, Janice V. Helmer Armstrong; and brothers, David L. Helmer (Inna) and Doug A. Helmer (Karen).

Memorial contributions in honor of Don may be made to Leading Edge International, P.O. Box 1893, Noblesville, IN 46061.

Tribute Wall

JL

“ Neil and I are filled with gratitude for Don's life lived in service to others. Our times shared together in each other's homes in England and Russia with our children, meals shared, tears and laughter. You were there for us when Jane was SOS'd to Finland, and your family cared for our Natalie, Michael, and 8 month Jonathan. Don spent many days and evenings in our apartment in his brief visits across the sea...always speaking of his lovely wife and three lovely girls; he was eager to update us on their latest accomplishments and endeavors. We miss you Don but we know you are in the presence of the King. Someday we will join you at the throne, singing praises, and worshipping God our heavenly Father together. Our love to Sheryl, Katrina, Larissa, and Nadia



JANE LESSMAN - April 24, 2019 at 03:22 PM

VD

“ Don visited our family when we were living in Kyiv, Ukraine around 2012 or 2013. We had a special taxi driver named Vlad, and Don travelled with him to the airport. Vlad couldn't get over two things after he spent time with Don. His Russian language ability and his message of Hope in Jesus Christ. I think he must have spoke about him 100 times before we left Kyiv. Don was and is an inspiration to us.
Love, Vic and Darla D'Ettorre

Victor D'Ettorre - April 18, 2019 at 09:16 AM

FV

“ Cheryl & family;
Our sincere & heartfelt sympathy in your loss. Although we never met Don know he has always done good works. Thinking of you all with love & prayers.....Faye & Mert Viergutz

Faye & Mert Viergutz - April 16, 2019 at 08:05 PM



“ Oh Sheryl, I have been so sad since I learned about Don's passing! Election Days will not be the same without Don's stories and jovial greeting. I am so fortunate to have met you and I thank you for bringing Don into my life. I didn't realize how much I rely on you both...it's times like these that remind us about our mortality. I wish you peace with your memories of Don. He was a special man! With sadness- Nicki Felix



Nicki Felix - April 14, 2019 at 03:11 PM

GJ

“ Sheryl and family, I just learned of this tragic news! I loved being your next door neighbor all of those years ago. Don was such a kind and loving soul. He contributed so much goodness and love to the world. He will be so missed! You will be in my prayers!
Gloria (Roesch) Jensen

Gloria Jensen - April 14, 2019 at 08:44 AM

LR

“ Deepest condolences to Sheryl and all your family on the passing of this dear man of deep faith and prodigious intellect. We remember you all from the several summers which you spent at Marten Beach, Alberta. Your names are etched in the concrete footings poured under the cabin. We were always amazed at the volume and depth of Don's reading during these holidays. Not light stuff by any means!! Truly a force for good taken from us far too early. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time,

Sincerely, Len and Gail Rivers and family Marten Beach, Alberta, Canada

Len and Gail Rivers - April 13, 2019 at 03:31 PM

PJ

“ Don gave me guidance on my first trip to Ukraine and in the early years of Mission to Ukraine which just completed its 21st year of ministry. Love to you all. Sorry we couldn't go to MCL and greet Janice as well.

Paul and Rachel Jarrett - April 12, 2019 at 08:16 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald E. Helmer.



April 12, 2019 at 09:30 AM

LF

“ *Larry Sorensen, Mount Dora, Florida purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Donald E. Helmer.*



Larry Sorensen, Mount Dora, Florida - April 11, 2019 at 12:20 PM

EM

“ *Oh Mrs. Helmer and Family, My heart is grieved. A great man and family. Just know you are loved and we are praying for you. Mrs. Helmer your church family and friend. Enetrice, Melvin, William, Jackie, and Kolina*

Enetrice Myers-Tarpeh - April 10, 2019 at 09:04 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Donald E. Helmer.*



April 10, 2019 at 10:40 AM

JA

“ *Jon & Kris Peterson and Mike & Laura Adair purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Donald E. Helmer.*



Jon & Kris Peterson and Mike & Laura Adair - April 10, 2019 at 10:31 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald E. Helmer.*



April 10, 2019 at 01:48 AM



“ *and all of your Meredith Cru family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Donald E. Helmer.*



and all of your Meredith Cru family - April 09, 2019 at 04:41 PM



“ *The Brown family purchased the Summer's Light Bouquet for the family of Donald E. Helmer.*



The Brown family - April 09, 2019 at 11:11 AM

EC

“ I heard with a heavy heart the news of Don's untimely death. Don and I met in the early 1980s while he was still a single man. I watched as he gave himself tirelessly to ministry in Russia and as he fell in love with Sheryl. When Linda and I traveled from our home in England, Don and Sheryl graciously cared for our 3 rambunctious sons. He was always there to serve. I'll remember Don as a man of great love and great integrity. The world will somehow feel a little darker without him. - Ed Cox

Ed Cox - April 09, 2019 at 06:42 AM

SH

*Thank you Ed!
Sheryl*

Sheryl Helmer - April 09, 2019 at 11:46 PM

AK

“ MEMORIES FROM BRIGHTON, ENGLAND

We remember Don as a servant of God and people. Also we think back on his humor and the good stories he shared with a low spoken voice. Marit and I got to know Don in Brighton during our years together on the Russia team in the 80-ties. Don had a listening humility and this gift made it easy to share personal issues with him. I remember once I shared with him a dear promise I felt the Lord had given me from Scripture for my life and future, Isaiah 45.2-3: "I will go before you and level the mountains... and break down gates and bars.."

The reason why I remember this event was Don's interest and the meaningful questions he asked me related to this promise.

At breakfast this morning Marit remembered once Don came for a visit. He had found brown goat cheese (the Norwegian narcotics) for us. He wanted to make us happy by bringing this precious gift he had unexpectedly found in the Lanes of Brighton.

We felt really saddened by losing this dear brother who left us too early. May the peace of God bring comfort to all of you in his family!

Marit and Arve Kråkenes, near Oslo, Norway

Arve Kråkenes - April 09, 2019 at 04:04 AM

SH

Thank you so much - you mean so much to me!!

Sheryl Helmer - April 10, 2019 at 11:30 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Donald E. Helmer.*



April 08, 2019 at 10:27 PM



“ *Remembering Don Helmer...*

When Don comes to mind, I just smile. He had a tender heart to the Lord and to people; he was winsome and beloved by Americans, Russians, and everyone else! He had great sense of humor and was fun to work with, hang out with, and travel with.

Diane & I first met Don in Minnesota as the Russian team was forming in the late 1970's. We had a nice dinner at Jerry and Janice's home in Eagan, MN and we saw immediately Don's thoughtful, kind and generous Christian Spirit, and that of the entire Helmer family. "He was a chip off the old block." Our crazy days traveling together to the former Soviet Union were a deep bonding experience. (Boy, have we got memories!) Diane and I indeed were honored to be friends and to work alongside Don Helmer. Rest in Peace, Brother.

Charlie and Diane Dokmo

Charlie Dokmo - April 08, 2019 at 06:39 PM



“ *Our thoughts & prayers are with you & your family at this most difficult, sad time. Don will be missed by all who knew him. It was our privilege to get to know Don while he was in Slave Lake. Dave & Betty Lebsack*

Betty Lebsack - April 08, 2019 at 06:38 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Donald E. Helmer.*



April 08, 2019 at 06:32 PM



“ *We have had the privilege of knowing Don for half of our lives. I remember Don as a guy who loved God and people. He simply wanted to serve and enable others. He very practically helped us and we will live with the benefit he brought us for the rest of our lives. We have lots to be thankful to him for. Thanks Don...we will see you soon. You are a genuine guy with a BIG heart! Malcolm & Juls from Poland*

Malcolm Clegg - April 08, 2019 at 05:09 PM



“ *Don was my mentor when I joined the Russian ministry team in Brighton in 1985. He got me off to a good start that has served me well by his great respect for and knowledge of Russian culture and traditions.*

Steve Slater - April 08, 2019 at 04:56 PM



I have only had a few occasions of getting to know Don, even so the times that he shared thoughts, experiences and heartfelt expectations warmed my heart. I wish his family much strength during this time of loss. Linda from the Netherlands.

Linda Blok-Bussard - April 09, 2019 at 04:18 AM

GH

I first met Don when I was looking for help regarding an application for 501(c)3 in the US. I was working for Evangelical Press at the time and although we didn't go-ahead together, it was with Don's help, I was able to make a successful application.

Over the years our fellowship was mainly at the CEP conference and I am forever grateful for his fellowship and godliness, adding my name to many others. I am so grateful to have these small links with LEI yet I know that those with longer and closer friendship there will be the feeling of greater loss. So please be assured that are prayers are with the family and those closest and trust that the vacuum left behind will be filled with the presence of the Lord.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, that you may (continue to) overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom 15:13

Graham Hilton

Graham Hilton - April 09, 2019 at 09:21 AM

CA

So sad to hear this news.

I remember first meeting Don in O'Hare airport in Chicago in

1980, scheming on how to use the Moscow Olympics as way to launch the Navigator ministry in Russia. After that he moved with us to Vienna, and then to the UK where he devoted himself to building up Christian leaders in Russia.

Don was a faithful and courageous person. In the 1980's I remember how he went to Russia again and again, knowing that likely he would be followed and harassed by the KGB. Later he moved his family there, and had a permanent and profound ministry with MIRT and others, helping them to have an impact throughout Russia.

His life vision was enabling, and so followed his commitment to create LEI as a way to continue this after returning to the US, always trying to find ways to make it better.

We will miss him.

Allan and Caulene

Caulene - April 09, 2019 at 01:51 PM

DG

Don was one of those rare individuals who is able to make you feel better about life just by saying a few words. He always had smile to share and that unique twinkle in his eyes. He will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known him.

Dave & Lois Garrison

Dave Garrison - April 10, 2019 at 02:19 AM

CP

We were so shocked and saddened to hear of Don's sudden passing. Both Don and Sheryl were so kind to us in our early days on the Russia team. They always made us feel welcomed and hosted us when we had a baby in England, paving the way for the gospel message in Russia and beyond. Truly saints in the kingdom.

*Blake and Cathy Purcell
Fort Worth, TX*

Catherine Purcell - April 11, 2019 at 06:33 PM

WJ

We were so sad to hear this news. I will always be grateful for Don's friendship. He showed confidence in me at a time when I had very little in myself, and I remember he had a way of asking questions that would help me learn just by the way he asked them. A lot of who I am today was shaped by times I spent with Don, 30+ years ago.

Wayne Jacobson - April 11, 2019 at 11:04 PM

VM

Dear Sheryl, Katrina, Larissa, Nadya, and Janice,

Janna and I send you our deepest condolences on the passing of your son, husband, father, who was called home by the Lord. Certainly, for all of us this is very unexpected and very sad, but we understand that the Lord knows the right time and we can trust only Him for the right times in our life and in our death.

Though the ocean divided us, we always felt his spiritually guidance, help and encouragement. We will miss Don very much and we look forward to the Day when we will be reunited in the Body of Christ forever. We will pray for you, dear friends, Sheryl, Janice, Katrina, Larissa, and Nadya that the Lord will be with you abundantly, help you with every need and guide you throughout your lives.

Valery, Janna, Rita, Kirill and Anna Morozov

Valery Morozov - April 25, 2019 at 04:55 AM