



Pastor Jon O. DeBruyn

February 21, 1949 - June 22, 2013

Pastor Jon Otto DeBruyn, 64, passed from this world on Saturday, June 22, 2013. He was in his home surrounded by his loving family.

Jon was born on February 21, 1949 in Souix Falls, SD to Joanne and Cornelius DeBruyn. He grew up in Grand Rapids and Northwest Iowa with his parents, 2 brothers and 2 sisters. He graduated from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI in 1971. While at Calvin College he met the enduring love of his life, Maellen DeYoung, whom he married on August 28, 1970 in Redlands, CA. Upon graduation from college, he worked as a home-bound student educator for the Kent Intermediate School District in Grand Rapids. While still working as a teacher, he began seminary the year his first son, Michael, was born (1975) and graduated with his Masters of Divinity in an incredibly short 3 years in 1978, the year his second son, Kevin was born. In 1978 he received his first church assignment to the Christian Reformed Church in Rudyard, MI where he built some life-long relationships and where his daughter, Sara, was born in 1980. While leading the congregation in Rudyard, he accepted God's call to plant New Hope Church in Kincheloe, MI with seminarian Norm Thomsma who went on to lead the Kincheloe church for many years.

In November 1982, he accepted God's call to plant a church and moved to Traverse City MI. Three months later Fellowship Church had its first worship service, and he grew, prospered, and shepherded the church for 26 years. In 2002 he received a significant grant from the Eli Lilly Foundation and went on a 6-month world-wide sabbatical in which he visited and prayed in many countries and built a deep knowledge of praying churches around the country and world.

After retiring from Fellowship Church, he committed full-time to the gift and passion the Holy Spirit fostered in him through his sabbatical and participation in PRMI's Dunamis, the Deeper Journey retreats, and global mission work. He founded Prayer Missions International and led many mission trips throughout the world. He served and loved the Lord throughout his life, finished his race strong and well, and will be deeply missed by his wife, children, 12 Grandchildren, brothers and sisters, and many nieces and nephews. Visitation for Pastor DeBruyn will take place Wednesday, June 26 from 5 until 8 p.m. at The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. The Memorial Service celebrating his life will begin

at 1 p.m. Thursday, June 27 at Faith Reformed Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Fellowship Church and marked for either PRMI Haiti Dunamis; Prayer Missions Award at Calvin Seminary; or DeBruyn Memorial Outreach Fund at Fellowship Church.

Please share your memories and thoughts with Pastor Jon's family by way of his online guest book at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>.

The family is being served by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Events

JUN **Visitation** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

26

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JUN **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

27

Faith Reformed Church
1139 East Front Street, Traverse City, MI, US, 49686

Comments



“ He taught me that if you believe in Jesus Christ, to act like it !! amen. R.I.P. My friend. You are missed.

linda snyder - May 15, 2016 at 07:28 PM



“ I was 24 when Pastor Jon baptized me and my son Josh was 6 . Most will remember him running around the gym with his special walker. When we started attending they were in a small East Bay elementary school gym. We attended with Grandma Lorraine Murphy. I fell in love with the small church with a big heart . I loved the fact that the minister lead worship ... Just him and his guitar... It was heart breaking but warmed my heart seeing his oldest Michael play and sing for his fathers service. Cannot even tell you what that man meant to me ...my sorrow for this world's loss, and his family... What a truly good man.

teresa Caldwell- Fitzgerald - July 02, 2013 at 07:05 AM



“ Hi Mae. The year is 1968 and my suite mate at Calvin, Jon, returns to the room saying: "I just met a girl who is really different, but the kind of woman I could spend my life with". And, of course he did. Jon and Mae, Mae and Jon. The two of you were inseperable. What an example of agapic love. The boys and I treasure our memories from days gone by. Jon was a thinking man and dedicated to his Lord and Savior. Peace be with you...john nielsen

john nielsen - July 01, 2013 at 01:01 PM



“ Hi Mae,
Anyone who knew Jon never forgot his ever-ready, engaging smile and his winsome ways. He was the first of the "sons" of our little CRC church in NW Iowa to be ordained into the ministry, and was the inspiration for others to do the same. Jon had an apostolic anointing on his life and ministry as a church planter, early Dunamis teacher, founder of the Prayer Mission ministry, etc. More than that, he modeled so well Jesus' own love to all He met, and he will be greatly missed by all of us! Our sympathies to you and your wonderful family. John Byker

J. Byker - June 27, 2013 at 05:38 AM



“ He was the pastor who married us. I always considered him a kind & gentle spirit. My thoughts & prayers are with you in this heartbreaking time.

Gretchen Stringham - June 26, 2013 at 06:57 PM



“ Video Tribute - Press Play To Watch

Video Tribute - June 26, 2013 at 04:44 PM



“ Hi Mae,
I want to express my sympathy to you and to your family,. I have enjoyed my many different pastoral connections with Jon over the years. Jon had a great gift to plant a church. He always had such a gracious pastoral heart for people. God also gave him a great passion for prayer and for the work of the Holy Spirit. I will miss him. He has left a great legacy behind in his many different ministry areas that he has been involved in.

God bless you!

Merle Buwalda

Merle Buwalda - June 26, 2013 at 11:08 AM



“ Jon was such a great pastor and growing up in Fellowship Church was such a blessing. It was really exciting to see the church grow from a small school gymnasium to having its own building and child care center. I enjoyed attending Fellowship Church as a young child and even though I had to leave the church due to my family moving away, I always felt like Fellowship Church was my home. My husband and I feel honored that Jon was able to conduct our wedding ceremony almost 9 years ago on August 28th. It was not only our special day, but it was also Jon and Mae's Anniversary and we are very glad we were able to celebrate such a special day with you guys. We are so sorry that Jon had to leave your family so soon, and our hearts go out Mae and the rest of your family.

Stephanie Steffens - June 26, 2013 at 04:30 AM



“ Dear Mae,

Although I haven't participated in the church I think of you and jon alot. I am so sorry for your loss he will be missed. I can remember when he first started the building of the church on Garfield. He taught me alot and was very helpful to me and my family at different times. He always took the time to help someone and just listen. He was never judgemental of anyone. I through will be out of town Tuesday t hru Sunday therefore I will be unable to be there for visitation or the fu neral . I am hoping that my sister or brother will be to represent us. Please know that my heart and prayers are with you and the 3 children.

Sincerely
Lynn (LaGrone) Schaap

Lynn Schaap - June 25, 2013 at 09:25 PM



“ Jon has been a wonderful friend and tutor to me in my walk of faith. I am so grateful for his friendship, his living life fully example, and to have been in his prayers. He will be missed dearly. One of the most far reaching messages he'd given that sunk into me was the one "if we believe in something, we act as if it were so." I believe I've used that more than any other single phrase in my walk of faith. I appreciate his having shared it. I believe Pastor Jon loved God the father, his son Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Mae, Michael, Kevin and Sara, his grandchildren and us because I've witnessed him always, always act as if that were so. Thank you Jon for having been such a great example to me. God's love lives through you in the people you've touched and the family you and Mae have raised. We miss you, I miss you.

Cliff - June 25, 2013 at 09:00 PM



“ Jon will be missed, another Shepherd gone home in the presence of his savior Jesus.;

(John 14:1-6 NASB) “Do not let your heart be troubled; [a]believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.” Thomas *said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

"I pray for the family, those left behind that have to, for a short time, endure the loss of one they love. I pray they will reflect on the good times as this man of God, on loan from God, brought them love, joy, safety, provision, but most of all the true treasure of life the Word of God. Peace be with you all, and as Jon would probably say "lean on Him that sustains us, His grace is sufficient" Phil 1:6, Pastor Giuseppe!

Joe Patanella - June 25, 2013 at 06:46 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of the DeBruyn family at this time of tremendous loss and sorrow. As life is about love and loss, it is also about moving on and remembering. I hope these lines by Emily Dickinson help to provide some peace and hope for the time to come:

"That it will never come again
Is what makes life so sweet."

Jim Batsakis

Jim Batsakis - June 25, 2013 at 03:31 PM



“ Char Clasen Hulsebus lit a candle in memory of Pastor Jon O. DeBruyn



Char Clasen Hulsebus - June 25, 2013 at 01:30 PM



“ Marlys Van Dyke Lancaster lit a candle in memory of Pastor Jon O. DeBruyn



Marlys Van Dyke Lancaster - June 25, 2013 at 10:59 AM



“ Dear Mae, Michael, Kevin & Sara Joy,
My heart is breaking along with yours. As you know he was my pastor and friend for many years. His every day humanness was so endearing to so many of us. He let us know he had failings and imperfections just like the rest of us. But that God would always love me. He taught me so many things like how to Pray, how to forgive others, and that God would forgive and Love me no matter what. Above all he was a wonderful teacher. He continued to teach me right to the very end as he put his trust and faith in the Lord as he waited to be called home. We will all miss him so very much.
Love & Blessings to all of you,
Jann Mack

Jann Mack - June 25, 2013 at 05:38 AM



“ I remember coming to the De Bruyn home in Grand Rapids. Jon was the only cousin I had my age. We built tents, slept outside in the tent...usually we ended up in the house after scaring each other, playing doctor...I couldn't believe he had a doctor kit with a stethoscope and roller skating down that huge hill. We lost touch for years as we moved to California and they moved to Iowa. We met again at Calvin and had many talks. I miss that we didn't stay in touch. Love you Jon! See you again.

Kay Bosscher - June 24, 2013 at 10:55 PM



“ Jon and i had what one might call "sibling rivalry" growing up. We were constantly teasing each other and trying to get away with bugging each other. The one i remember the most when we were kids staying at our Aunt Marian and Uncle Pete's house. We fought over some silly reason and Jon ended it hitting me with a stick which made Jimmy cry. He was reprimanded by my Aunt who said "wait til your father finds out." Subsequently Jon took off and was an official "De Bruyn run away". He was found in the woods across the Beltline in Calvin Colleges property. We both did not want to face our Dad. Then I remember being in the bathtub when Dad returned home from work - not a good place to be. Not sure what happened to Jon. Although we kept busy in our own lives and familes, we would call each other on the phone to see how each one of us was doing. A couple years ago, Jon organized a get together at Monellis for lunch, where all the three brothers got together alone - now something I wished we did more often. Your calls "how are you doing" will be missed yet i know you were greeted at the Gates of Heaven by Mom and Dad with long hugs. And God also greeted him and said "well done my faithful servant". Love ya, Bro Jim

James De Bruyn - June 24, 2013 at 10:13 PM



“ I will remember Jon as gentle and joyful. He was kind to people, easy going, and had a ready smile. Jon and Jim and I painted houses and parked cars at Sayfees East together to make our way through college. We haven't had much subsequent contact but know Jon was much loved and appreciated by so many. Our deepest sympathies to you, Mae.

Duane Kelderman - June 24, 2013 at 07:47 PM



“ Mae, Micheal, Kevin, Sara and your families - our hearts are full of love for you and we lift you in prayer always! We loved Jon so much and are grateful for his passionate life. The impact he had on us is indescribable and will be seen for generations to come. Thank you for sharing him with us - we miss him! We are so sorry for your loss and pray God's comfort, peace, love and joy as you go forward. All our love to you today and always! <3

Tim & Mary Fuller and Family - June 24, 2013 at 07:12 PM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Tim & Mary Fuller - June 24, 2013 at 07:04 PM



“ Dear Mae,
I can't help but think about Jon and my Mom having a good visit up there in Heaven,
with so many memories to share.
I pray that God will comfort you.
Bob and Kathy Miller.

Kathy Miller - June 24, 2013 at 06:18 PM



“ 3 files added to the album New Album Name



pam debruyn - June 24, 2013 at 02:30 PM



“ Dear Mae, sending my deepest sympathy to you and your family at this time of
incredible loss but also a time of deep celebration in a life well-lived. From a very
early age, Jon was insightful and curious and a delight to be around. May you find
peace in knowing that you will be together once again someday. Peace, Jeanne
DeBruyn

Jeanne DeBruyn - June 24, 2013 at 02:27 PM