



## Melville Y. Stewart, Ph.D., D.D.

June 19, 1935 - June 19, 2020

Melville Y. Ph.D., D.D.

Age 85 of Zimmerman, MN.

Went to be with the Lord on his 85th birthday, June 19, 2020.

In honor and loving memory of Melville Y. Stewart, PhD, D.D. Dad died on the date of his birthday and while he didn't like getting older, he probably thought he was able to get out of one last Birthday celebration. Little did he realize the celebration about to happen as he was welcomed to his Heavenly home!

Since he loved to travel, what better day to make this long awaited journey.

His whole life he spent moving about creation, whether as a child being shuffled to the 18 different homes he lived in before adulthood, or the family vacations he drove our family around the country in the Chevy station wagon with trailer in tow while mom navigated our way thru national parks, or the study abroad trips he took his college students on, or the numerous trips to Russia, China, and Peru later in life as he and mom ventured on and they continued the work God had called them to do.

His calling to teach started before he was called to the Pastorate in youth ministry. After pastoring several churches in New England he was called to teach at Bethel University in MN. Whether it was in the classroom or at home over dinner with us kids his passion was challenging us to understand our purpose and what God had planned for our lives.

As a Christian Apologist, he spent his time writing the many books and papers he presented at conferences at over 70 universities around the globe

including dozens of trips to China and Russia. He frequently talked about his cronies in the SCP. (Society of Christian Philosophers) He loved to take up a discussion and was always prepared to defend the reasons for his faith in his Savior, Jesus. He challenged us kids to know what we believe and why we believe it putting faith into simpler terms than the Philosophers and Theologians he encountered in the academic world, as he was prepared better than most anyone to debate the validity of the Scriptures. Whether it was the trips he took to view significant historic documents and archaeological evidence, or the many languages he studied and worked in to both understand the meaning of scripture and explain it in a meaningful way, his passion never stopped. With his 34th book waiting for publication, his works have been translated into several languages.

Dad was a family man and kept the family together as he encouraged generations to gather and fellowship while cherishing memories and making new ones. He was always looking to reconcile and bring us all together. Yearly he sent a summary of events and updates in the form of a Christmas letter that so many received.

After nearly 63 years of marriage he spent his strength and energy caring for his wife in his last days, cancelling trips to visit with friends they had come to know over the years. Yet he continued to stay in touch thru email that often times crashed. It's amazing though considering he was one of the last to give up the typewriter, he soon learned how many more opportunities there were in academia with a keyboard and mouse at his fingertips. He loved to draw as a kid and loved different classic automobiles. He had a passion for art and enjoyed museums and did some sketching and watercolor painting as well.

He loved strumming the guitar, singing in choir, and playing the piano. To the end he was faithful in his prayers for family and friends around the world. If you wonder whether he had a story about you, the answer is probably yes as at gatherings he often share stories about the many friends he had made on his many adventures.

His sense of humor was drier than the Saharan dessert. He had a sweet

tooth and loved ice cream.

We are grateful for the loving example of what it means to sacrifice for your wife, children, friends and family, and strangers in another land that soon became friends by sharing the love of our Heavenly Father. Touching so many lives thru prayers.

Dad started out his Philosophy courses challenging students about the meaning of existence and in his discourses he earned the respect of many who opposed his views and considered them friends. So many times he would ponder and talked about what Heaven is like, now he knows.

To honor his life work, may this be a challenge to you, as he would want, to ponder the meaning of your existence, to seek and you will find, to knock for the door will be opened to you. Dad has walked through that door as he put his faith in Christ. He longed to hear well done good and faithful servant. With sad hearts we say good bye, but with joy we celebrate a life of service to those he loved and to everyone he hoped to touch with the love of Christ.

Survived by wife of 62 years, Donna; children, David (Holly), Daniel, Steven (Angie), Linda (Tony) Peterson and Glenn (Lorien) Stewart; 10 grandchildren; 1 great granddaughter; sister, Shirley Pauley; nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by his parents; Charles and Nellie and 8 siblings.

Melville was a professor of Theology and Philosophy at Bethel University from 1972 to 1999.

Funeral Service 11 AM Saturday, June 27th at GracePoint Church 2351 Rice Creek, New Brighton.

Link to You tube page for Service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5WW12MCofpo&feature=youtu.be>

# Tribute Wall

BE

“ I have so many great memories of working with Mel while I was at Bethel. I know he will be greatly missed by many. I look forward to seeing him again one day in Heaven and hearing him tell stories.

Bob Ess - June 30, 2020 at 12:00 AM

EP

“ Mel was a good friend and fellow teacher at Shandong University. Every Saturday morning went shopping together at a local Chinese fruit and vegetable market. As I'm Catholic we had some good discussions. He will be sorely missed.

Edward C. Mignot, PhD - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Donna, family; Memorial was as uplifting as Uncle Mel was every time I saw him. He was a joy to be with as he always explained Gods Grace to me and left me in higher spirits. My favorite Uncle will be missed. GODS love! Brian Stewart

Brian Stewart - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ It is a wonderful celebration of my favorite Uncle's life. Its great to see my cousins with Stewart plaid. I have wonderful memories of Mel's visits with us.



Bob Stewart - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BP

“ *Very nice service going to miss his visits to Massachusetts so sorry for your loss*

Bob and kelly pasca - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KJ

“ *Took one of his classes at Bethel. Wonderful teacher and friend.*



Karen Johnson-Bennett - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ *My friend and classmate at Gordon College ,Mel Stewart,impressed me as a person deeply committed to his Lord and Savior,Jesus Christ. His academic achievements boggles the mind but that did not keep him from always being your friend. He treated people with respect.He was a gentleman of the highest order.And now he is in the presence of his Lord,who welcomed him with the words,"Well done good and faithful servant enter into the joy of your Lord."*

Edwin Linqvist - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ I'm truly saddened by this news. i was an exchange student who lived with Mel and Donna back in 94 to 95, and from then on until now, I call them Dad and Mom. Dad Mel was a very fun and courageous man of God. His heart was filled with love and it reflected on his cheerful smiles. He was very patient and loved to share all his knowledge to others. I could see and feel God's love through him. My deepest condolences to Mom Donna and all the family - my family in Minnesota. May God alone give comfort and strength during this difficult time. Enjoy the eternity with God, Dad! You've always been and will always be in my heart.

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**Paula Chandra** - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ We loved your dad ❤️ and will miss him  
Skip and Dianne

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**Charles Skip Stewart** - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ To the entire Stewart Family, our deepest condolences on the loss of Uncle Mel. We will all miss him, but will remember his travels to our home and the joy and love we shared. May he rest in peace.  
Love Ron and Gail

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**Ron and Gail Stewart** - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Uncle Mel you will be very missed! My favorite unckle ❤️ Prayers and hugs to Aunt Donna and your family .sending much love from me and Brad ❤️

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**Jacqie stewart** - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Sorry I could not be there.

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**Dean & Jill P'Dell** - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

EP

“ *Mel was a good friend and fellow teacher at Shandong University. Every Saturday morning went shopping together at a local Chinese fruit and vegetable market. As I'm Catholic we had some good discussions. He will be sorely missed.*

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**Edward C. Mignot, PhD** - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ *I thank the Lord that I had the pleasure of his friendship, his jokes, his grab of the arm on the way by me, the interaction when we were both at church and the love I also saw in his love for Donna. I will miss seeing the two of you together on Sunday.*

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**Phil Hansen** - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Sorry I could not be there.

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**Dean & Jill P'Dell** - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Have resent emails several times recently. The last contact was when we sent a picture taken when Mum and Dad came to stay with us in Luton. They came for a few days but stayed several weeks we were having such fun. Whilst there Mel's underwear came out of the washing machine bright pink! We had much amusement about this. Richard Simon and Sarah all stayed with Mel and Donna during their vacations before starting college in London. Ed and Shirley also lived with us for some time whilst studying in Oxford and we actually met up with them again about ten years ago in Texas. As you will understand from these memories we were truly devastated by your news but will of course continue to remember Donna and the family in our prayers



*RT*

*Richard Simon and Sarah all stayed with mel and D*

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**Maureen and Bryan Russell Richard Simon and Sarah** - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I left a message last night but it did not appear so I am leaving it again. My wife and I are very thankful to have gotten to know Mel (and Donna) through working at Bethel - but especially when the Stewarts were a host family for a Chinese high school exchange student from Indonesia. I still remember Mel taking us all out on his boat, speeding along on White Bear Lake. Later, when Mel retired from Bethel, we marveled at the passion and energy Mel had to live in China and Russia for significant periods with Donna - to bring the light of the gospel into highly influential academic circles in both countries. We fondly remember every time we would run into Mel during his "retirement" years he would greet us with a warm "ni hao" greeting (hello in Mandarin Chinese) and share about the latest book in China he was editing or international conference he was speaking at. Hearing more about Mel today from his family, academic colleagues and former students made even clearer how Mel was captivated by the love of God and let His light shine through the unique gifted person he was. Thank you Mel for your witness and example. May the love of God that so impacted your life continue to impact the lives of Donna, your family, your students and colleagues around the world!



Jason & Tzong-Huei Li - June 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ My heartfelt condolences to the whole Stewart family. I had Mel as a Prof at Bethel between 1980-84, and he turned me into a philosophy minor. I enjoyed seeing him at conferences a couple of times, and at GracePoint when we were back in MN. I was so sad to hear the news of his passing, but smile to think of his entry into glory! May God strengthen and comfort your family in this time of loss.  
Ken Magnuson and family



Ken Magnuson - June 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Donna, I was so saddened to read of Mel's passing. So many good memories of our years at Blaney and at Gordon. Blessings and peace to you. Joyce Blakney Duerr

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Joyce Blakney Duerr - June 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Dear Donna & family,  
We are sad to hear of Mel's passing but comforted to know that he is truly home now. We are grateful for having got to know Mel and Donna from Bethel - and to have gotten to know you guys much better through the year that you were a host family for Paula from Indonesia. We still remember Mel taking us out on White Bear Lake with Paula, speeding along in your boat. We were amazed at Mel's passion and energy for global scholarship and being truly an ambassador for Christ. It seemed to us like he was even busier after retiring from Bethel with teaching and collaborating with scholars at major universities in Russia and China. Every time we saw Mel we were greeted with a warm "ni hao" (hello in Mandarin Chinese) and he would share about the latest book he was editing with scholars in China (or some other part of the world). We will miss Mel but look forward to seeing him again someday in our true homeland. May the peace and comfort of our Good Shepherd of Psalm 23 be with your whole family during this time of separation.



Shalom,  
Jason & Tzong-Huei (Emily) Li

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Jason & Tzong-Huei Li - June 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ Dear Donna and family. So sad to hear of Mel passing, we have such fond memories of the two of you visiting our family in Nova Scotia. My heart felt sympathy go out to you all. It is such a great loss but the Lord gains. I will call you Donna one day soon. Love and hugs from all the Stewart girls in Nova Scotia.

Phyllis grant(stewart) - June 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ Mel is a one of a kind gentleman. One of the ultimate expressions of how a true Christian is and should act like. In some ways he is a mentor, and others, a willing friend and servant of God. Without Mel and the Stewart family I would long have been lost. And one thing I plan to do upon my own accession to Heaven is to warmly embrace Mel, after I complete my wish to embrace Jesus Himself. My friendship with his Steven continues to the present. Mel will always have his place in my heart.

John Derek Ginsberg - June 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ We are deeply to read of Mel's passing, but gladdened by knowing he is now with the Lord and we will see him again. Mel and Donna are the ones who introduced me (David) to the Lord in the late 1950s when he was Youth Director at Chestnut Hill Baptist Church. Our friendship has continued since then and, in God's providence, I joined him on the faculty of Bethel University in 1992. Our love and prayers for God's blessing on Donna and the family is deeply shared.



David W. and Florence Anderson - June 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ Dave & Family,  
Heartfelt condolences to all of the family  
during this difficult time!  
Tim Anderson



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**TIM ANDERSON** - June 25, 2020 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I join with so many others at Bethel University and around the world  
in lamenting the passing of Mel, a gifted educator, thinker,  
philosopher and internationalist. His Christian world view was basic  
to all he did and wrote. Blessed be the memory of Mel and to God  
be the glory for all his accomplishments. May the family find comfort  
in remembering his worthy life.

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**James Lewis** - June 25, 2020 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ Mel Stewart - One of the most brilliant and  
reasoned men we have ever known. A  
powerful testimony of faith, and a person  
great character. A role model for all believers.  
We are thankful to have known him and called  
him friend.



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**Tim and Jeanne Shaw** - June 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ I am sorry to hear that Dr. Stewart passed away. I took one of his  
philosophy classes my freshman year of college at Bethel. I learned  
to think better from being in his class and his love of philosophy was  
contagious. Thank you Dr. Stewart for you impact on my life.  
Deb Harless

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**Debra Harless** - June 24, 2020 at 12:00 AM