



Paul Earl "Pep" Peterson

June 23, 2017

Paul Earl Peterson (PEP) passed away peacefully at Colonial Acres, Golden Valley, MN on June 23, 2017 at the age of 82.

He was born September 24, 1934 in Superior, WI to Clifford and Florence Peterson. He graduated from Northwestern High School in Maple, WI and went to the University of Wisconsin in Superior, WI. He also did graduate work at UW Madison & Northern Illinois University.

His occupation was in education. From 1964-1982, he served at Morrison Academy, Taichung Taiwan. He was a middle school and high school math and science teacher. He mentored young boys as a dorm parent and coached and refereed. In administration, he was a high school principal and school superintendent.

Wheaton Academy in West Chicago, Il was his place of service off and on from the 1960's to the 1980's. He also taught in a public middle school until his retirement in 1999.

Pep and Ilene have been members of the Wheaton Christian Reformed Church ever since they were married there 57 years ago. Wheaton CRC was part of their support as they served with TEAM, The Evangelical Alliance Mission in Taiwan for 19 + years. After returning to the US permanently, they

were active on the mission committee and in church leadership.

Pep's joy was building their summer place, San Hu (Chinese for Three Lakes) in WI, beginning with clearing the land . He gladly accepted help from friends with whom many wonderful weeks were spent building and sitting around a campfire.

In 2008 they moved to Covenant Village in Golden Valley and have enjoyed being part of this warm and supportive community, as well as being part of the Calvary Christian Reformed Church family.

Pep is predeceased by his parents Clifford and Florence Peterson, Poplar, WI and sister, Phyllis (Carroll) Johnson, Poplar, WI.

Pep is survived by wife Ilene Groen, children Andrene (Bob) Johnson, Lake Nebagamon, WI; Paul Eric Peterson, Duluth, MN; and Greta (Nathan) Clement, Indianapolis, IN; Grandsons, Gus Johnson, and Theo and Emory Clement. In-laws Paul and Maxine Groen, Sarasota, FL; Floyd and Bonnie Groen, Wheaton, IL; Deann and Rick Bayless, Chicago, IL and many beloved cousins, nephews and nieces.

A Memorial Service to honor Pep will be held Saturday, July 1st, at 11 AM with visitation one hour prior at Calvary Christian Reformed Church: 5300 France Ave S, Edina 55410.

Memorials can be directed to any of the following organizations:

Evangelical Alliance Mission--Team USA

P.O. Box 1986

Grapevine, TX 76099

World Renew c/o Calvary Christian Reformed Church
5300 France Ave S.
Edina, MN 55410

Covenant Village of Golden Valley Benevolent Fund
5800 St. Croix Ave N.
Golden Valley, MN 55422

Tribute Wall

TM

“ Pep was superintendent at Morrison Academy when I attended high school there. Later I was employed at the school myself and have been able to remain in service here for 30+ years. Pep wanted that life but God had other designs for he and Eileen. Regardless of the Lords leading Pep remained focused on loving people wherever he was placed. His God given, amazingly disarming, folksy manner often came out in the form of stories. I was enjoying a meal with him on one occasion and I said "Pep when we get to heaven we're just going to sit around and tell old Morrison stories." He responded, "...and nobody will be listening but we'll just keep telling them anyway." Classic Pep. I look forward to listening to him as we share tales again together later. Terry McGill



Terry McGill - January 17, 2022 at 11:05 PM

GC

“ I am sorry to just learn that my boyfriend -- and idol -- passed away over four years ago and I did not know it. I last communicated with Pep on Jan. 1, 2016. He sent me, via email, his annual Christmas letter for 2015. I responded by sending my family Christmas letter. I spoke with on the phone several years before that, and we started to exchange Christmas greetings.

My first memories of Pep would be about 1947-48 when my father borrowed \$500 from Pep's dad to purchase the acreage on Lake Nebagamon that became Maranatha Bay. Herbert Lockyer, Jr. also borrowed \$500 from his father, Herbert Lockyer, Sr., the renowned Bible teacher and author. They quickly sold the divided lots for \$100 each to preacher friends from the Chicago area, and repaid the loans.

From that time on Pep's parents were Uncle Cliff and Aunt Flo to me my sisters. We spent many hours at their home picking blueberries and raspberries, and enjoying Aunt Flo's cooking. I remember Cliff was the Postmaster of Poplar, and ran the General Store. He was a tall and respected gentleman who loved the Lord deeply and openly. Aunt Flo was the consummate hostess and entertainer, with her ever present apron and always had goodies for kids to devour. Pep was a tall teenager who was always kindly and interested in me -- a pesky kid.

Years later, during my ministry in Christian education, I met several people who were students or colleagues of Pep at Morrison Academy on Taiwan. They all spoke warmly and appreciatively of the godly influence he had on their lives. Well done, good and faithful servant!

Gerry Carlson - October 01, 2021 at 02:56 PM

MA

“ I have wonderful memories of Pep during my two years at Morrison Academy from 1978-1980. My first grade classroom was directly across from the stairway that Pep took to get up to his office. I decided that I and my first graders would greet Pep each morning, so we watched for him and as he ascended the stairs my darling first graders would call out "HI MR. PETERSON!!!" Of course, this was a delight for us all, and we always enjoyed his big smile and greeting us in return.
I remember Pep as such a kind man. My sympathy is with all of your family.
Sincerely,
Marsha Cohen Atkison

Marsha Cohen Atkison - September 01, 2017 at 10:50 AM

DS

“ Pep was part of my life all the time I was in Taiwan--1969-1980 counting home leaves. I loved his sense of humor and servant's heart for the Lord. But I specifically remember something Pep did 29 years ago. I got married in my 40's and on my wedding day I looked out and there was Pep!! He had been helping Ev and Marcie Peterson in IL and heard about my wedding so he came! What a special thing for him to do but that was Pep--giving to others. Heaven is richer with his arrival there.
Donna (Comp) Smejkal

Donna Smejkal - June 28, 2017 at 03:35 PM

SR

“ I have such fond memories of PEP as our Principal at Morrison. He had such a wonderful sense of humor and at the same time, a real vision for creating the best teaching and learning environment for the students.

There was also the very memorable trip on the train to Mount Morrison. Unforgettable... and PEP made it even more special.

Thank you for all the excellent memories of Morrison, PEP.

Looking forward to seeing you again.

Love, Steve and Karen Ray

Steve Ray - June 28, 2017 at 08:07 AM

EW

“ Ed and I have many fond memories of the encouragement and support of Pep and Ilene when we arrived in Taiwan as very "green" missionaries with TEAM in 1979. Pep introduced us to some of the delicious tropical fruits that we'd never tried before - like lychee - which he likened to peeling and eating an eyeball! He also gave us a log from a banyon tree he was trimming in his yard in Taichung and told us to wrap hemp rope around it and stick it in a hole in the ground in our little yard and water the hemp every day. We thought it was a joke but that tree took hold and grew! Pep also gave Ed a 3 speed bicycle to encourage him in his bike riding in Taiwan.

Pep and Ilene also graciously lent us the use of their home in Illinois during one of our summer home assignments. Pep is remembered with much fondness.

Ed and Conni Weaver - June 27, 2017 at 10:27 AM

PF

“PEP was a special part of Morrison when I first arrived in Taiwan in 1974. In fact, PEP is the reason I ended up in Taiwan. I was an undesignated candidate deciding between an MK school in Pakistan and Morrison Academy. I was praying and asking God for direction. Then I met PEP. He was so enthusiastic and encouraging that I was drawn to him and the school he represented. After more prayer, I was sure that God was leading me to Taiwan and I came.

I treasure the years that PEP and the family and myself were mutually in Taiwan. At mission conferences, PEP was always a large and jovial presence. It was impossible to be discouraged in his presence. That is not to say that he didn't have a serious, contemplative side because he did. I remember sharing my insecurities about teaching with him in the early days and his wise counsel and encouragement.

I thank God that my path crossed with PEP's path for a number of years in the Ilha Formosa--the beautiful island.

Patricia Foster - June 26, 2017 at 11:33 AM