



John R. McNeill

November 26, 2014 - November 26, 2014

The Rev. John R. McNeill Jr., 71, of Lincoln, Neb., passed away on Wednesday, November 26, 2014, after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

Services honoring his life will be Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at the First Free Evangelical Church, 3300 S. 84th Street in Lincoln with Pastor Mark Brunott officiating. Burial will be later in the Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Memorials are planned to the Evangelical Free Church in Constanza, Romania. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney in charge of arrangements.

John was born in Crawfordsville, Iowa on September 12, 1943, alongside his identical twin brother James. Inseparable, they attended college and graduate school together before eventually going into ministry as part of the Free Church, a Scandinavian Christian denomination.

McNeill served as pastor for the Free Church in Kearney for over 25 years, touching thousands of lives. Outside of the limelight of ministry he was a quiet servant, visiting the sick, doing yard work for the elderly and serving on the Kearney Housing Authority.

With a love of learning, he pursued and was granted multiple advanced degrees including theology and counseling. His love of people took him on mission trips for multiple years in Romania, to build a partnership with an inner city church in Chicago and to spend time in a kibbutz in Israel with his father in the 1980s.

After moving to Lincoln in 1999, he joined MassMutual as a career agent. He also continued to serve and teach a large senior group at First Free Church in Lincoln. Outside of family and friends, McNeill had two passions: Nebraska Football and Volleyball. He was a member of the Match Club and a courtside fixture at Nebraska Volleyball home games.

This past summer, he and his wife, Lois, celebrated their 50th anniversary by renewing their vows with a group of relatives and friends in the Pacific Northwest.

Together they raised two children, followed by four grandchildren that loved him dearly and came to his side during the final days of his life. He is survived by his wife, Lois McNeill; son, Jonathan and daughter-in-law Heidi McNeill of Boston and their children Connor and Hannah; daughter, Lorna McNeill-Heid of Atlanta and her daughters Emma and Katelyn; nephews, Kent McNeill of Omaha, Jim McNeill of Adele, Iowa; and nieces, Julie McNeill of Chicago, Liz Newquist of Los Angeles, and Deborah Kuhner of Mill Valley, Calif., and Marcia McLaughlin of Des Moines, Iowa.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *John R. McNeill*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *John R. McNeill*

Joyce Peteraon - December 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Lois and family....I was going through a divorce with 3 little ones at my side when I started going to E.Free in Kearney in 1987. My youngest...a baby... had cerebral palsy and she is still with me. My oldest daughter at that time...about 8 years old wanted to give her heart to Jesus and I called Pastor John...he dropped everything and came right over on his little scooter to pray with her! He dedicated my baby girl and son at church and seen that we were cared for through the church for many things. I could of listened to him preach for hours...I could never get enough of his teaching...as his heart and soul were in every word he'd say. I'd buy his tapes and listen to them over and over. My faith grew during those hard years of being a single parent into the most blessed time of my life because of Pastor Johns teachings. He was such a kind and caring person for everyone. He married myself and my husband now...24 years ago... in 1990.*

My heart has been broken from the time I heard he had to leave Kearney. I left the church as no one could ever take his place and I still haven't found a Pastor to fill his shoes:(

I am so very...very sorry for your terrible loss. I grieve and pray for you...but I know he is with Jesus and has a crown of glory for all he done for our Lord in this sinful world. BLESS YOU ALL.

Joyce Keim...Peterson - December 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ John was our pastor during our college years, officiated at our wedding and was probably the most influential pastor of our lives. He was a wonderful man who truly cared about people and loved God. Many of our college friends would say feel the same. He was loved and admired by many and will be missed not only by his family, but also by those who knew him.

Tim & Lora Howard - December 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ I am so blessed to have been blessed by John's life. He had a true heart for the Lord, and those he loved. I am forever grateful for his time as my Pastor and as my friend. May God bless you Lois

Carrie Harbur - December 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ We are so sad to hear of your loss. Pastor McNeill, as I remember him, was an integral part of my family's life in Kearney, NE. When I(Linda) was attending Kearney State College my parents and family were active members of the Evangelical Free Church, Kearney. As our pastor, John was an encouragement to us, and I especially enjoyed the college ministry. Lois, we also appreciated your caring ministry. In 1971 John married David and I, and we have been married for 43 years. He was a fine Christian leader and friend and will be missed. May the Lord comfort your family.
In loving memory, Linda and David MacIntyre.

David and Linda MacIntyre - December 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ *Lois & Family: My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. John was a wonderful person and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. I am truly blessed to have known him as a friend and a die-hard Nebraska volleyball and football fan.*

Karen Kammann - December 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ *Dear Lois & Family,
We remember & honor John for his many years of wonderful leadership for and teaching to our Cornerstone Class. His tender, caring and compassionate heart touched all of us, and his sweet servant spirit was always in evidence. God blessed us with John's ministry for our benefit, now he rejoices in God's presence with loved ones who have gone on before him.
How we pray that you Lois, and your entire family will be deeply comforted by HIS peace in the days ahead. We all are missing him and his good humor already because we loved him too.
Blessings Always from your friends, John & Arlys
John 11:25-26*

Arlys & John Neuberger - December 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ *So sorry to hear of John's passing. Doesn't seem that long ago--but it was, when my family moved to Kearney and Mom became another Gramma to the kids. I remember how John was there for us when Mom died so unexpectedly.*

You are going through a similar shock. It hurts. But know you are not alone. Our prayers are for God's comfort, strength and peace.

Carolyn R Scheidies - December 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ We are so sorry to hear of your loss. John meant so much to us. Franklin was so touched and amazed the first time he stepped into the free church. When we heard his messages and how they kept our attention we both knew that the Free church was both for us. John counseled us and prepared for our marriage and married us and now 25 years later we are still happily married, we can't believe it has been that long. Lois, we always appreciated your sensitivity, love and caring toward us. We also remember John and Linda going to Chicago on one of those beautiful mission trips. Lois, Jon, and Lorna when through those rough times to hold on with both hands to those nail scarred hands of Jesus. We love, care and pray for you. We are unable to come to the service but we will be there in Spirit and prayer.
Love and prayers, Franklin and Linda Saltzgaber

Franklin & Linda Saltzgaber - December 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM