



## Pastor John William Miesel

September 10, 1930 - March 4, 2020

Formerly of Racine – John W. Miesel, age 89, of Grand Rapids, MI, passed away peacefully into the arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. The son of William and Minnie (nee Englert) Miesel, John was born on September 10, 1930 in Indianapolis, IN and moved to Racine, WI when he was 12. He graduated from Park High School in Racine, WI and then attended Bryan College in Dayton, TN where he majored in History.

While at Bryan College, John met Janice L. Brown from Randolph, NY. They married on December 23, 1953. By that time, both John and Jan had accepted Christ as their personal Savior and were committed to a lifetime work serving Him. Upon graduation, John attended Grace Theological Seminary in Warsaw, IN, where he earned his Master of Divinity. After seminary and setting a course of foreign missions, John and Jan began a long affiliation with Unevangelized Fields Mission (which became known as UFM International and then Crossworld at present). In 1958, their foreign missions service took them to Brussels, Belgium for language and biblical training in French in preparation for service at a theological seminary in the Belgian Congo (now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo). After the tragic deaths of 19 fellow missionaries in an uprising during the Simba revolution in 1964, they were evacuated.

Unable to return to Belgian Congo, the Lord called them to France in 1965, where John started a printing ministry in a medieval chateau due to the dearth of Christian literature in French. John had experience in printing from his college days and over the next 10 years, he trained a team of local French believers to take over the printing ministry. John and Jan returned to Racine, WI in the summer of 1975 for the wedding of their daughter, Brenda Pfeil, at Racine Bible Church where John served as interim pastor for several years.

In 1978, they moved to Bala Cynwyd, PA to serve on staff at UFM International headquarters where John was an Associate Director for 17 years. Upon John's "formal retirement" from mission work in 1995, he was Associate Pastor of Zion Bethel Church in Monticello, IN for five years. In 1999, John and Jan moved back to Racine, WI where John

served in the same capacity at Racine Bible Church for 12 fruitful years. John officially “retired” again and moved to a senior citizens complex in Green Bay, WI. For four years, he led a men’s Bible study and served as Chaplain to the 80 residents. Shortly after Jan’s homegoing in February 2016, John moved to Grand Rapids, MI where he continued to share the good news of the gospel with residents, staff and nurses at his living community until the Lord took him home.

John was dearly loved as a son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. John had a servant’s heart and the gift of caring, but most of all, he wanted to share the love of the Lord to anyone he met, at any time and in any place. He embraced the Word, loved the Word, studied the Word, taught the Word, prayed the Word, lived out the Word and shared the Word in numerous countries and settings, including at more than 100 baby dedications and more than 200 funerals. Until his last breath, he impacted lives around him.

John is survived by his children: Brenda (Robert) Pfeil of De Pere, WI and Bryan (Carrie LaPlant) Miesel of Grand Rapids, MI; grandchildren: Kristie Pfeil, Kathleen (Daniel) Weisman, Taylor (Jaimie) Miesel, Connor (Alexandria) Miesel, and Ariane Miesel; and great grandchildren: Liam Weisman, Maggie Weisman, and Nathanael Weisman. He is further survived by his sister, Kae (Arden) Kiehlbauch; niece, Heidi (Jake) Daub; and a nephew, John Kiehlbauch.

In addition to his parents and in-laws, John was preceded in death by his wife, Janice (Brown) Miesel, and his sister, Carole Miesel.

Family and friends may visit at Racine Bible Church, 1205 Spring Street, Sturtevant, WI from 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, March 12, 2020. A celebration of John’s life will begin at 11:00 A.M. with Pastor Darien Bowers of Racine Bible Church officiating. A burial service will be held at 2:30 P.M. at West Lawn Memorial Park in Racine.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be designated to “The Alness Camp and Conference Center” for the Guyana Building Project Fund and sent to Partners in Evangelism International, 5518 W. Diversey Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639, [www.piei.org](http://www.piei.org).

# Cemetery

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**West Lawn Memorial Park**  
9000 Washington Avenue  
Mount Pleasant, WI, 53406

# Events

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**MAR 12 Visitation 09:30AM - 11:00AM**  
Racine Bible Church  
12505 Spring Street, Sturtevant, WI, US, 53177

**MAR 12 Celebration of Life 11:00AM**  
Racine Bible Church  
12505 Spring Street, Sturtevant, WI, US, 53177

# Comments

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“ God gave us the special blessing of meeting with John like countless others when confirming that the Lord would have us serve in missions through UFM (now Crossworld). His patience, calm & clarity helped us immensely! He will be greatly missed until we are with him in heaven. -Matt & Joy S.

**Matt & Joy S.** - March 27 at 03:02 PM

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“ John Miesel was one of the godliest men I ever knew. He truly loved God and others. He made a valuable contribution to the life of Aldan Union Church in the Philadelphia area when he served in the home office at Bala Cynwyd. He helped us when we were between pastors at a time when his calm, loving, and wise influence was badly needed. He was a great example to me personally, and to many other lives he touched. We will always hold his memory dear. We are grateful to the Lord for providing the man we needed at a pivotal time in our church history. Our love and sympathy to Bryan and Brenda and the rest of the family. I am very happy for John. He is in a place specially prepared for him by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Paul Thompson

**Paul Thompson** - March 11 at 10:32 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pastor John William Miesel.



March 09 at 04:57 PM

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“ John was a man of God and missions. He was instrumental in helping my wife and I prepare and serve in South America. He was a real brother in Christ, a colleague in ministry and one of the great leaders who guided Crossworld (at the time UFM International)). He also served the Lord with hardly any recognition but with humility as a servant. Although we grieve his leaving us, we know His home was truly in heaven. We look forward to seeing him again. Our prayers and love to John's family in these days.

**Dwight & Gloria Lehman** - March 09 at 12:27 PM

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“ John was a man who truly loved others and as a missionary leader expressed that love in every decision he undertook. I was greatly blessed to be mentored by him as we worked side by side in the Crossworld mission home office. Thank you, John, for being a man who could be counted on to always act in love for the glory of Christ.

**Boxley B. Boggs** - March 09 at 11:18 AM

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“ John and Jan became precious to Ray and I when we cared for them one winter while Kae was in Florida. Jan fell and fractured her pelvis during that time so I'm so glad we could help them at that time. We became close friends, and we have great memories of those days. They gave their lives to serving the Lord.

**Ray and Kathy Paradowski** - March 08 at 09:07 PM

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“ I have known John for 40 years. His life truly reflected the mind of Christ. He was a wonderful example of what it means to be a Christian. Thank you, John for being faithful to the end. Your hope has now been realized, and your reward will be greater than you ever imagined. Praise God! My condolences to the family. You can be very proud of this man!

**Scott Olsen** - March 08 at 02:54 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pastor John William Miesel.



March 08 at 01:51 AM