



Ronald Charl Louw

JAN 11, 1936 - MAR 20, 2013



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Ronald Charl Louw

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Ronald Charl Louw was born in the beautiful country of South Africa in the town of Springs on a warm, summer day, January 11, 1936, to Izak Charl Louw and Mavis Eileen Futter. Later he was joined by his sisters, Marlene and Beverley and a brother, Brian. At 11 months he contracted polio in his left arm and right leg. He always referred to it as a blessing in disguise – to keep him a little more humble. At the age of 15 he had an operation to shorten his longer left leg and to stabilize his right foot. A few months later he won a regional tennis tournament. He was very active playing cricket, swimming and cycling besides tennis. He had a very inquisitive and imaginative mind which led him to build rockets that caused loud explosions in a metal tree house; build a submarine with his cousins, which promptly sank in the river; pretend he was Houdini and escape from the knotted rope around his leg at the end of the bed; just to name a few.

Ron developed a strong love for the prophets in his youth, as his mother would read their life stories and sermons to him. President David O. McKay was the first prophet to visit South Africa and Ron was able to shake his hand. At that time in South Africa they were not allowing men to have the priesthood unless they could prove their racial background. After visiting the people the prophet corrected that policy. Thus Ron finally became a deacon at age 18. He also met Elder Harold B. Lee, who later became the prophet, and Elder Lee helped him decide to go on a mission before college. This love of the prophets stayed with him all his life and was passed on to his children.

He served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in his native South Africa. While he was on his mission his family moved to Canada with the help of N. Eldon Tanner. Upon his return he took time to travel through the Holy Land and Europe before meeting up with his family in Calgary, Canada. He had many amazing experiences, one of which was going to the temple for the first time in



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London. While visiting in Jerusalem, he was able to bear his testimony to a group of Jewish Zionists.

After living a few months in Calgary, he was encouraged by a friend to attend BYU. With the friend's help he was able to travel to BYU and take the entrance test, which he passed, although he didn't finish the English section because he spent the allotted time reading all of the questions before answering them--so they put him in an ESL class. He did student teaching in Chemistry and Seminary. In May 1966, he graduated from BYU in Psychology with a minor in Chemistry and with a teaching certificate. He met his wife Carol Ann Nicholson of Twin Falls, Idaho, his senior year at BYU. They were married June 1, 1966 in the Salt Lake City Temple. He got lost getting to the reception so his brother stood in the line for him for half of the reception. After their wedding they moved to Ponca City, Oklahoma, to work in the Lamanite Seminary Program. Their first child, Rachelle, was born in 1967. In 1968 they moved to Carson City, Nevada, where he also taught in the Lamanite Seminary Program. While there, Teresa, their 2nd daughter was born. Later in 1969 they moved to Citrus Heights where he worked at American River, Rocklin and Sacramento City College Institutes in Sacramento. There, two more children were born -- sons Ronald Charl Jr. and Keith Spencer. He spent many summers at BYU getting his Masters in Education Psychology and his doctorate in Education, which he completed in the summer of 1976. That year they moved to Chico where Ron became the director of the Chico State Institute of Religion. Through the Church Education Program he and Carol were able to go on a tour of the Middle East. He served as bishop for five years while living in Chico. He was also over the seminaries in Chico and surrounding areas.

In 1988 he was transferred to the UVU Institute (known as the Orem Institute at the time). He taught there until 1997 when he retired. After retirement he busied himself with Family History work. Once his mother-in-law, who lived with them, passed on, he and Carol were able to serve a mission in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They enjoyed their associations with the leaders, missionaries, investigators and members there. In 2007 he was able to return with Carol to South Africa and had a wonderful time visiting with family and friends. In 2009 he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. As



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debilitating as it was, he was blessed to still know us and be able to speak to us until the week before his passing. One explanation is that his lifelong pursuit of learning helped his brain 'work around' the disease.

At age 77, he passed away March 20, 2013 in his home in Orem with his wife and oldest son by him.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Carol Ann Nicholson Louw; his siblings: Marlene Orr (Keith) of Fort MacLeod, Alberta, Canada; Beverley Louw of Laie, Hawaii; Brian Louw (Leslie) of Orem, Utah, his children: Rachelle Pew (Tim) of Cedar Hills, Utah; Teresa Louw of Lehi, Utah; R. Charl Louw (Katie) of Saratoga Springs, Utah and Keith Louw (Amber) of Lehi, Utah. He is also survived by his grandchildren Elder Taran Pew, Timo Pew, Emily Pew, Izak Pew, Micah Pew, Zane Pew, Gwen Pew, Andersen Louw, Holly Louw, Tate Louw and Eve Louw and several loving nieces, nephews, and cousins here and in South Africa.

A viewing, celebrating his life will be held Tuesday, March 26th 6-8 PM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Canyon View Stake Center 575 E 800 N Orem, Utah. Funeral services will be held the following day, March 27th at 11 AM with a viewing prior at 9:30-10:30 AM at the same building. His interment will be in the Orem City Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers please feel free to make a donation to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Perpetual Education Fund, Humanitarian Fund or Missionary Fund, thank you.



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RG

Richard Garrison posted:

Dear Sister Louw and family, I was a student at American River College when I met Brother Louw at the Institute of Religion in 1972. His fellow teacher was David Whitmer of all names! I had joined the church the year before and the gospel was new and wonderful to me. Brother Louw taught several of the Institute classes I attended. He was so welcoming and interesting that I signed up for 4 classes. Unfortunately my college studies suffered but as a new convert I felt I had so much to learn. My goal was to serve a mission and Brother Louw helped me prepare. He was especially kind to me and met with me to answer my many gospel questions. When I received my call to the Japan East Mission, my Bishop asked me if I wanted anyone to speak at church when I left. I immediately thought of Brother Louw. He graciously accepted my invitation to drive to Placerville to speak in Sacrament meeting. I later saw Brother Louw after my mission while we were both studying at BYU. That was the last time I saw him. I wish I would have better kept in touch with him. He had such a powerful impact on a recent convert like me. I hope you'll accept my belated condolences and good wishes. Brother Louw will always have an honored place in my personal Hall of Fame. Sincerely Richard Garrison

May 21 at 6:07 AM

LC

Linda Coleman posted:

Carol and Teresa, My heartfelt condolences to you and your family. Heaven has received a great man, tall in stature, while the living will miss him terribly. I love the details of his obituary. It sounds just like him and what he would do. He is a great gospel teacher and I learned so much from him when I had just gone through my divorce. I looked forward to his classes in Orem always. Are we just so grateful for the truth we know, and that truth is "you will see him again!"

April 9 at 9:47 AM



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NM

Nancy Morgan posted:

Please forward regarding Ron Dear Carol, I always knew Ron was a superior, marvelous soul, but attending his funeral last week confirmed and expanded that perception exponentially! I was really touched by the testimonies of his children, the quotes from his journal and his answers to their questions. (Indeed, your youngest son has many of Ron's speaking and stylistic gifts. Seldom do I hear any speaker with his capacity to relate and connect.) I was honored to join the old guard CES men's chorus during the funeral. It was enjoyable for me to hear that he greatest joy in life as a bishop was to help relieve others of the burden of sin. Truly, he was fully righteous, unique and yet wonderfully human soul, a joy and an honor to know. Seeing Ron there reminded me again why he held such an exalted position in my estimation; that is, he was probably one of a handful of men I most admired and sought to emulate. For example, once, when in charge of an Education Days event, he was CES colleague I called upon to come. His ability to understand people and doctrine and then incisively summarize it was astounding. To this day I remember and employ one of his quotes about pride. Said he, "Pride is faith in anything other than Jesus Christ." Anyway, I remain confident that the Lord's choicest blessings will attend you and yours both now and forever. Your brother, Mike Smurthwaite, Old CES buddy CES Coordinator in Fresno during the 1970's smilesmurthwaite@yahoo.com

April 1 at 10:00 AM

CF

Craig Frogley posted:

Carol, I wanted so to be at Ron's graduation to honor him. I thought so highly of him! We were unfortunately out of town those few days. I still treasure those times together and especially our one on ones. He is a noble and valiant servant of our Savior. May Father's sweetest peace prevail upon you during these transitional times. Craig and Janet Frogley

April 1 at 7:54 AM

FW

Faye Wade posted:

Dear Carol, I have so many wonderful memories of our time together in the California North Area! Many dear friendships were made. I remember you and Ron as loving, kind people. I'm sorry for your loss, but know you'll be blessed as I have been these past 17 years since Bob passed away. With love, Faye Wade

April 1 at 7:33 AM



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BN

Bob Norman posted:

I loved Ron. He was such a good friend. Life was always exciting and an adventure to him. I loved his enthusiasm. I will miss him.

April 1 at 7:26 AM

MH

Michelle Hansen posted:

I didn't know Brother Louw that well, but always knew that he was a really great man. He was always fun to be around and had a warm, fun-loving, happy personality. I enjoyed being in his home and getting to know his children. They are a reflection of their great parents and secure upbringing. We are thinking of you at this time.

March 31 at 6:43 PM

JP

John Pectol posted:

Charl, My condolences to you and your family. Your dad was an amazing man and lived a full life. I was impressed by all of his accomplishments as I read them in the obituary. Sorry I am unable to attend the services. We have had some medical issues in my family. God bless each of you. Your friend, John Pectol

March 27 at 5:13 AM

SW

Steve And Debbie Walter posted:

We feel so honored to have known and loved Ron. His humbleness, knowledge and amazing personality have made us better people. Thank you Carol and family for sharing his amazing life with us all! We are forever grateful that the Lord put Ron and Carol into our lives as I know so many people have expressed. May the Lord comfort you all in your time of sorrow. We are forever grateful for eternal families. Love you!

March 26 at 1:48 PM



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AH

A. James & Gertrude Hudson posted:

Hi Carole and family: Gertrude and I celebrated our 62nd Anniversary on Mar 20th. Isn't it fascinating that just two days after, that we thought of Ron and reminisced about our experiences with him in California, not knowing where he was now or what had happened since we parted so long ago. Now that is far more than coincidence. Our love to all. 208-376-6339
ajghudson04@msn.com

March 26 at 11:13 AM

BO

Bob And Edna Owan posted:

Our heartfelt prayers and special thoughts are with your family at this time. May God continue to bless your family with love and strength. May you continue to remember all the beautiful memories of such a precious life.

March 26 at 6:54 AM

KW

Kennen Steinagel Van Wagenen posted:

You are in my heart, Carol, and I send my love to you and your dear family. I am having a flood of sweet memories of our years together in CES. I'm sure that Ron and Verne are having a fun reunion in a better place. (I wonder if they will be teaching Institute in the same area?) May you have the wonderful peace that the Comfortor brings at this time, and may the dear Lord bless and keep you Carol dear. --Kennen

March 26 at 4:48 AM

KA

Kellie (Barnes) Anderson posted:

I worked as a secretary at the Orem Institute while Brother Louw taught there. Though I did not know him well, he was always so willing to help us in the office with any computer issues we had. It was fun to read his obituary and learn things about him I never knew. He is a great man and I'm glad I was able to associate with him for several years. God bless you, his family, and this time of loss. May you be comforted, and know you are being thought of.

March 25 at 5:25 PM



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DM

Dale C Mouritsen posted:

Ron was a true gentleman and scholar, a terrific teacher, highly respected, and always a joy to be around. We were a part of the CES California North Area together. Blessings and concern to his family.

March 25 at 11:30 AM

SB

Scott And Paula Bergeson posted:

What a blessing to be your neighbors! We loved knowing Brother Louw and his great sense of humor. Sister Louw, you have been such a good example to us in your loving care for him these last few years. We know you will be reunited some day and what a happy reunion that will be. Much love, The Bergesons

March 24 at 2:39 PM

TB

Travis Bailey posted:

Brother Louw is a great man. Please accept my condolences. My thoughts are with you.

March 24 at 12:17 PM

KJ

Kaye Judd posted:

Dear Louw Family, My first acquaintance with you was in Michigan where I met your faithful Teresa, who was serving there as Sister Louw. She was a wonderful missionary who blessed the Holt Ward in many ways. What happiness I felt when we moved to Orem in 1993 and met more of you. Carol's kindness and love are felt by all who know her. Ron's smile & humor will be missed. I loved hearing Ron teach and speak in church. I loved his accent and doctrinal messages. I will miss Ron. I pray heaven's comfort and blessings will be with you now and always. Your family is eternal.

March 24 at 9:20 AM

DS

David & Drusilla Small posted:

We are deeply saddened to learn of Ron's death. We should have visited you both before he passed away. We will be in Florida the day of the funeral or we would attend. Please know that we loved Ron and we love you Carol. We cherish his friendship and remember with fondness the fact that he was David's best man at our wedding.

March 24 at 6:06 AM



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JH

Janyne Hugo posted:

I have such fond memories of our time spent in your home, travelling through San Diego, Las Vegas, etc. and of course having you visit with us in South Africa. Thanks for being such a great part of our family!!

March 23 at 8:38 AM

GS

Gail L. Sauter posted:

My sympathies to the Louw Family. Your father, Teresa, was an amazing man. I can understand why you call him, My Dad, My Hero. Bless your memories. Love is sent to heal your tender heart.

March 23 at 7:00 AM

LC

Leanne Turner Clement posted:

Teresa bsorry about your dad. my prayers are with you and your family.

March 22 at 5:57 PM

JO

Julia Paulson Oldroyd posted:

Bishop Louw was such a huge part of my life growing up. It seemed to me he was always there smiling and cheering people up. When your family moved to Utah it was hard to imagine life without all of you in Chico. I am so grateful to have known him and I send prayers and love your way at this difficult time.

March 22 at 5:52 PM

BA

Blythe And Anne Ahlstrom posted:

During our years living in Chico we had many interactions with Ron, Carol and their family. We knew him as the Institute Director and were blessed by his knowledge of the Church and the gospel. We especially remember his calling as our bishop and benefitted from his direction of the ward and his personal contributions to our life.

March 22 at 10:44 AM



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Susan Bryant posted:

Dear Charl, I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your father. As I was reading his obituary, I was amazed at all his life experiences, all the places he's lived and visited and all the people's lives he's touched. What a wonderful father he was! You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Susan

March 22 at 8:00 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Ronald by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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