

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
For The Life Of



Daniell Rattan

22nd September, 1956 – 5th January, 2024

First Baptist Church of Grand Cayman
920 Crewe Road, Grand Cayman
Saturday, 13th January 2024
at 10am

OFFICIATING MINISTERS
Pastor Bentley Robinson
Pastor Dave Jorge

The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, And delivereth them. - Psalm 34:7

Order of Service

Welcome & Opening Prayer	Pastor Bentley Robinson
Hymn: In the Sweet By & By.....	Congregation
Scripture Reading - John 14:1-6	Ms. Joyce Rattan
Tribute from Wife – Tammy Rattan	Mrs. Faith Codner-White
Tribute from Daughter – Stephanie Rattan	Ms. Kareen Sookoo
Tribute from Son – Stephan Rattan	Mr. Roger Sookoo
Tribute from The Rattan Siblings	Ms. Darlene Rattan
Tribute from Caregiver – Dawn Hylton.....	Mrs. Amelia Maharaj
Tribute from Kassay, Dale & Lee Family.....	Mr. Frank Gallippi
Tribute from Full Gospel Businessmen’s Fellowship International	Mr. Choppy Delapenha
Eulogy.....	Mr. Marco Archer
Instrumental: Danny Boy.....	Mrs. Danielle Roberts
Sermon	Pastor Bentley Robinson
Closing Hymn: It Is Well With my Soul.....	Congregation

Life Story of Mr. Daniell Rattan

Daniell Rattan was born 22nd September 1956, to the late Sonny and Pooniah Rattan at 6 Friendship Road, Iere Village, Princes Town, Trinidad. He was the 6th of 8 children and the youngest boy, and was said to be a fair and mischievous child. Dan attended Iere Government Primary School and then went on to attend St. Stephen’s College up to A Levels. After A Levels he worked at the Royal Bank of Canada and then went on to work at American Oil Company. This allowed him to afford his way through university. He attended the University of the West Indies at the St. Augustine Campus where he achieved his B.Sc. in Economics. His first job after UWI was a temporary job at Naparima Girls School as the first male teacher in the prestigious all-girls school. After Naparima he got a permanent position at San Fernando Senior Secondary School. During his tenure there he pursued his diploma in Education at UWI St. Augustine and then transferred to San Fernando Technical Institute where he taught Accounting.

From a young age, Dan started to attend the New Testament Church of God, Iere Village, where he was very active. He would be the person to open and close the Church as well as teach Sunday School and was very involved with the youth. It was during this time where he first met a young Violet (Tammy) Sookoo, where they became friends and blossomed a relationship between the Rattan and Sookoo families. He would often visit Tammy’s home, where she managed the parlor, and one day she asked him whether he came to see her or for the cheese and salami sandwiches. He would visit every day, before classes at University, after classes at University. During these visits he would play drafts (Checkers) with Tammy’s father, Patrick, who he often times let “win” in an attempt to gain favour with both him and Tammy. After 4 years of cheese sandwiches and “losing” countless games of drafts, Dan proposed to Tammy and the couple got engaged on New Years Day 1984. In March that year he underwent gall bladder surgery and just weeks prior to the wedding day he developed an infection to which his doctor advised that they should cancel the wedding. Dan insisted to go on with everything as planned and they got married on 24th September, 1984, on a very rainy Holiday Monday. Despite doctor’s orders to not travel, the couple enjoyed a week-long honeymoon in Barbados.

Through this union they were blessed with 3 children: Stephanie, Stephan and Aaron. Aaron, the youngest, at 5 weeks old was diagnosed with ventricular septal defect. Through the Community Chest Organization in Trinidad, they were referred to Stony Brook University Hospital in Long Island, New York. In July 1991, Dan and Tammy flew with baby Aaron to New York, where he was admitted from July to November. Dan made several trips back and forth during this time to visit while taking care of Stephanie and Stephan back home in Trinidad, while juggling work, all at the same time. Aaron passed in January 1992, leaving Dan and Tammy in extreme levels of emotional distress. This led Dan to wanting a change of environment and applied for a position in the Cayman Islands. Less than a year later, on 2nd January 1993,

Dan moved to Cayman after accepting a position of Lecturer of Accounting at the Community College of the Cayman Islands (now UCCI) and permanently relocated his young family a few weeks later. Dan loved life in Cayman; it was safe, relaxing, and had good Christian values throughout. With two young children, he took full advantage of the ease of access to the pristine beaches and taught both of them to swim, sometimes he would even bring his wife on those trips. He loved when family visited from Trinidad, and took pride in showing them the island and all it had to offer. He especially enjoyed when his mother and mother-in-law visited and was able to show them that he is safe and secure in this, then foreign, land.

Dan and Tammy didn't have much trouble finding a place of worship in Cayman. They quickly assimilated and became members of the First Baptist Church, Grand Cayman. He was able to form lifelong friends and relationships early on through casually meeting families through visits to the beach, grocery store visits, parents at the schools and other community events.

Whilst working full-time at the college, Dan pursued his MBA through distance learning at the University of Bangor, Wales. Moving from the college, he was then employed as a financial controller at Indies Suites and shortly after he was employed at Deloitte and Touche. While working at Deloitte and Touche, he was headhunted by The Cayman Islands Government to train all of Government's accounting personnel in Accrual Accounting. Due to this shift in Government Accounting, every department now required a Chief Financial Officer, of which Dan applied and was a successful candidate for the Ministry of Health. He stayed in this position and was then promoted to Deputy Chief Officer in 2008. From then, his health declined and his role shifted to Compliance Officer until his early retirement in 2014.

Dan's complicated medical history started in the early 2000's. Initially due to needing a surgery for a second cataract, the required labs the day prior to the surgery showed that Dan had kidney failure and was advised to get on a donor's list as soon as possible. During the evaluation interview in Wisconsin, the protocol required a Cardiac Catherization, which he had recently had done a few months prior in Miami. This led to Dan's name on the donor's list to be on hold until the Cardiac Catherization was repeated. Back in Miami, the cardiologist gleaned that to repeat this test would "defy logic" and that they would come out laughing in 60 minutes. After two and a half hours, the same Cardiologist came out shaking his head in disbelief at what they had found. Immediate consultation was required with the Chief Cardiac Surgeon, who was insistent on scheduling next day surgery for a double bypass, for what they termed "The Widowmaker." Dan was insistent on returning to Cayman first to handle business as Stephanie and Stephan were home for the summer from school in Canada. The surgeon reluctantly agreed and Dan returned to Miami two days later, and surgery was scheduled the next day. After having the cardiac surgery, he then required his first dialysis session. He resumed his placement on the Kidney Donor list and after three and a half years of dialysis in Cayman, on August 6th 2011 he was finally called for the transplant in Wisconsin.

After months of recuperation, Dan relished his new lease on life by resuming work, traveling and celebrating milestone birthdays and anniversaries. After retirement, Dan fulfilled his lifelong dream of building his own house, on a piece of land he and Tammy had purchased more than a decade prior. The newly constructed Rattan residence was moved in on Thanksgiving 2016, shortly after his 60th birthday. This significant accomplishment was his magnum opus as he knew he'd fulfilled his duty to provide for his family. Shortly after moving into his new place, with a conveniently bigger yard, he was "convinced" to finally give in to Stephan's almost triple decade-long plea to get a dog. In February 2017, a young Belgian Malinois by the name of Pudge, joined the ranks of the Rattan family and quickly climbed his way up the ladder to the, playfully competitive, role of "favourite child". Dan, a man who always cleared his plate, now mysteriously found himself saving his last bite of food, and for who, none other than Pudge. Dan loved this dog, more so than we could ever imagine, to the point where he insisted he raised and trained Pudge, a claim that to this day we let him believe.

On the night of October 21st 2019, Dan suffered a major ischaemic stroke leaving him debilitated and completely dependent of care from others. This major turning point in his life shifted the role of his wife and children to being key decision makers, specifically when it came to his health and overall care. Despite the severe physical limitations, his mind remained strong and he was always fully aware of his circumstances. He always wanted to know what was going on, and why.

During what should have been his rehabilitation period, he experienced constant medical complications that halted his projected recovery. These complications kept him abroad in Florida leading to one of the intensivists recommending the family looks into palliative care as under his circumstances, he would not be making it back to Cayman. Not only did he make it back to Cayman, his journey was far from over. Dan narrowly escaped the lockdown of COVID-19 and returned home on January 14th 2020. Whilst back home, Dan received nothing but the best care, with his wife Tammy as his greatest resource and advocate for every step of the way. This along with Dan's always positive attitude, his resilience, and his deep rooted and strong faith in God, allowed him greater time with his loved ones. All through his struggles, he still found time to bless and pray for others further exemplifying his selflessness.

After over 4 years of stoic fighting against the hardest trials, both mentally and physically, Dan continued to reassure those closest to him that all will be well. The life Daniell led was a success by every measure.

In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "What is success? To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate the beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded!"

By this account, Dan scored full marks.

On Friday, 5th January 2024, Dan peacefully went to be with the Lord. His fight was finally over and he earned his well-deserved reward.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Tribute from Wife– Mrs. Tammy Rattan

My Dear Dan,

While my heart aches and is broken in pieces beyond infinity, I thank God for healing you! For taking you out of physical pain. For giving you eternal joy and perfection, which you rightfully deserve.

Serving you was never a chore, it was an honour. I will cherish the many years of our lives together, despite the ups and downs, we've always managed to come through victorious. Our 'Just in time God' proved himself in umpteen different ways.

I am thankful for our children, who are the best blessings we could have been granted! I know how proud you are of them, I thank you for the guidance you always provided; they are examples of you! You will live on in them always.

Dan, my rock. When I got upset, you stayed calm. When I was worried, you said it would be ok. When I wasn't sure what to do, you figured it out. You would say, if we didn't have problems, life will be boring. You instilled in me that in life, there will be people better off than you, there will be will be people worse off than you; live contented. Strive for better, but always be contented. A quality you exemplified. You ALWAYS looked at things rationally and was always positive, and no matter when you were asked, "how are you", you were always "ok". You were completely dedicated to your children in every way – and their strength, is the best sign I could have that you live on through them.

Even after almost 40 years of marriage, Dan and I did not get nearly enough time together, it seems like time is never enough, but as heartbroken as I am today, I am equally grateful. Even in these last few days of completely unexpected turn of events– the darkest and saddest moments of my life – I know how lucky I have been. If the day I walked down the aisle with Dan someone had told me that this would happen – that he would be taken from us, I would still have walked down the aisle. Years of being a parent with him is perhaps more luck, more blessings and more happiness than I could have ever imagined. I am grateful for the love of family.

As we put you to rest today, we know it's only your body. Your amazing ability to give remains with us; it lives on in the stories people will share of how you touched their lives, the love visible in the eyes of our family and friends, in the spirit and resilience of our children. Things will never be the same – but the world is better for the years you lived on earth.

I know you've been met by our son, Aaron, your parents, my brother and parents, and a host of others who've gone on before; you are now basking in the life all of us look forward to in that Sweet by and by. My life without you, will never be the same.

My husband was such a wonderful man. I'm not sure I can really express just how much I will miss him. Not only was he a wonderful husband, but a wonderful father, friend, colleague ... and so much more. Dan's ability to make everyone feel comfortable, secure and his willingness to share knowledge were his greatest assets.

To God be the glory the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord!

Tribute from Daughter – Ms. Stephanie Rattan

Dear Daddy,

To encapsulate the essence of the man who shaped my blessed life is akin to trying to count the stars in the sky - a task as vast, beautiful, and almost impossible to begin to do justice to. But I hear your voice in my head saying, "Steph, just start...".

I'm told that from the moment I was born (and even before) I had you wrapped around my little finger. As we shared stories of you this week, a favourite of mine was of how excited you and mummy were for my arrival, and how badly you both wanted a baby and how no one had ever seen a father so in love with their daughter. You were always so proud to tell the story of how when I was born and the doctor exclaiming, "Now that is a daddy face!" and that I was the miracle baby you had been waiting for.

Throughout our childhood you instilled strong Christian values, the importance of education and maintaining faith and humility, never thinking we know everything there is to know about anything. Not only did you talk the talk, you lead by example. I recall once on the weekend, a pair of Mormon missionaries knocked on our door, both of whom were representing from somewhere in North America. I whispered to you, "Dad, just tell them we have a church of our own and get it over with", but no, you invited them both into the house, you and mum engaged them in conversation about faith and culture and who knows what else and next thing I know they were coming over the next day for roti, rice and dhal and curry goat! When I asked why you did that you simply said, "Steph, you have to be open to what people have to say. You have to learn and understand other beliefs so you can better inform yours. We cannot be so close minded. Jesus hung out with everybody, why shouldn't we? Plus, your mother was making curry goat!".

I loved how you were able to relate to every person you came across, having conversations and giving advice that actually made a difference in their lives. You showed how your faith in God helped you endure heartaches in life that many people would crumble under. You gave your testimony by just being yourself. Your quiet wisdom resonated with people. It is so humbling to be your daughter and know I had open access to your life and your mind whenever I wanted. You had a saying, that we must always "trust but verify", and for a long time I thought you were just a sceptic about everything (which you definitely were). Now I realize what you really wanted me to be was kind yet curious, always wanting to know more, do more, and do good. Never becoming complacent or thinking the world owed me anything but that everything I would ever achieve in life should be earned through hard work and faith in God. You were such an advocate for education, beating the books with not an option and coming in second place only showed room for improvement. I'll never forget the maths workbooks as birthday gifts and extra lessons after school with you because the teacher didn't teach me the "right way".

Despite your desires for me to follow in your footsteps and get into the accounting field, you were so supportive of my career choice and was my biggest support while I was studying for my Masters in the UK. You even mastered how to video call me and listened to me talk through countless journal articles on autism & disability studies for hours at a time. You were my number one supporter in any adventure I have ever gone on and encouraged me to travel, even in your lowest days saying, "Go, you're young, I will be here."

You loved your life and it showed, always content yet always up for a new experience. I am so grateful for the lasting memories that were made on our trip to England and Paris together in 2017. I did not realize in those moments that visiting Stonehenge, the Eiffel Tower and surprising you with tickets to a first day test match Windies Vs. England at Lord's Cricket Ground would be the trip you would talk about over and over after your stroke in 2019. You were so thankful to me for that trip which baffles me to this day because I wish we could have travelled the world together.

In the last few days and weeks you kept telling mummy, "I'm praying for you Tammy, you will be ok." Rest assured dad, we will all be ok, mummy will be ok. We owe that all to you and the example you set for how, no matter what, to always love and take care of each other. There will never be a shortage of you in our lives because you define everything about who we are and will forever be - The Fantastic 4. I will always strive to be strong like you, fight like you and will definitely be stubborn like you...mummy and Stephan will just have to put up with that.

Your smile, your corny dad jokes, your hand squeezes and your "hi babe" every time I walked into the room are things I will miss, but I will remember you in each moment of every day for the rest of my life. I love you, daddy, rest back your head and sleep now.

Your favourite daughter,

Stephy

Tribute from Son – Mr. Stephan Rattan

I can hear it now, “Son” in that deep resounding voice. Chills down my spine when I nervously went to see what you called me for, always expecting I did something to get in trouble, only for the follow up question to be “What it have to eat?”. That was you to a tee, authoritative but yet so candid. You exuded comfort and goodwill, nothing makes me prouder to have you as my dad. To condense every fond memory would take a lifetime. The highs were high and the lows were scary, but through it all, you always reassured us you were “Ok”.

We didn’t grow up with much, but you never made it seem like it. Looking back at my childhood when others around me were getting all the new games and phones you always found a way to make sure I had something to hold me over. You instilled a powerful mindset with me to always “live within your merit”, to never base my happiness on what my neighbour or friends have, but to be grateful for what I have instead. Your values were so powerful and true, and I am blessed to have your guidance and mentorship.

You were so well known around the island, being the only Rattans made it easy to be recognized. The name meant something and there were countless conversations that I have had that involved “Oh, you’re Mr. Rattan’s son!” It seemed like every grocery store visit you’d run into a past student or colleague. They would strike up conversation with you, and once over and they were out of earshot, I’d ask you “Who was that?” and you’d reply with a chuckle “I don’t know!” Your positive impact was laid on so many lives, more than you can imagine. I’m sure God has a nice healthy tally for you in heaven for you to look over and show off to Aaron.

You made time to spend time with me, whether it be allowing me to stay up late night to watch Jay Leno, or buying a pizza and parking by the airport to watch the planes. We shared a love for cricket; I remember staying up watching the World Cup and seeing all the greats of that era play. I remember when Cricket Crazy was in Cayman and all the famous West Indies players were here and I didn’t know who was more excited between the two of us. You were ecstatic to meet Sir Vivian Richards, excitedly holding me by the shoulders and gleaning, “You know who that is?? You know who that is??” It was one of my fondest memories to be able to relate to someone who I’ve looked up to, seeing you so excited and jovial.

You taught me to drive, which looking back seemed very tactical because I ended up being your personal chauffeur to your appointments, grocery runs and monthly bill payments. You made sure to show me how everything you did was done, so I could take the reins when needed. You loved being in control for the family, but you knew when to delegate and how to support when you couldn’t do things yourself. You were a true master of tact and organization and you have undoubtedly provided and cared for our family beyond all limitations.

You were selfless with me, you always said “What’s mine is yours.” I remember when you were in the hospital and I’d visit, I would just eat your hospital food without even thinking and you wouldn’t say a word. You tried to protect me from telling me how sick you were because you never wanted me to worry. To the end you always thought of others before yourself and that strong character fortifies the immense respect I have for you.

The most lasting and cherished part of you for me, is your unconditional love for our dog, Pudge. You loved that mischievous ball of fur more than I can ever imagine, he could do no wrong in your eyes and you were always the first to defend him, even before me. After your retirement I used the leverage of the benefits of you having a companion to my advantage in order to get him. Little did I know that our newest addition to the family would bring you so much joy and pleasure. You never wanted him in his crate, you always said he should be able to run free and that you would watch him while I was at work. You watched him alright... you watched him bite up the chairs, pull down paper towel rolls and create chaos around the house, but you were never angry at him. Your compassion for him was utterly heartwarming and I fondly remember our nightly traditions of turning off all the lights, and locking the doors, and you leaning up against the wall by the kitchen and petting him until it was time to go to bed.

Your bond with him most wouldn’t understand, but seeing you comatose and the video of Pudge barking waking you up said all we needed to know that he was more than just a dog to you. You would always save scraps for him, even when I told not to, and you loved petting him laying by the couch with you whilst you did your Sudoku’s and watched the news. Every time I see him, it will remind me of you and it will always replenish my coffers of happiness in my time of need.

To continue speaking of your strong will and resilience will take all the ink and paper in the world. You’ve lived through enough and have touched so many lives. You truly were a man of God and you have earned your reward.

Rest Well, Dad.

Tributes from The Sookoo Family

Patricia Ramjattan and Family (Sister-in-law, Brother-in-law, Niece & Nephews)

Dan, you displayed exceptional humility for a person who was so very well educated. Your love for babies was also evident. When you joined the family, this was exemplified. We had a toddler at the time who looked forward to play with you whenever you visited. Joann remembers when you drove her home from school, taught her in Sunday School, got her into Technical College, when she did not know what to do. Thank you.

Moses Sookoo and Family (Brother-in-law, Sister-in-law and Nieces)

I have many good memories of you, whenever you and Tammy would travel to the US, Rita and I would meet and stay with you wherever you were. We enjoyed many "Happy Hours" together. RIP Brother-in-law – Moses. * You were always a contented person, never complained about anything – Rita. * Uncle Dan, whenever we spoke about you, everyone said the same, you were so strong. In spite of everything that you had to endure, you fought a fight that not many would be able to withstand. Whenever we saw you, if anyone ever needed anything, you never hesitated to give it to us. Forever thankful for your generosity and will cherish the times spent with you- Kareen. Uncle Dan, you were always Super Uncle to me. You endured a lot, but always kept a positive attitude and fought to get better no matter what obstacle you face. I'll always remember the day we went shopping all day together in Kirk Freeport, when I visited Cayman many years ago. You took me to the best shops to buy perfume and jewelry. It was the best time. I will always cherish our time spent together. I'll miss you Super Uncle – Kim.

Suraish Maharaj and Family (Brother-in-law, Sister-in-law, Nephew and Nieces)

It was my great pleasure to know you and to cook for you, I think that you were my # 1 fan of charsue kai fan. You were a great brother-in-law – Suraish. * Uncle, we had a business plan to put in motion - our doubles stall in Grand Cayman. Thank you for your quiet but assured love you showed through your actions and concern, which went deeper than words – Nadia. * It was always nice being in your company, truly a humble and kind person who gave good advice and always meant well. I will never forget you – Kerry. * Although Uncle Dan always had a wealth of knowledge and advice, he taught me more in the way he lived: to never lose faith in God, to always love and support your family and to embrace each moment and simply enjoy life...and good food. Your tender heart, warm embrace, generous hand and gentle smile will always remind us of the great man you were- Krystal.

George Sookoo & Family (Brother-in-law, Sister-in-law, Niece and Nephew)

You were never materialistic, always kind and generous with anything you had. Always thought of others – George. * I learned a couple of lessons about life from you: your emphasis on the importance of education, to live fully in the present, savour each moment and don't reserve the joy of life for retirement, embrace the richness of experiences now, to always give without hesitation. Despite all medical conditions, you always kept a positive attitude – Tricia. * Uncle Dan, you showed great strength throughout your life, especially your latter life and always maintained a positive outlook. Your sense of humour and love for family will always be remembered – Samara* I will miss you Uncle Dan greatly and will forever cherish the Marvel superhero conversations we had together - Liam.

Annelise (Sister-in-law)

You were a very humble, simple person and peacemaker. An intellect, who had very easy and simple methods of solving difficult accounting problems. I was always intrigued with what you had to say. I would miss those conversations, especially when you were ill and when asked, "how are you, Dan?", you would always say you had no pain and was doing well. May you rest in peace and I am sure Aarie is waiting to welcome you into heaven.

David Sookoo & Family (Brother-in-law, Sister-in-law, Nephews, Grand Nephews & Nieces)

You were an amazing brother-in-law to my wife Dolores and myself. For over 40 years, you were a remarkable uncle to my sons Roger & Robert and their respective families. You always welcomed us to your home in Cayman and ensured we were comfortable and well entertained. You were also a loving Godfather to our grandson Joshua. We love and miss you for being so wonderful to us. Our loss is Heaven's gain.

Kevin Sookoo & Family (Nephew, Niece-in-law, Grand Nephew & Niece)

The most profound advice you gave to me: strive to be content, because no matter your status in life, someone will have more while others may have less. I will miss the guaranteed family dinners with everyone whenever we visit Cayman, a tradition you held steadfast to, without fail. Family first. Always. You were an inspiring teacher who remained God-fearing, humble and witty throughout your life. You treated everyone like family, you did not covet, nor were you jealous. On behalf of everyone you touched, Uncle, we adored you.

Tribute from Caregiver – Mrs. Dawn Hylton

Farther along we'll know all about it,
Farther along we'll understand why,
Cheer up my brother, live in the sunshine,
We'll understand it all by and by.

Daniell Rattan. Daniell Rattan was a Christian! Many times, he had shared his faith with me; one of our grandest conversations we had, he said with a very cheeky tone, "I don't know why my God has not healed me", so I said teasingly, "He has it for you on the other side of heaven", but in fact it's true. God has a new body for Dan, the man in the van. I mean, lost men don't talk like Dan, especially in the condition Dan was in. They curse at God! They blame God for their troubles and all the wrongs in their lives but not Daniell Rattan.

I met Mr. Rattan about 25 years ago before I became his caregiver. He is an educator, he was always encouraging me to be a nurse even before he got sickly. He told his wife Tammy, that he would want me to take care of him and his wish came true. Sometimes we had fun times laughing and he would tell me that I am doing a good job, and other times it was not that at all. At times he would say "Why are you here? Go back home Dawn." Other times he would say, "Dawn you playing doctor?" Other times he would be asking how Robert, my husband, was doing and how are the kids. There was never a dull moment with him. It was my pleasure working with Mr. Rattan. May his beautiful soul rest in peace.

Tribute from Mom, Dad, and the Kassay, Dale and Lee Family – Written by Mrs. Theresa Kassay (Mom)

Remembering Dan

What is family? Is family the parents and siblings to whom you are born? Yes. Is family the community of faith to which you belong? Yes, but family can also consist of those who choose to love you, and those whom you chose to love in return. That's the type of family we are with Dan, Tammy, Stephanie and Stephan. Our first encounter was a meeting by chance in a hospital waiting room when little Aaron was hospitalized in Stony Brook, New York. Did I say "by chance?" There is no such thing. Rather it was, I believe, all arranged by God who had a marvelous plan, a plan for us to grow a family of love.

Through the years, although mostly physically separated by distance and circumstances, still we have maintained a close relationship, sharing life and love, joys and sorrows. Visits, cards, texts, gifts, phone calls, video chats and photos went back and forth between us, much as any family might do, and we are family.

There are many things about Dan that we remember fondly. His faith in his Lord and Savior Jesus. His love for Tammy and their children. His child-like joy at seeing his first snowfall. His acceptance of, and respect for others. His generous spirit. His peaceful contentment sitting before the fireplace. His interest in the world around him, and his excitement in new experiences. His kindness in sharing himself and his family with us. His beautifully radiant smile which was absolutely contagious. But I think the thing that is foremost in our recent memory is to admire the strong, faithful man he was. He was a wonderful example to each of us in our family as he made his journey through life. When Dan and his family lost their precious Aaron, he grieved deeply, but kept his faith and continued on. When they needed a change and he wanted a better life for his family, he struggled, but kept his faith and moved his family to a new country and went forward. For numerous years now, he faced myriad health challenges, but he kept his faith and did his best as husband, father, relative and friend. In recent years, he was disabled and suffered greatly in many ways, but he kept his faith, endured with dignity, fought to be the best he could be, and he loved and was loved through it all. Dan was not only a wonderful example of a godly man, but he was a precious gift to each of us. We treasure our memories of him and we will miss him terribly.

I think Dan can say, "I have fought a good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith." And I think God might reply, "Well done, good and faithful servant.... come and share your Master's joy."

We love you, Dan. We always will.

Mom, Dad, and all the Kassay, Dale, and Lee family

Tribute from Family Friend – Mrs. Lisa Gager

Mr. Rattan or Dan “The Man” as he was often affectionately called, is truly going to be missed.

Being called, Tam’s Best Friend, Sister from another mother or just Lisa was fine with me. I answered to them all. However, being the “Third Wheel” on birthdays and anniversary trips with Tammy and Mr. Rattan is certainly the most special of them all. Who ever thought to have a third person travel with you and your wife for “your” birthday and anniversary trips”? That’s me the “Third Wheel”. Mr. Rattan wanted me to be there to join in the celebration and of course because he was also thinking of Tam having her BFF and not just of himself. That was Mr. Rattan, always thinking of others above himself. Perhaps his only time of thinking of himself was when a special treat with his name on it was delivered, for that he reminded Tam and Dawn that Lisa said “she brought it for me”!

Times spent with Mr. Rattan and the entire family has been times of laughter and tears but through it all he showed his humility and appreciation for life. Never one to complain! Our conversations were always with words of encouragement and advice and to always lend a helping hand where necessary and I am sure many others can attest to that as well. Given his medical circumstances, his zeal for local and global happenings never diminished.

Mr. Rattan, Hassan will miss your one on one conversations and the encouragement you gave him.

Missing you will be an understatement Mr. Rattan. Rest assured that I will forever be the “Third Wheel”.





