



Celebrating the Life of...



Bernard Etheart

June 4, 1937 – January 18, 2024

Obituary

BERNARD ETHEART was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on June 4, 1937. He was the first-born child of Emmanuel Ethéart and Alice Mentré. He grew up with a sister, Marie-Claude, and a brother, Régis. Early on, his parents realized that he was quite smart but strong-headed. He went to grade school at Petit Séminaire Collège St. Martial, in Port-au-Prince, from 2nd to 12th grade. After high school, he studied pharmacy, given that choices for higher education opportunities were limited in Haiti.

Bernard earned a scholarship to further his studies in Germany, where he lived from 1960 to 1972. However, he did not continue his studies in pharmacy. Instead, he chose to study sociology. He could not follow his dream of studying rural sociology, because that specialization did not yet exist in Germany. Nevertheless, once back in Haiti, he became a specialist in rural sociology through his field work.

While leading student groups during the early 1960's in Munich, Germany, Bernard met his future wife, Elsie Colon, who was also there to study and escape the lack of freedom in Haiti. The couple married on May 21, 1965 and shared two children: Bernard Ethéart Jr. and Veronique Pascale Ethéart Taddeo. Bernard and Elsie relocated to Haiti to raise their family in 1972. Bernard first worked as a high school geography teacher. Later, from 1976 to 1998, he taught rural sociology at the "Faculté des Sciences Humaines" in Port-au-Prince. From 1976 to 1995, he was a consultant for the Inter-American Foundation. He also directed the Croix-Fer Project (Belladère commune, Departement du Centre, Haiti) for CHADEV, (Haitian Development Committee) from 1976 to 1987. In that role, he oversaw the building of an irrigation canal designed to bring water to local crops, which permitted farmers to become self-sufficient.

In late 1980, the family was rattled when Elsie, who had become a journalist in Germany, was arrested and exiled during a crackdown on the free press in Haiti. Elsie eventually settled in Miami, and started working with the growing Haitian community there. Bernard Jr. and Pascale later moved to Miami to be with her. Meanwhile, Bernard Sr. remained in Haiti and traveled back and forth to the States. He chose this path due to his commitment to the Croix-Fer Project he was overseeing, and also due to his everlasting pursuit for change in Haiti. From 1986 to 2014, Haiti tried to transition to democracy. The Haitian Constitution of 1987 included provisions for agrarian reform. The Institute for Agrarian Reform (INARA) was created for this purpose. President Aristide chose Bernard as the first director of INARA. He spent 18 years in that role, from 1995 to 2013.

Beginning in 2005, Bernard published articles in the weekly newspaper *Haiti en Marche* regularly. Most of the articles were about land reform, but some also focused on climate change. Many of these articles were compiled into a book "La Problematique Foncière en Haiti," which Bernard published in 2014. Bernard also presided over FONDHILAC, Fondation Haitienne Pour Le Développement Intégral Latino Américain et Caribéen. The main objective of this nonprofit organization is to contribute to Haiti's development in the Latin-American and Caribbean contexts. Bernard had to leave these projects behind to remain in Miami long term. He last traveled to Miami on November 20, 2019, for a short stay. To his disappointment, he was never able to return to Haiti, first due to the COVID-19 pandemic and later because of the ever-worsening security concerns in his country.

Today we celebrate this devoted son, brother, husband, father and grandfather. Bernard is survived by his wife Elsie, his children Bernard Jr. (Sandra) Etheart and Pascale (Larry) Taddeo, his grandchildren Thomas and Bethany Taddeo, his brother Regis (Regine) Etheart, his nephew Thibault (Maude) Etheart, and his nieces Nathalie Etheart, and Amelia Etheart.

Bernard was also a loyal and committed son of Haiti. In spite of his lifelong pursuit for change in his beloved country, he didn't get to see the change he sought more than anything. Nevertheless, his contributions were immense. His influence was indisputable, and his quest for a better Haiti and a better world were immeasurable. Good job, Bernard! You can now rest and be proud.

Celebration of Life...

Welcome.....Senior Pastor, Rev. Matt Larson
New Hope Church

Reading of Obituary.....(French) Danielle Gaspard, Friend
(English) Alain Durand, Family

Haitian Music "Ansanm Ansanm"by DP Express

Eulogies.....Robert Maguire, PhD, Friend
Ralph Suplice, Friend

Video Montage.....Thomas & Bethany Taddeo, Grandchildren

Reflection "Be Not Afraid"by Bob Dufford

Message of Hope.....Rev. Matt Larson

Family Eulogies.....Veronique Pascale Taddeo, Daughter
Bernard Etheart, Son

Closing.....Emeline Alexis Schulz, PhD, Family

Repast

The family would like to invite you stay awhile, join in a light meal and share your favorite memories of Bernard.

Thank You

The family would like to thank every one of you who has come to celebrate the life of a beloved husband, father, brother, grandfather, colleague, neighbor and friend.

Thank you for those who have reached out to the family with your thoughts, meals, acts of kindness and prayers.

Your love and concern during this difficult time are most appreciated.

We are so grateful for all of you.