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Alma Wensi 1984 - 2019

Father Leader Friend

Alma Wensi, the founding project manager of the South Pacific World War II Museum, passed away unexpectedly in May of this year. We are taking the 100-day mark since his leaving us to gather the thoughts and tributes of friends and colleagues to remember our dearly missed Alma.

The words and pictures below we hope will give readers an insight into Alma as a devout man, a family man, a leader, a passionate professional, and for all, a friend.

Edwige and Amirah Wensi:

God has blessed Amirah & I with an amazing father. the late Alma Wensi - born on the Island of Malekula from parents, the Late Morlin & Mahlon Wensi on the 31st August, 1984.

He was known to be a very young, vibrant, humble, independent and intelligent young man, a man who dreamt big, and achievable



Alma, Edwige, and a young Amirah



Edwige and Amirah Wensi:

dreams. His assuring words were always “With God all things are possible” (Luke 1:37).

A man any woman would dream of with unexplainable characters. He was a man with humour, a heart filled with the everlasting joy, portraying a beautiful smile, a very optimistic attitude. Singing or humming a tune or two under his voice, consistent in timing and Loving God more than anything in the world. A silent achiever.

He spent almost 11 wonderful years with what he called his only soul mate or love of his life.

A proud wife I was, to have such a husband and father to my child - who always loved and always was there for us no matter what situations arose.

He had a beautiful 8-year-old daughter Amirah Eve Wensi, that he raised to be of similar character to his and trained her to be what he calls “A Jesus Girl”.

The Museum Project was a blessing to his life. He got to meet familiar faces, and visitors. Not only was he able to pray for his peers first thing in the morning but last thing before the office was closed.

The most outstanding character he had was the unconditional Love for everyone around him whether he knew them or not. He’d prayed for anyone he met, and he’d encourage them of God’s word.

God allowed on the 25th May 2019, the late Alma Wensi to rest in Luganville, on the Island of Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu.

Amirah & I always believe our daddy was a beautiful Angel that came to bless us and he now awaits for that glorious day.

Ecclesiastes 3:14 -27 “There is a time for everything.”

We will forever be grateful and treasure the wonderful and memorable moments in our lives that we have shared, dear daddy. We love and miss you every day.

Amirah & Edwige Wensi



Bradley Wood, Chairman Elwood J Euart Association:

The first I heard about Alma was at an association meeting and the glowing reports of the other member that knew him - that he was an outstanding man and we should not miss the opportunity to get him on board the South Pacific World War II Museum project,

My first impressions when I met him was of an articulate, calm, softly spoken, polite and bright young man that clearly lived up to his reputation.

After getting to know him over the years he was heading up the project office the words above only hint of his real ability and his commitment to everything he was involved in - from his work at the project office to the youth group he was so committed to, and his Church and of course his family.

The world was blessed to have had him and the people that had the pleasure to know him are touched by his kindness and commitment. He is missed by all.

As Association Chairman and on behalf of its members I am recommending we dedicate the Library for the South Pacific World War II Museum to be called the **Alma Wensi Memorial Library**.





Jerry Spooner, Director, Department of Tourism:

My first memory of Alma was during university days.

Just the type of person a brother would want for his sister. He was one of the most encouraging people I know, He would advise me often on how to deal with the ongoing pressures from people who do not have the right intentions for Vanuatu. This support increased after taking up my role in the Department of Tourism. His involvement with the development of the Vanuatu Sustainable Tourism Policy must be acknowledged when he worked with the Department of Tourism, highlighting that the Policy should be human centred and to protect what’s important to us and not just focus on money.

Alma reminds me even now that he has passed, what’s important in life and that if you stand up for what you believe in and act with integrity that you will always be protected in life from harsh people and circumstances.

I thank Alma with all my heart for what he has taught me and will continue to embrace life in the genuine and positive way he did.

Mayumi Green, Elwood J Euart Association board member:

The first time I met Alma was at the Espiritu Santo Tourism Association meeting; he was invited as acting manager of Sanma Development Tourism.

The first expression of him was an eye opener as I listened to him talk about tourism in Sanma. I could see how serious and passionate he was towards his work.

So when I heard that he had joined the museum, I was very happy - I knew he would be a great asset for the museum. I met him one time outside of his work at Hideaway Bungalow on the East Coast, he had just arrived by boat from the nearby island camping with church youth. I could see the camping area with many children, and he told me with a big smile that he was leading the group.

Another time I clearly remember was when I visited the mortuary in the hospital when Alma’s father passed away. There was Alma playing a guitar, singing for his father with all his family. The room was full of love.

Alma was someone who could stand up in the middle of the cloud and was easy to find because of his pure positive attitude, like sunshine lighting up where he was. There was no-one like him, and I am missing him for sure.



Jacques Wong, Luganville International School:

I have known the Wensi family since 2016 - they were a freshly arrived couple from Port-Vila coming down to work in Santo, and they had decided to place their daughter Amirah at the newly opened Luganville International School (LIS). The school had brought us together.

In October 2016, after going through some difficult times, the school (LIS) was facing closure, with the previous partners and Initiators having decided that it was too hard for them to manage, due to lack of resources (students, teachers, and funding).

I was away in Australia at that time, attending to my father but through the Wensi family (and Tomomi from the Natangora Café), we had managed to re-open the school within a short period of time (2 weeks) with one teacher and 9 students. From this moment on, I could see that I had dedicated people, parents who wanted only the best for their child.... and Alma was a very dedicated man; as a father and husband, he gave heart and soul.

Alma was also a bon-vivant, we would often gather around a nice meal, and discuss ways to improve the school. Gone too early, too soon, he will be missed, as a friend, and as a confidant.

Stephen Turner, Elwood J Euart board member, and Wendy Turner, museum friend:

I had the pleasure of meeting Alma as a Committee member on the South Pacific World War II Museum project. As with all committees, the members are drawn from a diverse range of personalities, with each having an opinion that they wished to present.

Alma’s strength was his ability to cross over all divides, making you feel included and that your contribution was important. He was an exceptional character and he was able to appeal to the best traits within a person. He was a truly remarkable man, who we are missing greatly.

Wendy: Such a beautiful gentle soul, who leaves a trail of beautiful memories.

Jessica Ben (school mate & friend):

A leader and good friend with a heart of gold. Focused and determined when he set his mind to a goal and led with passion. He led us with humility and kindness and was a true friend to all. His life is a role model to those who were privileged to know him. Dearest friend, your legacy lives on - Rest in Peace.



Bresit Malisa, Youth Group Secretary, Sarakata Centenary Presbyterian Church in Santo:

I came from the island of Malekula where our late dear leader Alma Wensi was from. I had known Alma for almost 3 years as part of our youth group.

The first time I saw Alma was during a Sunday church service with his lovely wife Edwige and beautiful daughter Amirah.

The following week on Friday evening, I was at the church getting the lights on and preparing the church for our daily Friday worship with the youths. Suddenly from the door came Alma and his family smiling into the Church, shaking hands with me and settling in and playing guitar and singing songs.

That night he really surprised the youth because from a distance they could hear the melody of the singing and guitar sound which just touched the young people's hearts.

That was the time he starts attending our youth group and where our relationship with him and his family start to grow closer and closer and we came to a stage where we youths started treating him and his family as our own blooded family.

We then elected him as our youth group leader and from there he became father to almost 30 young people in our youth group; treating them as his own daughters and sons. He sacrificed so much for us. He never complained or got angry with us. He was a man full of happiness and peace.

Our hearts were in deep sorrow and pain because, we did not expect to lose him that fast. But our belief is that our good Lord has his plans for our life, and we know that our dearly late leader was saved already.

What he has thought and shown us through his teaching will be always remembered and carried on. He had so many plans and so much vision. But we pray that we will honour him. He did not only impact the young people but also all the church members who came to know him.

Alma Wensi, you were truly a great blessing to everyone. We will always love, remember and cherish you.



Mary and Rayman Leung, Elwood J Euart Association board members:

My husband Ray and I first worked alongside Alma when he was Manager of the Tourism Department and when that position ended, we suggested to Alma he consider coming to work for the South Pacific World War II Museum Project.

Alma had the foresight to see that this project (still in its infancy) had huge potential and that it was a great opportunity for him to develop his career and hone new skills.

Alma became our first employee at the Museum and his work ethic, commitment, passion and most importantly integrity were something to behold.

Alma was daily a source of calm in the chaos; a smile was always close at hand and his quiet unassuming ways ensured that he was well respected amongst his peers and all those he met.

He had the opportunity through his work to meet Army Generals, High Commissioners and International dignitaries. There is no doubt he left an impression on all these people and was an amazing representative of the Ni Vanuatu people.

The Museum project would not be in the position it is today without Alma’s hard work and dedication, he is truly missed.

Kevin McCarthy, Volunteer Service Abroad volunteer:

I had the pleasure to work with Alma at the project office alongside Marina Moli. We were I think a little family, ending each day with a prayer often led by Alma. I was always amazed by who Alma would include in those prayers and would seek divine protection for us all.

On a professional note, I come from a broadcast journalism background and was stunned by how good Alma was as a communicator. Doing an interview is not easy, but Alma was a natural.

Shortly before his passing, he’d been excited to be offered a regular radio slot on behalf of the Museum project and was thinking of all the ways he could make that interesting and engaging for Ni Vanuatu.

Sadly, his voice has fallen silent, but his legacy will inspire others as we go forward.



James Carter, Project Manager:

I was fortunate to work closely with Alma in his role as the Manager of the South Pacific World War II Museum project. In the four years we worked together I felt we'd known each other for a lifetime, with the genuine friendship he showed me time and time again.

His unwavering enthusiasm and the thanks he showed for everything I created for him and the Museum, no matter how insignificant, made me feel as though I'd just presented him with something to be cherished. It was that appreciation for the even the smaller things that I will fondly remember of him.

Alma's wonderful ability to engage with anyone from senior government officials to schoolchildren visiting the Museum Project Office was amazing to watch. No matter who he was talking to, he could bring out a smile in anyone with his sincere warmth and compassion and a genuine interest in what they had to say.

While we were in different countries - he in Vanuatu and myself in Australia - I never felt we were far apart. I think that was reflected in the sincerity of the closing of every email he ever sent me with just one word, 'blessings'.

Joanne & Tabe (school mates and friends):


Alma was a gentle giant and lived a life of impact with Christ at the centre of it. During the various stages of his life he has touched the lives of many, from children to the elderly. May we continue to walk and share his legacy and live a life to impact others.

Gone but never forgotten Alma Wensi.

We hope you've enjoyed our memories of Alma, and the immense contribution and difference he has made to those who knew him.

Our next newsletter returns in September with new developments in our work, and our regular features. We look forward to seeing you then.



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