

Stan Maes, PhD

Colleague, Lifetime friend.

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I met Stan in 1986 at the first meeting of the European Health Psychology Society in Tilburg, the Netherlands. Rather than the typically enjoyable, though forgettable meeting, it was the beginning of a 32 year friendship that enriched work and added an extra joy to life. We were not the best or should I say most respectful of attendees, as we exchanged glances, nods of agreement, expressions of disbelief, and posed annoying questions during several presentations. We quickly realized that we shared a common vision of behavioral research: it must describe the mechanisms underlying and generating behavior. Research should deepen our understanding as to how behaviors start, unfold and stop in real time in contrast to identifying variables that predict a behavior without addressing "causal" mechanism. This put us at odds with presenters who were satisfied with predicting outcomes, using scales to assess what were assumed to assess stable but complex, individual differences and transient states, ignoring how these predictors related to underlying processes. We also shared a strong desire to support and encourage young investigators to take chances and innovate rather than simply repeat the ideas of their mentors. This was followed by our co-editing a series on Health Psychology and repeated meeting at numerous conferences around the globe.

Far more important however, were our twice yearly travels together for over 20 and the various antics that unfolded that brought mild scolding from our wives. We walked, used local transit in Tokyo, Kyoto, Venice, Florence (with my

granddaughter in tow), Spain (where we "rescued" a bench from a hotel courtyard and elevated it to a higher floor where it could better serve humanities and our needs), Gibraltar, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, and Mexico where we climbed about Aztec ruins. Our European visits were "blessed" by Stan's insistence on "price-quality" lodgings, rooms that required ascending multiple flights stairs, were economically reasonable and suitable therefore for maintaining health. Our travels in South Africa was especially memorable for Stan's skills at the wheel, rapid reversal of gears, and turning about to avoid an encounter with 4 huge, elephants lumbering toward us.

We visited Leiden multiple times where we gave talks and participated in doctoral ceremonies and attended a chamber music concert at Peter De La Court Hall, arranged by Stan and our daughter Sharan (the house staff was enchanted – it was the first such event). And we remember trips to the seaside, to museums in Antwerp and the Netherlands, and multiple interesting restaurants. Most of all, we remember Stan and Veronique's wedding, and festivities with Stan's brothers and sisters at a riverside restaurant. And Stan, the wunderkind of the kitchen, created endless dishes for our delight. Not all is happiness for those who are "family"! Hospital visits for Stan's mother, Elaine's consultation with doctors, and then the onset of Stan's illness; Elaine was on the phone with Veronique discussing medical treatments and likely outcomes. When it was clear that the end was inevitable, we flew to Amsterdam for a brief visit.

Stan radiated an enthusiasm for life that Elaine and I were fortunate to share. Psychology brought

us together and led us to experience the joyful and sad moments that make a life. Though these details and associated thoughts and feeling may seem trivial in relation to our academic work, common-sense tells us they are the core of a full life, experiences that are too easily forgotten when we allow ourselves to be consumed by the pressures of work.

Stan left us too soon.

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