

Thomas Edward Wojcik

July 3, 1946 - September 28, 2001

Tom was born in Chicago, Illinois. At the age of three months, he was adopted by Thomas and Sally Wojcik. He has one sister, Pam. He graduated from St. Joseph's Catholic School for Boys in 1964 and studied art at Southern Illinois University for two years. In 1966, Tom was called into the U.S. Army, including a tour of service in Vietnam.

In 1968, he resumed his studies at the university and then worked at Johnson & Johnson as a research assistant.

At age 26, Tom joined the Unification Movement. From 1973 to 1979 Tom led the fundamental church life, including MFT and witnessing.

Tom and Kitty were introduced to one another by Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon on May 12, 1979, and Blessed in holy matrimony at an international ceremony held in Madison Square Garden on July 1, 1982.

From 1979 until 1990, he and Kitty were CARP members, the movement's campus outreach program. They served as state and regional leaders and as lecturers for 2, 7, 21 and 40-day seminars.

In 1990, they served as international missionaries to Zaire, and in 1991 they traveled to the USSR/CIS where their family remained until 1995. Tom was a district leader in Moscow. Their sixth child was born in a Russian hospital.

In 1996, they went to the Unification International Training Center at Chung Pyung Lake in Korea and took on a humanitarian aid mission (NM) to Pakistan.

In June and July of 1997, Tom traveled to Pakistan. He met numerous leaders and people of the country, and conducted interviews with the prime minister and the majority of the cabinet ministers. While in Pakistan, Tom became violently ill and was saved by receiving a blood transfusion from the Pakistani people.

Tom was diagnosed with terminal liver disease, and in August 1997 after returning to America, he joined thousands of others on a waiting list for a

liver transplant. Although he hoped to move up the list quickly, Tom's health deteriorated more quickly than the list moved.

In June 1998 the surgeon suggested he consider a "living donor transplant." This procedure was almost unheard of with adults and had only been successfully completed twice before. The doctor acknowledged the compatibility of Tom and Kitty's body structure and blood type and urged them to go forward with complete match-up testing. Twenty-one days before the actual transplant, they were identified as a "perfect match."

On October 21, 1998, Tom made history by becoming the third person in the United States to receive a liver transplant from a living donor and the second husband to receive a liver from his wife.

The operation and the outpouring of support and sympathy were extensively covered in the media, including the "Los Angeles Times," "The Washington Post," PBS television, and other media around the world. They were interviewed by the Korean Discovery Television Channel, which said it believed they indeed were "matched by God."

Tom spent the next three years trying to recover but could never regain normal health. Finally in September 2001, he developed pneumonia and passed away from liver and kidney damage due to pancreatitis on September 28.

Tom was a talented artist and musician. He played the guitar, trumpet, and piano. He wrote several fellowship songs, including, "Here We Are in LA." During his time in the Soviet Union, he brought laughter to members by performing as Zippo the Clown. He also made American-style popcorn and served it himself to the members when they came to his home.

Tom and Kitty have six children: Tath (17), Misun (16), Gil Won (13), Sonny (10), Tommy (8), and Natalia (5). Another child was conceived by them and offered to their dear friends Ray and Berti Bacon who had been trying to conceive a child for years but couldn't. His name is Alexis Bacon.