



IPM E-Connections

February 12, 2010

Dear Friends,

It is perhaps the saddest part of my role with IPM to have to share the tragic news that accompanies the death of a member of the IPM Family. It seems like I have been in this position all too often this past year or so, but here we are again...

Early Wednesday, February 10th, we received the tragic news that Dudley Sheffler passed away in his sleep in Key West, Florida. He was 65. Dudley was in the midst of planning IPM's first-ever benefit in Key West at the time of his passing and I was looking forward to flying to Florida next week and extended time together for both of our families. Instead, we have spent much of the past few days on the phone consoling one another and sharing this tragic news with those whom Dudley touched so deeply from Cleveland to Virginia, Key West to Kenya.



*Dudley (third from right), with his two grandchildren, Margaret and Christian, and his spouse, Barbara, with a group of IPM Friends and Staff on an Immersion Experience to Kenya in July 2009.*

Please join us in keeping all those who loved Dudley, especially his family, in your thoughts and prayers. Dudley is survived by his wife of 44 years Barbara Keil Sheffler; their three sons Henry Wick (Theresa) of Richmond, VA, Jamie (Nina), and John (Candace), of Shaker Heights, OH; along with Grandchildren Margaret, Madeline, Matthew, Christian, Brooke, Austin--Margaret and Christian accompanied Dudley, Barbara, and I on an IPM Immersion Experience to Kenya last July and were a tribute to the example Barbara and Dudley set for their entire family--and Dudley's siblings James, Thomas, Ronald, and Laura.

Dudley "came" to IPM through longtime IPM friend, Bill Reichard. Bill was one of Dudley's closest confidants and he accurately surmised that Dudley and I would hit it off and that IPM was the perfect "fit" for Dudley's personal and philanthropic passions. In 2006, Dudley jumped right in after a meeting with Bill's daughter Libby (IPM's current Board Chair) with the first of many handwritten notes over the years accompanying his donation that concluded: "to the leadership,volunteers, and to those around the world that you have our prayers and best wishes."

In the intervening years, Dudley became one of my most trusted mentors and dearest friends. We shared a personal commitment to Gilmour Academy and The College of the Holy Cross but also a passion for justice and peace. Dudley had the rare combination of organizational brilliance and inter-personal leadership. He had a infectious sense of humor and a unique humility about him. And whether we discussed IPM's finances, scholarships for

Cleveland schoolchildren, or a well in Kenya, he always brought his best thinking and more energy than most of us can muster in a week to the task. Dudley was also a man of profound faith and personal care who was not simply a donor to or friend of IPM--he had become an essential part of IPM Family like few others, and touchingly always spoke of IPM as "we." Last November, after I underwent emergency surgery, Dudley sent me a note that still sits on my desk thanking me for my work with IPM and reassuring me that "God's light" continues "to shine on...all we serve." A few weeks later he was encouraging me to join him in crawling on the floor with our son at a holiday party at John and Candace's home. He was one of the first to congratulate Alyne and I on the birth of Kemy this past December and to offer up Barbara as a babysitter for JJ before we even got home from the hospital! While the emotions of Dudley's passing are still so raw, I am strengthened to know that Dudley's light continues to shine on IPM.



*Dudley Sheffler and his wife Barbara on the July Immersion Experience to Kenya in July 2009.*

In his now famous "Letter to a Young Activist," Thomas Merton wrote something that Dudley and I reflected on together as we strategized over and dreamed about the future of IPM. IPM's work is not just about "results" it's about gradually struggling "less and less for an idea and more and more for specific people...In the end it is the reality of personal relationships that saves everything." It was the personal relationships that Dudley, Barbara, and their family have developed with so many members of the IPM Family these past few years in places as disparate as Kenya, Nicaragua, and the USA that will make Dudley that much more missed by each of us.

When another dear member (and, like Dudley, personal note writer) of the IPM family passed away last March: Dudley was one of the first to send me a condolence. At the time he wrote: "I feel like I know this wonderful man and wished I had but its for sure that our continuing work with IPM will be guided by his spirit. Thank you for sharing your reflections. Dudley."

For all of you who knew Dudley I am sure you can imagine him writing a similar note to you and for all of you who were not blessed by his presence in your life please join me in resting assured that IPM will continue to be guided by Dudley's spirit in all we do.

May Dudley Rest in Peace,  
Joe

*Joseph F. Cistone*  
*Executive Director*

*Notes of condolence may be sent to Barbara Sheffler at: 2501 Chagrin River Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022, USA.*

*A memorial service for Dudley is being held in Key West this week. Dudley's funeral mass will be held on Thursday, February 18, at 11 am at Church of the Resurrection in Solon, OH. The wake will be at Brown Forward on Wednesday from 3-5 and 7-9. Memorial donations in Dudley's honor may be sent to IPM at: 3091 Mayfield Road, Suite 320, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118, USA*

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[www.ipmconnect.org](http://www.ipmconnect.org)