



Young, Lyle Robert

1958-2025

Lyle's life was a testament to exuberance, optimism, and a deep joy for living. He steadfastly upheld the principles of honesty, love, and care for others.

Born in 1958 in Kincaid, Saskatchewan, Lyle was the fifth child of farming couple Percy and Kezia (née Martin) Young. After spending his early childhood in Glen Bain, Saskatchewan, the family moved to Regina in 1967 while continuing to farm. Lyle attended Campbell Collegiate, where he immersed himself in music, drama, and a local United Church youth group. He forged many close friendships and maintained these connections throughout his life.

As a teenager, Lyle was a disciplined musician, often practicing the alto saxophone before 6:00 a.m. After high school, he pursued classical saxophone studies at Ball State University in Indiana, U.S.A., where he was first introduced to Christian Science. Lyle's thirst for knowledge was boundless. After earning his music degree, he studied French literature at Laval University in Québec and, remarkably, learned Spanish in just four months before enrolling in a Jesuit university in Buenos Aires to study political science. His curiosity led him on a walking tour of Brazil, where he spent several months in São Paulo and, naturally, learned Portuguese. Upon returning to Canada, he completed a master's degree in political science at the University of Saskatchewan, writing his examinations in French. He further broadened his horizons with a political internship at the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa and a year of MBA studies at Carleton University.

By this time, Lyle had made Ottawa his permanent home. After meeting Barbara and Richard Allen, he became a regular visitor to their home and soon joined the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Ottawa. There, he formed a lifelong friendship with fellow congregation member Eric Nickerson, who introduced him to Elisabeth Salm. Raised in a Christian Science family in the Ottawa area, Elisabeth became Lyle's beloved wife in 1990. For their honeymoon, they shared their love of the outdoors with a canoe trip down the Rideau Canal to Kingston. Their affection for each other was reflected in the terms of endearment they used in Dutch, Spanish, French, and English. Lyle's favorite for Elisabeth was the Dutch "hartendiefje"—"little stealer of hearts." They were a perfect complement to one another, sharing a dedication to Christian Science, community, and the environment, always with sensitivity, laughter, and joy.

It was so clear how happy they were together. They had such interesting rituals: They divided each week into language days—days for English, French, Spanish and Dutch and a system of communication with a tie around the door handles of his office indicating when Lyle couldn't be disturbed. And a hanger in a certain position to tell whether the laundry had been done or not. They spoke everyday on facetime with each other no matter where they were in the world. It was very sweet.

Lyle and Elisabeth regularly opened their home for meetings and dinners for church events, Elisabeth honing her talent for cooking delicious meals and baking delicious cakes, cookies, pies and squares. The question was often asked whether the event was being catered but it was always Elisabeth's home cooking/baking. She always did an exquisite job. Over the years they hosted extended stays for Elisabeth's mother and a nephew. They also lent great support to one of Elisabeth's brothers. Lyle's relationship with the Salm family, both in Canada and in the Netherlands, continued to be important to him after Elisabeth's passing in 2018.

Lyle's commitment to Christian Science became his life's work. After joining the Ottawa church, he began taking cases to pray for healing and eventually became a full-time Christian Science practitioner, helping others realize their innate wholeness. He also obtained the authorization to teach Christian Science, giving instruction every August to students from all corners of the globe; moreover, all these students gathered annually, also in August as a large family and were addressed by Lyle. Lyle received calls for his practice twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and he dedicated himself to this work wholeheartedly. He went to bed early but was always ready to help at any moment, should the need arise. Luc-Anne recalls calling Lyle at two o'clock in the morning when she faced an emergency alone with four young children in Sackville, New Brunswick. Lyle answered the phone immediately and provided such effective assistance that Luc-Anne felt completely reassured, and harmony was restored to her life. This was how he approached everything he did: determined to give of himself with heart and soul. He was a steadfast spiritual warrior—someone who embraced the divine adventure of Divine Love, an adventure he wished for everyone. He also made mistakes and encountered opposition even within his own family but his heart was solidly in the right place and he learned from his mistakes. We're here to learn, aren't we? And mistakes can be teachers.

He served as First Reader at Sunday services and Wednesday testimony meetings in the Ottawa church, presenting sermons from the Bible and "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy. Together, Lyle and Elisabeth contributed to numerous church projects and committees. In 2004, they moved to Boston when Lyle was appointed First Reader at the Mother Church, a role he held for three years.

Lyle's work extended globally. He lectured on Christian Science in more than 35 countries in English, French, Dutch, Spanish and Portuguese, served for six years on the board of Directors at The Mother Church, and authored over 500 articles for church publications. After returning to Ottawa full-time in 2017, he continued to teach Sunday School, teaching his adult students Christian Science practice, mentoring his CS Association students, and maintaining his full-time practice as a Christian Science practitioner.

Lyle's life was defined by his passion for serving others, which he carried out with tenderness, integrity and joy. He was intelligent, well-read, inquisitive, fun-loving, and dependable. His selflessness and ability to see the good in others left a profound impact on everyone he met. Reflecting on his work, Lyle once told a friend, "Why would I not love a job where my boss (God) does the work?"

Niece Amieke: One passion I feel Lyle and Elisabeth gifted me was inspiring a love for language and culture. In all my memories of Lyle, he would be showing to me at least one book written in a language he was studying and explaining to me why it was important or profound to him.

One summer, after graduating high school and deciding on a gap year, Lyle announced that Elisabeth and he had decided to take me along with them on a trip across Africa to visit my aunt Mundie, Fleming and cousins who were then living in Mozambique.

Though perhaps not recognized at the time, during that trip Lyle and Elisabeth planted a seed of curiosity towards culture and language. They expressed a desire for me to expand my compassion across many world experiences by connecting with people living lives much different than my own and brought me along to meet friends and acquaintances of theirs from many walks of life.

Sister-in-law Mundie: During that trip we also went to Namibia and I recall during that journey that Lyle spoke better Portuguese than I—something that I felt was quite remarkable.

Niece Amieke: Upon returning and having no clear direction to pursue previously, I made the decision to study Linguistics at Carleton University, which though abandoned in my third year, has led to my pursuit of Japanese language and culture study, leading me to move and work in Japan.

During my second year living in Japan, Lyle and Elisabeth visited me and we could again be travel companions. What deeply impressed me during this time was the enthusiasm Lyle had for sparking conversation with locals and often noticing small mundane details of cultural differences. One precious memory during that trip was being treated to a home cooked lunch prepared by a kind teacher at the school I worked at and seeing the two banter together. Indeed, Lyle's cheerful friendliness cut through any cultural or language barriers.

Lyle and Elisabeth's aim to increase my compassion led to a tour of Hiroshima's war memorial by a volunteer guide whose mother was a survivor of the bombing. She spoke of her duty to share her mother's story and the message of peace. I found it incredibly moving.

Nieces Harriet and Ana and sister Luc-Anne: We had a great number of wonderful family meals at their place. First in their Kent street apartment on the 23rd floor with hot air balloons floating by their windows—in a magical sort of way—during Labour Day weekend as the Hot Air Balloon festival in Gatineau was happening then...and later in their wonderful house on Stanley Avenue. We enjoyed many family dinners on Elisabeth and Lyle's boat deck; Lyle was always a gracious host and great on the barbecue and always eager to ask us what we'd been up to. He'd often ask us what we'd been reading lately, intently asking questions about it and about what was going on in our lives, committing everything to memory and in turn would regale about the Spanish novel he was reading at the time. Lyle was kind and loving and often quite goofy; we all knew that he would often crack the odd joke or two.

After Elisabeth passed on, and through this loss, Lyle maintained a strong connection with our family, keeping his outlook joyful and positive. He prided himself on cooking delicious meals for himself and others. He expressed his own individuality in doing this, preparing things like peanut butter ice cream pie, his barbecued salmon and the great pot of chowder that he made for a movie

night. He also eagerly hosted many family holidays. So eager, in fact, that the last Thanksgiving dinner that he hosted for us, he cooked a 17 pound turkey for a group of seven including two vegetarians. He also bought seven boxes of stovetop stuffing and three cans of cranberry sauce. Also, we had about ten pounds of roasted chestnuts to add to the stuffing that he had prepared. He was committed to being the best host. We had a great meal together but didn't even make a dent in the spread. Needless to say, we all went home with leftovers for the week. We later learned that Lyle had had a larger vision for all this food. His new neighbours had moved to Ottawa from Spain and he had invited them to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving Feast the following day introducing them to this North American tradition. The Spanish couple with their children and Lyle had a fantastic time together and Lyle sent them home with leftovers as well.

Lyle also made famous fudge which he often, lucky for us, gifted at Christmas. One year Jens and Lyle made fudge together. Lyle asked Jens at one point to pour the fudge into the sink—reasoning that it would be poured into a bowl—Obediently Jens obliged, pouring the whole batch of fudge down the drain. Lyle immediately saw the humour in it. He calmly commented on what had happened and laughed about it. He would reference this instance from time to time in the years afterwards in a teasingly loving sort of way.

Lyle would often stop to visit Ana at work in recent years. When he was passing through the Glebe for errands on his bicycle or showing guests around town. He'd often pull out the book he was reading at the time and they'd chat about it. It didn't take long for even the newest coworkers to become acquainted with him.

Lyle was an adventurous spirit who embraced life with a sense of humour, curiosity, and an infectious enthusiasm. Elisabeth and Lyle were always connecting with all their nieces and nephews.

Lyle would make a deliberate effort to check in on events in their lives—Lyle was always up for a new adventure, whether it was a simple bike ride, a long road trip or a family visit. Elisabeth and Lyle were the best aunt and uncle imaginable. They took their tour of caring around the world, taking time to visit family near and far, from Peterborough, to British Columbia, Mozambique, the Netherlands and even Japan.

A few years ago they visited Harriet in Peterborough and went to dinner—there was a Jazz band playing and Lyle told stories of when he played the saxophone.

Luka fondly remembers a visit in the Netherlands where he gave Lyle a tour of his university which was followed by a delicious Indonesian meal which Lyle treated them both to. Luka appreciated Lyle's boundless enthusiasm. He was always game for any kind of activity—especially one we could do together. He and Elisabeth provided us with bicycles on our visits, no matter our ages. We spent a lot of beautiful hours biking on trails in Ottawa and Gatineau.

A few years ago Luc-Anne and Lyle biked to Chelsea Quebec together to attend a church potluck. And she really appreciated the gentle pace at which they were cycling. That was typical of Lyle—Meeting you where you were at with grace and encouragement.

When Lyle and Elisabeth visited Floris and his family in Port Edward, British Columbia, Lyle got everybody on their feet to go for a run. Lyle jogged enthusiastically on the spot until everyone was motivated. His zest for life was so heartwarming. Floris shares that he will forever miss and love that sweet man and brother.

Likewise, when visiting Roland, Lyle got Schuyler engaged in long distance running. Djies, Lyle and Schuyler, all entered a marathon in Boston, and surprisingly Lyle finished last—Elisabeth smoked him on the last lap! Of course Roland reminded him of that at the celebration of life for Elisabeth. What nobody knows until now is that he came in last because he was helping stragglers to the finish line; carrying them on his back—it was his cross to bear.

Amieke recalls Movie nights at his place where he shared his favorite movies, such as: Audrey Hepburn's "My Fair Lady" and "Maudie". He would always introduce the movie with some historical background about either the story or the actor's lives and provide an impressive spread of snacks for us to enjoy. A testament to his curiosity—he even watched the movie

"Clueless" with Ana and reflected that "it was smarter than I had expected"

Lyle was always very intentional in his gestures and actions and embraced spontaneity and curiosity as well. He looked for opportunities to share what was meaningful to him with those around him and with mankind

Lyle will be remembered as an inspiration to all who knew him, especially by his surviving family members: his mother Kezia (Kai); his siblings Dale, Gary, Verna, Lauren, and Leslie; Elisabeth's siblings Luc-Anne, Roland, Floris, and Mundie; and his many nephews and nieces. His love and kindness will remain forever in our hearts.

The text for this piece was by Lauren Young (Lyle's brother) and various Salm-family members.