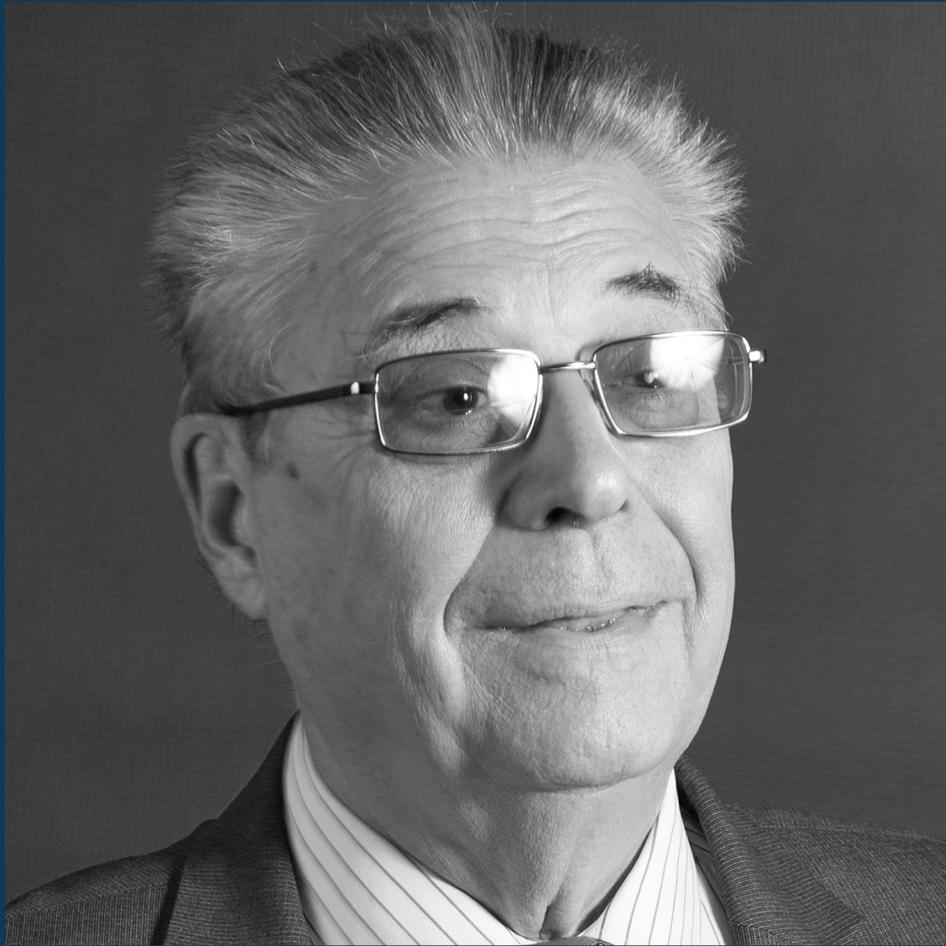


In loving memory of



ALEXANDER BALADAKIS

23 Sept 1942 - 11 Jan 2021

One of Mr Alex's favourite quotes

" Upon the conduct of each depends the fate of all".
- Alexander The Great

Dad

John and Panayotis Baladakis

Dad was never one to wallow over his misfortune, not until we were much older, did we realise the extent of the poverty he faced as a child. Only in the last few days, did we realise just what determination he had to help others avoid the misery of hunger and despair.

We had heard him relay his stories as a child; we remember one day being angry for getting just shoes, not brand name sneakers. At which point, he proceeded to tell us that we were lucky to have shoes that never had holes in them and were not hand me downs. Years later, he would tell us that he had been scared to go to his school reunion a few years earlier. The memories of trying to hide his hunger pangs, of being embarrassed that his shoes were patched and had razor-thin soles with newspaper inside so that his feet did not feel the cold, haunted him. We could see his face in so much pain as he relayed that the jersey, he wore to school was so patched his peers would tease him constantly.

However, one thing Dad did have was a sharp mind and an incredible belief in himself and God and the Church as his protector. He worked hard and studied hard. He was a Father to his siblings from a young age. His Mother and Father were unemployed, much of the household income was his meagre earnings from tutoring and odd jobs. His sister died at a young age and was buried in the Port Suez Greek Church in Egypt, (years later he would refurbish the church and the graveyard that his sister was buried in). At that same churchyard was the Greek school he attended there under a tree “apparently it’s still there” he met the Love of his life his wife and our Mom Kiki Paraskevyy Lefkaridis or as we all know her “Voula”. We are indeed glad that Mom was not so great at maths, and Dad was asked to tutor her.

Fast forward a few years, and under Naser, a revolt in Egypt resulted in most of the Mediterranean population in Egypt repatriating or fleeing to other countries such as US, England, Australia, South Africa. Together Mom and Dad who fell in love and got married in 1965 and who followed my Dads older brother Michael to a strange faraway land called South Africa.

Landing in South Africa in the 60’s, as a foreigner and being classified as an “Uitlander” was no easy feat. Greeks in those days were not popular, Dad remembered the “Tsafenda” saga well and the fear that it caused amongst the Greek community. They somehow found their way to Hillbrow and blended with the Italian and Portuguese and Greek immigrants that lived there. The Holy Beacon of the community being the church, we sit in today, was his place of solace the Cathedral of the Saints he prayed to the most, Saint Constantine and Helen. Dad having arrived in South Africa found himself a very educated man amongst very minimally educated people. Dad could speak and write English, Greek, Arabic and French fluently. He had an engineering degree and would finally become a Chartered Structural Engineer (Cambridge) a few years later.

However, imagine having to fend for his mother his father his two younger brothers still in their “early teens” his wife and his mother-in-law on an engineer’s apprentice salary. Little by little, they scraped together a life in South Africa. we remember him telling us that he would work so much overtime his overtime was more than his salary on some months. Somehow, they saw it fit to have children and so they did, John (Ioannis) 1969 and Peter (Panayotis) 1972.

Dad worked as an engineer until he started realising that he had a problem that would be problematic for him always. His sight. The years of inadequate nutrition we suspect, was what caused him many problems later in life. By the time he passed away, Dad was nearly blind in one eye and had little vision in the other. He had a heart valve replacement and scores of other battle scars. Including a couple of cracks to the head from “hold-ups”. Undeterred, he figured he had enough of working for a boss. A string of business ventures and partnerships later, we found

ourselves working together and running a supermarket. One day he would tell John that there was an old, dilapidated shopping centre that had potential (Kempton Gate), that we should buy it and fix it and open a supermarket there, we did!

God alone knows how (Wow the bravery of that man. He taught us that day that with self-belief and vision anything is possible, over the years we witnessed him do that repeatedly) we recall he had a life policy that had some cash value we think it was R 75 000 we cashed it in and that was how what we now know as the AJP group was formed. Dad and John operated the business. A couple of years passed, and Alex and John, felt they needed a reliable accountant to enable them to grow the business, we turned to Peter.

For years Dad and Mom were never at home for us, we saw them for a few minutes a day the rest of the time they would be working, our two grandmothers ran the show. Gradually and then suddenly we realised that money was plentiful at home and we became some mighty big brats.

By the time we got to university Dad and Mom spoiled us rotten. However, it was a passing phase, and soon we both settled into a great working routine John with Dad and Peter at an auditing firm. Working with Dad was an absolute nightmare. That man was a work machine. However, he was the best teacher one could ever ask for. In life and in business.

For a structured engineer, he made a great retailer, he grasped the concepts of accounting clearly, he could read a balance sheet and income statement and interpret it with ease. What he did not know, he made it his business to learn. Soon the years ticked by and Peter and John started taking over more and more from Dad. Mom exited the business and stayed at home, but regularly popped in to comment on what we did wrong (still does).

Alex's generosity and contributions were recognised, and he received numerous awards and recognitions. The most coveted were Archon (Protector) of the Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa, the cross of St. Mark medal. He was awarded the title of Honorary President of the Hellenic Community of Johannesburg, Honorary President of the Pan-Cretan Association of SA, Honorary Member of the Association of Egyptian Hellenes of Suez. He was a member of the Business Council of the Organisation of Hellenes Abroad as well as an executive member of the Hellenic Federation of SA. In his career he received the Fellowship from the International Institute of Structural Engineers, Legend of the Pick n Pay Group. He was a Director of the Spar Guild, Mr. Spar, Pick n Pay Franchisee of the Year. The Hellenic Parliament awarded him a medal for his contributions to Hellenism, during President Mbeki's state visit to Greece.

Dad started his "semi-retired phase" and ended up working more than all of us again. 27 years later, 1000 staff strong billions in sales and a substantial property portfolio to be proud of and now we lose our beloved Dad Alex.....

Those who knew Dad understood how he was quietly confident you could appeal to his caring nature and get whatever you wanted from him, but that he was fearless in the face of adversity. That he was a genius had a mind that many a time would outwit the likes of accountants, lawyers and professionals. He earned respect and never had to demand it. One felt his uniqueness within moments of meeting him.

Dad had some pearls of sayings

"And now? I never feared poverty, and you think I am going to be afraid of this now?" and inevitably "you must be joking" was the words that followed.

"Boys make sure your job is afraid of you, not you of your job"

Dad wrote a letter to his sons in August of 2020, he must have had a premonition of what would happen. He ends it, "LOVE EACH OTHER, LOVE EACH OTHER, LOVE EACH OTHER" I think he knew one time would suffice but he meant it as, Peter and John Love each other, Peter and John love your wife children and families, Peter and John love those around you.

So, Dad, that is what we will do. Dad, we love you and thank you for all you are were and will make us be. May your soul rest now and be assured your memory will be eternal.



Funeral Arrangements

OFFICIATING PRIESTS

His Eminence, Archbishop Damaskinos
Archimandrite Athos Papaevripiades – Fr. Gerasimos Venturas – Fr. George
Kokonas

CANTOR

Nektarios Mayombo – Costa Savvas

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Collinge and Company Funeral Directors

PALL BEARERS

Alexandros Baladakis - Costantinos Hagios - Dimitri (Jimmy) Baladakis
Jared Glansbeek - John Baladakis – Dr. John Baladakis – John Philippou –
Nicholas Defterios - Panayotis Baladakis

EULOGIES

His Eminence, Archbishop Damaskinos
John Philippou
John Baladakis
Panayotis Baladakis
Alexandros – Alexia - Irene – Eleni - Costantino – Nasia

Thank you.





Αλέκο μας,

Με μεγάλη μας θλίψη έφτασε η ώρα να σε αποχαιρετήσουμε για το μακρινό σου ταξίδι. Ήσουν για μένα φίλος και αδελφός. Ευγνωμονώ τον Θεό που μας έφερε κοντά στη ζωή, έχοντας μια κοινή πορεία με φιλία και αμοιβαία εκτίμηση για πάνω από 50 χρόνια. Έφτιαξες με την πολυαγαπημένη σου Βούλα μια ευτυχισμένη και εξαιρετική οικογένεια και δημιούργησες με τα λατρευτά σας παιδιά αξιόλογες επιχειρηματικές δραστηριότητες.

Προσεφereς ανεπιφύλακτα στην οικογένεια και στην κοινωνία. Βαθιά θρησκευόμενος δεν ξέχασες ποτέ την Εκκλησία και τους συνανθρώπους σου.

Αφήνεις πίσω σου σπουδαία παρακαταθήκη την οποία να είσαι σίγουρος ότι θα τιμήσουν και θα συνεχίσουν η σύζυγος, τα παιδιά και τα εγγόνια σου.

Καλο παράδεισο, Αλέκο μας, θα είσαι πάντοτε στην καρδιά μας.

Νικήτας Μπιλλης



Dear sons I must stress that our father Aleco, Alex, Alecaki, has left a huge crater in our lives. GOD BLESS HIS SOUL AND MAY HE REST IN PEACE PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SYMPATHY FOR THIS GREAT LOSS. TRUST ME I KNOW HOW MUCH WE WILL ALL MISS HIM, ALL THE TIME, THERE WILL BE NOT EVEN ONE MOMENT WE WILL NOT MISS NEED OR MENTION HIM, for the rest of our lives. Please take good care of Voula. His love for her is beyond any description or words in the whole of the Oxford dictionary. My son's if there is anything I can do. Or anything that u need please let me know.

Ζωή σε όλους μας

Και αινοια η μνήμη του

With all our love and sympathy

Ο Μίμης και Τερέζα και Ευβανθια





Some memories from family, friends and colleagues Alex Baladakis influenced

(We have received so many messages from well-wishers that we are not able to publish the full versions of all these touching wishes. Below are extracts of some of these messages. A book of everyone's messages is being compiled and will be presented to the family, friends and communities, together with the condolence books that people have kindly completed. We thank you for the wonderful messages you have sent us.)

Thank you for giving me strength. Thank you for being my mentor and my hero. Your memory will live on forever, Pappouli. Σ' αγαπώ για πάντα.

– **Irene Baladakis**

Papou, I cherish and hold the advice you gave me. You helped me to learn, grow, and become the person I am today. I'm honoured to be your grandchild and carry your name. I hope to make you proud. Οι λέξεις δεν μπορούν να περιγράψουν πόσο σ' αγαπώ Πάππου. Είσαι ολόκληρη η καρδιά μου.

– **Alexia Baladakis**

Daddy, you addressed me as “Kori mou”, “my Daughter” I knew every time you truly meant it, whatever I asked for “Even what John doesn't know about” I got, you spoilt me so much, I love you forever. I will so miss our “hamburger” lunches together — your Daughter Flora

– **Flora Baladakis**

Papou Aleko, you truly brought light into all of our lives. Your wise opinions, and warm words, never ceased to put a smile on the face of every soul you touched. Your kind actions will be remembered, by all the people you helped to prosper. I will personally miss the regular medical updates you provided me with, and your sharp mind. Your loss is truly a blow to our family, and our community. Rest in peace. I love you.

– **Dr Flora Kontogeorgis.**

Papou! Ela Re! You were my inspirational hero who gave me boundless joy. I was privileged to have had you by my side. Love you always.

– **Alexandros. Baladakis**

My number one supporter, my biggest blessing, my παππούλη. Thank you for being the brightest light in my life. Μου λείπεις. Είσαι και θα είσαι πάντα στην καρδιά μου, σε αγαπώ.

– **Eleni Baladakis**

Thank you so much for always being there for me and pushing me to always be my best self. You were a loving presence in my life, and I will miss you forever. I'll never forget the interesting conversations we had together, and your fun-loving personality. Losing you was devastating, but I understand that you're in a much better place now, and you're always watching over us.

– **Constantinos Hagios**

You meant so much to all of us, you were special and that is no lie. You brightened up the darkest day and the cloudiest sky. Many tears we have seen and cried they have poured out like rain. I know that you are in heaven now and no longer in pain.

– **Nasia Hagios**

Alex Baladakis was my mentor, a father figure and an inspiration. Our travels together to serve our community will forever be etched in my mind, I always learnt from him and his sage advice served me well.

Thank you, Mr. Alex.

– **John Philippou**

I will forever remember Mr Alex as the person who first introduced me to the beautiful culture at AJP. He was such an inspiration as a human being; a kinder heart there cannot be. May his soul rest in peace and his legacy never be forgotten. I will miss him, his wisdom and our chats at the office dearly.

– **Jaydene Potgieter**





*Some memories from family, friends and colleagues
Alex Baladakis influenced*

He was a true community leader and a tireless warrior for Hellenism and Orthodoxy. We pray our Lord rests him with the angels.

– **Athanasios Martalas**

We have a duty to do our utmost to protect what we have inherited... In our values, ethics and culture. May his soul rest in peace.

– **Basil Manikas**

Alex Baladakis dedicated a large part of his time and energy to the cause of Hellenism. He was respected for his ethos and we will remember him for his contribution to making the world a better place for all. He leaves a great legacy to the Greek community.

– **Hellenic Federation of South Africa**

Mr. Baladakis has been a pillar of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in South Africa for decades, including our organization, to which he has offered material and moral assistance for many years.

– **Pan Cretan Association of South Africa**

Alex Baladakis never forgot his roots and always contributed to the livelihood and betterment of others with a helping hand that was constantly outstretched to all who needed it.

– **Cyprus Brotherhood of South Africa**

Alex was a true Hellene

– **Peloponnesian Society of SA**

We were saddened to learn of the passing of your esteemed father. It has been a privilege for us to have been associated with the Baladakis family. We take this opportunity to thank you once again for all you have done over the years to bring our respective communities together, as well as in helping us to foster relationships with the Greek government and Orthodox Church. It is a friendship that we greatly value, and we look forward to building on it in the future.

– **South African Jewish Board of Deputies**

We thank him and the Baladakis family for the incredible drive and determination to succeed. Alex made a real difference to his family, business and community. He will be missed.

– **Gareth Ackerman, Chairman Pick n Pay Group**

My heart goes out to you both and the family and my sincere condolences on the passing of your Father a truly great man who will be sorely missed.

– **Richard Brasher, CEO Pick n Pay Group**

Mr. Alex taught me an enormous amount about franchise which enabled my team and I to build a sustainable platform of values that are still applied diligently in our business today. A perfect gentleman and the humblest man I have ever had the honour of meeting.

– **Chris Reed, Pick n Pay Franchising**

May he rest in peace. All his good works will keep his soul alive.
– **Archbishop Genadios, Metropolitan of Botswana and Free State.**

May his memory be eternal. A loss to our community.
– **Archbishop Petros Parginos, Metropolitan of Ghana**



Condolence letter to the Honourable Family of Alekos Baladakis

† Ο Θεός ημῶν ἡμῶν ἀγαπᾷ ἡμᾶς ὡς ἀγαπᾷ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον.

Προς

Την Αξιότιμον Οικογένειαν του προσφιλοῦς τέκνου και Ἀρχοντος του Αποστολικού Θρόνου του Αγίου Μάρκου, μακαριστοῦ και λιαν αγαπητοῦ της ημετέρας Μετριότητος Αλέκου Μπαλαδάκη.

Αγαπητά και ευλογημένα μου παιδιά,

Με βαθειά θλίψη πληροφορηθήκαμε ἐδῶ στο Πατριαρχεῖο μας τὴν ἐκδημία του προσφιλοῦς μας Αλέκου Μπαλαδάκη και ἡ σκέψη μας ἀμέσως ἔτρεξε στην προσωπικότητα του μακαριστοῦ Ἀρχοντός μας, ὁ ὁποῖος γεννήθηκε και πέρασε τὰ πρώτα χρόνια της ζωῆς του ἐδῶ στην Αἴγυπτο.

Ὁ αειμνήστος, συνδέθηκε με τὸ Ἑλληνορθόδοξο Πατριαρχεῖο Ἀλεξανδρείας και Πάσης Ἀφρικῆς ἀπὸ τα νεανικά του χρόνια, ὅπου ἔτυχε ἐνισχύσεως ἀπ'αὐτό κατὰ τὴν διάρκεια των σπουδῶν του στην Αἴγυπτο, πράγμα που ποτέ δεν λησμόνησε, γι'αὐτό και ἡ μεγάλη ἀγάπη του και ὁ σεβασμός στον θεσμό. Σφράγισε με τὴν παρουσία του τὴν δική του ιστορία της Ἑλληνικῆς παροικίας της Νοτίου Ἀφρικῆς και με τὴν προσφορά του προς τὸ Παλαίφατο, Αποστολικό και Πρεσβυγενές Πατριαρχεῖο Ἀλεξανδρείας.

Κι ὅταν τα χρόνια πέρασαν και μετανάστευσε στην Νότιο Ἀφρική, ὅπου ἐπαγγελματικά δραστηροποιήθηκε με ἐπιτυχία, δημιουργώντας οὐκογένεια με τὴν ἐκλεκτή της καρδιάς του κα. Παρασκευή – κι αὐτὴ Αιγυπτιώτισσα – δεν λησμόνησε ποτέ τὸ Πόρτ Σάϊδ, δεν ξέχασε ποτέ τὴν Ὁρθόδοξη Ἐκκλησία μας. Ἀντιθετως, τὴν ἀγάπη του σ'αὐτὴ τὴν ἐμφύσησε στα δύο παιδιά του, τον Παναγιώτη και τον Γιάννη και στίς οὐκογένειές τους.

Ἐνθυμούμαι, με πόση λαχτάρα και ἐνδιαφέρον πραγματικό με ἐρωτούσε για τα της Αἴγυπτου και για τα ιερά σεβάσματά μας πλησίον τῶν ὁποῖων γαλουχήθηκε.

Ἀλλά και στην Νότιο Ἀφρική πάντα τὸ ἐνδιαφέρον του για τὸ ἔργο της Ἐκκλησίας μας ἦταν μεγάλο και ἡ ἐμπρακτὴ βοήθειά του πολύτιμη.

Αὐτές τις ἀπλές σκέψεις μου ἐπιθυμῶ να χαράξω σήμερα, ἐκφράζοντας τα κατ' ἄνθρωπον βαθιά μου συλλυπητήρια. Ἡ προσευχή μας θα εἶναι καθημερινή προς τὸν Θεό της συγγνώμης και της ἀγάπης, ὥστε να ἀναπαύσει τὴν ψυχὴ του ευγενοῦς αειμνήστου ἀδελφοῦ Αλέκου, και να δίδει κουράγιο και βάλαμο παρηγορίας στην σύζυγό του, στα παιδιά του, στα ἐγγόνια του, στ' ἀδέλφια του.

Αἰωνία αὐτοῦ ἡ μνήμη.

Μετὰ πατρικῶν ευχῶν και Πατριαρχικῶν ευλογιῶν,
διάπυρος πρὸς Θεόν ευχέτης

† Ο Πάπας και Πατριάρχης Ἀλεξανδρείας και πάσης Ἀφρικῆς
ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ Β'

Condolence letter to the Honourable Family of Alekos Baladakis

ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΕΙΑΣ
ΚΑΙ ΠΑΣΗΣ ΑΦΡΙΚΗΣ

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ
ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥΠΟΛΕΩΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΕΤΟΡΙΑΣ



GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE
OF ALEXANDRIA AND ALL AFRICA

HOLY ARCHDIOCESE OF
JOHANNESBURG AND PRETORIA

Ιωαννούπολις, 13^η Ιανουαρίου 2021

ΔΥΟ ΛΟΓΙΑ ΑΠΟ ΚΑΡΔΙΑΣ

Είναι πολύ θλιβερό να αποχαιρετούμε έναν άνθρωπο της παροικίας μας ο οποίος μέχρι πρότινος ήταν αναμεσά μας, τον αγαπητό μας Αλέκο Μπαλαδάκη, τον άρχοντα του Πατριαρχείου Αλεξανδρείας και Πάσης Αφρικής. Τόν άνθρωπο που πάντοτε νοιαζόταν για την Εκκλησία μας, εκφράζοντας πάρα πολλές φορές εμπράκτως το ενδιαφέρον του αυτό βοηθώντας στο έργο της.

Αθόρυβα, γενναϊόδωρα χωρίς ποτέ να επιζητά επιβράβευση και γνωστοποιήσεις των δωρεών του.

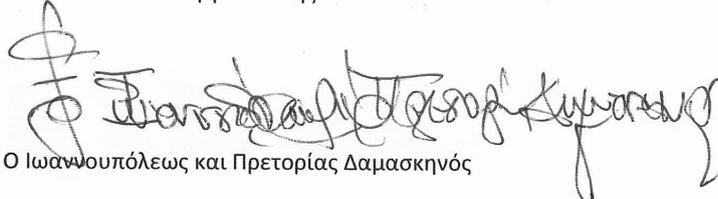
Μόνο την ευλογία και τις προσευχές μας ζητούσε γι' αυτόν και την οικογένειά του.

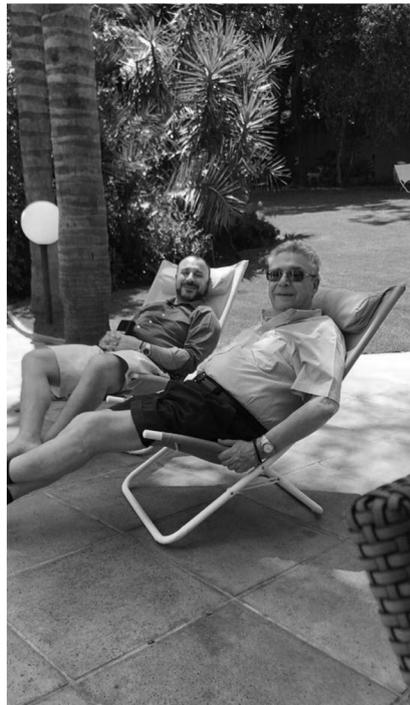
Επιθυμώ εκ μέρους της Ιεράς Μητροπόλεώς μας να εκφράσω τα θερμά μου συλλυπητήρια στην σύζυγό του κυρία Παρασκευή, στα παιδιά του Παναγιώτη και Γιάννη και στις οικογένειές τους, στα αδέρφια του και σ' όλους τους συγγενείς.

Ο Θεός να αναπαύει την ψυχή του « *ένθα ουκ έστι πόνος, λύπη ή στεναγμός, αλλά ζωή ατελεύτητος* ».



Ο Μητροπολίτης


+ Ο Ιωαννουπόλεως και Πρετορίας Δαμασκηνός





Acknowledgements

The family would like to express its appreciation

To the doctors and staff of the Linksfield Hospital for the care and support they gave Mr. Alex

To the Orthodox priesthood for their moral and spiritual support

Corrine Muzondo – Christine Ferrari for assisting with the organisation of the funeral

To Brian Mashala for the funeral obituary booklet

Clement Naidoo who printed all our requirements as a tribute to Mr. Alex

The Hellenic Federation of South Africa for assisting with the communications

The Management, staff and associated companies of the AJP Group who paid special tribute and song at memorial services throughout the company for their Patriarch and father.

AJP security compliment for ensuring the smooth arrangements for today.

To all the friends, families and work colleagues and associates and people who had met with Mr. Alex and sent us communications, well wishes and stories of their experiences,.

Thank you.





We love you Pappou!

