Words from Bertrand’s Father, Michel

Marie Michel Bertrand Prosper, son of Janine & Michel Prosper, was born, in Reduit, Republic of Mauritius, on 16 January 1980.

One cannot imagine the degree of happiness that his parents had when they held him tight against their breast for the first time. They had in their arms the so deeply desired first child that they had been waiting for.

Bertrand was tiny at birth. However, the Child Specialist Doctor that examined him soon after his birth gave the assurance to his parents that he would grow taller and bigger than his 6 feet tall Dad. Time proved that the Doctor was not wrong in his forecasts as soon afterwards he started to put on weight and grow visibly every day.

Bertrand was lucky to have his Grand Parents both on his Mother’s and Father’s sides living respectively next door and on the other side of the road. He was the apple of their eyes. He shared exceptional bonds of affectionate love with them and was spoilt. He deeply suffered from their departure from this world for a better place.

The little sister that he had wished came to being on 16 October 1983. She soon became the best playmate of his childhood, a partner of his sports activities in his adolescence, a confidant with whom he shared his joy, sorrows and secrets, but, above all, a Sister for whom he had an infinite love.

Marie Louise, Latimee (both his nannies) Suzy, Jeewan, Suresh & Noel who had been in the employment of his parents for decades were an integral part of his life. They constantly remained close to his heart and held a special place in his mind which was reciprocal too.

Bertrand received primary education at Loreto Convent School in Vacoas and Secondary education at St Joseph College in Curepipe where he successfully completed and obtained the Higher School Certificate.

For a period of one year after he left school, Bertrand was engaged in the voluntary social work in the field of teenage counseling which he deeply enjoyed and found difficulties to leave.

In 2002, he moved, to Australia, a country that he had visited, on at least 5 occasions before, to receive Tertiary education.

Two and a half years later, he completed his studies with a high distinction in Graphic Arts. He thereafter followed various professional courses which led to his certification as a UX/UI Designer.

He had plans to start studying for a Master degree in Business Administration, in 2021, which, regretfully, will never materialize now.
Words from Bertrand’s Father, Michel (continued)

The family and relatives were of primary importance to Bertrand who was very close and in regular contact with them. He felt at ease with his Uncles, Aunts, Grand Parents and cousins and at home when he visited them. Before he left for his higher studies abroad he told to one of his aunties: “I have spent, since childhood a lot of time at your place. I have always considered your house as my second home where I could walk in anytime I wanted to.”.

This feeling he also shared when he reached Australia and found in Bernard, his God Father and Gilberte, the latter’s wife a second Dad and Mum. He felt also privileged to be with Carol and Alain who were very supportive to him

Nicolas, the eldest cousin, represented a role model to him. Bertrand really enjoyed his company and was always happy with him. Despite the fact that they each had different opinions on various subjects, never, over the 4 decades that they have known each other, have they ever entered into any argument or showed any sign of irritation or anger towards each other.

He was very protective & caring with his younger cousins Astrid, Eric, Jean Michel, Didier, Stephan and Olivier with whom he had great times and maintained regular contact and tight bonds.

Bertrand was an all-rounder in sports. He practiced Athletics and represented his college at the inter college Athletic competition and obtained a number of medals. He also played soccer, basketball, badminton and practiced cycling and jogging. However of all the sports, badminton remained his favorite. When he was at school he could forget his school bag, books, copy books & lunch box at home but would never fail to take his badminton rackets with him. He could spend hours practicing badminton. He played at the highest national level when he was in Mauritius and participated in tournaments in Australia where he won a number of medals. It was his Father’s pride to see him play or to team with him in men’s double matches on a Badminton Court. This was the case when he visited Mauritius in December/ January last.

Back in 2010, during one of their visits in Australia, Bertrand introduced to his parents and sister a girl with whom he had fallen in love. The meeting took place in a restaurant in Richmond where both of them were living. The girl named Kate Ashley Mibus was elegantly dressed and was wearing new shoes which could be easily guessed by the way she was walking. From a unanimous point of view she made a good impression and was outright considered as the perfect match for Bertrand who was informed accordingly.
Soon afterwards when they came to know each other the parents of Kate and Bertrand realized that they shared the same values in life and that their children had been brought with the same mindset and philosophy. This was the starting point of an excellent relationship between them.

Kate and Bertrand got married in January 2013 and became the proud parents of a baby boy, a Gift of God, named Marcel- David Gerard, in January 2017.

Bertrand was a caring and loving husband and Father and could go out of his way for their wellbeing. Kate demonstrated that she was the best wife that Bertrand could have chosen and the best Mother for her Son. They were both entirely devoted to their family and deeply loved each other and their son too. In all the difficulties that they went through they stayed united and faced the challenges with courage and determination. They have been for many a model of true love that never fades whatever be the circumstances.

Bertrand was a kind hearted and generous person that always helped the less fortunate in life. He could not stand situations where he felt that people were being unfairly treated.

He was very close to his parents. He held a special place for them in his heart and had the deepest love for them which was reciprocal. At least twice a week he made a video call to talk to them.

God has decided to call him back to where he came from. Never would have his parents ever imagined that this scenario was possible and that he would precede them on this journey. Let God’s Will and not theirs be done. They know that Bertrand is well and in peace where he is now. He is looking after them and is near and with them. What they will however miss more is that fact that they will be unable to hear his voice, hold his hands, kiss him, and give him a big hug. The idea that Marcel has lost his Father, Kate her husband and the family an exceptional member will be hard to accept.

Just like when he was practicing jogging with his Father, his parents know that he will be waiting for them to run that last mile with them when the time comes for them to return where they belong. It can be easily imagined how he will greet them with his perpetual smile and kind words.

His parents are proud to have been the Mother and Father of such a lovely and outstanding Son like Bertrand. The incomparable love that they have for him will never tarnish. May he rest in peace now as he rightly deserves.
Words from Bertrand’s Sister, Martine

My big brother! You were the best!

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for being there to honour and say our last farewell to my one and only brother, Bertrand.

We are all gathered to acknowledge and share both the joy of Bertrand’s life with us for the last 40 years and the pain that his passing brings. I can say so many good things about Bertrand, talk about the numerous adventures we went on while growing up together and all the good times we had together but today I can only mention just a few.

Bertrand always had that infectious smile that friends and family portrayed. Your strength, your courage, your kindness, you showed to all of us even though you had your struggles, you have been an incredible fighter during the last couple of years.

As brother and sister, we were also fighting, arguing and annoying each other but you were always there to support me, you always had my back. You were always there with your comforting words “Pas case la tete” (Don’t worry about it) and when I was doing the best I could to annoy you like all little sisters do, you always told me “Fou moi la paix!” (Leave me alone!).

The most important memory for me is that you have been the perfect example of a big brother who was always looking out for me. I will miss that dearly!

People say that little sisters are always annoying. And there I was born 3 years after you were born, and I was ready to do my job as your little sister! When I started talking, I could not pronounce your name and I had to call you “Dada”.

Dad introduced us to badminton with wooden rackets. You were passionate and looking forward to playing in Mauritius every Friday with family and friends where the tradition remained here with Bernard, cousins, friends and me in Melbourne.

Mum was always cooking one of your favourite meals- rice, lentils and “rougaille” sausages. Your love of food- I will remember that beef and potato curry you cooked for me back in June when I visited. You loved dancing to sega, “Li Tourner”, “Monsieur Coutou” which were some of your favourite tunes. And not forgetting to mention, mum was always your best dancing partner.

When you were in your last year in Primary school, I will always remember that on the bus, Astrid and I had the privilege of sitting with Nicolas and you at the back of the bus and all the newbies were at the front. We also had the privilege of playing soccer with the boys, the many matches we had throughout the years will be reminisced.
You always looked up to Nicolas who guided you growing up together, you always protected Astrid like one of your sisters, you were always there for Jean Michel, Didier and Olivier when they needed you.

Your godmother Jeannine, Jean Paul, Maurice and Helene were all proud of seeing you growing up into a young gentleman over the years and they were also proud of your achievements.

You were the first one to chase your dream and moved to Melbourne in 2002. Your Godfather Bernard, Gilberte, Eric, Stephan, Alain and Carol welcomed you and made sure that you were settled and well looked after.

That special bond you had with mum was a special one that she will never forget and cherish forever. Although dad was tough and wanted the best for you, he loved you more than anything.

Your wife Kate, I will remember the first time you introduced me to Kate and you were sure that she was the one. You proposed, married her and lived a happy life.

And then was born, Marcel-David, your son... What can I say... He is the perfect portrait of you; lefty like you are, love messing around, happy and full of energy.

I promise to you that I will do my best to look after mum, dad, Kate and Marcel.

The friends that you made growing up, the friendship that you held with some throughout the years, I cannot mention all their names but I am sure they know who they are.

Any occasion that meant a lot to you and worth being celebrated, the whisky or rum and the cigar was ready for that. This meant that it was an important event in your life and that was your way of cheering to it. We will have one in your honour to remember!

Bertrand, you have lived a beautiful life and touched so many of them in your own way that each and every one of us will remember. You left us too soon, you now live in each and everyone's heart. Rest in Peace.

Until then, we will meet again. Love you always and forever!

Your little sister, Martine
Words from Bertrand’s cousin, Nicolas

I have grown up with Bertrand, we have always shared a special relationship, and we never had any argument.

Our only fight was on a badminton court, fighting each other to win a match.

He was always joyful, always smiling as confirmed by many of his friends and always willing to help when someone needed him.

He liked to visit us when he was still living in Mauritius and even when he came back for holidays afterwards as Tonton Jean Paul, Marraine, Astrid and myself made him feel at home.

We had the chance to share the same group of friends since school days who appreciated him very much.

Today these friends, Jean Yves, Olivier, Fabrice, Pascal, Gaetan, Daryl, Wesley and Yann are having a special thought for him. They will always remember him as a very good friend with whom they shared many good moments.

We had the chance to welcome him again in Mauritius end of last year

Kate and Bertrand were so proud to introduce Marcel to everyone and to show him all the beautiful places around the island that he loved so much.

He also had a wonderful 40th birthday with his father Michel, mother Janine, Martine, Gary and all his loved ones living in Mauritius.

His happiness during that stay in Mauritius will remain as one of the good memories that the whole family will cherish.

RIP Bertrand we will always remember you as a nice human being and we will keep your memory alive.
Hi all, here is some of the memories that I do retain about Bertrand.

He was simply a great friend and was always available not just to me but to a lot of people.

He was such a sweet person and he had much love to give and was always caring and sharing.

I remember him coming to Melbourne back in 2001 with a lot of great hope and achievement and goals in his mind.

He always had a vibrant personality and he was never on a low. He was combative and he was always running 100 miles an hour.

One of the memories that I got was about a group of friends among himself, his cousins and myself went to the club back then when we just started to know Melbourne in the early 2001 and we were all pumped up to be trying to have a date and Bertrand was the only one daring to go dance and talk to the girls. He had no fear of rejection and that’s how he was admired by others.

Another story in 2003 was when we were playing soccer at the Springvale indoor soccer. We were all playing a serious game with quite a rough adversary who was actually playing quite aggressively.

Once again Bertrand showed his great spirit of being strong in the game and stood up to them and expressed his saying verbally with them and provided them with firm language and they got intimidated and changed their attitude right away.

For over his year at the university, Bertrand was great at his studies, always assiduous in graphic design. I remember his talent in his drawing and imagination. It was quite amazing to look at his drawing and skills. He would work very late and be up, to keep doing amazing designs.

We were all at university without much in our pocket to be able to afford anything but we would still do a tremendous effort to catch up all the time to go out and have fun together and we loved enjoying our friendship to talk about anything. Bertrand was a great listener and he had also a lot to say. He loved his family very much and always enjoyed and looked forward to being with his family.

Bertrand was great with his bike too. He loved going for long rides and he also a great food lover.
His great passion for badminton was known to most of us. I have known Bertrand playing since his teen years. He would even travel interstate to go and play as he was obsessed with this sport. He has never let go of his racquet and that was even part of his wedding theme as well. Bertrand was a fierce adversary in badminton, he knew all the techniques and had such a great smash. He also made a lot of friends via this sport and he was always up for a chit chat after the games.

We have shared so many great moments together from adolescence to university to having dates and getting married to become a father.

I would always miss his great laughs, his cheeky jokes, his love for life, his passion for his close family, his undoubted friendship, and his great strength to move forward in life.

Until we meet again brother. I wish you a great match of badminton in heaven.
Marie Michel Bertrand Prosper, son of Janine & Michel Prosper, was born, in Reduit, Mauritius, on 16 January 1980.

Martine, Bertrand’s much awaited sister arrived in 1983. They became best mates, partners in sports, a confidant who he shared his joy, sorrows, and secrets with, but, above all, a sister for who he had an infinite love.

Bertrand had a close friendship with his parents, he adored them both and had a special place for them in his heart, which was reciprocal.

Bertrand was lucky to live close by to his Grandparents and had close relationships with each of them. He was adored by them all. He sorely missed them when they passed.

Family (cousins, aunts, and uncles) were important to Bertrand he was close to all of you. Whenever he was with his cousins/aunts or uncles place he felt at home. Bernard, his God Father and Gilberte were his second parents, when he moved to Australia, Alain and Carol, he developed a close relationship with you also. Helene and Maurice were special to Bertrand and he enjoyed spending time, with you especially on his recent trip to Mauritius. Marianne and Jean Paul were dear to Bertrand and he enjoyed spending time with you with many fond memories made at your house.

Bertrand’s Cousins were like his brothers and sisters. Nicola was his role model and his Best man at his Wedding, Astrid, Bear adored you like he did his sister. Eric, Jean Michel, Didier, Stefan, Olivier he was fiercely protective of and kept as close friends, you all had tight bonds with him.

Bertrand loved spending time in Geelong with Noelle and Serge and had loved to spend time with Tante Carmen.

Aldo you were like a big brother to Bertrand a great counsellor in the recent years.

Marie Louise, Latimee (both his nannies) Suzy, Jeewan, Suresh & Noel were all involved in Bertrand’s upbringing and held a very special place in his heart, he was so glad to introduce you to his son Marcel on the last visit to Mauritius.

Bertrand went to primary school at Loreto Convent School in Vacos and attended St Joseph College in Curepipe where he graduated.

After college, Bertrand did voluntary social work counselling teenagers which he greatly enjoyed.

Bertrand was a talented artist both in drawing and imagination, he had a keen eye for design which influenced his choice of career.
Words from Bertrand’s Brother-In-Law,

Alister (continued)

In 2002, he achieved one of his great goals to me to Australia, to where he completed with high distinction as a Graphic Designer. Bertrand loved his field of design and was in constant search of upskilling with his highest certification as a User Experience/User Interface Designer.

Bertrand loved his sports. He represented his college at the inter college athletic competition, winning many medals. He enjoyed soccer, most recently playing in Mauritius with is old team and on Sunday afternoons with Chong, Andrew, and Marcel. He enjoyed basketball and cycling, always with the top of the range bicycles and jogging.

As we all know Badminton was his first love after Marcel and Kate. He won many competitions in Mauritius at the top level in his younger years. In Australia he won at state, regional and university levels, not to mention at the Australian Masters. He would often surprise competitors with his agility, Bertrand was well known for his left-handed smash and swinging style, he liked to play a strategic game. Despite being fiercely competitive he remained a good sportsman. He made great friendships through his Badminton notably with Andrew, Chong, and Deepak. He loved a tradition of playing on Friday nights as a teenager that he continued here in Australia with Bernard, his cousins and sister.

Bertrand loved his food, his mother’s quiche, Pate Nene, rice, lentils and rougaille, Jackie’s Tira Misu, Michelle and the girls Meringue, just to mention a few favourites. In recent years he enjoyed cooking especially, his omelettes with lots of cheese, pumpkin curries were delicious, Cassoulet and in the last weeks of his life homemade Gnocchi and pasta.

In 2010, Bertrand said everything in his life changed, he met Kate. He knew after two weeks he was in love and she would be the one he would marry and spend the rest of his life with.

Kate and Bertrand married in January 2013, which those who attended say it was the best wedding they attended and talk about it to this day. In 2017, Bertrand and Kate proudly welcomed Marcel-David Gerard, a lefty, comedian, and portrait of his Daddy. Bertrand adored Marcel from the moment he was born, he was determined for Marcel experience the same love and friendship he had with family in his younger years with Uncle Alister, Seb and Ned.
He always had a vibrant personality and he was never on a low. He was combative and he was always running 100 miles an hour. Bertrand was a sweet, kind-hearted, and generous person that always had an open-door policy to friends and family. Bertrand’s infectious humour, smile and laugh are well remembered by all.

Jean Yves, Olivier, Fabrice, Pascal, Gaetan, Daryl, Wesley, and Yann you all grew up in Mauritius with Bertrand and he had a special place in his heart for you his brothers. Bertrand had too many friends to mention each of you, however you know who you are, and he enjoyed each of your company and friendship.

Ian and Roland, you were great mentors to Bertrand in his time at Officeworks, you reignited his passion for his career and ensured he realised his amazing skill in user experience and user interface designer.

Despite his recent health issues, he always showed strength, courage, and kindness. He had been an incredible fighter during the last couple of years.

Any occasion that he could celebrate, he would have whisky or rum and cigar at the ready. Not to mention his love of music and dancing, with a Spotify account within excess of 4500 songs! At the ready for any celebration, a love of music and dance he has passed onto Marcel.

Just like when he was practicing jogging with his Father, his parents know that he will be waiting for them to run that last mile with them when the time comes for them to return where they belong. It can be easily imagined how he will greet them with his perpetual smile and kind words.

His parents are proud to have been the Mother and Father of such a lovely and outstanding Son like Bertrand. The incomparable love that they have for him will never tarnish. May he rest in peace now as he rightly deserves.

Those of us who cannot attend raise a glass to Bertrand.