

A Tribute to Mike Grover

Colin Baker ♦ July 2013

Mike and I had at least two things in common: coming from the same district in Essex (England), and believing that books and publishing were part of improving the lives of families and children, schools and society so that the next generation have a more just and fair existence.

When we first met in the mid-1980s, coming from a few miles away in Essex immediately meant a connection. Then, when we discussed books, Mike opened up my future. It was he who commissioned the *Foundations of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism* book with a simple one-liner in a short letter. That changed my whole career, and also helped MLM in a way that Mike shared with me just a few years ago.

When Mike commissioned the *Encyclopedia of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education*, he had the faith, optimism and vision that persuaded me to take on what I saw as a financial risk for the company and a rather too complex project for a team of three. But Mike was right, and his willingness to take a measured risk became motivational. We all worked together to make this a success, and the large colourful product was a tribute to Mike's leadership and his business acumen.

To say Mike was an incredible success is an understatement. How many start a business from nothing, remain optimistic and focused even in difficult times, and create a highly successful and profitable publishing business? Who has the vision to start many new publishing projects, expand and diversify so well? Who produces a niche publishing company known in every corner of the world? Who made so many international friends among the trade, academics, professionals and parents? Mike.

We have sadly lost a much loved and loving husband and dad, friend and colleague. I have lost a wonderful friend and someone who changed my career, my academic contribution, and my view of the world. I will always give thanks for knowing and working with Mike, for his loyal friendship, and for all that he taught me in thought, word and deed.

While at the moment there can be no happiness, we pray that in days to come his family and friends will share many joyous memories of a wonderful person and an enormous influence on so many people's lives – Mike Grover.

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Terrence G. Wiley ♦ Washington, DC ♦ July 2013

I first had the pleasure of meeting Mike Grover during the mid 1990s during a trip he made with Collin Baker to California. I was working at California State University, Long Beach at the time. He and Collin were meeting with faculty to discuss their ideas for possible publications with Multilingual Matters.

I had been familiar with MLM long before that. If I scanned my bookshelf, many of the publications that I used in my courses and seminars had MLM on the spine, including Collin's classic on *Foundations of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*.

What I had not known until then was that the inspiration for MLM had come from the desire of the Grovers to raise their children bilingually and to make information regarding how to that easily available to parents and practitioners. MLM has been a family business that was grounding in helping families, teachers, and scholars value and promote multilingualism.

Mike was a wonderful colleague whose gregarious nature, keen wit, and humor always shined at conferences around the globe. When attempting to acclimate to convention site in a new city, a visit with Mike at the MLM booth was like finding a safe and familiar harbor.

What was truly special about Mike was his vision for what was needed in the field. MLM has and continues to be a fertile garden for new ideas and perspectives on language teaching, learning, policy, and practice. Mike often took chances and novice scholars as well as niche topics by senior scholars who might not otherwise have found an outlet. Through MLM I found an outlet for my work and for many aspiring young scholars whom I have taught.

As we lament the passing of our dear friend and leader in the publishing world, we can also pause to celebrate his achievements, inspiration, and values as we continue to see Mike's influence on all those he touched among his family, friends, and language scholars far and wide and legacy lives on as MLM continues to thrive.