

2012-02-10

### Helena Loewen Thiessen



Our dear aunt Helen Thiessen passed away peacefully on Friday morning, February 3, 2012 with family by her side at the Morris General Hospital. She would have been 90 years old next month. We believe she is now rejoicing in heaven, no more pain and with her eyesight restored, seeing Jesus her Saviour, and her parents and 8 siblings that went before her.

Helen was born on March 18, 1922, being the firstborn child of the second marriage of her mother Elizabeth Loewen and John B. Thiessen. Apparently she was her father's Liebling.

Living on a farm brought responsibilities of hard work. Tending a large garden and the many household chores were her lot. Helen was a good baker, baking the best cookies and perfect fluffy cakes. She did not like to do

the dishes.

She loved flowers and even in her later years, living at the Roselane Apartments, she always knew what kind and color of flowers she wanted her niece, Liz Loewen to purchase and to plant around her place. She also loved to tend a few tomato plants beside her patio.

Helen was baptized upon the confession of her faith in Jesus and was accepted as a member into the Rosenort Church. She was loyal to the church, praying for and giving generously to various missions. When she did not attend church any more she waited to listen to tape recordings of the services.

Helen took her elementary schooling in Rosenort. In the early 50's, Helen ventured out into the big world, living in Winnipeg and working at the Municipal Hospitals as a nurses' aide for 5 years. During this time she had a traumatic experience. Going alone to visit her sister Marie, in a Winnipeg Hospital, she found Marie had died unexpectedly.

After this she took her Licenced Practical Nurses training at the St Boniface Hospital in 1957. Her first job as a trained nurse was at the Altona hospital where she worked for about 5 or 6 years. She loved her job!

When her father died in 1963 she moved back home to be with her mother. At this time she lived at home and worked at the nearby Eventide Nursing Home. She worked here for about 30 years.

Helen and her brother Pete lived together in the farm home until 1997 when she moved into her own new apartment at Roselane.

She was a woman of few words. When she spoke we listened. We wanted to hear her opinions and thoughts. She loved to hear from her nieces and nephews and was very interested in their lives and remembered what they were up to. Helen was an avid reader. She kept stacks of magazines and papers she meant to read sometime. Reading God's Word was a priority.

She enjoyed a trip to Meade, Kansas once a year to visit her sisters, Tina and Annie and their families. She most often travelled with her mother and brother Pete or with her other Geschwista when the opportunity came. Her last trip there was for her sister Tina's funeral in 2000. She was sad and lonely when her sisters passed away, as she kept connected with them by regular phone calls. She also grieved deeply when her brother Pete and her nieces Dorothy Friesen and Liz Loewen passed away recently.

Helen is survived by two brothers, John Thiessen and his wife Gladys of Rosenort, Abe Thiessen and his wife Adella of Steinbach, two brothers-in-law Ben Reimer of Meade Kansas and Peter Hiebert of Mexico, and 29 nieces and nephews.

A favourite verse in Isaiah 26:3 says "Thou wilt keep 'her' in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee; because 'she' trusteth in Thee."

The funeral service was held at the Rosenort Evangelical Mennonite Church on Tuesday February 7.

If friends so desire, donations may be made to Action International or Pioneer Missions.