



On Wednesday, October 17, 2007, our Savior called our dear Mother, Elsie Eveline Westra, home to Himself. She was born on December 28, 1914 on a homestead near Pony, the second of ten children born to James Samuel and Lola May (Carver) Freeman.

When Elsie was four, the family moved from Pony to the Gallatin Valley settling first near Gateway and later moving to the ranch near Bozeman Hot Springs. She attended Elk Grove School and Bozeman High School. She worked for some time to earn money and then attended the Bozeman Deaconess School of Nursing and graduated in 1938. She worked as a registered nurse for four years in the hospital in Bozeman.

On June 2, 1942, she married Henry Westra. They moved to a small house on Little Holland road where their first two children were born. In 1945, they purchased the farm where they lived the rest of their life, raising their family of seven children.

She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. Her family was very important to her. She taught us to love the Lord and walk in His ways. She also supported Dad (Henry) in his many church and kingdom endeavors, standing by him through cloud and sunshine. She also worked with him in the operation of the family farm.

In 1966, she took a refresher course and returned to nursing. She worked private duty for a time and then as office nurse for Dr. Duane Mohr for nine years. Later, she served as nurse supervisor and medical nurse at the Gallatin County Rest Home, retiring in 1989.

After forty-seven wonderful years, rich with God's blessing, Henry passed away in 1989. The following sixteen winters were spent in Dallas, Texas serving as a volunteer with Wycliffe Associates. She helped wherever she could to hasten the Gospels' translation to those who do not yet know of her Jesus, and seeking to build the kingdom of our Lord.

Her love and gentle kindness will be greatly missed by her family and all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, three brothers, two sisters and one grandchild.

Survivors include two sisters, Dora Harrington, Bozeman and Edna Cash, Hamilton; two brothers, Louis (Elizabeth) Freeman of Great Falls, and Dick (Barbara) Freeman of Lyons, Oregon. Also surviving are her two sons, John (Lois) and Henry, Jr. (Angie) of Manhattan; five daughters, Lola (Don) Visser, Betty Wright, and Nell (Ron) Baar all of Manhattan, Ruth (Jerry) Anderberg of Billings, and Dorothea (Will) Kirkendall of San Jose, Costa Rica. She had twenty-one grandchildren and twenty-nine great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside service will be at 10 a.m. Monday, October 22 at Hills Cemetery. A Celebration of her life will follow at 11 a.m. at the Gateway Community Church, Gallatin Gateway. Visitation at Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service will be from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.

The family wishes memorial gifts be sent to The Gideons International, Wycliffe Bible Translators, or Manhattan Christian School Foundation.