



Elaine Louise Swanson

July 23, 1940 - May 14, 2016

Elaine Swanson was born on July 23, 1940 in Willmar, Minnesota to Elmer and Marthilda Legaarden. She was the youngest of four daughters.

She attended Augsburg College and received a Home Economics degree. She met her husband Sheldon Swanson shortly thereafter and was married nine months later. They were married on September 28, 1963. Seven years later after the birth of their first daughter Deborah Ann they moved to Florida. Three years later, Rebecca Joy was born.

Before entering the mission field, Elaine worked at Winter Park Memorial Hospital as a Food Service Manager for fifteen years. Upon the death of her husband on May 22, 1994, she left her position at the hospital in 1995. One year later she joined the staff of Church In The Son for three years. At the age of 14 Elaine felt the call to missions. Her husband had always been actively involved in missions trips and their desire was to go on the mission field together after their daughters were out of school. Forty-six years later at the age of 60 she began to fulfill the call to missions. Her first trips brought her to Haiti, Russia, and Germany. She spent the majority of the past 15 years in Bergen, Norway and Kenya, Africa. Elaine began her Norway ministry by discipling 12 women she connected with in the local church. In the last years Elaine traveled most of the time throughout Norway including the Arctic region of Norway where she preached one of her last messages this past

September. Her message was to the body of Christ. She felt called to disciple and equip the believers to walk a victorious, spirit-filled life. She often spoke of the cross and complete surrender. She had a heart for revival and often spoke about the end-times.

Over the past 16 years she has been blessed with 7 grandchildren including Mariah (16), Micah (who went home to Jesus this past October at the age of 11), and Josiah (9) born to Patrick and Debbie Van Horn, and Jaden (12), Zoe(10), Cali(7), and Lainey (19 months—named after Elaine) born to Torben and Rebecca Abbott. She cherished her time with the grandchildren and used her Little Red Riding Hood stories and individual overnights to impart spiritual truths into their lives. She was able to take three of the grandchildren back to her home state of Minnesota as a special trip with her when they reached the age of 10. She was affectionately known as “nanna” and “nanny.”

She was admitted to the hospital on May 2nd and twelve days later she passed peacefully to her heavenly home on May 14, 2016. The nurse at her bedside said, “This was one of the most peaceful home goings I have ever seen.” Her favorite verse during this challenging time was Romans 8:28, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” She was a magnet to many women who were looking for a spiritual mother. Her footprints were left all over the world. Her heartbeat was felt by many. She was cherished. She was loved. Her legacy lives on.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **23**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel
9001 N. Orlando Ave
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

MAY **24**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church in the Son
4484 N. John Young Parkway
Orlando, FL

Burial

MAY **24**. 2:30 PM (ET)

Palm Cemetery
1005 N. New York Ave
Winter Park, FL

Tribute Wall

BE

“ *What an awesome woman! I have been so blessed to know her. Shortly after I was saved I was at an altar seeing a picture in my mind that I could not explain I felt a hand on my back and a woman with a very mothering voice started praying over me and explaining exactly what I was seeing. She went on to share that God would continue to heal me and told me things I never believed about myself before. In the 15years that I have been blessed to know Elaine I have seen God bring that prayer to pass. She was very instrumental in God restoring and healing me and she often checked in on me. I am forever grateful to have been mentored and loved by such a beautiful woman! My prayers are with your family! Can't wait to dance with her in heaven some day!*

beckie - May 23, 2016 at 03:06 PM

AH

“ Dear Beccy and Family.

It is hard to believe that your wonderful mother and our dear Elaine is no longer with us.

I got to know Elaine in Bergen and was so blessed by being in her Bible-group and having her as my counsellor.

If I had to describe Elaine by only one word, it would be LOVE. Nothing touches the human heart more than genuine love, and that is why so many hearts were touched and changed by God through Elaine. Whenever she said she loved me I knew it wasn't just a polite cliché or empty words. She demonstrated her love by giving of herself and giving of her time to me.

I know her continuing prayers for me has made a difference in my life. She will be deeply missed.

Love, Anne-Berit Huseby

Anne-Berit Huseby - May 23, 2016 at 12:21 PM

WF

“ *Workman family. Elaine and the Swanson family have been our friends for forty years. There are more memories than we could begin to list-Christmas holidays meant fruit soup and Elaine's wonderful cookies. After Sheldon's death, Elsie carried out his vision to spread the Love of Christ to all the world. Elaine was a woman of faith and courage. She may have ignored her health issues as she did her missionary work in Norway, Africa and many other lands. We will miss our get togethers in between mission trips- especially our breakfasts at Perkins. Elaine has left us but cherished memories of her will live on!*

Workman Family - May 22, 2016 at 02:03 PM

“ Memories of Elaine Swanson

*I am Kjell Bendiksen:
Beloved Family and friends of Elaine.
What a a great blessing and a priviledge it has been
to have Elaine living with us for 10 years
for 3 to 6 months a year.*

*Elaine was so sweet and full of sincere love.
Her behavior was so kind and conciderate.
She really loved the Lord, and people, and life itself.
She loved being outdoors admiring God's creation.
It was impossible not to love her.
She was so precious.*

*She was so generous and so full of love.
toward the Lord and everyone who came in her way.
She was a peace-maker.
Her words were always so kind.*

*She never talked negatively about anyone,
never revealing people's' secrets.
She was a lover of the Presence of the Lord
in worship and praise, and in teaching the Word.
We've loved listening to her teaching
and her deep wisdom from above.*

*Her priority was counselling one person at a time,
spending time with them, one by one making them feel important.
She lived an excellent life in holiness and godliness.
She was a true immitator of Christ,
Her faith was very much alive.
She was a doer of the Word.*

*During the years she gave us 3 Cds by Terry Mc Almon,
I do love them and keep listening to them in the car.*

I'm so thankful for the invitation she gave us to visit her in the States.

What an unforgettable Christmas Season we had in 2013.

What a joy to meet her precious family, and Micah, who later passed away.

and to visit some of her friends and her Church.

To be taken so great care of, was really precious to us.

The Lord will surely pay her in full for the life she lived to the Lord's praise and glory.

We will always have delightful memories of Elaine's rich life among us.

Love, Kjell.

I am Kari, Kjell's wife.

*I heard of Elaine at our Church
the very first time she was there in August 2001*

*I decided to see her after the service,
to say Hello! and*

Welcome to Norway!

But she was not to be found.

*Kjell and I then decided to drop by at Janet's right away.
And miraculously, there was Elaine.*

*We had half an hour chat with her on Janet's porch that day.
A few days later she and I ended up sitting side by side
at the Living Word Church's 3 months Pioner Course.*

*I asked Elaine to be my Mentor after some time.
She then started a Women's Group of 12 women
in her tiny little one room hired apartment (6x8ft).*

*After 5 years there she moved in with us in early Spring of 2006.
Our home became the base for her stay in Norway,*

as she began travelling all over the country.

Elaine was the easiest person to be around.

*She was always praising what was worthy of praise,
never mentioning our flaws and shortcomings.*

*She also saw to it that she never became a financial burden to us.
She insisted on paying for gas and groceries and so on.*

Elaine was like an angel among us.

*A great example to us - on how
to live our everyday life in the Spirit,
service-minded, forgiving, loving,
understanding, very close and intimate,
deeply engaged, and so humble,
just like Jesus, our Lord.*

We can hardly grasp the fact that Elaine is gone.

Our hearts are broken.

*But thanks be to the Lord for the hope
that we'll meet again some day.*

What a blessing she has been to our lives

*We are so grateful that she invaded our lives
and became part of our little family.*

*Being able to meet her 2 daughters & families,
made a great impact on us. Everybody so sweet.*

On Christmas Eve we celebrated Jesus' birth.

All the children performed something.

We'll never forget when 5 year old Cali got up and said:

**This morning I invited Jesus into my heart.*"*

How precious!

We enjoyed meeting Micah, who passed away last Fall.

Now he and Nanny is enjoying eternal life with Jesus.

We bless their memory.

*How I loved you, Elaine!
How I miss you,
How grateful I am for getting to know you.*

*Love to Elaines family and friends.
Kari*

Kjell&Kari Bendiksen - May 22, 2016 at 01:07 AM

KB

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/edit/a.10153569159240918.1073741>
closeTheater=1

*This photo was taken at our kitchen table in Bergen Norway.
Kari and Kjell Bendiksen*

Kari Johanne Holte Bendiksen - May 23, 2016 at 01:51 AM

RA

“ 1 file added to the album Elaine's memoires



Rebecca Abbott - May 20, 2016 at 10:09 AM

MV

“ So recognise what you say. I was privileged to have her as my homegroup leader, my mentor and friend. Every Saturday when I lived in Bergen she would go with me to Fløyen, where we walked down to a restaurant and ate. Then we kept going to a coffee place. We spent those days talking, sharing hearts for hours. She had so much to give and at the same time she was always drawing from what God has placed in me. I visited her in her house in America and got to meet her wonderful family. I am so grateful to them for sharing their mother with everyone she got in touch with. I know the Lord will reward her as well as you for letting the Lord work through her. For releasing...

I love you Elaine and keep praying for your family and someday we will meet again.

Love from Mona Vedahl

Included picture of some of her precious ❤️❤️ that I met during my visit



Mona Vedahl - May 20, 2016 at 06:16 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elaine Louise Swanson.*



May 19, 2016 at 05:07 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Janet Henriksen - May 19, 2016 at 04:20 PM

LB

“ Stadlandet, Norway 18th of May, 2016

Dear Beccy with family and relatives

We got to know that our dear friend Elaine has been promoted to glory.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and all close family. May the Lord bless you all with comfort and peace in a time of loss and grief, We have known Elaine since 2003 from our time in Bergen. Elaine entered our lives with a loving heart, a suitcase and a mission from the Lord. She was a blessing and a beam of light to us personally, and to all our church members,

As we got to know her, she became a close friend and was regarded as a member of the family .

We will certainly miss her, but our memories are all fair and loving. God bless you all.

With love from

pastors

Laila and Leiv Arne

Nordfjord Bibelsenter

6750 Stadlandet

Norway

P.S. We enclose a few pictures so that you may know who we are.



Leiv Arne Bødal - May 19, 2016 at 12:55 AM

LB

“ 1 file added to the album Elaine's memoires



Leiv Arne Bødal - May 18, 2016 at 04:16 PM



“ I am sitting on the patio by the pool....where your mother often sat to do her devotionals. I have been sitting here reading Smith Wigglesworth (a gift from your mother) and studying the Bible. ALL OF A SUDDEN...

The Old Rugged Cross chime gently emitted chords of harmony in a gentle breeze. We have 7 chimes hanging. There is NO breeze. Only "The Old Rugged Cross" moved and chimed. I feel in my heart that this was a message of love from your sweet mother. A message of encouragement to continue seeking God with all of my heart. To yield myself to the cross daily. To allow God to reign in my heart. It is...her gentle message for all who will listen. I feel SO encouraged. Her body may be gone....but her spirit is ever present in our hearts.💖💖💖

Glenda Ellis - May 18, 2016 at 10:42 AM

CN

“*Dear precious "Mamma Elaine", even now as I see your beautiful smiling face it is hard for me to accept that I will never see you again this side of heaven. We laughed together, cried together, and ate together. I was always blessed when just about every conversation we had would blend seamlessly into a spirit filled prayer ... how you loved to pray! Those gentle powerful prayers. Those incredible hugs that almost knocked me off my feet. Your unwavering passion and determination was such an inspiration. You will always hold a special place in my heart. Goodbye sweet Elaine, my sister, friend and confidante...Until we meet again.*

*Love
Cassandra Newman"*

Cassandra Newman - May 17, 2016 at 11:09 PM

AB

“*Elaine touched our lives in so many ways! When we were assigned as Prayer Directors, everyone left us, but Elaine brought encouragement & words of knowledge to sustain us. She planted love in our heart that will last for eternity.*

*Love,
Kenneth & Andrea Bennett*

Andrea Bennett - May 17, 2016 at 05:44 PM

DH

“ 12 files added to the album *Elaine's memoires*



Debbie Van Horn - May 17, 2016 at 08:54 AM