



Marion Ruth Erlandson

December 7, 1924 - April 25, 2023

Marion Ruth Anderson Erlandson was promoted to her Heavenly Eternal Home on April 25, 2023. After her 98th birthday, she longed for Heaven more than ever, where she would see clearly again, as well as see her Savior face to face!

Marion was born on Dec. 7, 1924, in Duluth MN to Lawrence & Lillian Anderson. Her father died when Marion was 3 years old, and her mother remained a single mom, working hard to raise the 4 children. As a young child Marion trusted in Jesus as her Savior. When she was 10 years old, she responded to the challenge to be baptized as a testimony of her relationship with God through Jesus.

After graduating from high school, she joined the war effort as a “Rosie the Riveter”. When her fiancée, Ed, was on leave between tours of duty with the Army Air Corp, they married on Jan. 2, 1945. At the end of 1948, Marion and Ed headed to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. This was a “Heaven on Earth” experience for Marion. In 1951 Ed and Marion answered the call to pastor Acme Bible Church near Traverse City, MI, where she served as Pastor’s wife, mom of 4, hostess, Bible teacher for women and children in many settings, friend to many, and eventually co-owned and managed a Christian Book Store with Ed.

Marion's hobbies were her family and ministry, but she learned plenty of life skills – gardening, canning, cooking, baking, sewing, and most of all memorizing scripture, praying, singing hymns and loving others well! As the family nest emptied, she had time to add hobbies – wood carving and needle felting! These were delightful pastimes and provided treasured keepsakes for many!

After 25 years in the Traverse City area and another 25 in Florida, Marion and Ed headed back to MI to join Shirley in Iron Mountain. Marion started a carving club at the Iron Mountain Senior Center as an extension of the Woodbee Carvers Club. She became involved at Immanuel Baptist/Redemption Hill Church teaching ladies Bible studies, serving in children's ministry, as church librarian and faithful prayer warrior. Together, Marion, Ed and Shirley traveled all over the U. P. of Michigan to visit many scenic sites, especially waterfalls, and to other locations to visit family and friends. Ed, Marion's beloved husband of 65 years, promoted to Heaven on Jan. 26, 2010, at the age of 86. Marion and Shirley continued traveling in several cross country trips in The Hallelujah Hornet (their little motorhome).

Marion's life faithfully focused on walking by faith, keeping her eyes on God and doing the work He gave her to do, but soon, as glaucoma took her vision, it would also be "not by sight". 2 Cor. 5:7 was coming true: "for we walk by faith, not by sight."

To quote Marion: "As I look back what impresses me the most is God's gracious provision and protection over me all my life. It is all by His grace, I have good memories and I praise the Lord that He showed me the way to be His child. I have had God as the only Father I have ever known. It is my heart's desire that all my family and friends know God in this same way – to know His grace and love and to walk with Him."

Her surviving family going forward with this legacy include her children Eddie

(Kate), Larry (Beth), Shirley, and Dan (Peg) and all their children, as well as the many spouses and their offspring, including great-great-grandchildren. Marion faithfully prayed for them the words of Colossians 1:9-14 "...asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom & spiritual understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing [to Him] bearing fruit in every good work & growing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, (no matter what happens) for all endurance & patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father..."

A Celebration of God's Goodness in Marion's life will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 29, at Redemption Hill Church, Kingsford, MI.

Marion would be delighted to have you support Moody Bible Institute or Samaritan's Purse in her honor.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **29**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Redemption Hill
332 S. Carpenter Ave.
Kingsford, MI 49802

Tribute Wall

JS

“ I have had the great privilege of caring for Marion twice weekly for 2 ½ years. The many conversations we had were such a blessing to me. Marion often encouraged me in my walk with God, reminding me to fully trust Him. It was indeed a blessing to be able to ask her advice at times when I needed godly input. And that is exactly what I got.

She often encouraged me to daily read – and memorize - God’s Word. All this serious talk was sprinkled with humor, as Marion loved to laugh. It was such a delight. We would often watch the news together and we would become our own little talking heads, giving our opinions, and always placing current events up against God’s Word as this was both our hope and encouragement.

In between the little chores I had in caring for her, time was spent reading to her from the many ministries that Shirley and Marion supported. Imagine my delight in reading to her from Samaritan’s purse, Moody Bible Institute, Wycliff Ministries, JAARS, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Voice of the Martyrs, Gospel for Asia, Jews for Jesus, Slavic Gospel Association, Billy Graham Association, Daily Bread Ministries, Open Doors, Mercy Ships, and the American Bible Society. Why, I would practically fly home wondering what amazing ministry I could join as I read these weekly newsletters. What a bird’s eye view of all that God is graciously working out on our little planet. More mail would also come from various missionaries, some I knew personally.

I was truly privileged and am thankful to God that I could care for Marion.

I know many lives were touched by her example and I look forward to the day when I will see her again.

Jocelyne Sade - April 26, 2023 at 04:25 PM

SP

Thank you, Jocelyne for your faithful loving care for Mom and for being my friend through it all and still now... just downstairs... available to sit and chat and remember... take a hike in Pier's Gorge and remember... God has blessed us to walk this journey together.

Shirley Person - April 27, 2023 at 08:19 AM

MA

Dear Eddie and the entire family of Marion Ruth Anderson Erlandson, my deep condolences on the passing of your beloved one. I never had the joy of meeting Marion, but I know Eddie. Eddie's loving, open and inquisitive nature, his desire to help and support others to be their best, his cheerfulness must have come from her. I imagine that she was an anchor of peace and love, grounded in spiritual strength for everyone who knew her. May her spirit be peaceful and happy, and may you find comfort in knowing she is at peace and free.

Marilyn - April 27, 2023 at 12:04 PM

SP

*posting the tribute from our Liberian friend Emmanuel Jonah:
"We have a saying in Liberia that first impression matters. It can break or build you up.
My visit at Redemption Hill will always be remembered. Mom was one of the persons who welcomed me warmly.
I was introduced by Shirley to Mom. She said that mom loves to pray for people and she has been doing this for years. I then requested: "would you pray for me?" With a smile mom said yes, I will. From that moment I decided to call her my prayer partner.
I follow Shirley on Facebook. When I saw her post about mom being close to transitioning from earth to glory, Wintee and I took some time to pray that God's perfect will be done.
Thank God Mom fought a good fight, and finished strong. To God be the glory."*

Shirley Person - April 27, 2023 at 11:13 PM

LA

Shirley, I so enjoyed talking to your mom while she would pass the corner on two wheels while walking the mall... making 5 trips and eventually stopping to chat. She was so delightful and a joy to share conversation.

Lana - January 24, 2024 at 03:22 AM