

PRESSING ON



In memory of
Margaret Ridgway

To Members and Friends of CJM:

During the most desperate time for our Japanese Canadian community, there were those who were deeply moved by the plight which had befallen us. Few, if any, were moved as Margaret Ridgway was. She longed to give comfort and support to her Japanese friends, the now "displaced people." So, in obedience to what she believed was God's call, she gave up her studies to follow them into the "ghost towns" of interior British Columbia. Many of Margaret's experiences were extremely trying but blessed of God who sent her.

As a lasting tribute, Mary Holdcroft, a CJM fellow worker and a life-long companion to Miss Ridgway, has wonderfully captured and penned these memoirs with contributions from many friends.

It is my privilege and delight to encourage you to read the words of this booklet. The journey through which the Gospel has traveled to reach us as Japanese Canadians, is one which needs to be understood and appreciated by all who call on the Name of our Lord today.

Thank you Mary, for compiling this booklet to preserve the memories for all of us who call Margaret, our friend, mentor or fellow worker in Christ.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Non Kanashiro
General Director, Canadian Japanese Ministries (CJM)

2005

PRESSING ON



This little booklet is dedicated to the memory of

MARGARET RIDGWAY

1915 - 2004

Founder of the Canadian Japanese Mission, pioneer missionary and tireless worker in the cause of evangelism of our Canadian Japanese fellow-citizens; and life-long friend to numbers of them.

Compiled by Mary F. Holdcroft

FOREWORD

As one who has had an enduring friendship with Margaret Ridgway for 49 years I have taken it upon myself to compile and distribute this memorial booklet. I have been greatly helped by the many contributions sent from her Japanese friends which were originally put together in a "C.J.M. Memory Book" for her in 2001. She was delighted with it, and frequently enjoyed browsing through its pages and recalling what God had done through the C.J.M.

I have quoted liberally from the C.J.M. Historical Sketch (1978) and from the Memory Book. All of those quoted have gone on to live fruitful Christian lives as lay workers, leaders, pastors, and missionaries.

To God be all the glory.

Machiko Budai and Nori Kanashiro have been a great help in this project and I am very grateful.

Mary F. Holdcroft

Now I invite you to travel with me through Margaret's long and interesting life

CHAPTER 1

HOW IT ALL STARTED

Margaret A. E. Ridgway was born on May 31, 1915 in the city of Regina, Saskatchewan. She was only three when her father died - a victim of the terrible flu epidemic of 1918. After this shattering loss her mother took her little family (Walter had been born in 1917) back to her own home in Nova Scotia, where she went to work while the children were cared for by their grandmother. In 1923 the whole family relocated to Vancouver, where Margaret and her brother grew up. Margaret never forgot this sad time, and nothing could really fill the gap left by the sudden removal of her father's special care. She consciously missed him all her life and no doubt this contributed largely to her life-long battle with insecurity. She often struggled with a sense of being unworthy of God's love and grace. But she had a strong, independent spirit and after her life-changing experience of conversion as a teen-ager she earnestly began to follow her Lord and seek His will.

She grew spiritually under the friendship and discipling of Mr. and Mrs. Harry, and was soon caught up in the absorbing work of pioneer Sunday Schools in the Japanese fishing villages of Celtic Cannery and Sunbury on the Fraser River. This was her very first experience of telling the Gospel story to those who had never heard, and it thrilled her. On Mr. Harry's death, Margaret took up his vision and work, and before long another Sunday School was organized in the Vancouver East area where many Japanese families were located.

IKUYE UCHIDA: *I remember two ladies (one of whom was Margaret) coming to invite us children to Sunday School. I was about six and I remember asking, "What do you do in Sunday School?" My mother let us go, and from that day several Uchidas and other Japanese children went to the Japanese Sunday School at Franklin Street Mission in Vancouver, and learned about Jesus, the Saviour. Curiously, I remember Margaret teaching us a Japanese chorus, with a Canadian accent!*

ROSE TASAKA: *I first met Margaret in the late 1930s in Vancouver. She was the most understanding and caring person and our friendship grew.*

Margaret was quick to make friends and to appreciate the cultural differences of the Japanese community. In fact, a strong desire was being born in her to give her life to ministry amongst them. This had its earliest roots some years before in a challenging question posed by a young Japanese pastor at a meeting in her church: "How many of you really love the Japanese people right here in B.C.?" The question burned in her heart and was never forgotten. Now, years later, she sought the Lord for direction. Should she serve in Japan?,or Brazil? (many Japanese had emigrated there) or here at home in Canada?

RIN OISHI: *"Dear Miss Ridgway, Thank you for helping me to know my Saviour. You don't know what it means to have a friend and teacher like you. Ever since that happy night, I have had the joy and sunshine of his love within. (January 21, 1939)*

Rin and her sister Teruko were the only two pupils on Opening Day of Japanese Sunday School, January 20, 1935.)

Before the answer to this question was given, World War II had erupted, and overseas missionary work came to a standstill. However, in 1941 Margaret gave up her job in a bank and entered Vancouver Bible School to prepare for the future. Just a few months later the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour and war came to the Pacific arena. Suddenly, panic set in amongst the governors and people of B.C. and the peaceful, industrious Japanese people became "enemy aliens."

SACHI (UCHIDA) IKENOUYE: *When our family moved from Vancouver to Ocean Falls Margaret saw to it that we'd have a good Sunday School to attend. We had to return to Vancouver at the outbreak of war. Life turned extremely hard for us when Dad was taken to work on the Hope-Princeton Highway and had a bad accident. Mom had to go to him, and I remember Margaret coming to see us and comfort us.*

All those of Japanese origin, including their Canadian born and bred families, were suspect. They were abruptly uprooted, stripped of all property and citizenship rights, and herded into very makeshift quarters in Hastings Park. Then, as equally inadequate housing became available in the Kootenay area they were transferred by train to the so-called "ghost towns" (former mining settlements).

For Margaret, this was God's moment. Her Japanese Sunday School work was completely disrupted by the evacuation, and her Japanese friends had their lives turned upside down. Now she was down on her knees, seeking her Lord's guidance. This is how she tells it.

"I shall never forget that Spring day in 1942 when the words of the ancient prophet leaped at me from the page: "Go up tothe house and I will take pleasure in it,I am with you fear ye not. "

"With a feeling of exultation and yet of solemnity I rose from my knees in the kitchen of our Vancouver home where I had been kneeling before my open Bible. God had spoken. I had no doubt now that He was calling me to leave my "ceiled house " - the security of my home, my church, and my familiar surroundings - and follow my Japanese friends who were deprived of their homes and their livelihoods and were being sent to makeshift quarters in the narrow valleys of the Kootenay and Slocan Rivers. I was to have a part in building God's house there, not a building made with hands, but one composed of living stones. He would be glorified and "The glory of this latter house " would be "greater than of the former" - His work in Vancouver which we were having to abandon. "

CHAPTER II

DESTINATION - THE KOOTENAYS, B.C.

“As the bus drew near to the little town of Kaslo, questions thronged my mind: Would anyone meet me? Where could I stay? This was not the first time the Lord had required me to step out, not knowing what lay ahead. But deep in my heart I knew that He was leading and He would see to all these details. ”

“Sure enough, Teiko Arai (Mrs. Ken Kuboniwa) met Margaret at the bus station, she slept that night at a hotel and the next morning found a tiny summer cottage on the lakeside which was to be her home for the next four months.

Right from the first day she began visiting Japanese Christians she had known in Vancouver. Groups came to her cottage for fellowship and prayer, a Happy Hour Bible Club for children was started, and a Handcraft Club for teenage girls soon followed. Each day she prayed for opportunities to speak about the Lord, and her prayer was answered.

“It was a happy summer, full of challenge. ”

And, this, in miniature was the pattern that Margaret followed wherever she went. But she also had the true vision and energy of a pioneer. As soon as she saw that other capable workers in Kaslo could carry on she responded to the urging of friends and moved on to New Denver in October. Here there was a much larger group of evacuees and though it was getting cold many were still living in tents.

Tiny, three room cabins were being hastily erected - this was the "housing" provided by the government. Each tar-paper shack accommodated two families, a bedroom for each, and a small kitchen in between.

SACHI (UCHIDA) IKENOUYE: *We saw Margaret in Roseberry and New Denver where we and many other Japanese were evacuated. She followed the Japanese and did what she could to get the Gospel out and encourage us all. "Margaret, I am ever so grateful to you and to God for your sacrifice, dedication and true love for the Japanese. Your efforts brought salvation to me and to our whole family. "*

That winter was cold and snowy, but nothing could dampen the desire to celebrate Christmas. Small trees from the mountainside, home-made decorations and even carol-singers (the newly formed Young People's Society) all made this a Christmas to remember - the first in these drastically altered circumstances.

Throughout this winter and spring Margaret set up Sunday School, Handcraft Club, Young People's Society, as well as a Saturday School in Roseberry, a three-mile walk away. Mr. Hoshizaki began a Japanese language Sunday Service. In all this her Nisei friends from the Coast were capable co-workers and by the spring of 1943 Margaret left the work in their hands and went on to a new challenge.

ROSE TASAKA: *During the evacuation frenzy, Margaret and I lost each other, but before long she showed up in East Lillooet. It was as if she were evacuating with us, following us, looking up each friend she had known on the Coast. The roads were bad but nothing deterred Margaret, and when she reached her destination she was always cheerful, encouraging and strengthening. I thank God for bringing Margaret into my life.*

CHAPTER III

MOVING ON - OKANAGAN 1943 - 1946

"I made a tour of other re-location centres in B. C, finally deciding on Vernon (in the Okanagan Valley) as the place where the Lord would have me settle. "

"Ken Kuboniwa was the link between Margaret and the Japanese community there. Some were settled orchardists, many were evacuees from the Coast working in the orchards.

Sunday School was started and Vacation Bible Schools were held in three Okanagan areas. Another was held back in the Kootenay area of **Slocan** where over 100 boys and girls gathered. In the Fall a young people's meeting was started in Vernon.

"Bicycle was my means of locomotion during this period. One dark evening I biked out to South Vernon for a young people's meeting. No one was there when I arrived. I struggled to light the gas lamp, then lit afire in the big drum. I waited but no one came. Disheartened, I set out for home, and in the dark hit a pothole and was thrown over the handlebars. Picking myself up and pushing my damaged bike I got home and for the first time I seriously considered giving up and going back to Vancouver.

On my knees that night the Lord's voice came to me: "Let us not be weary in well doing for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. The next day a friend sent the same verse in a letter and the next Sunday, to my surprise, the pastor of a church I was attending for the first time prayed for me using the same verse! I could no longer doubt, but thank God for His Word to me, and press on. "

It was here in the Okanagan that Margaret displayed her talent for enlisting others in the work, both Niseis and Hakujin, either short or long term. Very much aware of her need for the support and help of others she made many friends and gladly saw them use their time and gifts in the work that was so dear to her heart.

MARY SHARPLES: *We had driven some young folks to a Young People's retreat in Armstrong and there we met Margaret. Up till that time we had had no contact with the Japanese in our area but that was the start of the many years we were part of the Japanese outreach. She stayed in our home many times on her trips up and down the Valley. It was a blessed time for us.*

IRENE LOWEN: *I have many fond memories of going with Margaret to reach out to the lonely and hurting Japanese in the Okanagan. It amazed me how many friends she had made and how they trusted her with their confidences. She always had a heart of compassion for each one, and time to listen. I thank God for those experiences, and learned from them.*

By the Fall of 1945 regular Young People's Meetings were being held in four places in the Valley, and the very first Nisei Bible Conference was held, with much blessing.

KUTCH IMAYOSHI: *I first met Margaret when she came to work amongst the Japanese in the Okanagan. I remember the camp-like meetings in the orchard cabins. Bible studies led by Margaret and others, testimonies and games filled our time together. Some of the friends we made at that time continue to this day*

And finally, Mr. and Mrs. Bee (and later, Miss Kathie Morris) all former missionaries in Japan, began a ministry to the Isseis in Vernon and Kelowna. Foremost among the many who worked with Margaret, and later took leadership, were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sharpies of Kelowna. For many, many years they opened their hearts and their home to the Japanese. Their work will be long remembered.

MACHIKO (UCHIDA) BUDAI: *I thank God for all the many years I have known Margaret; my family knew her long before I did. I met her in Kelowna (I was living in Summerland) at a camp follow-up fellowship time. I remember thinking, "so this is Margaret Ridgway! I've finally met this person I've heard so much about. "*

IWAO IKENOUYE: *I will always be thankful that the Lord directed Margaret to work among the Nisei in the Okanagan. I thought myself a Christian but I had no peace with God. One night in May 1945 Margaret took us to a special service at Bethel Baptist Church. Isabel Kuhn's powerful challenge to give our lives to missionary service stirred me, and I responded - not knowing that I needed to be born again first. I was uncomfortable and wanted to leave quickly, but*

Margaret spoke to me and then introduced me to the pastor. To his pointed question, "Have you received Jesus Christ as Saviour into your heart?" I couldn't say yes. After some hesitation I finally prayed the sinner's prayer - and that night I walked out of that church with peace in my heart.

Then in the Spring of 1946 Margaret had to undergo surgery. She passed on the leadership of the Okanagan work to others, and went home to Vancouver for her operation and recovery.

CHAPTER IV

MOVING ON AGAIN - Southern Alberta 1946 - 1953

"My operation was successful and, with the work in the Okanagan under local sponsorship I was free to accept a new challenge. It came from Mr. and Mrs. Sam Okamoto who wrote that 5000 Japanese were living in the sugar beet farms of Southern Alberta and that little was being done to meet the needs of the Niseis. They also sent money for my train ticket to make a journey of exploration. I went and was there for six years".

HELEN KONNO: *Sam and Tatsue Okamoto (newly married) stayed in our home in Taber for a while when they were evacuated from Victoria, B.C. It was their urging that brought Margaret to Southern Alberta in 1946. She faithfully drove over the rough country roads inviting people to the Nisei Christian Fellowship. Many found Jesus Christ as Saviour through this work and the camps that were begun. We all loved Margaret and thank God for her compassion for the Japanese people.*

This was a very big challenge and with the work expanding so quickly Margaret felt the need of a Committee at home base (Vancouver) to undergird the work. In September 1946 a few people who felt burdened for the evangelization of Canada's Japanese banded together and formed the CANADIAN JAPANESE MISSION.

Following this organization, a monthly prayer meeting for the C.J.M. It was

a major step in the consolidation of the work and with this support Margaret set off for Southern Alberta. Here the Okamotos, the Iwabuchis, the Tamagis and the Tonomuras all gladly joined her in the work. In quick succession Youth Meetings and Sunday Schools were set up in several locations, and social occasions and rallies were organized.

NORI KANASHIRO: *I was not a Christian when I first met Margaret. A friend had invited me to a youth meeting near Lethbridge. There were about 15 young people - most were strangers to me but I enjoyed their friendliness. Margaret was the speaker. What she said I do not remember, but what was indelibly impressed on me was the aura of joy and peace that seemed to surround her.*

Taber, Lethbridge, Coaldale, Raymond, Barnwell, Calgary, Edmonton,
.....wherever Margaret heard of Japanese communities she was off to see what could be done.

BLANCHE KANASHIRO: *I first remember Margaret when she and the Okamotos started a Sunday School in McNally south of Lethbridge. It was in this small country Sunday School that I came to know the Lord as my Saviour. Thank You, Margaret, for your love of the Japanese and bringing the Gospel to us.*

By the Spring of 1953 it was evident that with so many new young Nisei Christians some consolidation of the work must take place. After much prayer and discussion two new "visions" were given. First, a Sunday evening service was begun in Lethbridge to nurture these new Christians and in the Fall the **NISEI GOSPEL CHURCH** was duly organized. Second, the first camp was held that summer and the Kootenay Kamp became a tradition.

Now operating under the name of Sunnyside Camp in Alberta it has passed its 50th Anniversary. Countless numbers, young and not-so-young have been blessed by this work and leadership has been passed down the generations to Sanseis and Yonseis.

SHIG TAMAKI: *Because of the love of Christ in Margaret and her love for us, and her prayers, I received Christ into my life on November 29, 1949. Since then I have followed her ministry and admired her perseverance in reaching the Japanese for Christ.*

SUE AND JACK IWABUCHI: *So many happy memories of Margaret's ministry in Alberta! The work that was started then continues today.*

BILL AND SOPHIE IWABUCHI: *Dear Margaret, Thank you for your many years of service for the Lord among the Japanese - especially those in Southern Alberta.*

CHAPTER V

FULL CIRCLE: Back to Vancouver 1953-1955

The C.J.M. Board, now located in Lethbridge, asked Margaret to return to Vancouver to serve the growing number of Japanese who were moving back to the Coast in these post-war years. While hosting Ellis House (the women's residence for Vancouver Bible School) Margaret visited many Japanese homes and started Sunday School and Young People's Meetings with the Niseis.

***EDDIE YOSHIDA:** I first met Margaret when I came to Richmond near Vancouver for a summer job. I needed a car for my business, but I bought one large enough to transport young people to the new Nisei Christian Fellowship in Vancouver. It was held at Ellis House where Margaret was hostess. Most of us came from non-Christian homes so Margaret became our advisor, sponsor, encourager and mentor. We were so proud of our N.C.F. lapel pins!*

At that time, an embryonic work amongst the Isseis evolved as a part of the Sunday School. This served to deepen Margaret's desire to learn more of the Japanese language in order to reach the older generation. Not much had been done for them as yet, and with the freer immigration and the advent of many more Japanese fresh from Japan the matter became an urgent matter for prayer.

In the meantime another yearly tradition began to emerge - the Nisei Conference held at the Firs Conference grounds was just across the border. This was a means of promoting happy fellowship with fellow Niseis in Washington State, and was held for a number of years.

MARY (UCHIDA) TAZUMI: *My sisters were very concerned for this "rebel" sister and had been praying for my salvation. One evening (or I should say, at 2 A.M. in the morning) I came home from a party to find Margaret sitting outside, waiting for me. She lovingly put her arms around me, looked me straight in the eyes and said, "Mary, don't you want to accept Jesus as your Saviour?" I pushed her aside and said "No", opened the door and left her standing! She must have felt very disappointed. However, God used that visit to speak to my heart. I couldn't believe someone would come and wait out in the cold. Finally, I made my way to a church and shortly thereafter invited Jesus into my heart.*

CHAPTER VI

CANADA WIDE: On to Toronto 1955

Mr. and Mrs. Hiko Kinoshita, along with Miss Mable Sharples felt the call of God to pioneer a work amongst the many Japanese who had settled in Toronto. (Apart from an initial visit there to assist these new workers in the setting up of their work, Margaret herself was not involved.) The Toronto Japanese Gospel Church under the dedicated leadership of Stan Yokota has gone on from strength to strength for many decades now, to the glory of God and the salvation of many.



What Margaret had initiated way back in 1942 and worked for tirelessly had at last stretched from Vancouver to Toronto, bringing the Gospel to every sizable community of Canadian Japanese. The pioneer phase of the work had ended.

CHAPTER VII

JAPAN AT LAST - 1955 -1958

Now in the Fall of 1955 Margaret's dream of many years was about to come true. The C.J.M. Board was sending her to Japan for "at least two years."

The purposes were three: to study the language, to acquaint herself with the country and its customs, and to assess the place and value of the Nisei Missionary in Japan. (Already several young people from the C.J.M. work had trained and were working as missionaries under various groups in Japan. And they were proving themselves as excellent workers.)

So for nearly three years Margaret lived, studied and traveled in Japan, most of that time in company with Emi Kageyama.

EMI (KAGEYAMA) BENNETT: *I first met Margaret in Japan in 1956, at my home church in Omama. My pastor asked me to help Margaret whose purpose in coming to Japan was to learn Japanese customs, to get to know the Japanese people and to study the language. In order to do this it was arranged that she and I would live in the home of my aunt in the village of Niisato in Gumma Ken. My aunt had four children, the oldest being 12 years old and it was a lively, happy home. Margaret adjusted very easily to the Japanese style, from sleeping to eating and cooking; she became a part of the family and quickly learned how to think and act like a Japanese. On the other hand, the family observed Margaret and were clearly able to see in her the likeness of Jesus Christ. What made her like that? It was the calling of God to which she responded and which she felt so strongly that she longed to tell the Good News of the Gospel to Japanese people (especially the Japanese Canadians).*

While she was in Japan she missed no opportunity to hold children's meetings in the temple grounds of villages and hamlets, and to give out tracts to the villagers. And I heard how in Canada she had moved with her Japanese friends into the internment camps where they were forced to spend the war years.

Margaret had expected to be back in Canada by June, 1958, but was delayed. And the reason? read on -

TATSUE OKAMOTO: *After searching in vain for a Japanese baby to adopt in Canada, Sam and I wrote to Margaret to bring one back with her from Japan. Following are excerpts from Margaret's letter (dated November 18, 1958) written after her arrival back in Canada -*

"After I received Tatsue's letter my first thought was, Even if such a treasure were laid in my arms, what about immigration regulations?' I wrote immediately to the Embassy to enquire. A few days later, before a reply could come, to my amazement a day-old-baby girl was laid in my arms! 'Is it true, 'asked the doctor's wife, 'that you are looking for a baby? Won't you take this little girl? She is in need of a good home. ' This was no coincidence, I felt, coming so soon after the Okamoto's request".

The initial application was refused, but after months of persistent trying, much prayer and the help of some wonderful people, the Okamoto's were advised on June 18, 1958 that little Emi would be admitted to Canada. And in September Margaret brought her home to Winnipeg!

CHAPTER VIII

BACK TO CANADA: 1958 - 1980

The memorable and valuable time in Japan concluded, Margaret was back in Canada and from that time was permanently based in Vancouver though she made trips to the different C.J.M. centres across Canada. Much progress had been made in her absence, and many changes had taken place. Churches, both Issei and Nisei were being formed in the larger centres.

June (Tasaka) Kitamura: *When I arrived in Vancouver in 1963, I was a homesick country kid dropped into a big city! Margaret helped me so much by sharing so many meals with me in her home on Thurlow Street. I am so grateful for the nurturing I received and for her patience, understanding and love during my tumultuous teen years.*

During the 1960's all the C. J. M. workers were reaching out to the new wave of immigrants from Japan. Especially in Vancouver, Margaret and her coworkers found an open door into the homes and hearts of those we called the "shosha" ladies - wives of business men who came to work for a few years in Canada.

STAN AND AILEEN YOKOTA: *We cherish many unforgettable times spent in Vancouver during our three years of C.J.M. ministry there (1965 - 1968).*

The plight of young, inexperienced immigrants who found themselves in a strange country, with no friends and very little skill in English led to the setting up of the CJM Centre in Vancouver. Young people could stay here

until they found their feet, and for a number of years this was a hub of much activity. (1971 - 1978)

And so the years went by. Margaret worked hard and enthusiastically wherever she was needed. Her friendships deepened and broadened and her desire that the Good News of the Gospel be spread abroad wherever there were Japanese Canadians never wavered.

In 1980 a minor heart attack forced her to discontinue her active involvement, but by then the Japanese leaders themselves were talking about and planning for the continuation of the work under Japanese leadership. What better moment could there be, after a lifetime of endeavor, to pass on the torch to a younger generation!

Thus, the Japanese Canadian Evangelical Christian Society (JCECS), a fully indigenous society, was born to carry on the ministries of the C.J.M.. As time went on, changes became necessary. With renewed vision and close cooperation with the Japanese churches sprinkled across the nation, the society changed its name to assume again the acronym C.J.M. - CANADIAN JAPANESE MINISTRIES

The new C.J.M. operates under a Canada-wide Board of Directors with Nori Kanashiro as its leaders.

MACHIKO (UCHIDA) BUDAI: *I thank God for all the years I have known Margaret, and that goes back a long way. God has used her to bring many Japanese to Himself and to teach them His truths so that they would be established in Him.*

One day our Lord will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord".

CHAPTER IX

THE LAST LAP: 1980 - 2004

After a good recovery from her heart attack, Margaret entered with enthusiasm into a variety of new activities - teaching a weekly Bible class, traveling overseas, entertaining many friends and relatives and delving into her family's ancestry, especially her father's side. No doubt this helped to close the gap left by her father's premature death and it also gave her a rare gift - cousins unheard of until then became good friends and travels to and from England became a regular and joyous experience.

Then, in her eighties and with increasing memory loss there came inevitable restrictions which Margaret found hard to accept. Her last few years were spent in residence at the Haro Park Care Centre where she had previously volunteered as Chaplain.

Margaret never forgot her many Japanese and hakujin friends who had worked with her for the spread of the Gospel amongst Japanese Canadians over so many years. She never tired of being reminded of what God had done, and is still doing through the work of the Canadian Japanese Ministries (CJM). This was her legacy.

In early November, 2004 she had a bad fall and fractured her hip. By now, 89 years old and very frail, she had no strength to fight back. The next day, November 5 at 1:15 PM her Home call finally came:

"Well done, good and faithful servant enter into the joy of your
Lord."

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord ...they will rest from their
labour, for their deeds will follow them."