

B.F.N. 12-4-2003

Lydia J. Friesen, 82



Lydia J. Gunther Friesen passed away in Bonners Ferry, Idaho, Nov. 22 at the age of 82. Services were held at the Bonners Ferry Funeral Home on Friday, Nov. 28, with Pastor Stan Martin of Community Fellowship Church officiating.

Lydia was born to John and Helena Gunther on July 14, 1921 in Rosedale, Calif. She graduated from the Bible Institute of Los Angeles (BIOLA), where she met Irvin Friesen, whom she married Nov. 11, 1944 in Reedley, Calif. They recently celebrated their 59th anniversary.

Lydia and her husband served as missionaries in Congo, Africa for 26 years with the Mennonite Brethren Mission. Subsequently, they served in Botswana, Africa for

10 years with the Inter-Mennonite Missions. Lydia's ministry included Bible teaching and literature work. In 1986 they retired in Reedley, Calif., and were active in the Dinuba Mennonite Brethren Church.

In 2000 they moved to Bonners Ferry to be near their son, Glenn, and his family.

Although Lydia never had a piano lesson, she was a gifted pianist who loved to play as well as sing. In addition, she was an avid reader and did beautiful needlework. She enjoyed opportunities to travel throughout her career, and traveled widely in Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America.

Lydia is survived by her husband, Irvin, of Bonners Ferry; daughter, Karen, of Yellville, Arkansas; son, Glenn, of Bonners Ferry; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; sisters Caroline Ens of Reedley, Calif., Rubena Ewell of Fresno, Calif., and Eva Willadsen of Oakland, Calif.; brother Wesley of Fresno, Calif.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions can be made in her name to MBMSI, 4867 E. Townsend Ave., Fresno, CA 93727, and