



Lois Jean Eschenbrenner

January 21, 1953 - September 11, 2009

Hedrick, Iowa

Visitation: 12:00 Noon until time of service, September 19, 2009 at Northgate Alliance Church, Ottumwa, Iowa

Funeral Service: 1:30 O'Clock P.M., September 19, 2009 at Northgate Alliance Church, Ottumwa, Iowa

Interment: Brooks Cemetery near Hedrick, Iowa

Lois Jean Eschenbrenner, 56, of Hedrick, completed life's journey on Friday, September 11, 2009, at 11:50 a.m., when she died peacefully at her home. She was born January 21, 1953, at Omaha, the daughter of Paul and Edna Secrest Westbrook. She met Jim Eschenbrenner at St. Paul Bible College (now Crown College) and they were united in marriage on August 16, 1975. Although trained as an LPN, Lois chose to partner with her husband, and together they managed several Logos Bookstores and a marketing company

before entering the ministry full time in 1987.

Her motivating desire was to love and serve God by loving and serving her family which she accomplished with great enthusiasm, limitless energy, and unwavering commitment. Certain projects, usually connected to her family, also benefited from her nurturing skills. Of special note are the two and three year old Sunday School departments at Evangelical Community Church in Bloomington, Indiana, which Lois directed for three hours every Sunday for ten years; the bookkeeping office of Missions Outreach in Bethany, Missouri; the Pekin High School Music Boosters and Speech and Drama programs; the Pekin Ministerial Association REACH program; and Tri-State Camp.

Lois and Jim have three children: Joy and Tony Latcham of rural Hedrick, Peter Eschenbrenner of West Des Moines, and Kari and Jeremy Hamilton, also of rural Hedrick. Lois was well-known for consistently referring to Tony and Jeremy as her “sons-in-love”. She had six grandchildren: Brady, Broc, Brandt, and Brently Latcham, and Sarah and Natalie Hamilton, all of whom referred to her as “BaBa”.

Lois’s life was marked by some very special relationships: Clarice Eschenbrenner (Jim’s mother), of Manor House in Sigourney, who was always called “Mom” by Lois; Howard and Doreen Stribbell and their children, Timothy and Rebecca, who now live in Macau, China, all of whom Lois claimed as “her kids”; Donna Gerst of Hedrick; Deb Sanders of Hedrick; Kathy Bayless and Donna Bowden both of Bloomington, Indiana; Cheryl Wyllie of Martinsburg; Becca Brain of Hedrick; Kim Marshall of Gilman City, Missouri; Jessica and Emily Long of Montezuma; and Carol Giovanetto of Lindenhurst, Illinois. The family recognizes this list is not complete as Lois had a very open and loving heart which touched many others.

In addition to the family members and friends mentioned above, Lois is

survived by two sisters, Mary (& Richard) Bakken of New Richland, Minnesota, and Beth Rand of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and one brother: John (& Elaine) Westbrook of Ralston, Nebraska. Her parents and father-in-law, and a dear friend, Lena Wyllie, preceded her in death.

There will be a special Celebration of Life service at Northgate Alliance Church, Ottumwa, on Saturday, September 19, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. The family will receive friends and visitors both prior to the service beginning at Noon and following this service. There will be a private family graveside service to lay the body to rest at Brooks Cemetery near Hedrick with the Reverend Frosty Van Voorst officiating.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Pekin Ministerial Association, 205 West 4th, Packwood, Iowa 52580, or to Hospice of Keokuk County, 420 North Main Street, Sigourney 52591.

Arrangements are by the Fremont Funeral Chapel.
