



## Marion Loraine Kelsven

April 7, 1922 - April 14, 2016

Marion Kelsven passed from this life into the arms of Jesus on April 14. Born in Almont, North Dakota, she always appreciated her small town roots. Her family lived above the general store run by her father. Her older sister Kathleen shielded her from the winter winds when they walked to elementary school. Teenagers dressed in their Sunday best to go on picnics in the hills. Marion was an enthusiastic student, skipping two grades & showing an early interest in music.

After a couple years at Marion College, Indiana, Marion transferred to Indianapolis for nursing; she completed her degree at Seattle Pacific College, looking forward to life as a missionary. She had many interesting experiences and delivered many babies in Colombia, South America. Coming home for her health in the early 1950's, she returned to hospital nursing and spent more than a decade at Emmanuel Hospital in Portland working in labor and delivery, then teaching nursing. (The family had moved to Oregon when Marion was in nursing school and she followed later.)

From 1966 until her retirement in 1986, Marion worked in public health, with a brief stint teaching at Mt. Hood Community College. She loved speaking Spanish with migrant workers and being able to help refugees from around the world. She also loved to travel and visited most countries in the Western Hemisphere and several in Asia, Western Europe and Southern Africa.

Marion was always active in the church. She especially loved to serve through playing the organ and piano. She was a member of St. John's Wesleyan in Portland, later of Faith Evangelical in Milwaukie and attended Newberg Friends after her move to Newberg.

Friendsview retirement community was home for the last decade, a place where she made new friends, and received excellent care. She played the piano for chapel services until her hearing made it too difficult and still enjoyed playing the piano in her room.

Marion is survived by her sister Beverly Kelsven of Newberg; nieces and nephews Cheryl Edwards and Rowene and George Beals of Holland, Michigan, Clifford Edwards and Loree Oberle-Edwards of San Diego, California; great nephews Erik and Kristen Beals of Holland, Michigan and Evan Beals of East Lansing, Michigan. She was preceded in death by brother Ray Kelsven, parents Clifford and Katherine Kelsven, brother-in-law Burdette Edwards and sister Kathleen Edwards.

Services will be held at the Newberg Friends Church on Friday, April 29 at 2:00 pm officiated by the Rev. Phil Hawk.

Memorials may be directed to World Hope International or a cause the donor is passionate about.

World Hope International

Attn: Gift Processing

P.O. Box 743794

Atlanta, GA 30374-3794

# Cemetery Details

## Belcrest Memorial Park

1295 Browning Ave S  
Salem, OR 97302

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **29**. 2:00 PM (PT)

Newberg Friends Church  
307 S College St  
Newberg, OR 97132  
[office@newbergfriends.org](mailto:office@newbergfriends.org)  
<http://newbergfriends.org>

# Tribute Wall

BH

“ *That is the smile I remember at FRC. She always greeted me with a smile and we enjoyed sharing experiences of the day. I miss her. I know the family is feeling comfort from the many prayers and wonderful memories. God needs a lot of dedicated people like Marion who made life better for so many others.*

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**Beverly Horttor** - May 11, 2016 at 08:58 PM

MP

“ *I met my friend, Marion at Faith Church in Milwaukie many years ago. What an inspiration she was to me--I loved to hear her play the organ and in a Bible class she taught I was amazed how she could make the Bible come alive for all who attended. Her love for missions inspired me so much. Whenever there was a project for missions, you could always count on Marion to help in any way she could. In fact I never knew if she ever said no to any of the Lords work. What a woman of God! Now she is home and enjoying the riches of heaven! God bless the family, comfort them and give them peace.*

*In Christian love, Marlene Purkey*

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**Marlene Purkey** - April 28, 2016 at 04:53 PM

JD

“ Marion is probably one of the sweetest ladies that I've known. Our family attended faith Evangelical church & I enjoyed hearing her play the organ for years. Marion also played for two of our childrens weddings & shared a birthday with our son Brian who exchanged birthday cards each year. Her abilities of playing either the piano or organ went beyond just her ability but because of her love for the Lord this came through loud & clear when she played or accompanied singing groups or soloist. Our family will miss her very much, Heaven is a richer place today because of her committed life while she was here on earth & her witness for the Lord. I thank the Lord for having Marion in our lives for the time He gave us. I know she would have only wanted those that didn't know her Lord to someday come to Him. Julie Duhrkoop

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**Julie Duhrkoop** - April 28, 2016 at 03:46 PM

IM

“ Marion hired me the day I applied for a job in public health. I remember her as quiet and when she introduced me to the health officer she introduced me as "our new nurse". I had to ask if that meant I was hired and she said, "of course". Some time later she was instrumental in my returning to school to become a pediatric nurse practitioner with the proviso, "You stay and do the well child clinics for at least a year". I retired 25 years later. Her office was next to the one I shared with two other nurses. Hers was a solo office of course but all the doors were open. She would frequently relocate to the lone chair in our office to listen to our chatter and our laughter. We accused her of doing so because she could not always hear the punch lines to the jokes and she openly agreed. She was a great boss and we kept in touch after we'd both retired. I am saddened by the passing of my friend and I want to thank Rowene Beals of Holland MI. for notifying me. I miss you Marion and I can still hear your giggle. Iva Mace

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**Iva Mace** - April 25, 2016 at 08:49 AM

KM

“ *My childhood is filled with memories with Marion. They range from taffy pulls to piano lessons, trips to the Oregon Coast and Banff, Alberta and overnights in her home when my mom and dad were away. And in all things, I always knew who Marion represented -- her Lord Jesus Christ. She represented him well in her walk. I look forward to seeing her again someday! Love and sympathy to her family. Karen Gross McMullen*

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**Karen Gross McMullen** - April 23, 2016 at 09:13 PM