



## Sonja F. Walter

October 7, 1938 - June 18, 2014

Sonja Faye Bennett was born to a Norwegian lady, Laura Cristina Odson, and Edgar Andrew Bennett on the family farm north of Corning, Iowa. She had 4 sisters, twins Elizabeth and Laura (Laura died at a young age), Hazel and Carma, and one brother, Victor, who died in infancy.

Sonja's family attended the Strand Lutheran Church and it was during her confirmation that she realized that her faith must be a personal faith. She understood she must accept Christ 's work on the cross for her salvation.

She attended Corning High School and was active in 4-H and Future Homemakers of America . She held many local and county leadership positions in both organizations. She also had training in the secretarial field, but her real desire was to become a homemaker. During her junior year of high school, she met a handsome young soldier, Don Walter, through his cousin, Max Walter, and her older sister, Elizabeth. After their first skating date, they both dated each other exclusively. On her graduation day from high school Don presented her with an engagement ring.

After working nearly a year as the ISU Extension Director's secretary, Sonja Bennett and Donald Walter were married on April 14, 1957. Together they established their home on the farm that had been in the Walter family for many years. Nancy, Carol and David were born to the union and she was able to be a stay-at-home mother.

Sonja used her many gardening and canning skills to help provide for her family. She was an excellent cook and used her abilities to minister to others. She took a cake decorating class and made many cakes including her parents' 40th and 50th Anniversary and both daughters' wedding cakes.

Over the years Sonja taught children's classes at Grace Baptist Church, Iowa Regular Baptist Camp, and Rio Grande Bible Institute. She loved children and continued over the years to build relationships with young people and touched many lives with her teaching. She was also active in choir ministries.

She loved making beautiful quilts and in her later years made quilts for each of her grandchildren. Her sewing abilities included making clothing for her family. She took joy in sewing Nancy's wedding dress and bridesmaid dresses for both daughters. She taught community education classes on cooking, quilting, and sewing.

After over 30 years of farming, Sonja and Don both desired to commit more time in serving the Lord, so in 1987 were commissioned by Grace Baptist Church as home missionaries. They have served for over 25 years at both Rio Grande Bible Institute in Edinburg, Texas, during the winter and Iowa Regular Baptist Camp in Ventura, Iowa, in the summer. They also volunteered at Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, Iowa.

Sonja leaves behind her loving husband, Donald, daughter Nancy Garwick (Randy), daughter Carol Tustin (Warren), son David Walter (Jennifer), grandchildren, Jesse, Jared, and Laura Garwick; Jenna, Trevor, and Ryan Tustin; Jordan, Jonathan and Katelyn Walter; sisters, Hazel Richards and Carma Lundquist; many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Sonja Walter is preceded in death by parents, Edgar and Laura Bennett, sisters, Elizabeth Bowman and Laura Bennett, and brother, Victor Bennett.

The family will greet friends from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Sunday, June 22, 2014 at Grace Baptist Church (1801 Quincy St, Corning, IA). Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 23, 2014 at Grace Baptist Church with Pastor Dan Lamgo officiating. Burial will be in Methodist Grove Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Iowa Regular Baptist Camp for a laundry room remodel in memory of Sonja.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **22**. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church  
1801 Quincy St.  
Corning, IA 50841

## Funeral Service

JUN **23**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Grace Baptist Church  
1801 Quincy St.  
Corning, IA 50841

# Tribute Wall

HH

“ My thoughts & prayers are with the entire Walter's family at this time. Growing up at Grace Baptist Church in Corning, your Mother was an excellent Sunday School teacher to put it mildly. To this day, I fondly remember her Sunday School class being very well organized. Everything from the Omnichord music (us kids were totally mesmerized by that thing!) to her crafts, lessons & flannel graphs were all a reflection that she diligently studied & prepared her lesson every week. Then on top of all that, your Mother lovingly hosted Sunday School parties on Sunday afternoons a few times a year at your home. Man, I STILL remember how much fun those parties were! Typically, we'd ride home with your folks after morning church, eat lunch at your home & then play games and make crafts all afternoon until they'd drive us back to Sunday evening church to reunite with our parents following the service. As a parent of three little kids today, your Mother truly went above & beyond the call-of-duty to lavish God's love on us Sunday School students. I am so thankful for her Godly influence on my life and know that she impacted many lives for Christ. With God's promise for those who put their trust in Him, I look forward to a heavenly reunion someday with your dear Mother. In Him, Heidi (Sorensen) Hiebert

Heidi (Sorensen) Hiebert - July 31, 2014 at 03:29 PM

MU

“ Our deepest sympathy go out to your family at this time. May Jesus comfort each of you as you celebrate the life of your dear one. We will continue to pray for you all. Blessing in Jesus, Bob, Margaret and Katie Joy Ussery

Margaret Ussery - June 25, 2014 at 09:44 PM

NG

Thank you, Margaret!

Nancy Garwick - June 25, 2014 at 10:28 PM

CT

“ We are praying for you all as you grieve Sonja's passing. What a comfort as Believers to know that she is in the presence of the Lord! Sonja was head cook at IRBC for the 4 years that I was a cook and I was so blessed to be able to learn and grow under her leadership! Christine (Livingston) Trahms--IRBC Cook, 1994-1997

Christine Trahms - June 23, 2014 at 02:21 PM

ML

“ You all are in our thoughts and prayers as you celebrate the life of Sonia. She was a blessing to me as a missionary kid, making clothes for our family. We rejoice with you in her great gain and share with you in your loss. "Absent from the body, present with the Lord!" The Lounsborough family

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**Mark Lounsborough** - June 22, 2014 at 04:58 PM

MM

“ Nancy and Randy,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you. How precious to know your Mom is with the Lord. Love, Delmar and Melody Mains

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**Melody Mains** - June 22, 2014 at 03:37 PM

TA

“ My thoughts and prayers with Don and family. Her faith was an inspiration to all; I know she is with the Lord now.

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**Terri (Cooper) Applebach** - June 21, 2014 at 02:13 PM

MG

“ Dear Don and Family,  
We are so sorry for your loss. Sonja taught our sons at the RGBI Bible Club. Today they are serving the Lord, one full time and the other part time. We are so thankful for the vision that Sonja had for our children. She helped teach so many children that are today adults and with children of their own. We will miss her lots. Our prayers are with you.  
Manny & Jane Gutierrez

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**Manny Gutierrez** - June 21, 2014 at 01:26 PM

MM

“ Dear Don and family, There are way to many memories of my years growing up with Sonja- 4-H, confirmation, Walther League, bus rides, etc. She was such a giving person and always thinking of others first. I know her passing will leave a huge hole in your family, but to know she is at peace with the Lord is one of the greatest comforts I know. Our sorrow is for ourselves and the void she leaves in our lives. God be with you all in your time of grief. Myrna (Calkins) Mains

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**Myrna (Calkins) Mains** - June 21, 2014 at 12:13 PM

OF

“ Sent a gift in memory of Sonja F. Walter



Ouellette family - June 21, 2014 at 09:24 AM

SS

“ We are so sad to hear about Sonja's passing, but we rejoice in what she is experiencing with Jesus right now. I just sat down and told our boys about Mrs. Walters and what a blessing she was to so many people. It is a precious treasure to me that last year at the ladies retreat, Sonja, my mom, my sister and I were able to have a lovely chat together. Our hearts go out to you and we pray for you as you grieve. Lovingly, The Skinner family (Tim, Sara, Caleb & Joshua)

Sara Skinner - June 21, 2014 at 08:38 AM

DN

Amen to all of what Sara Skinner shared. It really is a precious treasure that we got to have that chat with Sonja at the retreat. It was a very special blessing. Phil. 1:3  
Praying for you all with love.  
David and Carlene Norris

David and Carlene Norris - June 22, 2014 at 09:15 AM

GG

“ Dear Don and Family,

We are thankful that Sonya is in the presence of her Savior. We pray that you will experience God's wonderful peace and comfort. We care and are praying for you. We love you. Gary and Marguerite Gonnerman

Gary Gonnerman - June 20, 2014 at 10:06 PM

LS

“ Lillian S. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Sonja F. Walter.



Lillian S. - June 20, 2014 at 12:20 PM

CS

“ Our most treasured memory of Sonja, was when she learned of our engagement, invited us to out the farm and offered to bake our wedding cake as our gift! That was 34 years ago and it is still one of the most precious gifts received~  
Cindy & Michael Shough

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**Cindy Shough** - June 20, 2014 at 11:55 AM

NG

*Carol and I did not know this - What a special memory! Thanks for sharing it!*

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**Nancy Garwick** - June 20, 2014 at 04:19 PM