

Alumni Focus

Rose Honecker Quick Facts

Rose Honecker (nee Wenzel)

Years at TRBI – 49-50 to 52-53

A good TRBI memory – Summer work in 1950

A favorite hobby or interest – Horse-back riding, sports

Where you grew up – Lived in Luseland, SK area most of my life. As a young child lived 3 years in the Superb, SK area (about 25 miles south of Luseland)

Date you were married – August 14, 1954

How many grandchildren you have – 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren

Something you enjoy with your husband – travel, board games, jig-saw puzzles

What was your first job ever – As I recall I was about 16 years old, when I got the contract to mow the grass along a gravel highway

A favorite bible verse or passage – There have been many Scriptures which especially fit certain occasions. However, a couple of verses I've quoted many times: After the death of our first-born at 5 1/2 months while living in Germany, together, Walter's and my parents sent a telegram with the following words from 2 Corinthians 2:3 & 4, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." (A footnote in my Bible states: God does not comfort us to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters.)

J: Rose, it was a privilege to speak with you on the phone the other evening and get a bit of a glimpse into your life. It's funny to me that I met you in Three Hills while attending Prairie Bible College and yet, unknown to me at first, we already had a connection of sorts since we were both alumni of NBC. Does the world seem as small to you as it sometimes does to me?

R: Yes, indeed!! In fact, the older we get, the more "look-alikes" there seem to be. Therefore we at least seem to be surrounded by people we know. (-:

J: Back when you were a teen, you already had an interesting connection to your future husband through your mother. How did your mom know Walter and how much did this play into the fact that you eventually married him?

R: I really don't know whether my parents planned for Walter and me to get acquainted, but my Dad hired Walter to do some trucking and some field work for him. I was somewhat attracted to Walter at that time.

J: After you were married you ended up heading to Germany as missionaries. Since it was the mid-50's and still not too far removed from WWII were there still a lot of visual reminders of the recent past? In what capacity did you serve on a day to day basis?

R: Yes, there were visible reminders of the war, especially in the huge city of Hamburg. There were open spaces where huge chunks of concrete from destroyed buildings still lay. Old, cracked and musty buildings being used for business/office space or homes. There were many widows trying to bring up and supply food to put on the table for their families. The school-aged children were called "latch-key kids" because they carried a house key on a string around their neck so that they could get into the house/apartment after school while their mother was still at work.

J: I have a hard time imagining my little 3-month old daughter passing away after being with us for such a short time. Yet, while you were serving in Germany you and Walter had to say goodbye to your first child at the tender age of 5-months. What perspective do you have on that painful time of your lives now compared to how you felt at the time?

R: The Scripture quoted under the "Facts" section took on a whole new meaning because there was a reason and a purpose to our saying "farewell" to our little son. Perhaps there will be someone who came to know the Savior personally or was comforted of God through our sorrow
Those very words still comfort whenever we think of our son and wonder, "What would he be like? Would he be walking with Jesus? Would he be married? Would we have had more grandchildren, etc., etc."

J: You also had health issues while serving in Germany and you both ended up coming back to Canada after 2 ½ years. What led you to move to Three Hills, and how did you end up staying there for over 50 years through to now when at the time of moving there you thought it would be something temporary?

R: Our move to Three Hills was temporary, because Prairie Bible Institute had asked Walter to haul the sold lumber from their lumber camp to the two purchasers. The estimated time for delivery of the lumber was 3 to 6 months. Following completion of that assignment, other trucking jobs kept the original assignment stretching into 30 years. After those 30 years, we just stayed on in Three hills - it had become home to us.

J: A highlight for me from the 75th Anniversary weekend at NBC this summer was the constant reminder of God's faithfulness. I heard constantly about God's faithfulness over the 75 years the school has been in existence. Even more impacting I found was hearing the testimonies of so many alumni, whose age spanned over different decades, telling of how God has been faithful to them in the years since they left the school. What's one specific way you've been impacted by God's faithfulness in recent years?

R: Even though Walter was on limited salary and I entered the work force, after the children were grown, for 12 years, God supplied our needs and made it possible for us to help missions in many ways. It blessed us immeasurably to have many students in our home. (Many 'Papers' were written on week-ends at our place.) Now, as seniors, God is taking very good care of us. God provides for our spiritual needs through our 'church home', while through the lodge He provides our physical needs.

J: Have you ever had the opportunity to be mentored by another Christian in your life, or perhaps even to be a mentor yourself? If there was one thing you could share from your lifelong walk with God to a student attending NBC this fall, what might that be?

R: Taking opportunities to teach, train, illustrate by object lessons, etc., may have been a means that fit the description of "mentor / mentored" as in use these days. Those words were unfamiliar to me. I was mentored by my parents, who taught me how to live a godly life and how to work. I taught Sunday School from the time I became a teenager. During Bible School years it was always special to join another student in prayer re special needs or requests. When our children were older, or had left home, I 'discipled' several young women. We memorized Scripture, worked on lessons re the memorized Scriptures and spent time in prayer. Those were very special times of mutual encouragement. The one thing I would like to share from my experience with a student attending NBC is: Make good use of every opportunity to learn all you can from the Word of God. Put your whole heart and mind into it. Ask God to speak to your heart and guide you very specifically into the future ministry He has for you. Be obedient to Him. The years in Bible School were indeed a HIGHLIGHT in my life