

**Margery Terpstra Obituary 1925-2017**

It is with regret that the family of Rev. Dr. Margery Williams Terpstra announces that she died in the early morning of May 19<sup>th</sup>. She was at home in the care of family, as she wished. The final decline lasted just a few short weeks. She was 92 years old and a resident of Hawaii for most of those years.

Born in Portland, OR, in 1925, she graduated from Grant High School in 1943. She worked for the War Dept. over the summer to earn money to attend Wheaton College. She attended Wheaton for 2 years, at which time she married her New Testament instructor, Chester Terpstra.

The newlywed couple moved to Honolulu in the Territory of Hawaii, setting the pattern for many years ahead. In 1950, Chet and Marge became missionaries to Pohnpei, now in the Federated States of Micronesia. Together, they began the Pastors and Teachers Training School. Leaving the island in 1960, eventually the family moved to Kauai and to Honolulu once again.

During those years, Margery was mother to 3 boys, graduated with a BA from the University of Hawaii in 1953, and lived in Edinburgh, Scotland, while Chet worked on his doctorate. She worked on Pohnpei for a year on an education project. Finishing her PhD from UH in 1972, she dove into a counseling career, complete with a newspaper column, community television show and a radio program. She also represented the State of Hawaii as Mother of the Year.

After a while, she felt the pull to seminary strengthen. She entered San Francisco Theological Seminary, graduating with a Masters in Divinity in 1992. Ordained in The First Chinese Church of Christ in Hawaii in 1997, she continued a successful speaking career with sermons in pulpits far and wide.

Her travels included teaching in China and Zimbabwe, and speaking at a conference in Japan. She and Chet hosted trips to Israel. In 1986 she published her workbook, "Life Is to Grow On" which she used in many workshop and therapeutic settings.

At last, retirement beckoned and she bought a house in Sequim, WA, in 2004. Her sons and grandchildren were all on the West Coast and it looked like a good time to be closer. Chet died in 2007 in their home with a wide view of the Olympic peaks.

While in Washington State, Margery became an elder in the First Christian Church of Port Angeles, and was active in several congregations. An inveterate journal keeper, she wrote daily entries until just shortly before her death.

She is survived by her sons, Michael, Merrill and Marshall, 4 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren, and her sister. Memorial services will be held in Sequim, WA, and Honolulu, HA, with a family interment in Portland, OR. In lieu of flowers, remembrances are requested to be sent to Fuller Center for Housing, 701 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Americus, GA 31719.