



Elsie is the daughter of Erwin and Lilly Lewandowski and was born in Edmonton, Alberta. She recognized her spiritual need at a camp she attended when she was ten years old and received Jesus Christ as her Savior at 11 years old. She was baptized and became a member of the Northgate Baptist Church in Edmonton, Alberta.

Elsie says, “at age twelve I already wanted to be a teacher but I did not want to be a missionary or to be single. The Holy Spirit won those battles at camp. I was always aware that my responsibility was to witness with my life. At age 16, the Lord revealed some hidden motives and I recommitted my life to him fully.”

Elsie has always been an active worker for the Lord. One summer Elsie worked with the Agape Force in Denver, Colorado. At the University of Alberta, she was involved with Youth with a Mission. And after receiving her B.Ed. from the University of Alberta, Elsie spent two years as a teacher on an Indian Reserve.

Elsie considers the Lord her daily strength: “I need the Lord daily in order to do the best at what I do. I am in awe that He loves me and wants to use me with all my failures and weaknesses. I have much to learn but I have seen miracles. He does change hearts and attitudes. He has His own timetable and needs not be rushed.”

Elsie began thinking about missions more seriously after hearing a presentation someone gave at Sylvan Lake Camp on the mission work in Brazil. “I always found missionary presentations interesting but meeting Herman and Ardath Effa was special. I recognized the need overseas and the lack of people willing to go.” After prayerful consideration, Elsie applied for missionary service. She says, “The love of God is my overall motivation, but for missions specifically, there is such a great need, so few willing, so few qualified, how can I stay?”

Elsie began her teaching ministry to missionary children at Faith Academy in Manila, Philippines in July, 1987. The summer of 1989 Elsie transferred to Davao City to teach at the Faith Academy satellite school. After returning to Canada, Elsie taught one year at a Christian school in Camrose, Alberta. In 1991 Elsie moved to Nigeria to teach at the Hillcrest School in Jos. In 1995 Elsie moved to Cameroon for a two-year term to serve as the discipleship coordinator and later as coordinator/teacher of the Field Education System. This two-year appointment was changed to career missionary status in 1999.

Missionary Moms often find themselves in jobs they hadn't planned. One of these jobs is homeschooling. Some people embrace homeschooling, while others are terrified. Elsie's job is to reassure homeschool teachers (moms, dads, tutors) that it can be done well! She hands out suitable curriculum, visits each family for a two week period and organizes a co-op learning situation twice a year. She holds people accountable and provides fun books from the library. As the coordinator/itinerant teacher/advisor, Elsie wears many hats that allow her to love missionary kids. In the summer, she's busy training Cameroonian teachers to upgrade at the Teacher Training College. Elsie is always looking for volunteers to come and help.



Birthday:
February 20