

Elsie Lewandowski Teacher in Romania



Elsie, the daughter of Erwin and Lilly Lewandowski, was born in Edmonton, Alberta. She was a ten-year-old at camp when she received Jesus Christ as her Saviour. 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 was not sure I wanted to be a missionary or to be single. Again, at camp the Holy Spirit won that battle. I was always aware that my responsibility was to witness with my life. At age sixteen, the Lord revealed some hidden motives, and I recommitted my life to him fully."

In her youth, Elsie actively worked in her church and at Christian citywide events. After receiving her bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Alberta, Elsie spent two years as a teacher on the Frog Lake Indian Reserve.

Elsie considers the Lord her daily strength: "I need the Lord daily 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 in my own life and the lives of others. He has His own timetable and needs not be rushed."

Elsie's commitment to missions came after a presentation by Herman Effa at camp. "I recognized the need overseas and the lack of people qualified or willing to go. How could I stay? God has been so faithful through the years – giving opportunities and providing for my needs. He has proven His love over and over again."

Elsie began her teaching ministry to missionary children at Faith Academy in Manila, Philippines, in July of 1987, later transferring to a satellite school in Davao City. In 1991, she moved to Nigeria to teach at Hillcrest School in Jos. She moved to Cameroon in 1995 to serve as the homeschool coordinator for missionary children for the North American Baptists, Converge Mission, and World Team. When the program dissolved in 2019 because of unrest in the region, Elsie concluded her time in Cameroon teaching at Rain Forest International School. She was planning to retire, but God called her to help the Bergman family in Romania, where she is presently serving.

During her time as the coordinator / itinerant teacher / advisor for homeschoolers in Cameroon, her role was quite diverse. By handing out suitable curriculum, visiting each family for a two-week period, and organizing a co-op learning situation twice a year, she was able to reassure parents that homeschooling was a good option for their children. Once again, she is helping with homeschooling.

Summers were not an idle time. For many years, Elsie led a summer program for Cameroonian children using youth to ensure that children had small group learning time. The Gospel was shared, and discipleship was encouraged. For the last number of summers, Elsie taught English phonics and reading skills to Cameroonian primary school teachers during the Teacher Training School's upgrading program. In Romania, Elsie will be teaching an English program within the program of Camp Falcon Rock.

"Living and working in Europe is a dream come true," admits Elsie. "Only God knew the desires of my heart and wove them into a way that I could serve Him and others. What a personal, loving, amazing God we serve."



Birthday:
February 20