

## **OBITUARY: *AGNES THARP***

Agnes (Luella) Tharp, daughter of the late Aron and Mary Buhler was born November 24, 1938 on the family farm in Mountain Lake, Minnesota. Agnes was the 5<sup>th</sup> of six children. She attended the public schools of Cottonwood County and was the Valedictorian and graduate of Mountain Lake High School in 1956. At a young age she professed her faith in Jesus Christ and was a member of the Cornerstone Bible Church, Mountain Lake.

Agnes learned to play the piano at a young age. Her love for music and singing manifested to adulthood through church and various activities/commitments in her local area in France. Agnes learned to play the harp in her latter years, taking lessons in nearby Valence, France.

She was united in holy matrimony to Gregory Tharp in September of 1969. This union was blessed with two children.

Agnes worked on the family farm for a year after high school graduation. She attended Grace Bible Institute, Omaha, Nebraska, graduating in 1961. After graduation, Agnes worked at the college as a secretary for a year. Feeling God leading her into missions, Agnes worked with Greater European Missions, Wheaton, IL. Her first assignment in 1966 lead her abroad to work on staff at the European Bible Institute Lamorlaye where she met her future husband Gregory Tharp, Canby, Oregon, a student at the Institute. She also attended Sorbonne University to study French.

From 1970 to 1982, Greg and Agnes were foster parents to 5 children placed by DASS (Departmental Coordination of the Medical and Social Program), France. Agnes was hired in 1985 to the Christian printing IMEAF, France as an executive secretary, where she worked 20 years, until her retirement in 2005.

Agnes was currently an active member of the Reformed Church of Bourg Les Valence, France. Over the years, she put in place a small group of musicians who played for various church worship services, in which she played the keyboard. Agnes was also very involved and faithful in the Tuesday morning prayer group and the group sharing/prayer on Thursday afternoons. As a result of her generous spirit and pleasant personality, she was loved by many. Her Christian life was as beautiful as the flowers that she loved so well, and her influence will forever remain in the lives of all who knew her. She quietly departed this earthly life on Thursday, 29 December 2016 at Clinic of Guilherand-Granges, France. Agnes was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Eleanor and Lillian, brothers-in-law Melvin and Ventura.

In addition to her husband, her beautiful life will forever be cherished in the lives of her children: Etienne of Valreas, France and Stephanie of Saint Paul Trois Chateaux, France; grandchildren Tristan, Violette, and Lancelot; twin sisters Martha and Mary both of Mountain Lake, Minnesota; brother Paul of Holbaek, Denmark; brothers-in-law John, Mountain Lake, Minnesota, and Noel, Keizer, Oregon; a host of devoted nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.