

## **Elaine Christopherson Nordman**

July 2018 - Let me start the ball rolling (cuz I like to talk). Fred and I are moving to an age-appropriate new home – zero entry, no basement, more SF that we currently have, and a postage stamp-size lawn. Been killin ourselves getting ready for moving sale no. 2 and hope to be in the new place by Aug 1. We've been finding out that we are waaaay too old to work in heat for very long stretches. We had kids to help with stuff like this but one went to heaven already, and the other is working long days out of town. Some help *they* are.

### **2023 update**

How much does life change when we're in our upper 70's? I have a very good life; I am content. Since our last reunion, I have lost my Fred to a brain aneurysm in 2021, and a dearly beloved sister-in-law to cancer in 2022. My other grief is missing Dean and his family (Dean was killed in '08). For whatever reason the two grandsons (28 and 25) and their mother whom I love very much, have cut us/me off. I'm not even sure if the boys are still living in Fl.

Through it all, God is faithful. I thank Him every day for being merciful and taking Fred quickly. He had two dreads: nursing home and/or suffering, and that I might go first. Neither happened and for that I am so glad. He had two goals in life: make me laugh at least once a day, and break the bad-dad cycle by being a good dad to his boys. Done, and done. I get such joy from my son's family in Cedar Rapids. Two grandchildren in college are showing signs of spiritual maturity and have an interest in God's things. What more can a grandmother want? I have a good life – back surgery has been holding steady and I no longer have back pain. After years and years. . . . Man! it is wonderful not to hurt. I love my old people's home – no basement, no steps, only seven years old so I shouldn't have to worry about appliance replacements for a while. There are friends whose children keep me humming – yard work and occasional housework/maintenance. I live four minutes from the gospel hall and the believers there are very caring and attentive. The library is next door; so between reading and my favorite tv programs, and attending the meetings of the assembly, my evenings are not something I dread. I'm thirty minutes from Riverview Event Center in Cedar Falls where I can attend Christian concerts and other stuff. I praise the Lord for the confidence I have that He has ALL things under control in spite of what it looks like in this messed-up world. We still have religious freedom and personal liberties, and the privilege to live in this great country. Counting all the blessings He gives me every day keeps me smiling.

See ya in June.