



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Mary Nickel

August 20, 1935 ~ May 3, 2026



Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.
You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.
A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.
If you say, "The LORD is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.
With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."



CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN THE LIFE OF

Maria (Mary) Nickel

Friday, May 29, 2026 at 5 o'clock
Tabor Court Chapel
31944 Sunrise Crescent
Abbotsford, British Columbia

WELCOME and SCRIPTURE – PSALM 91
Andrew Nickel

SPECIAL SONG MEDLEY
Bert Nickel Family

EULOGY
Sylvia Dirks

VIDEO TRIBUTE

SONGS – Oh, To Be Like Thee & How Great Thou Art
Geri Loewen

MEMORIES
Andrew Nickel
Lee Tettamanti
Jane Barg
Benita Williams

SPECIAL SONG

SPECIAL TRIBUTE
Aunt Margaret Nickel & Sonia Thiessen

SONG – In the Garden
All the Nickel Cousins

CLOSING PRAYER
Norm Klassen

*Thank you for joining us to celebrate Mary's life.
Your many acts of kindness and prayers of support
are sincerely appreciated.
We invite you to stay to visit and
share refreshments and memories.*



Maria Nickel was born in Winkler, Manitoba, in the early afternoon of August 20th, 1935. She was the youngest child and only sister to Henry, Benjamin, Jack, and Albert. Canada was in the middle of the Great Depression, and Manitoba was very cold in the winter, and both these realities influenced the family's next move.

In April 1936 when Aunt Mary was 8 months old, her parents, Maria and Benjamin moved to Agassiz, B.C., where they rented a small house but very quickly had to move again because it was flooded by the Fraser River. In the fall of the same year, they were able to purchase a 20-acre farm in the area, the first home that they could call their own. In 1942, the Nickels moved yet again, but this time it was the farm on Columbia Rd. in Abbotsford which became their "forever home."

Aunt Mary started her education in Agassiz and continued Elementary School in Abbotsford. South Popular Elementary had opened in 1933 and was the school closest to the Nickel home, so Aunt Mary attended there. She went to Abbotsford School for grades 7 and 8 and completed grades 9 to 11 at MEI. Mary graduated from grade 12 at Philip Scheffield School in June of 1953.

Mary attended classes at Bethel Bible School in Abbotsford sometime during the 1950s and part of her training included going to Vancouver Island to provide vacation Bible School in Black Creek. During these years she also took a secretarial course and worked at Buckerfields.

Mary attended West Abbotsford Church with her parents and was baptized in 1954. Aunt Mary travelled to Saskatchewan to attend Briercrest Bible School in the fall of 1960. She completed one semester, but her studies were cut short when her dad had a stroke, in January 1961. Mary made the pivotal decision to return home and assist in the care of her father. She would never again leave the family farm until she was in her eighties.

Six years later, her father died and after another decade Mary's mother had a stroke. As she had done for her dad, Aunt Mary spent time helping her mother exercise to facilitate the best possible recovery and quality of life.

During the 1960's, Aunt Mary busied herself studying voice and piano as well as Music Theory and Music History, eventually meeting the requirements for certification in grade 10 voice and grade 8 piano from the Toronto Royal Conservatory of Music.

Mary was a hard worker; she was no-nonsense, with strongly held opinions. Mary read a number of magazines cover to cover each month, including Decison Magazine, The Epoch Times, The Turning Point and the Abbotsford News.

She had a dry sense of humor and lived a no-frills life. She recalled an occasion when her brothers put her in the driver's seat of the family car at a time when she was too short to be seen through the windshield. As she drove them down the road and a car approached, the boys all ducked down so that it looked like no one was in the moving car. Another humorous memory she shared from later in her life was when her cow disappeared. It became evident that it had escaped from the field and made its way across the border into Washington State. Aunt Mary and her neighbor were so bold as to go after it and walk it back. Needless to say, this was prior to 9:11.

In the mid 1950's Aunt Mary became involved at Prairie Chapel by teaching Sunday School, playing piano, singing in a trio and organizing Christmas programs. She eventually became the Church Board Secretary and historian, and took responsibility for keeping all church records. Aunt Mary was the secretary at MEI starting in the 1960's until 2004. She told me recently that she worked there for over 40 years.

Year after year, Mary planted a huge garden filled with flowers, fruit, and vegetables. There were gooseberries, transparent apples, plums and pears. Until she sold her farm in 2017 Aunt Mary freely supplied friends and family with fruit as well as with cucumbers, corn and other garden vegetables.

In earlier years, she and her mother tended to a field of raspberries on the farm and would also come to her brother Albert's farm to help pick raspberries when the picker count was low, and the berries were at the peak.

Aunt Mary loved her nephews and nieces and is remembered for the Christmas gifts we received. Each year the goal was to be the first to open the gift as everyone received the same gift. At Easter there were easter egg hunts. Eggs and candies were hidden all over the farm. Other times of the year there were picnics and airshow parties. As nephews and nieces had families of their own there were annual Christmas cards.

Aunt Mary shared with family members that her greatest fear was to die alone. Perhaps this was a motivator for her to keep in touch with nieces and nephews. She was willing to include us, and she benefited from regular contact. This was evidenced by the cards and visits and phone calls that she received. Mary took her role as the oldest remaining family member seriously and tried to keep family updated on the latest family news.

In 2017, after living on the Nickel family farm on Columbia Road since 1942, Aunt Mary purchased a home on Sorrento St. just off Clearbrook Road. She lived there until after she had a stroke in 2025 at which time Mary moved into a suite at Tabor Home, where she lived for her final year.

After her stroke, she received speech therapy to help with her diction and She also read stories out loud to Aunt Margaret. Initially Aunt Mary struggled with the move to Tabor but in the time she lived there, came to appreciate the community she experienced.

Aunt Mary was taken to Abbotsford Hospital on April 28th after several days of difficult breathing. On Wednesday April 29th, the doctor explained to her that attempts to improve her condition were not working and efforts now would be to keep her comfortable. She raised her hands and said, "I'm ready to go." We witnessed her faith as she assured us that God was in control of her life and she was ready to accept what came next. For the next four days she gave us the gift of time to be with her. As family members entered her room she acknowledged their presence. We sang, prayed, and sat quietly with her. Heaven was in the room. We talked, cried, remembered, and shared laughter and learned things about Aunt Mary and her family that we had not known before.

On Sunday, May 3rd at 1pm Aunt Mary breathed her last and went to join Her Lord and Savior. She was welcomed by her parents, brothers and nieces and nephews .

Angels In the Room

She's close to death
But she is not afraid
Angels waiting for the order
To carry her away
They're gathered 'round her bedside
She's the only one who sees
She will draw her final breath
And away with them she'll leave

Angels in the room
She's run her final race
They've come to carry her to heaven
There to see her Savior's face
Angels in the room
To take her to her great reward
No need for sadness or gloom
There are angels in the room

She's not long for this world
There's a better one to come
She's thinking 'bout that Great Reunion
With the Father and the Son
Her family by her bedside
She says, "Children, can't you see
Angels standing all around us
It's time for me to leave"

Arrangements Entrusted To
WIEBE & JESKE FUNERAL HOME
www.wiebeandjeskefh.com