

Elaine Zonnefeld
Biography/History

I grew up in northwest Iowa, in a small town - Sanborn, and attended the local Christian school from 1st grade through 8th grade. My high school years were spent at Western Christian High in Hull, Iowa. I received my BA degree from Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa in 1973, majoring in Elementary Education, with a minor in Library Science. After graduation, I taught 3rd grade at Sully Christian School in Sully, Iowa for 5 years. Because of the brutal winter weather all through January of my 5th year in Sully, I decided it was time to leave the Midwest winters behind. I was hired to teach 2nd and 3rd grade at Everett Christian School in Everett, Washington. After a year, my assignment changed to teaching 1st and 2nd grade. I taught this combination for the next 16 years, and also taught Junior High Language Arts for 1 year. During my years at Everett Christian, I attended classes at SPU to earn a 5th year degree which was required for WA state certification at that time. Later, I enrolled in a Masters program through Western Washington University and obtained a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction. The last 22 years I have taught at Mount Vernon Christian. My class assignments have included a 1st-2nd split, a 2nd-3rd split, and 1st grade, with most of those 22 years spent enjoying the energy and curiosity of 1st graders.

As a child, I had always enjoyed school and learning new things. Doing well in school was very important in my family, and I was always encouraged to work hard and do my best. The pleasure I received from learning and succeeding in school motivated me to choose education as my career so that I could pass that sense of accomplishment on to my students. In addition, my mother had been a teacher, and I had many cousins who had become teachers. Their example was also part of my motivation to become a teacher.

During my years of teaching I have had the privilege to partner with so many parents, sharing the task of teaching children, not just academics, but also how God wants them live for him in this world. It has been a joy to see these children grow and mature in so many ways. Working with a variety of administrators, staff, and teachers has greatly enriched my life. The unique gifts and talents He has given to each person have been a blessing.