

MEMORIES FROM DAN & MARY DE GROOT

From the pen of Mary...

Following Dan's tour in Viet Nam and then eight married years at Calvin College and Seminary, God began writing our story in ministry. In the fall of 1976, God called us to this place called Trinity CRC in Rock Valley, Iowa (our first love) for such a time as this. Our oldest child, Michelle, was 3, and Chad was 6 months old. During our time at Trinity, we were blessed with another daughter, Rachael, born in 1978, and a few years later, our son, Matthew, born in 1981. On moving day, Dan remembers busily carrying our belongings into the house when he was approached by Joan Kooima (who thought he was one of the Brouwer movers) and she asked if he knew anything about this preacher man. With a chuckle, his response was, "What if this preacher man is me?" Great memory, Joan!

Personal note from Dan...

As I think about the years Mary and I spent at Trinity, I am reminded of Paul's letter to the church in Thessalonica:

*We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.
We continually remember before our God and Father your work
produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance
inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

I am not suggesting that Trinity was the "perfect" church to serve. I am saying the evidence of the presence, power, and work of the Holy Spirit has always been evident. Having served as your pastor and later as your associate pastor when I was called to the Directorship at Justice for All, I can testify to the joy of joining with you in serving the Lord of the Church. The journey wasn't always easy; however, I am confident that God was able to use me to be a blessing to Trinity. I also know that Trinity has truly blessed Mary and I and our family. As was noted in our joint reflections, so many fond memories come to mind.

We join you in rejoicing at God's goodness and faithfulness these past fifty years. We look forward with you to the way in which God will continue to use Trinity for His glory and the advancement of His kingdom.

In Him,

Dan and Mary



This picture was taken at the farewell for the De Groot family in 1982.