

Violet Nielsen Meissner

Violet is the oldest daughter of Niels and Iva Nielsen. I interviewed her by letter and was delighted to get her responses. Colleen Samuelson Last

When and where were you born? Describe your mom, dad, siblings. I was born June 12, 1929 in Alta, Iowa in the hospital. My mom was a good cook, rode with Dad on the snowplow and a hard worker. Dad was very in control and you did what he said. He was a Dane! My brother and sister were mischievous and fun.

As a child, what did you want to be or expect to be when you became an adult? Is that how it turned out for you? I wanted to be a nurse and I was. I enjoyed a career doing what I loved.

As you think about your life thus far what might be among the most joyful moments that you recall? Getting married, getting a job, having my children and my grandchildren and great grandchildren. Spending time with all of my family. Accepting Jesus as my Lord.

Conversely, as you think about your life thus far what might be among the most difficult moments/challenges that you recall. The process of aging including being blinded in my right eye and losing my muscle strength. At this time in my life I am very limited and sometimes feel isolated.

As a seasoned life traveler, do you have any advice to offer those just getting started with their lives? Travel while you are young and enjoy every moment.

Among those who have had the greatest influence in your life, would you share who that person or persons might be...perhaps a family member, friend, teacher, pastor, the President, a work associate? My entire family, my mother-in-law whose faith and life was a living testimony of what God can do.

When the day comes that we leave this life what do you think, or what do you hope people might say about you? That I was a nice person and that I was caring, that I loved deeply and that I loved my church friends and most importantly Jesus.

In the most challenging tests of life, what has given you the strength to meet those challenges? My husband, my faith, my children and my entire family and my church friends that all encouraged me and helped me when I needed them. Knowing I am loved and cared for.