



REMEMBERING
Daniel Peters

November 24, 1934 - August 13, 2024



Daniel Peters was born November 24, 1934, in Alexanderwohl, Molotschna, Ukraine. He was the third child of four, the only son in the family. His parents were Gerhart and Tina Peters (nee: Heide).

Daniel was born during the time of severe famine in Ukraine. His parents had a difficult time finding sufficient food. His mother said that the lack of food during his infancy prevented him from developing much needed physical strength throughout his life. During his early years the family worked on the collective farm. His father was in charge of transporting petroleum from Chenielka back to the collective, in Alexanderwohl. The petrol was used for the tractor brigade. Often Daniel accompanied his father during these day trips, sitting on the wagon among the barrels, pulled by horses. On their return home, a visit to the grandparents in Gnadenheim was a common occurrence. It was said that Daniel was quiet during these trips, some things never changed. His friends and family also knew Daniel to be a quiet private person, right until the end.

In September 1941, Daniel's father was taken away by the communists to work in the forests in Chilikantz, in the Ural mountains, just days before the German occupation. The rest of the family were to join the men in the Urals, but the train never left the train station. His mother and the children walked back home the 15 km. September 1942 his father died of starvation.

During the German occupation in the area, Daniel started going to school, which was taught in German. On September 12, 1943, the people of the town had to flee, as to not come under Russian occupation again. Daniel, along with the rest of the family, moved westward by wagon train towards Poland. They arrived at the Polish border, Christmas 1943. There they celebrated Christmas. After a short stay there, the family was transported by train to the Wartegau area of Poland. There they stayed until the beginning of 1945. In Wartegau mother and sister Rita worked on

an estate farm, while Daniel, along with his sister Kaethe went to school.

January 1945, as the Russian army was advancing, the family again headed westward by wagon train, away from the advancing Russian army. During this time, Kaethe became separated from her family, neither party knowing where the other was. Sadly, Kaethe came under Russian occupation and was sent to Siberia. The army caught up with the rest of the family, and the family had to return to the estate farm in Wartegau. Upon return, Daniel had to look after the cows in the field, no shoes on his feet, only his feet wrapped in rags. Many families were sent back to the Soviet during this time, but his mother contacted the Red Cross, paid some bribe money to them, and received permission to head by train to East Germany. They settled in Thuringen, where they stayed until 1947. They then left for Gronau, to the MCC refugee camp. The MCC men had been in Thuringen looking for Mennonites to take west across the border. His Aunt Tina has already left to the west. His sister Rita then went across the border. Once she arrived at the refugee center, she wanted to return to the East to get the remainder of her family, but the MCC staff would not permit it. They sent their own people to get Daniel and the rest of the family, and take the dangerous journey across the border. Shortly after the family was reunited. In Gronau, Daniel occupied his time by running errands and messages throughout the refugee camp.

In September 1948, the majority of family immigrated to St. Elizabeth, Manitoba, sponsored by Uncle Peter, Daniel's dad's brother, and paid for by relatives in California. Kaethe was not with them, as they had not heard from her in years. In St. Elizabeth, he attended school for the remaining of the year. Daniel then joined his mother and sister Rita, who had already moved to Winnipeg. He started working in a printing factory. The first paychecks went to paying the debt incurred from immigrating to Canada. Soon after, the family purchased their first house. Daniel completed his grade 12 level education, going to night school while he worked during the day. While in Winnipeg, Daniel accepted the Lord as his Saviour in 1952, and was baptized in the same year at the South End MB Church.

In 1967 the family was reunited with sister Kaethe, in Manitoba. The family was finally together again, all on Canadian soil. After a few years of working in the printing factory, Daniel went on to work at Western Grocers. He was a buyer, and his brand was "No Name" Brand. He worked there 35 years, and took his early retirement in 1993, when the company's headquarters moved to Calgary, and he didn't want to make that move.

In 1997 Daniel, along with his sister Kaethe, moved to Clearbrook and made the Garden Park Towers their home. That fall Daniel joined the Clearbrook MB Church. During Daniel's time in Clearbrook, he volunteered many hours at the Towers, framing pictures, unlocking the doors in the morning, and making sure everything was secure in the evenings.

Daniel had a major stroke June 27, 2023. Having had a small one in the previous year, this time he spent 2 months in the hospital, 2 weeks in the home of Ed and Marlene Becker, and then moved to The Cottage for his last 11 months. He declined noticeably the last 5 weeks, and quietly slipped away into glory at 2:15 AM, August 13, 2024. He leaves behind his sister Kaethe, with whom he lived

since 1967, his sister Betty in Ontario, and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. He is predeceased by his parents, his older sister Rita, and 2 brother-in-laws, Jake Wiens and Henry Klassen.

We would like to thank the staff at The Cottage, for the exceptional care given to Daniel during his last 11 months.

Auf Wiedersehen, Daniel.

