



## Harry Edwin Westberg

February 29, 1924 - September 3, 2024

Harry Westberg passed away on September 3rd, 2024. He was born on February 29th, 1924 in Minneapolis to Edwin and Lina Westberg. He was the oldest of three children and lived in the Camden area of Minneapolis. He attended Moody Bible Institute, Wheaton College, North Park Seminary and had special studies in Japanese at the University of California.

While at Wheaton College he met Gladys Rudine, and they married in 1948. At an early age, Harry felt called to be a missionary and the Lord led Harry and Gladys to Japan, where they served with the Evangelical Covenant Church from 1952-1987.

His faith was an integral part of his life and he lived out being a pastor every day until his passing. His energy, humor, love of life and people made him fun to be with and interesting to talk to. His children have endless stories of how he liked to tease, entertain and enjoy himself. He remained active at Brookdale Covenant Church and Rice Creek Covenant Church in later years. His dear wife, Gladys, passed away in 2008. Harry married Dorothy Drake, a friend from high school Bible Camp, who was also widowed. They had over 15 years of marriage and enjoyed traveling, visiting family and living at Waverly Gardens in North Oaks, MN. Dad always had a stack of books next to his chair in the living room and ice cream in the freezer. He loved being able to take care of his family, particularly Dorothy, and we all will miss him tremendously.

Harry was gifted with a beautiful tenor voice and music was always a part of

the Westberg household, whether it was classical records or Harry singing with Gladys accompanying on the piano. He shared his singing throughout his life and it was a significant part of his ministry.

Harry was preceded in death by his wife, Gladys, son Daniel (Lisa Bringerud), daughter Lois Seely (Richard), sister Mildred (Richard) Huxley, brother Arnold (Doris),

He is survived by his wife Dorothy, daughter Julie Harris, son David (Lona) Westberg and daughter Joanna (Peter) Sjoblom, 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

On Thursday, September 26th there will be visitation at 1:00 pm and a celebration of life service at 2:00 pm at Waverly Gardens in North Oaks, MN.

Memorials can be given to your favorite charity.

# Tribute Wall

PA

“ Patricia A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry Edwin Westberg.

Patricia A. - September 25, 2024 at 08:17 PM

PA

“ Patricia A. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Harry Edwin Westberg.



Patricia A. - September 25, 2024 at 08:17 PM

SM

“ Serve Globally/Covenant World Mission planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry Edwin Westberg.

Serve Globally/Covenant World Mission - September 25, 2024 at 01:58 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harry Edwin Westberg.



September 25, 2024 at 01:58 PM

TM

“ Dear Dorothy and Harry's children and grandchildren,

*We want to express our sincere condolences and gratitude for remembering Harry's life with us in 1995-1996 as our interim pastor at Kurume Christ Church (KCC.)*

*We were so glad to have him back visiting us in 2016 and 2018. Always remember his great sense of humor in his preaching and sending us several paper snowflakes every year with a Christmas card.*

*We miss him greatly yet praise our God for the wonderful fellowship we had in Jesus.*

*Kurume Christ Church*

---

**Taizo Morimoto** - September 24, 2024 at 09:22 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Harry Edwin Westberg.



---

September 24, 2024 at 09:16 PM

II

“ Iwai Ishida purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Harry Edwin Westberg.



---

**Iwai Ishida** - September 14, 2024 at 12:55 AM

II

“ Iwai Ishida planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harry Edwin Westberg.

---

Iwai Ishida - September 14, 2024 at 12:55 AM

RH

“ Harry was one-of-a-kind, a wonderful mix of godly faith, love, wit and humor, insight, encouragement, servanthood. Beloved by all, both in Japan and the USA.

*I first met Harry at a missions retreat when I was in middle school about 55 years ago...he was much younger then than I am now! He blessed me again at age 21 as I departed after a year as a Covenant short-term missionary in Japan, slipping me a \$20 bill as he shook my hand. What an inspiration Harry was to this young guy who then followed in his footsteps and subsequently spent 25 years in missions in Japan and often interacted with his daughter Lois and her family.*

*One thing I've learned about leadership: influence does not stop when a godly leader passes away. Both now and for many years to come, all of us who knew him will smile whenever we think of Harry: his life and example will warm our hearts, build our faith, and encourage us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. There is no greater legacy. Praying peace and comfort for Dorothy, Julie, David, Joanna and the rest of the family.*

---

Roger Hederstedt - September 13, 2024 at 12:10 PM

RH

“ 1 file added to the album Harry photos



---

Roger Hederstedt - September 13, 2024 at 11:52 AM

CT

“ I would like to express my sincere condolences to you all. May the Lord fill your heart with His peace and comfort at this time of sorrow. I worked with Mr. Westberg for a year (1995-1996) when he was invited to Kurume Christ Church as an interim pastor after Mr. Blair who was the former pastor and the founder of the church was retired. I was worried and nervous about working with a person I had not met before, but when we started working together, I realized soon that he was exactly the man what has been described in the obituary. His friendly and cheerful manner made me easy to work with. He remembered Japanese well and so the year he was with us went on very smoothly. His time at KCC was very important because Mr. Blair who served the KCC for 34 years left. But Mr. Westberg did a wonderful job as an interim pastor to take over and fulfill the responsibility that Mr. Blair had to do. It was surely not an easy task. Everybody appreciated his dedicated work and friendly character, and I am also grateful that I was able to work with him without difficulty. Now he is with the Lord in the heaven welcomed as his faithful servant. May your remembrance of him remain in your heart as a precious gift from God!  
Chieko Takamoto

---

Chieko Takamoto - September 12, 2024 at 04:52 AM