

**Robin Creighton Feistel**, 66, went to be with the Lord on December 10, 2014. She was born on April 14, 1948 in Natchitoches, Louisiana. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern State University, she went to Taiwan on a two year missionary journeyman program. She then returned to Natchitoches and completed her Master of Education degree in December 1973. In the Fall of 1974 she returned to Taiwan for another three years as a teacher and school principal. When she returned to the US in 1977, she moved to Dallas.

She was working as a Children's Librarian for the Dallas Public Library system when she met Bob at First Baptist Church of Richardson in 1979. They were married on April 26, 1980. She became a homemaker when their daughter Helen was born. Two years later, their son Andrew completed the family. In 1989 they moved to Nacogdoches, Texas, where they lived for 24 years, before retiring to Rosharon, Texas in 2013.

Robin was a certified Librarian and a Teacher certified to teach kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Her passion and as she frequently said, her calling, was in ESL work (English as a Second Language). Her ESL career began in Taiwan in 1971. Besides her duties of teaching MKs (missionary's kids) and work with university students, she learned 'survival skills' in Chinese and taught English to local Taiwanese. She became a volunteer ESL teacher when she joined FBC Richardson. When she became a homemaker, she took over as director of that ESL program. Under her leadership, the program grew from less than 20 students in 1981 to more than 250 students when she left in 1989.

With the move to Nacogdoches, Robin planned to return to teaching. After seeing that only a handful of internationals were being taught English at the time, she again felt called to develop an ESL program. She set up H.O.P.E. (Helping Others Practice English) at First Baptist Church in Nacogdoches. There were 32 students enrolled the first semester (1991) and when she resigned as director of that program there were 161 students enrolled. Her passion was to work in the classroom with the students, but she realized that she could use her experience and organizational skill to reach many more students.

Robin always made sure that her teachers received training on how to teach ESL. Most often, they attended training not only taught by her, but often using resource materials that she developed. After many years of training teachers and teaching how to start-up an ESL program, she began training others on how to train teachers. In 2006 she was encouraged to develop training materials for ministries throughout the State through Literacy ConneXus. After two months of 'why me' prayers, she began writing TEX – Teaching English with Excellence, which became volumes of material. There are, at this time, nine TEX trainers and four apprentice trainers using that material. Hundreds of volunteer ESL teachers have been trained through TEX; thousands of ESL students have benefitted from this training.

In March 2012 she was diagnosed with stage 4 Inflammatory Breast Cancer. It slowed her down, but she not only completed the ESL training sessions that were scheduled, but she continued scheduling new training sessions and conference presentations. With the move to Rosharon, she thought that she might be able to teach some ESL classes. The church they joined had recently closed their very small ESL program. After researching the needs in the community and seeing the resources of the church, she decided to try to 'quick start' a program. Being a very thorough and well organized person, she was uncomfortable trying to rush the process. A small program was just getting started this Fall when she became no longer able to work with the program.

Robin is survived by her husband Robert Feistel; daughter Helen (husband Jason); son Andrew (wife Katie); and two grandsons, Max and Jack. She is also survived by her four siblings; Harry Creighton (wife Mary); Sherry Creighton; Walter Creighton (wife Sue); and Randy Creighton (wife Azita).

A Memorial Service will be held on January 17, 2015 at 11:00 in Sugarland Baptist Church, 16755 Southwest Freeway, Sugarland Texas. Since Robin and Bob spent most of their life together in Nacogdoches, another Memorial Service will be held on January 24, 2015 at 11:00 in First Baptist Church, 411 North Street, Nacogdoches, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Robin's memory may be made to; Literacy ConneXus at [www.literacyconnexus.org](http://www.literacyconnexus.org) or the American Cancer Society; or to a charity of your choice.