



My name is Anneke Letitia.



I was born in the Netherlands, on September 5, 1946

I walked to school with my sister, Tineke, at age 3 – along the canal in Friesland. Tineke held my hand.

I immigrated in April of 1951 to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

I am the second eldest in a family of eleven children – seven birth children and four adopted children.

I began taking piano lessons at age five; my father was a talented pianist, organist, and artist. Most of my siblings began piano studies at age five, as well. We are all recognized musicians and artists.

Following my immigration, I became very, very shy. A new country, a new language, a new school, and I had to hope for new friends.

In grade five I began studying the flute. I practiced and practiced; I loved playing my flute. All eleven children in my family studied a second instrument. My flute playing gave me a voice. At a PTA Tea, at Jenison Christian School ... I performed from memory “Joy to the World,” after playing my flute for four months. The PTA ladies complemented me with the beautiful tone I produced on my flute.

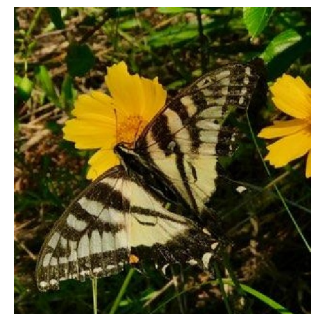


I studied piano and flute until grade eight – in grade eight I chose to continue to study my flute and was privileged to study with the best teachers.

While attending Calvin College, I drove to Muskegon for private instructions.

On December 19, 1965, I did not make it home. There was a terrible accident ... my legs and left wrist were severally broken. I was in a coma for seven weeks and in double traction for twelve weeks. Recovery was longer than a year, but by the grace of God, my family, and my Calvin College professors, I was able to return to Calvin College to continue the study of music education and flute performance.

Calvin band students prayed for my recovery. I saved the large box full of cards for many years. At the time, I was principal flute in the orchestra and band at Calvin College and Assistant Principalflute in the Grand Rapids Symphony.



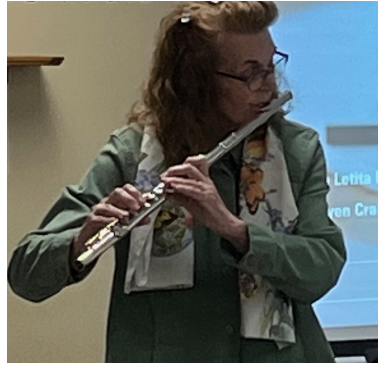
I graduated in 1969, one year later than my classmates due to a lengthy recovery.

I married John Donald Crans – John was a teacher at Jenison Christian for thirty-nine years.



We adopted three children from Korea. Our youngest child has special needs. John and I have had to be extraordinarily strong advocates to address the help he needed for him to become the best person he could be. The challenge was great, but clearly God loves him, and our son loves God, in his uncomplicated way.

My professional career was teaching music in grades K – 12: general music, choral and instrumental music. For seven years I was Adjunct Professor at GVVU. I instructed private flute students my entire career and my students excelled, achieving the highest awards and ratings. I continued to perform on my flute – principal flute in the orchestra and band at Calvin College. I was also principal flute of the Calvin Community Orchestra.



I presently perform with the Calder Band as principal flutist, Singing Him's Choir, and Munday's Joy recorder ensemble. Photography has taken my life into paths unknown, I often feel like Moses, "Lord, I know not how to speak ..." but God gives me words. What an amazing God we have. His power, His love, forgiveness – and the revelation of His brilliant design for us all.

John and I live a simple life on a small farm. We grow our own veggies, make our food from scratch, and take delight in the beauty of wildflowers and birds on our five acres. I make healing balms, jams and jellies from wild berries and plants on our acreage.



Challenges in life will often lead to a new direction. My book "Pictured Life: And Ture Stories from Northern and Upper Peninsula" was resulatant of personal challenges. God led me and

revealed himself to me as I walked paths within nature. In the night-time, I was given songs for healing: in the daytime I was given songs for healing, as I walked His pathway within nature. The spirit of God spoke with clarity, through songs and hymns, that I must speak for Him.

One of the themes in my book, is "light" ... I view "light" as God's promise for all His children, and a promise to me, His child. The promise of His love.

"Pictured Life" was photographed and written in respect of immigrants of the early twentieth century. Immigrant perseverance, struggle, pain, and love of family are represented as themes through-out "Pictured Life."

Enjoy! Imagine!

Anneke Letitia Hoekstra-Van Ooyen Crans (Anne Crans)

Author/Photographer