



Association of Adventist Women

---

# Elaine Estes Drury

## — Woman of the Year —

### Family Life

---

# 2000

Elaine Estes and Omer Drury met while making sticky dough at the Gem State Academy bakery when they were sixteen, and they have been “stuck” on each other ever since.

After they graduated from Walla Walla College, Omer headed for Loma Linda, and they were married during his first year in medical school. These early years together were happy; however, Elaine began feeling an emptiness as her friends began their families. During the four years after a physician friend arranged for them to adopt a newborn, the Drurys adopted three more children—all under the age of four, quickly erasing the emptiness with their

“four under four!” Five years later yet another dimpled treasure arrived. Elaine chuckles now, “Amid mountains of diapers and bottles, I sometimes imagined a twinkle in God’s eye. ‘You pled for this!’ I could hear Him saying.”

The family settled in Troy, a hamlet tucked among the mountains of Idaho. When their children were teenagers, the Drurys wanted to create a business that would give them challenging summer work as well as a way to earn tuition. So, on the day the first man landed on the moon, the Drury Family Professional Whitewater Rafting Company first floated down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. For thirty years, her



entire family—now including grandchildren—has operated a safe and successful rafting business.

Elaine and Omer have never limited their family; in fact, they have almost lost count of the children they have taken into their home for extended stays. They reach out to anyone who needs help, making family an inclusive concept in their Idaho “mission field.”

Dr. William Loveless, Former Pastor (1953-1955), Troy Seventh-day Adventist Church, describes Elaine as follows: “Elaine Drury is vigorous and vital. I believe that the Lord sustains her in unusual ways because of her energetic support of His reputation.”

---

[>>click here to return to the Woman-of-the-Year Awardee roster](#)



Association of Adventist Women