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Pullin' Weeds Plantin' Seeds

TEMPLE LADIES NEWSLETTER

A Mother's Legacy

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PROVERBS 31:25-28 – Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.

“The Greatest Legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is a Legacy of Character and Faith.” ~Billy Graham

My mother was born on July 21, 1924, in Weinert, Texas. She was the sixth of nine children and the youngest daughter. To her family she was Skeet, the baby sister. To my dad, she was Margit; to my brother and me, Mom, and to the grandchildren, Grandma, and to the great-grands, Grandma Raney or GG.

After she graduated from high school, in 1942, Mom went to Washington, DC, where she eventually ended up working in the State Department. This was during World War II, and she had brothers that served in the Army, as well as a brother-in law in the Navy. It was a busy and full life. She was always immaculately dressed, she loved Accessories! After the War, she remained in DC, near her sister and brother-in-law, and worked in the Truman Administration State Department. After Eisenhower was elected president in 1952, she left DC and returned to Texas, where she lived and worked, and subsequently met my dad in 1955. They were married in May 1956. My parents both accepted Christ as Savior at a revival shortly after they were married. Then I arrived in 1959, and my brother in 1961.

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My mother had a full and exciting life before marriage, and she told me once that she really never intended to get married and have children. But she did, and she gave her all to our family. It was a difficult life after 1965,



due to my dad's constant drinking and yet, Mom managed to make sure our family had what we needed to live. She stayed faithfully by my dad's side through the difficult years, and the Lord rewarded that faithfulness. My dad stopped drinking in 1980 and for the last seven years of his life, they experienced the loving and happy marriage they had enjoyed in the early years. God is so Good.

Mom became a grandmother for the first time in 1984, and then again in 1987 and 1989. She loved every minute of being a grandmother. Aging was not a problem for her as she seized the opportunity to enjoy Candice, Rachel, and Stephen in a way she could not have with my brother and me. She stayed with them whenever she could.



She was always available to help. She was a very hands-on Grandma. Oh, the stories and the memories her grandchildren have!! Grandma would get on the floor and play a game, go the Dollar store and shop, or sit at the table and eat Caramel Corn, or play dress up with her clothes and jewelry.

When my dad passed away in January of 1987, she moved back to Texas to live. She babysat and helped out many of her grand nieces and nephews with their children.

In the early 90s she moved to Springfield, MO, and lived there until 2006 when she moved to El Dorado. She got involved at Temple and was our pastor's strongest supporter for the rest of her life. My mom was always a member of the local Baptist church and she was a faithful and active member. She was a student of her Bible, and she loved the Word of God. She left our family a legacy of Character and Faith, as well as loving obedience to God.

The Lord graciously took her Home on November 17, 2017. She was ready to go, and begged me to pray the Lord would take her. The last words I heard my mother say were, "Jesus Loves Me."

The legacy she left me was not one of property, money, or things the world sees so much value in. I do have many of her prized owls, a few scarves, her dress gloves, other sentimental items, and of course, pictures. Things that were precious to her. But the most precious to me is her Legacy of Faith. Her Bibles indicate that she read and studied them. Her devotional books indicate that she searched the Scriptures to see if the things written there were true. She left song books and note pads that revealed a life devoted to Jesus.

In 2019, I read through her copy of *STREAMS IN THE DESERT*, by Mrs. Charles E. Cowman. It was so illuminating. It was a diary of sorts. Notes were written throughout. Important thoughts were underlined, clippings of events and more notes – so many that the little book is held together by rubber bands.

How I thank our God for a mother such as this! I am so blessed.

In 2019, the Temple Ladies gifted me with a bracelet engraved with these words my mom wrote: "All I am and all that I have belong to Jesus. Love you always – Mom". A vivid reminder of My Mother's Legacy. A Legacy that continues to point me to Jesus, and to ever live for His Kingdom and Glory – to never quit – no matter what.

A priceless legacy has been left behind for me.

Oh, how I pray God will enable and strengthen me to leave such a Legacy to my family. HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!



2 CORINTHIANS 13:14 – The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. 🌱