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Evelyn Waite and Kathy Webber are collaborating on this project in an effort to encourage our Christian sisters and possibly *to inspire other women to participate in this effort.*

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### **DJ Hopkins**

DJ, born in central Illinois among the rich farmland of corn and soybeans, was a WW II baby; so her father did not see her until she was 16 months old. She lived with her mother, father, and one brother in a community of 1200. As far back as she can remember, she attended church. During childhood summers, she helped with the family garden, mowed lawns, and cut weeds out of soybeans and corn. Her parents bought a black and white television when she was 12. All the neighbors came to her family's home on Saturday nights to socialize while watching television. Program favorites were *Life Begins at 80*, *Loretta Young*, *Gunsmoke*, *Lawrence Welk*, *Ed Sullivan*, and *The Lone Ranger*. She remembers The Beatles' debut on the *Ed Sullivan* show. Her parents had no central air conditioning or color television until after she left home. Computers, cell phones, and microwaves were not born yet.

While in college, she worked summers as a bank teller/clerk. Before computers, clerks printed checks, checked customers' signatures on checks, cancelled and filed checks, and posted transactions on ledgers. All transactions took place "in house." She also took care of lockbox rentals and payments. When one customer wished to pay his lockbox renewal, DJ asked his name. He responded: "August to May". She reiterated she needed his name, not the amount of time he wanted to pay for the lockbox; but he continued saying, "August to May". Eventually, with the help of another employee, she discovered his name was "August Tomei"!

After college, she worked full time in a bank. She moved to California with only two suitcases to join her brother. Her

parents didn't think she would stay but promised they would drive her car to California if she remained for a year. She interviewed with Bank of America, and the manager asked her how she would get to work. She told him she would walk if he let her work at a branch a few blocks from where she lived. He asked, "What if it rains?" She said, "Take an umbrella," and she got the job! Later, she traveled as a "utility" all over Orange County.

Federal Bank auditors appeared one day. A customer had brought in a box of chocolates, and DJ liked playing jokes on people. She put a fake chocolate (made of rubber) in the box, then offered candy to one of the examiners. He said, "Which one should I take?" She pointed to the fake one. He bit into it, and that was the beginning of a relationship with her future husband, Mark Hopkins.

Later, she was hired by the Orange County District Attorney's Office, Criminal Division of Superior Court as a legal clerk. She typed briefs and assisted with jury instructions. There were no computers, so the instructions had to be typed with carbon paper with absolutely NO mistakes. Sometimes it took several tries before getting instructions without errors. DJ was promoted to senior legal clerk and assigned to an attorney in Red Light Abatement. The attorney in charge was an Italian countess, Oretta Sears, who had a temper but a heart of gold. When Attorney Sears and DJ were in court with the Writs and Appeals calendar, Judge Perez was always happy because DJ always had brownies.

Deputy Attorney Sears, who later became a judge, and several male deputy attorneys were very protective of her. Whenever there was porn to review, they always made sure that DJ did not watch. DJ remembers one of the clerks transcribed an interview between an investigator and a defendant. When the investigator reviewed the paperwork, he noticed there were several blanks. He confronted Enid (from Oklahoma) as to why all the blanks. She stated, "Well, you don't want me to type all those dirty, nasty words, do you?" DJ always said that if her mother knew what she did and saw, she would not have let her work there.

When she became an investigator, she was apprehensive because she wasn't good at reading maps; and there was no GPS back then. She took the job, eventually retiring in that position. She traveled all over southern California and became proficient at reading the Thomas Guide, the "bible" of map books. Defendants were shocked when being served papers at 4 a.m. or being caught on a stakeout so early in the day. She worked on some high profile cases such as "The Dating Game Killer," Rodney James Alcalá and the "Night Stalker," Richard Ramirez.

When DJ, her husband, son, and daughter moved to Rolla, they knew no one. That soon changed as DJ became a Rolla public school volunteer, Girl Scout leader, Sunday School teacher, church handbell ringer, and ballfield scheduler for Lions Club. She and Mark started a competitive sports program called SIR (Sports Inc., Rolla), so she had a 24/7 job as they had 8 basketball teams and 9 softball/baseball teams. She scheduled games for all the teams, including gyms and ballfields for practices. She purchased uniforms and equipment, and she hired umpires and referees. Hundreds of children played for SIR. Mark's teams practiced at Hopkins' ballfield. DJ always had iced tea for players and parents, most of whom stayed and visited. It was truly a ministry to help children, especially those from dysfunctional homes.

DJ is probably best known as "caretaker" as she assists her husband, has taken care of her parents (both had Alzheimer's), as well as many children. Throughout life, her faith has sustained her. She encourages others and acts as a mentor – she knows how difficult life can be. After studying with their son, Steve (who lives in Kansas City) and their daughter, Kelly, both DJ and Mark were baptized by Steve at East Independence Church of Christ late one Saturday night. A week later, a welcome circle was held for them at Highway 63 South Church of Christ. She and Linda Turner have been co-teachers for cradle roll and 4-5 year old classes.

One of her favorite scriptures is, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13. Another is Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, the "Time for Everything" passage.

**NOTE:** This is the seventh in a series highlighting noble Christian women in our congregation. We truly have many "treasures among us" in the women who exemplify Christianity in all its facets and have much to teach us all.

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### The Passing of Daddy

I find myself awake, unable to go back to sleep. It is almost exactly one week since we received the dreaded phone call...Daddy was resting comfortably but not expected to make it through the night.

The immediate plunge of the heart and going through forced motions, willing my body to move to dress myself while my heart screamed and my mind spun was "zombifying"—a feeling I experienced several times through the next week. My husband (a blessing from God) provided directions to help me through—his mind, my body achieving goals. *Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.* So many times this week I have thanked God for him. His love, patience, and understanding have helped me through.

When I got to Daddy's bedside, my mother and most of my family were already there. As I shared my initial outpouring of love to him, he tried to form the letter "L" with his tongue. I knew he was trying to tell me he loved me. As Daddy declined (from dementia/Alzheimer symptoms) in his ability to complete thoughts, he said, "I just love you." He told us that several times each visit before he went to the Missouri Veterans Home. There is great power in those words. Once in the home, he further declined. I treasure in my heart the times when he slowly and so deliberately and passionately shared those three little words.

God blessed me with godly parents. My father and mother ensured that each of their children knew God, giving us a firm foundation to build on. The building was and is our responsibility; but the foundation to know God and the sharing of how to be known by God through His precious Son, Christ Jesus, was shared by them.

Throughout this week, so many blessings from God were showered on my family.

- God gave a man, suffering from a mind debilitating disease, the clarity of thought to know each one of us to the end.
- God gave each of us time to see and honor our father through sharing the impact he made on our lives—sharing with him that he showed us how to belong to God.
- God gave a family suffering from strife, the time to pull it back together (putting the right people in place, such a childhood friend—thank you, Mike), sending a father home knowing his family was united once again.
- God gave me a loving family who supported me through this.
- God gave me a family-in-Christ who cares and lifted my father, my family, and me to Him in prayer.
- God gave us the most precious last 2 hours with our father. We anointed Daddy with oils and love. We were told that hearing is the last sense that man has. In those last moments, we again told Daddy what he meant to us; we circled him in prayer. Daddy loved *How Great Thou Art*, and we sang him to heaven's door. (We held his hand as he passed through the doorway of death as we continued singing *How Great Thou Art*.)
- God gave us peace in the passing of a great man in our lives. *Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is*

*the death of His saints. I Thess 4:16-18. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

It is strange how two people can experience the same event and have different takeaways. My sister said we could not have scripted Daddy's departure any better. My brother felt anger that God did not take him as his breath became more labored in those last hours. Marcey shared just the right words with him—that Daddy's breathing reminded her of her daughters giving birth. Bobby said, "Labor for a new birth." Marcey added, "and to a new (eternal) life." Peace has filled this family. We still have struggles to come, but we know and trust God/Christ to see us through.

**The Greatest Gift (1 Corinthians 13)** *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned but have not love, it profits me nothing.*

*Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

*And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

I love you, Daddy. I love you and thank you, Christ Jesus. I love you and thank you, God.

Kathy Webber,  
©June, 2014



### FAREWELL TO LARRY TUBBS

The world lost another very godly man on June 16, 2014, when Larry Tubbs passed away very unexpectedly. He was at Little Prairie Bible Camp where he had devoted thousands of hours of his time and much "sweat equity" to the good of the camp and the thousands of children who loved him and loved camp. Larry was known as Mr. Wanna Be—Wanna be like Jesus, Wanna be goin' to heaven. He was also known for "Larry-isms," sayings that were unique to him, such as: "It would take expert help to miss it." "Don't put a Band-Aid on a chest wound." "Don't stop the train to throw rocks at a barking dog." "Don't get in a pukin' match with a buzzard." "Yard by yard, it's too hard; but inch by inch, it's a cinch." "Everybody gets his say all the time, but nobody gets his way every time." "Wake up, preach up, pray up, stay up, and pay up; but never back up, or let up, or shut up, or give up until the cause of Christ in this church and throughout the world is built up." "Onward and upward. The best is yet to come." The world is poorer because of our losing him. Our sympathies go out to Shirley and the rest of his family. So long, Larry. See you later.



### Heart Check Questions

1. Do I spend more time daily caring for my personal appearance than I do in Bible study, prayer, and worship?
2. Do I spend excessive money on clothes, hair, and makeup, or is it an amount that is God-honoring?
3. Do I want to lose weight to "feel better about myself," or do I desire to be self-disciplined for the glory of God?
4. Am I on a quest for thinness to impress others, or do I seek to cultivate eating habits that honor God?
5. Do I exercise to try to create or maintain a "good figure," or do I exercise to strengthen my body for God's service?
6. Is there anything about my appearance that I wish I could change, or am I fully grateful to God for the way He created me?

7. Am I jealous of the appearance of others, or am I truly glad when I observe other women who are more physically attractive than I?
8. Do I covet the wardrobe of others, or do I genuinely rejoice when other women are able to afford and purchase new clothing?
9. When I attend an event or activity, do I sinfully compare myself with others, or do I go asking God to show me whom to love and how to do it?
10. Do I ever dress immodestly or with the intent of drawing attention to myself, or do I always dress in a manner that pleases God?

from "Becoming God's True Woman,"  
by Nancy Leigh Demoss  
Submitted by Lindsay Bailey

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"BEAUTY ISN'T ABOUT  
HAVING A PRETTY  
FACE. IT'S ABOUT  
HAVING A PRETTY  
MIND, A PRETTY  
HEART, AND A  
PRETTY SOUL."

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### Road Trip

It's amazing what can happen during an 11-hour ride:

1. You can pray, cry and praise the Lord anywhere, even on a fully packed Greyhound bus.
2. Looking back, you see just how far He has brought you. Looking forward, you realize you have a really, really long way to go. Most of all, be proud of where you are now, for that is progress. That road to now will be a road map going forward (Philippians 1:6).
3. You start making a checklist about talents. Am I using all of my God given abilities to glorify God? What can I improve or do differently? If I've lost the drive or become discouraged in the ministry God has set before me, why? (Galatians 6:9-10).
4. You have time to simply think. And, of course, old haunts, habits, hurts and hang-ups come to the surface. You realize just how much you are holding onto that prevents you from moving forward. You are an open book, a glass house, completely exposed before God. He can heal those wounds (1 Peter 5:6-7).
5. When you lip sync to a cappella music like you are auditioning for The Voice, even New York City dwellers look at you strangely. Praise Him anyway!

By Nina Christiana Andrews, ©May, 2014  
Southtown Church of Christ, Buffalo, New York

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**JULY 27, 2014**

Two years ago, God did an awesome thing in Rolla, Missouri. Two congregations successfully merged and have become one big happy family. Each year, we



celebrate this merge with a family reunion. If you are a former member of the Church of Christ in Rolla (from either of the former congregations) or if you just want to see what God can do, please join us on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate God's love and grace. If you are from a congregation outside of Rolla, please contact Tanna Roberts, our church secretary, if you plan to attend.

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We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the men and women of our armed forces. The sacrifices that they and their families make are incredible. To all who serve today and to all those who have served in the past, thank you from a grateful people. We salute you for your service.

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*Sunrise* is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by Evelyn Waite and Kathy Webber, members of the Rolla Church of Christ. If you would like your sisters in Christ or your relatives, friends, co-workers or neighbors to receive it, you can share your copy with them. If they would like to receive it, please send their email addresses to [evelynwa@fidmail.com](mailto:evelynwa@fidmail.com).

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