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Treasures Among Us

Gloria Walker

In addition to being a treasure, Gloria has many treasures in her

home. They are not the treasures of the wealthy; they are treasures built lovingly by the hands of her late husband, Albert. They were married almost 59 years until his death in August, 2013. Examples of his handiwork are her beautiful cedar coffee table, curio cabinet, kitchen table, cedar chest and two cabinet tables.

When Gloria was little, she lived at Flat, Missouri, until she was about 12. She has loved music since she was a child, and she learned to play the guitar when she was 13. In the 1950's, the country schools had pie suppers and cake walks to raise money for the schools; and Gloria, her dad, her grandpa, and their friend played. Several people in her family played various instruments—all by ear. Sometimes, she sang as the group played. She grew up with one sister, Florene, and two brothers—Lloyd and Lonnie. She has fond memories of playing music with Florene, who was very talented with the accordion, piano and banjo.

She and Albert married in 1954 soon after he graduated from Rolla High School. They met in 1953 and had been in the same art class at one time, but she says, "I never even noticed him back then." When they married, they had a three-room house north of Rolla, built and ready to move into—but no bathroom, just an outhouse. They had no well, so she had to get water at her grandparents' home for a while.

She took numerous secretarial courses in high school. After graduation, she was John Powell's secretary at Frank B. Powell Lumber Company for four years. She

typed correspondence, balanced the cash register and handled the customers' accounts as well as other tasks. Albert was a part-time yard man at Powell's, so that is how they met. Her brother, Lloyd Heimbaugh, knew Albert and invited him to come to one of the pie suppers the family was playing for. The first time he was invited, he didn't want to go; but the second time her brother invited him was October 23, 1953; and he came. They started dating after that and married on October 16, 1954.

In April, 1957, she left the job at Powell Lumber and moved to St. Louis to be with Albert. In late June, their son was born. Albert had started working in St. Louis at the airport a few months earlier. When they returned to the Rolla area in September, 1959, she worked at Rolla High School as an attendance secretary for six months. She worked part time at Rolla Church of Christ for five years in the 1970's; Albert served as a deacon for 30 years.

For years Albert made a large garden, and Gloria canned food for her family. She baked often as their children were growing up. They really liked pumpkin pies, so she would make four pies with homemade crusts at a time. They also loved cinnamon rolls and other desserts. After their kids were grown, Albert took her to Bluegrass festivals, which she really enjoyed, for several years. Sometimes they camped in the GMC pickup camper overnight. She plays both the guitar and the piano by ear. She possesses three guitars—the first one she ever had (which she describes as "all beat up"), and her dad's guitar, which hurts her fingers. The one she uses most is a nice Epiphone guitar given to her by her daughter, Linda Radford. Her favorite Bible verse relates to her love of music. It is Ephesians 5:19, "*Sing and make music in your heart, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" "Sing" is her favorite part of that verse. Her favorite song is *Paradise Valley*.

Though she says her family didn't farm, she has always lived "in the country." Her dad was a carpenter and worked for Rolla Pump & Supply a year or so, and he had

his own sawmill for 12 years. Her mom was very good at doing housekeeping for other people, and she eventually got Gloria started in the same work by giving her three of her customers. Like her mom, Gloria was very good at that work; and her customers really liked the way she cleaned their homes. That was her career for about 20 years.

When she was young, her family went to a community church in the country. Albert's uncle, Arvil Walker, got them started going to the Church of Christ in Vichy where they attended for five years. She also attended some at Vienna Church of Christ. It was in 1961 or 1962 when she and Albert were baptized. They started coming to Rolla Church of Christ in the spring of 1967. She has helped with children's Bible classes over the years, and one lady describes her as the best helper she ever had in Bible class. She also helped in the nursery and has helped at Day School over the years.

She and Albert had three children—their son Alvin and two daughters, Linda (Walker) Radford and Donna (Walker) Roberts. Donna is the owner operator of the Frame Shop, and Gloria displays several very nice pieces that have been professionally framed by her daughter. Her daughter, Linda, manages rental properties that she and her husband own.

Sadly, their son Alvin passed away very unexpectedly when he was 17. He was with his girlfriend at the Rolla Drive-In on 63 North when he died. She says, "It was a shock and a terrible tragedy for all of our family. I cried for three months before I decided that we couldn't bring our son back. God and my mother helped me through all of those sad days. He lives in our memories now. Years later, I decided to thank God for the years our son lived." She wrote the following beautiful poem about Alvin:

In Memory of Alvin Lee

*Oh Lord, help us to be thankful
For all of our blessings today,
As we cannot see the future
What is coming our way.*

*Many times we don't realize
All the treasures that we own,
Until something tragic happens
And then some of them are gone.*

*Dear Lord, if we have to lose our loved ones,
Please give us strength and comfort, too,
And help us to remember
All the precious memories of them.*

By: Mother

Gloria enjoyed collecting recipes over the years. She is well known for her beautiful handwriting, and numerous brides have received beautifully handwritten recipes from her. She did the same for her two daughters, her four granddaughters and some of her nieces. She has put together large photo albums for her granddaughters. About five years ago, she started collecting pretty rocks and has several jars of pretty colored rocks, striped rocks and unusually shaped rocks. Some are beautiful and shiny!

She is very proud of her family and now has six great-grandchildren. Sadly, Albert only lived to see two of them. Her daughters, Linda and Donna, and Alicia (her granddaughter), took her on a five-day trip in June, 2014, to San Francisco. They went by train to California, and flew back home. While there, they toured the Alcatraz federal prison, which closed in 1963. They also saw Chinatown, rode the trolley up and down the hills, saw lots of tall building and lots of mountains. They had a very good time. Most recently, they took a Caribbean cruise.

Gloria humbly thinks she "hasn't done a lot," but she has served and brought much joy to her family and to her church family. She is a true Treasure Among Us."

NOTE: *This is the 15th 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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CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY

Our lives are full of responsibilities, but the greatest is to stand firm in the faith and give ourselves completely to the Lord. "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord." 1 Corinthians 15:58

If we put this eternal responsibility on the back burner and work on it when we have time, we will find that we take on the ways and standards of the world. Staying focused and not letting the devil whisper in our ears will keep us on the path to a home in Heaven.

It is our Christian responsibility to stay motivated toward selfless service and righteous living because of our hope in the resurrection and eternal life. "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us."

When was the last time you ever had something lavished upon you – something given in a vast amount without limit? Things that could come to mind are earthly blessings – the air we breathe, food we eat, water we drink, clothes we wear, children we have, money in our

pocket, our home, parents, health, Christian family, etc. We deserve nothing from God but yet He has provided abundantly, lavishly, for us. It would behoove us to give plentifully and profusely of ourselves in service to Whom we owe all.

Let us strive to give ourselves to the work of the Lord – exceeding the requirements. We can never out-give God. There are many benevolent works we can join. We can find a person to visit on a regular basis, cook a meal for a shut-in, find a needy child at a nearby school, send a note to someone who is down and out, place a call to a lonely person, repair donated clothing... Each of us has something we enjoy doing that will bring relief and a smile to someone else.

Another Christian responsibility is gratefulness. We please God greatly when we keep a humble and thankful heart – deeply grateful for the resurrection, eternal life, and the earthly things we temporarily have. He likes to hear our gratefulness in detail. I thank Him for the people who have come and gone and for the lessons they taught, the examples they were to those they came in contact with, and for the blessings they bestowed upon us during their godly lives. I even thank God for the small things like a parking spot near the door.

As we mature spiritually, let's develop the Christian responsibility to be undeceived by non-Biblical teachings. The only way we will know right from wrong, good from evil, what is acceptable and unacceptable is to read our Bibles diligently and daily.

Ground and moor yourself in life on this earth by standing firm in the faith, completely giving yourself to the Lord, being eternally grateful, and reading the Bible daily.

Rebecca Voraritskul, Khon Kaen, Thailand
©January, 2015

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My oldest son is an engineer with the Florida State Road Department. Recently, he drove to one of the jobs he is overseeing to check on the status of the markings on the highway. Imagine his surprise when he saw the results, shown in the photo above. The worker, who was responsible for painting the word "Merge," turned the letter M upside down, and wound up painting "WERGE"

(which doesn't mean a thing). Oh well, it's just a small mistake. Why get upset about it? People should be able to figure out what it really means – right?

I see a spiritual parallel with this incident. Many take the Word of God and just change it a "little." Not a huge diversion – hardly noticeable at all. God should be satisfied with that, right? . . . Wrong!

1 John 1:7 reads: "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." In 2 Thessalonians 1:8 Paul says, "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The Lord expects nothing less than total obedience. My mother used to say, "God said it and that's that" -a good policy for us all to follow.

Jeanetta Watkins, Adamsville, Alabama
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WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are down to nothing, God is up to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and

receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and spiritual nourishment!

Adapted from an email
Submitted by Betty Behrendt
Albuquerque, NM

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Whose Job Is It?

There is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important task to be done, and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Anonymous

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HOW TO PLANT YOUR GARDEN... no dirt required!!

First, come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses.

FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING, PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peas (peace) of mind:
2. Peas of heart
3. Peas of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

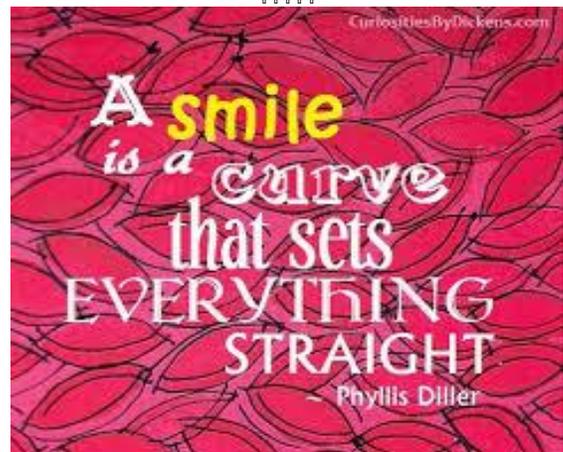
TO CONCLUDE YOUR GARDEN, YOU MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for God
2. Thyme for each other
3. Thyme for family
4. Thyme for friends

Water freely with PATIENCE and cultivate with LOVE. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

Adapted from an email
Submitted by DJ Hopkins, Rolla, MO

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Sunrise is a monthly newsletter written and/or assembled by Kathy Webber and Evelyn Waite, 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. *Sunrise* may also be accessed by going to <http://www.seekgrowserveandlove.org>. Once there, click on Resources, then on Sunrise Newsletter. You will find the current issue plus all previous issues.

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