



Treasures Among Us

Bobbie Mace

Roberta (Bobbie) Mace grew up on a farm. Her daily chores included milking six cows every morning before she walked to school and again every night. School was never canceled in those days. If there was a snow storm, her dad would haul her to school on a sled. She went to Adams School through seventh grade, then graduated high school in St. James in May, 1947.

She wanted to go on to college and become a nurse. Her sister became a nurse, but Bobbie never got to go to college. When she was in high school, she had a ruptured appendix and had to have surgery in Waynesville. It took her a long time to recover from the rupture and the surgery.

She met Wayne Mace in 1947. He had served in World War II and had lost one leg in the war. He worked in a grocery store in Anutt at the time she met him. They were married February 4, 1948, by D. L. Lewis, a Church of Christ preacher in Anutt. They were supposed to have been married in the preacher's living room. However, he was also a chiropractor and needed to see a patient. Bobbie and Wayne were invited to go to his office, and they were married there after Dr. Lewis had seen to his patient.

After they were married, they returned to Wayne's parents' home and had a big shivaree—the biggest one in the area at that time. Wayne was a rural mail carrier and had a gas station and grocery store, appropriately named Wayne's Grocery & Gas. Bobbie was also the

president of the Norman Valley Busy Bee Quilting Club and always had a quilt in the homemade frame. According to her daughter, Dana, Bobbie is one of the best bakers around!!! Her chocolate pie was the best.

Both Bobbie and Wayne and his two brothers were baptized by George Light, a Church of Christ preacher, when she was 19 years old. Wayne worked 23 years as an auto tech for the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Bobbie worked at Rolla Public Schools and supervised the Truman Elementary cafeteria for 23 years. Wayne died of lung cancer in November, 1986.

Seven years after they were married, their first daughter, Donna (Mace) Haynes was born. Eleven years later, their second daughter, Dana (Mace) Hotaling was born. Bobbie had been taking care of the store while Wayne delivered mail, but they eventually sold the store/station. She used to buy 200-300 baby chicks every spring and raise them. She and the girls spent their summer caring for the chicks, then butchering the fryers which Bobbie then sold to make extra money.

The Lord's Prayer is very special to Bobbie. Her Grandpa Ellis taught her to say it and stressed that she should not only be able to say it but that she must "know" it. Bobbie has been instrumental in the rural Adams community for 48 years. The cemetery there is very dear to her, so she does all she can to see that the old school house is maintained.

When asked if she has a dream that she would yet like to do, she said, "I've done about everything." The scariest thing she ever experienced was as recent as September, 2013, when lightning struck a tree adjacent to her house and then "jumped" to her house. It blew out her TV, the multi-breaker box, her kitchen stove, the furnace and the air conditioner. She was very shaken by the incident, but says that many responded to help her. The Missouri Highway Patrol, the fire department and ambulance

crews were all there in minutes; and family members and neighbors gathered to help in any way they could.

Her favorite place is home; and she says she has been blessed with good neighbors, good friends and good churches over the years. When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, Bobbie helped as much as she could. She enjoys helping people and says you don't have to look far to find people who need help.

Since her health has declined, Bobbie is unable to get out. Her daughters live across the road from her and check on her frequently, and she also has home health personnel come regularly. Though she is unable to participate in worship any longer, she would love to be a part of it. She appreciates cards and visits.

NOTE: *This is the 18th 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.*

✦✦✦✦✦

TRANSITIONS

I'm all for transitions. During the days when I prepared a stir-fry-over-rice lunch for stainless steel school boxes, the kids were eating a hearty, hot rice plate with ladled-on meat and vegetables. It was a struggle to get a dozen students out the door and on the road to school. So many things to get done. At that time I had five that I had to drive to the Canadian teacher on the other side of town. The rest took the bus to Thai schools.

Those five enjoyed their daily bickering, tricking one another, and irritating even the dogs that barked incessantly at the noisy children. I could barely keep my joyful and peaceful spirit intact, so I invented a purpose of mosquitoes. In the evening when the kids were finally in their rooms, I went to the old blue truck that we used to get to school. I rolled down the windows.

In the morning as I followed the children to the truck I heard a massive moan. The kids immediately blamed each other for the open windows. Of course, no one admitted to the gross negligence. After we had all piled into the truck, sweat began popping out which drove the mosquitoes into a frenzy. I told the kids, "Your choice. Mosquitoes or heat." For once they made the right choice. Up went the windows; on went the air-conditioner.

The bloodsuckers buzzed. The kids forgot each other and began a coordinated effort to keep those critters from landing and sucking. For once, I saw them all with a common movement. They willingly refrained from

swatting each other in the guise of killing a mosquito. They finally understood the value of unity in a common cause.

By the time we finally made it to the first red light, the children were united and of one mind. As we slowly slid to a stop, I suggested, "Open the doors. Let's get rid of the mosquitoes! All four doors flew open, kids piled out, and much commotion entertained those stopped near the old blue truck. The kids had to get the job done by the time the red light turned green. Done! We had transplanted fifty mosquitoes, and the budding teenagers had suddenly eased into a surviving unit.

Transitions are a way of life. It is a process of letting go of the way things used to be and then taking hold of the way they become. The changes in life can be happy and exciting or hard and sad.

Sometimes we ease into transitions or grow into them. Then there are the times when we are forced to grow or to endure change. Every woman who has had a baby knows transition. There is no turning back. A healthy transition is achieved by our inward decision to adjust and see the new person, place, or thing that is next in our life.

Time has a way of always moving forward. Nothing stays the same. We adapt.

Rebecca Voraritskul, Khon Kaen, Thailand
©2015

✦✦✦✦✦

PRAYER IS POWER

... "and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at the right hand in the Heavenly realms." (Ephesians 1:19-20) God could give us whatever we want, anytime He wants; but He waits for us to ask Him. His power is always available, but He wants relationship with us, so He waits. Jesus said in Matthew 7:7, "Ask and it will be given to you. Seek and you will find."

Simply put, if we don't ask, we will not receive. Sometimes we think it's too hard to pray. Do you ever feel like that? I do. If I'm depressed or ill, it is harder to pray. I believe at those times, God "listens to our hearts." I love the words to the song with that same title. I want to be a woman after God's own heart, don't you? James 5:16 says, *"The prayer of a righteous man (or woman) is powerful."* The power, of course, does not come from us, but from God. When we are living transformed lives, we hold the key to the door of abundant blessings

through prayer. Colossians 1:11, *“Being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have endurance and patience.”*

Our lives must be focused on God, the Father and Jesus, our Savior—and the relationship we have with them rather than simply seeking answers to our prayers. God told Jeremiah in 2:12-13, *“Then you will call upon me and find me when you seek me with all of your heart.”* Our walk with Him must be a daily seeking and searching. Notice the words, *“all of your heart.”* 1 Corinthians 7:5 says, *“Devote yourselves to prayer,”* because, as John 15:5 says, *“Apart from me, you can do nothing.”*

Many of us go through life carrying burdens of guilt and fear—things that God took from us long ago. But we were not content to let Him keep them, and we have taken them back time and time again. Holding onto them is like carrying a stinky sack of rotten potatoes—and you know how bad rotten potatoes smell. God erased those sins long ago, when we repented and asked Him to forgive us. Continuing to carry that kind of burden is as though we don’t think God has enough grace to go around. Shame on us! Many sins do have lasting consequences; but we still do not have the right to hang onto our guilt. Remember the saying, *“Let go and let God.”* We will never be effective in our service to the Lord as long as we refuse to accept God’s grace and move on. Satan is the only one who wants us to be burdened and joyless. He’s very good at it, so we need not enable him to do that in our lives.

The Spirit of power comes from the Holy Father, and prayer is the only way we can tap into that power. Satan wants to keep us out of the spiritual battle. He uses our all-too-human weaknesses against us, but God will protect us if we let Him. James 4:7 says, *“Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”* Let us take hold of the power that God offers and see what He can do with and in our lives.

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, Missouri
©January, 2015

✦✦✦✦✦



✦✦✦✦✦

I was There

*I was there the day you were born,
And I gave you special gifts to last a lifetime*

*I touched you, made you smile, watched you grow,
And watched you take your first step
I even reassured you that all would be okay
When you lost your first tooth.*

*I saw you off on your first day of school
And I lingered by your side the whole day.*

*I was there to console you every time you cried
And I held you every time you fell and scraped your
knees.*

*I was there every day all through the years
And I always strived to give you direction,*

*I helped you every step of the way into adulthood,
Bringing you daily gifts of inspiration, hope and love.*

*And I gave you trials so you could grow
Into the warm and beautiful person you are
But I never abandoned you to them.*

*I've never, not for a single second,
Turned my back on you when you needed me.
Even when you thought that you didn't need me.*

*I heard you every time you spoke
And I answered every prayer—
Though sometimes, for your best interest,
I didn't answer them the way you hoped I
would.*

*I'm still with you through your joys, your hopes,
Your tears, your dreams
Through the bad days, the good days,
Through every day of your life.*

*And I will be there in the end
To give you comfort and to see you safely home.
Where you will sit beside me
In all the glory of heaven.*

*Love,
God*

By Bobbette Bryan

✦✦✦✦✦

***But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with
those who fear him, and his righteousness with their
children's children—Psalm 103:17***

✦✦✦✦✦

Our Greatest Transition

Our lives are in a constant state of change. From birth to death, we experience change; some of them we categorize as major transitions: graduation from school/college, moving out on your own, marriage, becoming parents, getting a job, changing jobs, retirement, and the loss of a loved one are just a few of those events that mark a significant change or stage of development in an individual's life. We also further categorize events within our lives as successes and failures.

We often think of life in the element of time; and for our physical life, time is an element. For those of us who come to believe God to be creator of the universe, we understand that from the moment we begin our existence we start our journey as eternal beings. It is during our physical state that we must transition from seeing ourselves as finite physical beings to how God sees us as infinite spiritual beings. We are infinite beings. We believe in life after death. We believe in final destinations of heaven and hell.

The greatest choice we will ever make in our physical life is when we transition to eternal spiritual beings that belong to God. This can only be achieved through His Son.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

We believe the gospel (the good news) of Christ Jesus. As the Apostle Paul declared—

*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which you are also saved, if you hold fast to the word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: **that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.** I Corinthians 15:1-4*

So how do we transition to a spiritual being that belongs to God? By following the example of Christ; by putting Christ on in baptism; by dying to self, being buried with Him in baptism, and raising to a new (spiritual) life.

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Gal 3:27

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Rom 6:3-4

I wish I could say that as we walk in our newness of life all will be successes in your life. It is how we deal with our failures that will show the world to whom we belong. Letting our light shine for God in the midst of our good times and, more importantly, in the midst of our dark times, shows the world that becoming a child of God makes all the difference. We are no longer alone in our struggles, and we can draw strength from the Lord, our God, who has promised to never leave us.

Daily we must continue to walk in our newness of life hand in hand with Jesus. This will be our greatest transition. As children of God, one of our greatest purposes in life is to lift up the risen Christ before the world. In doing so, It will be our greatest success.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1-2

Kathy Webber, Rolla, Missouri
©May, 2015

✠✠✠✠



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.

✠✠✠✠