

Mom's Eulogy January 2, 2011



Katie Garcia
April 1932 – December 2010

As many of you know, the last three years were very difficult years. My mom endured the loneliness of losing her husband, Kidney failure, which required 4 days a week of DIALYSIS (as she called it), amputation, heart and lung problems and quite a bit of time spent in hospitals. And though she was strong and it was amazing to see the fight with which she fought these last years, I choose to reflect on who she was before these events.

If I had to pick one word to sum her up it would be AUTHENTIC. She didn't try to appear one way at Church and another way at home. She didn't say one thing to your face and another behind your back. She wasn't a person that hid her thoughts and opinions. With her, you ALWAYS knew where you stood. Even though it was hard at times, I always appreciated that about her. Her admonishments to me to quit listening to 'devil' music (as she called it) when I was a teen, her objections to my dropping out of college to go on the mission field and her insistence that Richard was the one I should marry are areas for which I am now grateful that I conceded.

If you were meeting her for the first time, one might be tempted to begin a mental list of her flaws. But if you spent just a few minutes more you would come to realize as we all have, that she was an amazing woman and her strengths far out weighed her weaknesses.

She was a woman with the gift of hospitality. Some of my fondest memories are of her inviting others to our house for dinner. When my father was stationed in North Dakota, she would invite all the single airmen from our church, who had no nearby family, to our home for Thanksgiving. One event that is still very vivid in my mind was when a strange couple showed up at our church and needed a place to stay. My mom invited them to come stay at our home as long as they needed. I have to stop here and put this into perspective for you. My mom was the type of mother and grandmother that was always calling you up to tell you about food and baby equipment recalls, kidnappings, escaped convicts and murderers on the loose. She once even conducted a one-on-two seminar with my daughters, Annie and Katie, on how to get away from a mugger and what to do if they were kidnapped and put in a trunk of a car. For her to invite this couple that we knew nothing about to stay in our home for a few weeks was unusual. But she said she believed God told her to do it. We never heard from the couple again and she always maintained we had entertained Angels unaware.

There was no other person on this earth that loved my children like my mother. Her love and total acceptance of our special needs children is a gift she gave to me that I could never repay to her in 10 lifetimes. Her great strength and support encouraged us to pursue our dreams of ministry as she helped with Judah and Chloe. Any fruit that was grown out of our Sunday Night Outreach with the Sudanese children will be credited to her as she took care of my children on those Sunday nights and freed us up to minister.

Our family has been so blessed to have her as our mother and grandmother. I learned from her mistakes and I emulate her strengths. I truly am a better person because of her.