

A Chapter From My Life Story!

by Mother Eve

THE FIRST 18 YEARS OF MY LIFE WERE SPENT LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE. believe it or not, along with my 5 brothers & sisters, mother & father. Even in those days our family was considered large, but admired by many people with no children or only one or two. My father & mother loved us very much & always thanked God for their family.

NONE OF US CHILDREN EVER FELT UNWANTED OR UNLOVED. As a child I tried to help teach my younger sisters. In those days the older children were needed to train the younger in large families. I learned to be a mother at an early age, & my father always said that he would never have made it without my help. Only when we were very small did my mother hire an extra girl to come & take care of the children.

MY FATHER WAS A BUILD-ER, self-employed all his life, with a coal & lumber yard. He built our own house & we moved into it when I was only one month old. As children, we never knew much about the Depression or suffered many hardships with finances. Since my father was never ambitious about money & seldom talked about it, we did not know there was a Depression even tho' I was in my early teens! It seemed that my Dad's wealth was totally invested in property. He owned many houses which he built & rented to people.

DURING THE DEPRESSION WHEN MANY PEOPLE OWED HIM MONEY or when they could not pay their rent, my father would allow them to live in the house & pay as much as they could afford. Because he gave free housing to those who



Mel—Age 15 in Kentucky!

couldn't pay their rent & credit to those who needed it we never became rich. But he worked very hard to provide for his family & so gained the respect of all the people in the community for his benevolence.

MY MOTHER WAS ALSO VERY SPECIAL TO ME. She was concerned about the poor & the sick in the community & was faithful to help them. She often took food from our garden & milk from our cow to the sick & aged. Sometimes she would drive us 4 sisters in the family car to deliver custard to some poor family.

MY MOTHER HAD LONG BROWN HAIR which she arranged nicely in a little bun on

the back of her neck. She thought it was bad taste for women to cut their hair & to wear trousers. She taught all of us girls to be feminine & to play with dolls & be "motherly-minded". She never wore a bra.

FOR MANY YEARS SHE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE PTA (Parent-Teacher Assoc.) & taught school children in the 4-H Club (4-H means head, heart, hand & health). This Club taught sewing, canning, cooking etc. to all the girls after school hours & made a girl want to excel in these things. Once a year there was a big country fair where all the girls would present their sewing projects, cooking, canning etc. to be judged & receive awards for their good work. Since my mother was one of the teachers & wanted to make her daughters a good example, we usually worked hard & won many prizes.

IN MY TEENAGE YEARS I WAS SEWING MY OWN CLOTHING. In my 3rd year of high school I won the sewing contest for making the best outfit which included a coat, hat & undergarments. Then all the Counties of the State of Kentucky got together for competition & modelled the clothes that they had made. This time I placed 3rd out of 62 girls representing the entire State.

ALTHO' WE WERE NOT RICH, WE HAD A VERY HIGH STANDING in the community & could trace our "family tree" back before Kentucky became a State. The story goes that the Governor of Virginia gave my great-great-grandfather 5,000 acres of land to pioneer Kentucky along with Daniel Boone & a few other "brave pioneers". I've seen the places around Louisville where the property was located & even the approximate site of

his house called Clover Hill.

IN 1871 MY GRANDFATHER PUBLISHED A BOOK OF PO-EMS about the early days of Kentucky. I enjoyed reading about his history of Kentucky because it was so poetically written. There were also several outstanding poems about Bible characters. The famous "family tree" was on my father's side, but my mother's family was very well-known in the county & she was quite proud of her heritage. In the Southern U.S. it was very important to know a little about where a person came from & his family history.

DURING THE DAYS I WAS GROWING UP PEOPLE DIDN'T TRAVEL AS MUCH as they do today. But I will remember when we were visited by our relatives who lived in California. It was a great occasion to have someone visit you from such a distant State, especially as far west as California "The California relatives", as we called them, were travelling evangelists & musicians with 2 small children.

THEIR 2 SMALL CHILDREN COULD SING VERY WELL & this made a great impression on me. I can still remember the songs they taught us about Jesus. My cousin played the piano & her husband played the violin. They gave us several very beautiful records of their music which we often played after their visit was over. I thought they were very fine Christians tho' at that time I didn't know anything about denominations. I later learned that they were Pentecostal & my family was Baptist.

AS A CHILD I DID NOT REALISE THAT THESE RELATIVES WERE TO PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT PART IN MY LIFE. It was these very cousins who invited me to visit them in California in my late teens & I became the youth director of their church. It was in this

church that I met my husband David for the 1st time, who with God's help has guided my destiny. In later years these cousins became more liberal Christians & were pastors of a community church called The Little Church of Sherman Oaks.

I WAS THE OLDEST GIRL, BUT I HAD 2 OLDER BROTHERS, one of whom greatly influenced my life. In his early 20's Carl had a miraculous change in his life. Until that time he behaved like a natural brother toward a sister, which was a little bit bothersome at times. Both the older brothers would tease us, as boys often do to show their strength & superiority.

BUT ONE DAY CARL BEGAN TO MANIFEST A GENUINE BROTHERLY LOVE towards me & started treating me with unusual kindness & concern. This really shocked all of us girls & we were very curious to know what had happened to him.

SINCE I WAS THE OLDEST GIRL, HE CHOSE TO MAKE ME HIS 1ST CONVERT to his new-found faith. He began talk-

ing to me seriously about my relationship with God. This really bothered me & even scared me a little because I began to realise how little faith I really had in God, even tho' I had gone to church all my life. He then shared with me that he had attended a prayer meeting in a home & had received the Holy Spirit.

AFTER THIS HE NO LONGER ATTENDED THE BAPTIST CHURCH but was always busy going to prayer meetings in various homes & visiting other churches. He had become acquainted with some very unusual friends whom I liked very much. He started taking me out with him to meet his friends, which he had never done before. I was in my late teens & enjoyed going out with my older brother.

HIS FRIENDS WERE COLLEGE & SEMINARY STUDENTS who always seemed to be happy & would read the Bible & freely talk of their faith in God. I found them all very inspiring & sincerely wanted to be like them.

ANOTHER INFLUENCE ON MY LIFE WAS ONE OF MY MOTHER'S MAIDEN SISTERS



Our California cousins with their 2 small children—travelling evangelists & musicians!

who never married & was a missionary to China in the 1930's before the Communist takeover. Every few years she came home to Kentucky & brought gifts to us from China & told us many missionary stories. So I soon decided as a little girl that when I grew up I wanted to be like my aunt & go to China as a missionary.

LATER, MUCH TO MY SURPRISE, I FOUND THAT DAVID REMEMBERED SEEING HER when he was a little boy as she travelled around America speaking in various churches. He was greatly impressed with her strange little Chinese dolls & relics. After speaking in meetings she allowed the children to come up to the table & examine the strange objects which came "all the way from China". Remember, at this time there was no TV & even seeing a movie was a rare occasion for a small child.

ANOTHER MAIDEN AUNT WAS A PIANO TEACHER & also played the large pipe organ in the big Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. She also spent part of her time in the mountains of Kentucky & North Carolina where she taught in a missionary school.

SHE TAUGHT ME TO READ MUSIC & PLAY PIANO, altho' I did not become very proficient. I lost interest as a teenager & did not play for a few years. She seemed to be a little stiff & old-fashioned & did not really inspire me to work very hard in music. Once in a while she would break down & play a little "rag-time" & I liked this very much.

SO ALTHO' WE HAD A PIANO IN OUR HOME, no one really inspired me to play it as much as I should have. When I finally learned to play the piano to accompany David, it gave me great pleasure & I realised what

I had been missing. With the right kind of teaching, a teenager can learn to play popular songs on the piano as easily as on the guitar. Sad to say, I only learned that in recent years. However I am very thankful to my aunt who at least taught me to read music & cared enough to teach me the only method she knew as a music teacher of the "old school".

ANOTHER MAIDEN AUNT MAINTAINED A BASE FOR THE OTHER 2 TRAVELLING MISSIONARIES. So I received much training, care & love from these aunts. I can even remember hearing them read the "Daily Light" to me as a child. Their father, my grandfather, helped build a large Baptist Church with the stones of his own quarry. His name was John Tucker & his church is still standing on a very prominent corner of Louisville, Kentucky, as well as "Tucker Station" which was named after him.

AS A YOUNG TEENAGER I COULDN'T SEE WHY MY PARENTS GOT SUCH A "CHARGE" OUT OF GOING TO CHURCH & teaching Sunday school, but I thought they were very sincere & loved God. To me it all seemed rather dead & the sermon was usually very boring & I was glad when it



My older brother Carl who greatly influenced my life. After his conversion he became a conscientious objector.

was over. How they could be happy living such a life always puzzled me.

BUT EACH NIGHT WHEN I SAW THEM KNEEL AT THEIR BEDSIDE, side by side, to say their prayers, I knew that they had real faith that kept them going. They lived their religion day-by-day & were not doing it for "show" or to impress others. Their love for God seemed to be genuinely from the heart & this was evident in their desire to help people. My mother, who enjoyed singing hymns, would often embarrass me in church by singing "heartily as unto the Lord" & people would often turn around & look at her. She did not seem to mind but went on singing, altho' she seldom sang in the church choir.

MY FATHER ALSO HAD SIMPLE FAITH IN GOD. He gave freely to the church & was a "tither", plus he gave faithfully to missionaries & to Billy Graham's radio program in the latter years of his life. After my marriage to David, when we started living by faith & serving the Lord, he gave to us regularly & helped us out with money for special needs such as train fare, down-payments on trailers, vehicles etc.

Love,—Mother.
(More coming soon, DVI)



My mother—always smiling & cheerful!

Love Conquers All!

A new love in a new land leads to pioneering miracles!
—Thru' "faith which worketh by love"! (Gal. 5:6)



Rufus & his 2 pioneering daughters in South America!

From Rufus: South America: **WHEN I ARRIVED IN SOUTH AMERICA** almost 2 years ago with my 2 young daughters (ages 4 & 5), I had virtually lost hope that true love really existed for myself, other than my great love of service to the King. But then as the shy but enchanting goddess of Latin America unveiled herself to me, I realised that my life-long dreams had come true!

SHORTLY AFTER MY ARRIVAL I MET THE PRETTIEST SWEETEST GIRL I had ever encountered in my life.—A beautiful Latin lovely with big Spirit-filled eyes that made my heart flutter every time she looked at me. It seemed her countenance always held a smile. She was a Latin national who had been a catechist for 5 years, unable to come into full-time service because of antagonistic & very influential parents.

AS A RESULT OF OUR GROWING LINK, 6 months later she made the decision to move into our Home unbeknownst to her parents. As we began sleeping with each other, we real-

ised how incredibly deep our relationship was. She seemed to adapt as a mother to my children overnight & provided me with the most real & sensual love I had ever experienced in my life, being a soothing ointment to the hurt of my past years of turmoil married to a woman who eventually left me & the Family.

I KNEW THAT SHE WAS A DIRECT GIFT FROM GOD for making the difficult decision to leave the lush lowlands of the States to come to Latin America as a missionary alone with 2 little ones. Dulce also knew that God had brought me along in His perfect timing & put so much love in our hearts for each other so as to give her the faith to make the break into full-time service after 5 years of struggle in trying to do so. As a result, we both knew our relationship had the special touch of Jesus Himself, PTL!

SHORTLY AFTER DULCE QUIT HER JOB, in the Lord's wisdom she became pregnant. At this time the Camping Letters were just beginning to come out, & there was a burning desire in both our hearts to hit the road

completely by faith. But we had no trailer & no apparent source of getting one.

AS FAR AS WE KNEW, NO FAMILY IN THIS COUNTRY HAD ATTEMPTED living on the road with children, due to the severe economic conditions. I still couldn't speak Spanish & neither could my kids. Dulce was pregnant & had never pioneered before. However we knew we had to "flee the city" because of her family situation, so there was certainly no time to wait for a trailer. We felt so much strength together that we determined that God was able to keep us if we just went out by faith.

SO WE PROVISIONED BUS TICKETS & HEADED OUT to a mountain town to the South. After an exhausting 20-hour bus ride, we arrived extremely tired & a little frightened at the realisation of having arrived in this strange town without any funds whatsoever. I could barely muster enough faith to walk over to the nearest hotel & try in my very primitive Spanish to provision a room for the night. Well,



Dulce, Latin American national & new wife & Mom to Rufus & kids!