

THE LEGACY

We are all the recipients of someone's legacy — what they left behind to be remembered by. A legacy is one's stamp upon the future, making a contribution to future generations. Billy Graham suggests that "the greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith."

Such was my legacy from my mother, an example of encouragement. Mom was raised with five brothers, the only girl in the family. Having been raised as a child during the depression, and as a young woman during WWII, she knew well the importance of hard work, honesty, love of family, and caring for others. When I was in the seventh grade, she went back to work full time, ostensibly to provide the "extras" for our family of four, but I saw another trait.



As a school teacher in a mostly poor, rural community, she frequently would buy a coat for a child who didn't have a warm one. She would give these students new clothes or our outgrown ones in good condition, or provide food for "her children" or their families. She was a mentor and encourager to her fellow teachers and friends in her church and community.

Had she lived until today (March 21), mom would be celebrating her 98th birthday. But dementia and ill health took her from us long before her death in 2013.

On the night before she died, mom had not spoken a word for over a day. Yet, as my sister and I were sitting with her, we heard her unmistakable voice, loud and clear. She simply said, "Help." And then, "...each other." Those were her last words.

No matter our age, we are all writing our own legacy every day. Let us use the power of our lives for the *good* of those we touch — our family, our community, and possibly even those we do not know. Let us help each other!

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(My grandmother's legacy has continued beyond her lifetime to impact those who will never know where the example to help them came from. "Ripples in the water," we call it. We all make them. Choose, with God's help, to make them count for good. ~ SC)



As always, we are thankful to have Reba Shackelford as a guest writer for The Story Board! Reba is a retired teacher/administrator, and is currently an advisor for the board of The Encouragement Project. She is always looking for ways to share love and encouragement with those around her. Especially with the elderly. And children. And those in between.

CONTINUATION

Even in these days of uncertainty, one thing is sure: people still need help, encouragement, and the love of Jesus shared. These are all things that we can do even when we cannot physically interact with those around us. For example, you could:

- share about Jesus with someone you love
- make weekly/daily calls to friends and neighbors who need to hear a cheerful voice
- write cards/letters to family and friends (and teachers, healthcare workers, pastors, etc) to encourage and bless them
- knit/crochet a hat/scarf/blanket (or several!) to share with those who will need warmth later in the year
- start an online Bible study with those you are connected to
- read books to your kids... or to kids you are connected with via video calls
- order groceries to be delivered to a family struggling to have enough
- be creative! You have been uniquely created to be a blessing to those you know in special ways.



GIVE ONLINE

We have a new secure giving portal on our updated website, and you are invited to give it a try! As always, we very much appreciate your financial gifts of support however they come.

www.theencouragementproject.org/donate

The Encouragement Project can also now be found on Amazon Smile. If you go to smile.amazon.com when you shop, and select The Encouragement Project as your charity of choice, we will receive a small percentage of your purchases. Every little bit helps!



preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

2 Timothy 4:2

CLEANING OUT?

While we are all more or less stuck at home during these days, some of us might get the urge (and actually have the time) to go through things and clean out closets. (Our garage has never looked better!) As you come across any gently used children's books, or yarn of any amount, would you set it aside for us? We'll be more than happy to get these things from you when we are able to freely move about once again. **The needs we have been seeking to fill with *The Book Drop* and *Hugs and Kisses* will only continue to grow as we move through the year.**

THE ENCOURAGEMENT PROJECT is run solely with financial gifts and donations. Will you help?
The Encouragement Project is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible.

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