

SHARING LETTERS

My granddaughter recently showed me on Zoom my Great Grandson reading books. He was sounding out letters and reading the words. I was so pleased at this as reading has long been a passion of mine. I had difficulty reading in the beginning but thankfully a teacher, on realizing that several of us had difficulty, obtained the 1st grade books, and started us over. Reading opened up a whole new world to me. My imagination soared and my picture of the world changed. I had never had a book at home but would read everything that was available including cookbooks and an encyclopedia that we had for a short while. When I discovered the library at school, I read every book I could which did get me into a slight difficulty in a Spelling Bee. I became very good at spelling and the teacher was always “volunteering” me for spelling bees. I had just finished reading a book set in England and at the Bee was given the word “Theater.” I did well with it but finished the word with re instead of er. I gave them the spelling from England. I was taken out of the bee, but my teacher forgave me. In High School I worked in the library for all 4 years and read every book I could. I hope my Great Grandchildren inherit my love of books. I have often discussed books with my granddaughters and recall a time of running all over Minneapolis looking for a book a granddaughter wanted and sharing a love of author Ken Follett with another granddaughter. My oldest Granddaughter gave me an “early” Mother’s Day gift this year. It is with a company that will make a book of your writings. My Granddaughter submits a question for each week, and I write a story about it. At the end of a year, it will be made into a book which my granddaughter will have as a keepsake and can be shared with my great grandchildren. We have done two weeks so far and I am enjoying it thoroughly. It will enable me to leave my memories of childhood and adulthood with her. Plus, it is helping me to see the good and the blessings of my childhood.

Jesus went out to find the “twelve.” He would need twelve disciples to continue his work. He chose fishermen and a tax collector and common men. Some were educated and some were not. Paul, not one of the twelve, was a representative of Roman Rule and was changed on the road to Damascus. He became a tireless worker for Jesus and wrote often to the followers from prison. The writings and stories of the Apostles and Paul make up what is called the New Testament. From a tax collector to followers to a convert we learn of Jesus and his teaching and the stories and events that formed the Christian faith.

Paul wrote to Timothy. Timothy 1:1-5 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our savior and of Christ Jesus our hope. To Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God’s work—which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Paul’s letters encouraged the followers to maintain and uphold their faith. I have begun to write letters to my Great Grandchildren. I hope they will see in the letters a Great Grandmother who loved them and God and as I offer them the blessings of God may they feel that love also,

Dear Lord, we thank you for the blessing of the day. May we use this day to praise you. Be with those who suffer illness, grief, homelessness, hunger, and sin. May they find you in their midst. Be with our church, may we be the hands and feet of Christ in a world that needs mercy and kindness. Be with our Pastor and bless his ministry and be with his family. We thank you Lord for the messages he brings and for the blessing he is daily. Be with the Bishop and the Cabinet, bless them in their work. Be with our leaders and our staff, guide and protect them. We thank you Lord for being with us through each day. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson

