



Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . .

A Tribute to Mary E. Corbett

***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ~ Romans 12:1***

On Wednesday morning, November 30, 2016, our beloved friend, sister, and servant in ministry and life, Mary Elizabeth Corbett, stepped into eternity wrapped in the arms of Jesus.

Mary's life, her influence, and impact on the hearts of others cannot be captured with these words, but we honor her in this simple writing nonetheless.

Mary was born in Sharon, Pennsylvania on December 15, 1953, the third of seven children to Mr. Paul P. Corbett Sr. (deceased) and Mrs. Patricia Callahan Corbett. Mary often remarked on being well trained as a child in the art of "quick showering" and remembered fondly making different desserts for the family dinners. She would also reminisce about the jar of chores that each of the siblings picked from every week. It was an extra good week for Mary if she was assigned to watch over her baby brother.

Growing up in an enthusiastic Penn State family, Mary proudly graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1975 and cheerfully supported her alma mater in conversation and attire as befits a loyal Nittany Lion. She may or may not have been known to tear up at successful football outings.

Mary's parents instilled in her from a young age an understanding and deep reverence for God, and as she grew, her heart to know Him grew as well. Mary recounted many times her life-changing experience as a young woman at a Salvation Army camp where she worked. Days before the campers arrived, the workers prepared the activities and got to know one another. One evening, the discussion turned to the Lord, and Mary found she had many questions that her new friends helped her to answer. That night, lying under the stars, Mary made a decision to give her whole heart and life to Jesus and to follow Him wherever He led.

Mary's life in service to God took her to numerous destinations, such as the Dominican Republic, where she helped young people get their lives back on track, San Diego, California, where she worked with a worldwide ministry, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she established her home and served faithfully at Dave Roberson Ministries and The Family Prayer Center for 25 years.

Upon receiving an open invitation to join the staff at Dave Roberson Ministries if she ever desired, Mary spent a Thanksgiving holiday with good friends in Tulsa as

she pondered the Lord's next steps for her life. Mary related on more than one occasion how on that holiday trip, she came down to the church to pray, and as soon as she entered the sanctuary, she began to cry and knew this was her new home and her next step on the Lord's path.

Mary's travels did not end with her relocation to Tulsa in 1991. Through her integral work at the ministry here which expanded over the years to include overseeing the worship teams, serving as a scribe and "written voice" for the ministry, directing operations, and being executive assistant to the pastors, Mary also joined the board of directors for The Sparrow's Nest orphanage in Jelgava, Latvia, Beautiful Thunder Ministries in Kiefer, Oklahoma, and Indian Believers Ministry in Catoosa, Oklahoma. Including her longtime role within Dave Roberson Ministries, Mary traveled and helped each of these ministries which were dear to her heart in any way she could.

To the children at The Sparrow's Nest in particular, Mary became known as "the Cake Lady." With her affinity to assess needs and carryout solutions, Mary learned that due to a shortage of funds last year, the Christmas cake would be cut from the orphanage's budget. Needless to say, the children and staff workers at The Sparrow's Nest did not lack cake for their holiday celebrations, and this endearing title became a beautiful addition to Mary's faithful years of service, support, and love.

Mary's generosity, administrative gifts, and wisdom also spread beyond the ministries in which she was directly involved. She served as liaison and avenue of help for many local and even overseas ministers, ministries, and organizations. In the Kingdom of God, Mary—who could appear quiet and unassuming and preferred to remain in the background—was well known. She did not seek praise or honor from others but sought daily to live for the Lord and to minister to the lives around her.

For those of us who worked, lived, and worshiped God alongside of Mary, we call her a warrior for the Gospel, a wellspring of wisdom and compassion, a mentor to those whose hearts are to know God and to serve Him with their lives, and an immovable rock of truth in the Body of Christ on which the Father's plans will continue.

We speak comfort and peace to the hearts of those who love Mary, and we rejoice in the knowledge that through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we will see her again!

***Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand. ~ Second Corinthians 1:24***