

May 2018

My grandma was a packrat. When she died in December 1996 at age 90, my mom and I found all kinds of things that Grandma had stashed away. Newspaper clippings from decades earlier. Notebooks with quips and quotes from newspapers and magazines. And three letters to my mom.

We loved Grandma and she loved us, but she had a very hard time vocalizing it. She'd do things for you or give you gifts, and those were her way of saying, "I love you." The three love letters to my mom were written over a 12-year period and ended up being the most valuable gift that remains from Grandma's "stuff."

Another 90-year-old lady who was close to my heart passed away in February. I'd visited with Tommie Walker a number of times over the years and she was featured in one of our Mission:Dignity videos. This dear pastor's widow stashed away a lot of mementos over time but, unlike my grandma, Tommie saved things that had eternal value. And she didn't have a problem telling anyone she loved them. That was true for her family and also for those in our Mission:Dignity family.

One of the things Miss Tommie left behind was her self-written obituary. It's a brief snapshot of a legacy of faith lived alongside her husband for the good of others and for the glory of God. You'll find a copy on the back of this page and I hope you'll be encouraged knowing you've had a part in helping people just like Tommie. I also trust you'll grasp the great love she had for those who made her life more secure in old age. Thanks for sharing this month and reminding nearly 1,800 retired pastors, workers and widows of the love of the Lord and their Baptist family. Your generosity is a blessing to them and a wonderful testimony to leave behind for the generations that follow.

Grace and peace,



John Ambra  
Director of Development



Mom was notorious for keeping lots of notebooks full of sermon notes and her personal thoughts. In several journals, she wrote notes about her memorial service. Mom wrote her own obituary, below is what she wanted to say:

*Thank you for joining us at my Memorial service. This is my coronation ceremony – placing my crowns at my Jesus' feet!! This is for one reason - to bring glory to the One Person I loved the most, the Lord Jesus Christ, my "Abba Father."*

*I came into this world on May 15, 1927; my departure will be God's timing (Sunday, February 18, 2018). I was a pastor's wife, mom, school teacher, intercessor. I was the third child of the family of Alex and Ora Boggan, who lived at Boggan Ridge in Mississippi.*

*I was preceded in death by my husband, Rev. Bobby Walker, my parents, sisters Laurene Grubb and Nell Chisholm, brother Emmitt Boggan and wife Helen. My children are Rob Walker (wife Ileen and sons Charles Walker and Ethan Walker) and Laurie Danell Hiatt (husband Jeffrey and daughters Kelsey Hiatt and Caitlin Hiatt). I had many "adopted" family members that I call my angels who cared for me – the Silver Belles, provider Carmen Moreno and family, and the staff and friends of Second Baptist Church.*

*My favorite quote and morning Hallelujah was from Joseph Prince – "I am greatly blessed! I am highly favored! I am deeply loved! Praise the Lord!"*

*Thanks for all you and your families have done to make my life without my Preacher Man (husband) livable. Be good to my grandies. They're great! Lead them in things eternal. When they get to where I am, nothing else matters. We'll all be together one day! Dad and I will be looking for you. See you with a resurrected body! I'll race you and guess who will win!*

*If you do not have your mansion reserved in Heaven, do so before you sleep tonight. Jesus may come before the morning and I want to be in eternity with you all.*

Mom and Dad were not wealthy in the world's standards, but what she gave her family and those who knew her was priceless. We knew every day that she was praying for us. When she passed, we found sealed letters for each of us. Written on the outside of all of the letters it said "Prayers never die, just stored up. After I'm gone and something unexpected happens that's good, you can say, 'Oh just one of mom's prayers being answered'." Priceless indeed!

