

This is a story about a marvelous woman;

My Aunt Emma Rose Mills, Sr.

I adore this woman. She has been a shining light in all of our lives, but particularly in the life of my dear departed mother. Since then, she has been a bright light for my life, also. I believe God has used her life experience to lead and guide all of us, both young and old.

She has been here, for more than seventy years and she is still a force that we aspire to. She is the matriarch of our entire family. We respect and honor her for all she has given.

Aunt Mike is a brilliant woman. She is the only family living from her generation. She oversees the lives of all of us, who have survived our parents.

Aunt Mike says she only went to the tenth grade, yet she is as intelligent as a college graduate is. She has more common sense than many.

She worked in a prominent bookstore during her teenage years. She was their best employee. She has a bubbly personality that lifts up and encourages everyone who enters her presence. Therefore, customers enjoyed her.

Aunt Mike grew up in North Carolina for a few years, when she was young. Her family finally settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

She was one of seven children. Her mother was a community leader who worked very hard to gracefully raise her children in comfort. Her father was a distinguished Baptist preacher, who raised his children in a firm, disciplinary environment.

This was during the time of the depression and families had to work hard to maintain prosperous households. Her parents stood out in the community and helped many in their neighborhood. They were, looked upon, as a couple who struggled, but overcame the difficulties of the day.

Their daughter, Emma Rose Bivens married a United State military man, Mr. Everett Mills, Jr. and together they had five children.

Aunt Mike has a heart, filled with a special love and everyone who meets her goes away inspired by her spirit.

She enjoys using a variety of endearing words when she speaks. She will ask, “Do you mine, if I speak freely, with you?” Since everyone wants to be around her, all the time, it is easy to say, “Sure, speak your words in any form or fashion that you choose”.

She makes us happy. The length of her years on this earth lets us know that she is still willing to share with, us her time and her wisdom. She has an open heart and it is easy to see why so many people enjoy her company.

I love her so very much. Our prayer, for her life, is that she will enjoy peace and comfort for the rest of her time with us. Our hope, for her life, is that she sees that she is loved by so many. Our joy, for her life, is that, she knows that, our heavenly father has always had his arms wrapped around her and her family, throughout all these years.

Grandfather preached these words a long time ago and they are still around, even until this day. His message has passed through all of our generations.

He said the words of the Lord, to many, back in his day and his words are still protecting our families.

He did not get to meet all of his grandchildren or his great-grandchildren. He did not get to meet all of his nieces or nephews. He did not get to tell us all the stories about himself or how the Lord led him to his ministry.

He did, however leave us a message that is currently, written in our hearts. He left us a message of love. Our grandfather prepared a pathway for all of his heirs. He loved the Lord and he spoke the words that the Lord gave to him. He prayed for us all and even though we struggle down here in our daily lives; our grandfather has already set a pathway for us to follow.

He knew we would make mistakes. He knew we would fall sometimes. He knew this life would be hard at times. However, he continued to preach to people and tell them that there is a hope that we can find if we go into our hearts and ask for help. He preached to everyone who would listen. He told them to go, to the one, who gave up his life for us and ask him to guide us on this pathway.

He knew that the answer was to just go inside of ourselves and speak from our hearts. The rest would be easy. He preached the love, of the son of God. He said that there is nothing, that we have done, that could separate us from this wonderful love. He knew all we have to do is ask and we would receive.

Aunt Mike and all of her family lived through a lot of turmoil and grief when, one by one, their loved ones slept away. However, she is still here today as a spokesperson who has seen it all and has endured through it all.

She is the last of her father’s children. All of his words, of love, peace, hope, grace and forgiveness live in her. She has a wonderful spirit and we can see him in her.

We are a blessed family because we have our Aunt Mike who lifts us up and carries us through our daily struggles. Whenever, we ask of her, she tries to help.

We know God is with her. We know we will join her and all our loved ones, when this life is over. However, we are so glad that we have her now and that she still gives to us her opinions, stories and her life experiences. Through her eyes, we see that we will be all right.

Thank you, Aunt Mike. We love you! 