

After writing about my Dad for the Father's Day issue of *Christian Life*, I want to add a bit about Mom, since her influence is a significant force behind my vocation in general and our current journey through the Bible in particular.

Mom was a "Preacher's Kid." Her father, a farmer and school teacher by profession, became a part-time pastor so that his family could have regular preaching and worship rather than the quarter-time services they had out in the country otherwise.

Mom's older brother later became a full-time pastor, and she earned a Master's Degree in religious education at Southern Seminary back in the days when women were not officially allowed in seminary at all. Mom said the professors never even acknowledged the presence of women in the classrooms, and it was fun for me to later earn two degrees from that same school and to teach on its faculty, often entering one of the buildings through the door over which the room that was her dorm room still houses seminarians.



During World War II, Mom was the Director of Religious Education at the First Baptist Church of Wilmington, North Carolina, and it was there that she met my Dad, who was stationed in Wilmington in the Navy and who worshiped at First Baptist.

Both of my parents loved the Bible and wore out many copies of the sacred text over the years. Dad saw to it that we had family devotions each night at 10:30, and I'll bet I could count on one hand the nights we missed in the eighteen or so years I was at home.

Mom saw to it that Dan and I were always active participants in what were then known as "The Junior Memory Work Drill," "The Intermediate Sword Drill," and "The Youth Speaker's Tournament," and it was chiefly through those means that I learned to find my way around the Bible and to begin to "hide its words in my heart" (Psalm 119:11). God used that discipline of "loading the heart drive" to move me along from Psalm 119:11 to Psalm 119:140 – "*Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them.*" I hope that our "bird's-eye" journey through the Bible this summer will serve to help God's Word become less mysterious and more enchanting for you, as well.

As you do your own study of the Bible day by day, you might ask yourself some or all of the following questions as a way to allow the Word to take root in your heart and life:

1. Is there a promise to claim?
2. Is there a command to obey?
3. Is there a sin to confess?
4. Is there an example to follow?
5. Is there a behavior to change?
6. Is there an encouragement to receive?
7. Is there an insight to gain?
8. Is there something to pray about?
9. Is there a reason to worship God?



Another legacy I received from my parents was watching how they continued to serve God's Kingdom faithfully through all the years of their lives. Mom and Dad were both committed to preschool work, so much so that some areas of the preschool ministry in their church have been named after them. Mom and Dad both worked with preschoolers as long as health and agility allowed it, which was the late eighties for Mom and the early nineties for Dad.

And in the spirit of that life-long love of children, I want to invite you to attend a **"Children's Ministry Confab"** at 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 21. We have lots of things to talk about related to our congregation's care for our children, for our grandchildren, and for the children of our neighborhood, things that will determine to a significant extent the shape of our life together over the next decade. If you're college age or beyond, whether you have children or not, and whether or not you're still physically able to work with children, we need your help in considering the opportunities before us. Please come!

Dave

Postscripts:

- If you are Internet-connected and would be willing to be an "Internet Friend" for one of our members not so connected, please let me know. This would involve making sure your Friend gets a copy of this column each week, and at least the main points of the week's INFO and PRAYER lines.
- I'm also looking for folk who would like to become "movie reviewers" from time to time of various film series available on our RightNow Media Library. Your reviews would be published right here in the weekly *Laptop*. Sound like fun?



*Children's Ministry Confab*

*July 21, 7 P.m.*