

A EULOGY OF LOVE – WYN MCNABB

Prepared by Andy McNabb
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Winifred (Wyn) Margaret Alice McNabb (nee Fogden): Dec. 13, 1929 – Jan. 05, 2020



When I asked Mom if she could share one piece of wisdom with the world, she responded: “Love one another”. That’s Mom – always thinking of others first, always putting others first.

Love: there is no one word that better describes my mom. That love is her greatest legacy.

From our earliest of memories, that love, that loving attitude, is pervasive in all aspects of our lives: with Dad, with Tammy, Jamie and me, 8 grandchildren, relatives, friends, acquaintances, co-workers.

You can’t know Wyn McNabb without being touched by that love.

Colossians 3:12-19 speaks of the “elect of God” – and this goes on to describe many of Mom’s attributes in great detail. The elect of God Colossians 3:12-19 says “therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness (in terms of being willing to accept and submit to the will of God), longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another.

Jamie, how many times in our lives did any and all of us at home receive Mom’s TENDER mercies AND forgiveness, without deserving any of it? Here’s one typical Wyn McNabb example that comes most often to mind...

When Mom was in the William Place retirement home in the late 90s, she lived kitty corner from our home at 6 Colborne W., where she and Dad raised Jamie, Tammy and me. She thought it would be a lovely idea to take Jolie, the kids and I on a tour of the house, by that time, owned by a friend of hers. The décor was almost untouched, and the memories flooded back.

If you've seen our childhood home, you've seen the majestic front porch. It's still bordered on each side by a dense, seemingly impenetrable wall of evergreen shrubs stretching the breadth of the house, that no person in their right mind would want to attempt to penetrate. As our visit wound down, we were standing on the porch, when I said: "Mom, I have a confession to make. When I was 14/15/16/17, this is where I hid my beer – right under the porch (Molson Export was the Lindsay teenager's beverage of choice in the 70's). My Mom replied "I know dear. When Don Anderson painted the porch, he saw the beer and told me". Me: "Why didn't you call me on that?". Mom: "Because I trusted you, dear".

What?!? That's Wyn.

Believing for the best in others. Looking for the best in others. Wyn.

Galatians 5:22 and 23 says ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love (Wyn), joy (Wyn), peace (Wyn), longsuffering (Wyn), kindness (Wyn), goodness (Wyn), faithfulness (Wyn), ²³ gentleness (Wyn), self-control (Wyn). Against such there is no law.

This is my Mom. The Wyn McNabb we all know and love. This is the Wyn McNabb that raised Tammy, Jamie and me. You can't hear this repeated enough, as Wyn, through the decades, repeated it so often, so we included it in the obituary, and we'll echo it again and again today: "The years of raising my family were the happiest years of my life".

Jamie and Robyn – you get "family". Thank you so much for the tremendous work you've done and do over the decades; not only in supporting and caring for Mom, but in your generous love and hospitality in continually inviting our family home to visit and keeping our families connected.

Mom was a love machine. Not only that, but she had a finely tuned mind. Not only was she gifted on her own, but when you work as the personal secretary for Lord Thomson of Fleet, Roy Thomson, in the midst of his becoming the 10th wealthiest man on the planet, that serves as invaluable business experience on its own.

That's why, as my Dad served the community through his ownership of CKLY radio (now known locally as Bob FM), it was said that Mom provided the glue that held that vision together. Dad often remarked of her irreplaceable counsel for him in key

decisions as the radio station expanded to become one of the highest rated radio stations in Canada (percentage of market audience).

“We had a good marriage – it was a partnership” she’d often say; a remark that was a trait of her always wanting to be looking at the positive side of things, no matter the circumstances.

Wyn would gain strength from reading scripture in her Daily Bread devotional. “I have a very deep faith and feel my life is guided. I was brought up in a family where we went to church and grew in faith within my family. The family is a firm foundation.”

She got the fact that Jesus said “I am the way, the truth and the life, and no one comes to the Father, except through me”. That’s all summed up in John 3:3.

A number of times over the years she exhorted with me three words: “Love one another”, as taken from John 13:34, 35: “A new commandment I give unto you, that you also love one another. By this you will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The LOVE FROM ABOVE – that’s where Mom sought it, that’s where she got it – and we’re ALL better off for it.

What a wonderful thing for us all to take up, carry on with, and in turn, grow this legacy of love, as we are reminded of Mom’s example and look to sow love into the lives of others.

Father in heaven, Mom may not be able to hear me – but we know YOU can. Thank you so much for the everlasting, never failing, overflowing love of Wyn McNabb. We love Mom so much, and look forward to a heavenly reunion.

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I’d now like to introduce Wyn’s favourite hymn, “Abide With Me”, to be sung by my wife, Jolanka McNabb.