

## **A Tribute to Martha**

In my last conversation with my friend of over 35 years, I said to Martha, "You have so much wisdom, if you had one thing to pass on, what would it be?" After pausing only a moment, she said, "Be kind. If everyone in the world was kind, just think what the world would be like!"

Wise words, and spoken by one with a heart of gold who was kindness personified. My family and I were the beneficiaries of her kindness so many times – a box of homegrown raspberries placed as a surprise on my doorstep, gratis babysitting while I attended church meetings because as Martha said, "It's a way I can give to the church," a pack of home-harvested forget-me-not flower seeds. I recall a wonderful visit by Martha in our Connecticut home when together we made a doll quilt for my girls and washed windows because she wanted to help with the fall chores.

Martha was a woman of faith and character. She was the picture of contentment in this world where so many are lured by materialism. Martha was a rare gem. Her life was quietly lived, but spoke volumes to those around her as she lived her faith by caring and giving to others.

At first blush, one would say, how sad she passed away just before the holidays. But knowing Martha, I wonder if she planned it that way. After all, the celebration of the coming of our Savior brings hope and peace. Martha's was a life well lived, the kind I think our Lord had in mind when He said, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

As her life is celebrated, I thank the Lord for blessing me with my dear friend, Martha!

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