

Mother was not large. She barely touched five feet for height and when I was born she weighed only slightly more than 90 pounds..I weighed within an ounce of 12. But could she work! At one time we had three cows (we were market growers) which mother and I milked. Mother milked two cows easily before I had my stool adjusted. I remember the sad look on the face of the cows who found out that "cold fingers Tom" was milking them. She worked on the days children were born...before and after.. just taking time off for the birth and then, back at it. Apart from the first and last all were born at home She relished a job and nothing was beyond her capacity to try. It was a great heritage for a boy with which to live and grow.

Family difficulties persuaded mother that she needed something more to sustain her than children and hard work. She determined to go to church..a three mile walk. This she did for four or five weeks and then at the church was an evangelistic service. Mother walked over every night but on Friday night the evangelist called the night "Scouts honor night" and the boy scout troop came en masse. The preacher talked that night of sin and forgiveness, grace and salvation. When an invitation was given at the end of the service, my mother responded immediately. I also believed. We were born from above on the same night.

Mother brought her toughness and tenacity to her faith. She quickly became a worker in the church and a Bible student. When the successive pastor proved to be less committed to the Gospel expression, she never yielded an inch to modern ideas but continued to study and work on her own. In time many in the family trusted Christ and father also came into conviction and trust although only after some hard years. The year following my conversion I went to college, my father took ill with a sickness from which he never really recovered. He passed away in 1952 and shortly after Ruth and I married in 1954, mother married a Christian friend, Charles Maharg who preceded her in death three years ago. And we are left with wonderful memories.