

Bonnors Ferry Herald, Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mary Winslow... The Tapestry

When a weaver chooses the fibers to create a piece of cloth, there are many critical choices, which must be made. Of course the most critical choice is that of style. What is the purpose of this cloth? Is it function or form? Is the purpose of the cloth to keep warm or to portray beauty or a combination of the two? The artist must decide how to best balance these seemingly competing factors considering the fibers which have been chosen: cotton, wool or silk. One of the most important choices is what quality fiber to use for the warp. The warp is the foundation of the work through which the weft is woven. The weft is that which is woven and we see as the finished product.

We all have choices as to what that warp is going to be in our own lives. Mary Winslow allowed the Lord to choose her warp for her. It is the warp He chooses for all of us, the Fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. On these, she wove a life, a beautiful tapestry.

Her tapestry started in the Panhandle of Northern Idaho where she grew up on a small farm. Upon graduation from high school she moved to Spokane where she met and married Brian. Their marriage launched them on a series of adventures including life in Germany, Spokane and Auburn and a family to which they added Tollef and Sanford. Along the way, she became a Montessori teacher and obtained her Bachelor's in Accounting from the University of Washington. She was a gifted artist.

But these events and happenings do not really convey the weft of her life. The weft was really the people whom she came in contact with. It was you, it was me, it was us. It was the lives she touched through teaching, camp, church, and friends. It is those who sat at the table and shared her life. This was the weft of her life. It is a beautiful tapestry.

Funeral Service was held Saturday, April 14, 2007 at Bellevue Church of Christ, with burial on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at Endicott Cemetery, Endicott, Wash. Arrangements entrusted to Yahn and Son Funeral Home.