

## Heather Leader

My mom was adventurous, honest, loyal and encouraging. She traveled in Europe during the 60's. She told me a story of traveling alone with only her bike and crossing the Wall to East Germany to see what Communism was like. She had a bowl of soup in a tiny restaurant. When she realized she had the wrong money, a kind East German woman paid for her soup so she could return to West Germany without trouble!

She had many traveling adventures with Dad to Mexico and throughout the United States. She passed that on to me. I have so many fond memories of family road trip as we explored America together. Those trips inspired me to explore the world myself.

Above all, Mom taught me the Bible. She lived it by example. She referred to the Bible and its teachings to work through the many problems of life.

This verse reminds me of Mom: "Fix these **words** of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your **foreheads**." Deuteronomy 11:18

I admire my mom greatly for her stamina and hope in facing physical pain every day and always looking to be healthy. My Dad has shown the true depth of his love in caring and providing for my Mom ever since the day they met.

I have a favorite memory of hot, humid days on the river in Minnesota. I was probably about 9 yrs old, Ryan was 5 and Kevin was 1. We had a big aluminum canoe and we towed a small boat behind for fun and extra gear. The river was so wild you never saw houses just grass as tall as myself and trees up to the skies. We pulled up on the shore and Dad tried out his solar oven he created. Mom had brought hot dogs and corn bread dough. The oven worked and we had corn dogs! In the evening, we camped and I slept in a tent Dad made from a parachute. Mom was always up for an adventure! She made sure we spent a lot of time as a family and stuck together.

I want to say thank you to all the kind people that are here today and who I met when they visited Mom in the hospital. It was a great encouragement to Mom. I know she always loved to see family and friends especially during the holidays. I really felt that your love and stories of Mom are like a cloud of angels lifting mom gently to Heaven.

