

Eulogy-Tribute to Hertha Edith Maciocha (Liske)

[This Eulogy & Tribute was read at the celebration of life of Hertha Edith Maciocha (Liske) on October 6, 2018. Her daughter Laureen and her son-in-law Curtis took turns reading the sections as noted below.]

[Curtis] - Hertha Edith Liske was born on October 27, 1935 in Bruderheim, Alberta. She was the seventh child of Gustav and Leokadia Liske. Her brothers and sisters were (from oldest to youngest): Helmuth, Garry, Irma, Ethel, Violet and Bernard.

[Laureen] - Her siblings loved their new baby sister and they grew to be a very tight knit family. Mom was very proud of her German heritage and German was spoken in the home. She was also raised as a Church of God pastor's daughter.

[Curtis] - The family lived in Bruderheim until 1937, when they moved to Rich Valley. In 1946 they moved again to Manola. In the fall of 1947, when Hertha was almost 12, her father passed away, and she moved again, this time in with her brother Garry and sister-in-law Martha to Gunn so that she could finish the current school year. Finally, Hertha, her youngest brother Bernard and her mother moved to Edmonton in 1949.

[Laureen] - They were close (although they occasionally had their small differences) that nothing ever tore them apart as a family. What is even more amazing is the wonderful relationships that we all now enjoy as cousins keeping in touch and celebrating life's moments and encouraging each other when times get tough.

[Curtis] - At the age of 10 Hertha accepted the Lord as her Savior and was baptized in the Pembina River by her father who was the senior pastor at the Church of God.

[Laureen] - Gustaf Liske was a loving father and a terrific spiritual leader who taught his family about God and was a true example to follow. He would often be found in prayer committing each one of his seven children into the Lord's hands. Prior to his death, Gustaf told Hertha that one of her children or grandchildren would also take up the call to become a pastor one day... and Hertha longed to see her father's belief come true. In Fall 2017, our youngest son Timothy, began his 4-year journey at Prairie

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College (formerly known as Prairie Bible College) to obtain his Bachelor of Arts in Ministry – with an emphasis on Worship Leading and Music, to become a Worship Pastor. He will graduate in Spring 2021.

[Curtis] - Because of the family moves, Hertha attended a number of different schools in both rural and in the City of Edmonton. In 1953 she completed her training at Alberta College as an office administrator. From there she went on to work for a number of different organizations including: Canadian Bedding, City of Edmonton Telephones, Boychuk Transport and Cottrell Transport.

[Laureen] - Hertha was friendly and outgoing, and she made many friends. One particularly handsome man caught her eye and she would purposely delay leaving work at the end of the day... just so he would offer to drive her home in his green 1946 Chevy.

[Curtis] - It was 1954 when Hertha met Joe Maciocha and they were married 3 years later. In 1962 they were blessed with their first child, a son, Merlin. In June of 1966 their family was complete with the addition of a daughter, Laureen. On June 22, of this year, Hertha and Joe celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary.

[Laureen] - A true example to us all of Love for A Lifetime.

[Curtis] - In May of 1989 another son was added to the family, as Hertha and Joe welcomed their son-in-law Curtis Blais.

In 1994, her first grandson Nathaniel was born to be followed by Zachary in 1998 and Timothy in 1999.

[Laureen] - The question in my mind was, "is it possible for anyone to love my sons any more than I do"? She loved her grandson's very much and would do practically anything for them. She cherished her time with them when they were young and as they grew to be fine young men. Three of her most treasured moments were being in attendance to watch each of her Grandsons be water baptized... She especially enjoyed Zachary's because he asked her to share a special Bible verse for him and read it during the church service. Visits with Oma and Opa were always special. There were many fond memories of sleepovers, helping her in the garden (especially when the raspberries were ready to be picked), week long trips to the lake, berry picking, playing board games (even though she would

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eventually have to resort to a little cheating as the grandsons got smarter at playing monopoly), school concerts (I don't think they missed one), high school football games, vacations, Christmas' and much more.

[Curtis] - Hertha was active in the church devoting many hours towards music, singing and playing piano and guitar.

[Laureen] - Not a single music lesson, but rather self taught to play guitar and piano both by ear. Her beautiful voice blessed many people through the years as she sang with her sisters and friends. Those beautiful songs and harmonies were all just practice for the wonderful moment when they would all sing before Christ in Heaven this past Monday. They will totally be able to blend in together with all the other angels. What an amazing addition to the heavenly choir.

[Curtis] - And in later years with her daughter Laureen.

[Laureen] - She used to laugh at me occasionally as I did silly things like practicing while I laid on the living room floor or hanging upside down off the sofa. She accompanied me on the piano when I sang my first solo in church at the age of 18 months and taught me to sing harmony before the age of 4. She was my biggest cheerleader when it came to learning piano and singing in church or at weddings.

[Curtis] - Her 'love of music' gene appears to have continued through to her grandsons. She also enjoyed cooking, baking and generously blessed many people with that gift.

[Laureen] - Gingersnap cookies, canned fruits, pickles and jams, berry picking, potato pancakes, chicken noodle soup, pork hocks and sauerkraut, perogies for church potlucks. The grandkids benefitted the most... no wonder one of her favorite sayings was "Have no fear... Nathaniel is here" ... and it always pertained to Nathaniel's appetite and how he loved her food. They never had leftovers when he was around.

[Curtis] - On October 1, 2018, after a 9-year battle with cancer, Hertha went home to Heaven. She is lovingly survived by her:

- Husband of 61 years - Joe
- Two Children – Merlin & Laureen (Curtis)

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- Three Grandchildren - Nathaniel, Zachary, & Timothy

She was Predeceased by her:

- Parents: Gustav & Leokadia Liske
- Three Brothers: Helmuth, Garry & Bernard
- Three Sisters: Irma, Ethel & Violet

[Laureen] - The last few weeks were incredibly trying with immense amounts of pain and suffering. But her faith stood strong and she would often be heard saying "It is all in God's hands". In her final moments, Laureen was at her bedside singing Hertha's favorite songs with the Gaither's blaring through the iPhone. Just as she was about to depart, Joe arrived to hold her hand and to tell her for one last time that he loved her and that he would see her again one day. She squeezed his hand and breathed her last breath.

It was your continued support, acts of kindness, sitting with mom and rubbing her leg or holding her hand, making her milkshakes and prayers... oh the prayers... said at her bedside, in your own quiet times here, across Canada and even internationally... I told her about every prayer, every person... and she would smile and tell me she could feel those prayers. Those things spoke to mom's heart in the past several weeks and showed mom how much she was loved.

Letting her go has been incredibly difficult, but can you just imagine the homecoming when she arrived in Heaven? All her brothers, sisters, parents, friends and other relatives who have passed, all waiting to cheer her on through the gates of Heaven... and now she is singing with the saints. No more pain and no more suffering... with hope for us all that we will meet again.

She will be missed by all, but I encourage each person here to remember a special moment in time that Mom encouraged you, laughed with you or perhaps just fed you one of those gingersnap cookies. Remember it with a smile on your face and joy in your heart. May those special moments allow her to live on forever.

As an extra way to remember Mom, prior to entering the fellowship hall for refreshments, there will be containers filled with some of her special

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treasures... magnets, small jewellery items, scarves. Please feel free to take 1 item per person... to remember her by.

[Laureen & Curtis] - Love you Mom.