

Lucille Babb

Opening Scripture: **Psalm 91:1-2 (NIV)** He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

We are gathered here today to honor the memory of Lucille Hanson Treat Babb. We are also here to bring comfort to each other by our words and our presence. Finally, it is my honor to share with you not only the life of this brave woman but to bring to you the Word of God about the realities of life, death, and eternal life through the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

As we all prepared ourselves for this event, one of the questions we ask ourselves, "who will I see there?" Who will make the effort to attend. It will be family and friends whose lives have been in some way touched by Lucille, my mother. I know that all who attend could share the memories that you have, and all those memories are important to you and would be of value to us. Today, at this time, that honor falls to me, her second child.

Mother was one of what has been called and being realized more each day, our country's greatest generation. What made her, your brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, aunts, uncles, grandfathers and grandmothers of her generation, the greatest.

Let me share the beginning of her story as I know it. And as I share it I want you to see the courage, hope, strength and fortitude of a people, the like we may not see again. The people that more than any other group changed this country from a country of lack and need to a country of over abundance and now, as they leave us, to a country of greed.

Mother was born on a dry acre farm to a Swedish couple that came to the United States not so much that they would have a better life than they would have had in Europe but that their children and generations to come would have opportunities that only this country offered. Even though she was a first generation Swede, she only spoke English. Her family and those like them did not come here to bring the past with them. They came looking to see what they could do with their future.

She lost her mother when she was young, the youngest of seven children. She was raised in a family that the most important thing was Love for one another. The man she loved and respected the most all her life was her father. She grew up in a state that was only seven years older than her. She did not finish grade school, not because she was dumb, but because the understructure of life, of society as we know it today, schools, roads, hospitals, electricity, phones, running water, sewers, were not yet in place.

When she was very young the country fought and won World War 1, then as a teenager everything was great, in what we call today the roaring 20's. Every one made money. You can see by the pictures of her during this time she wore dresses that had European style.

She met her first husband Fred Treat, a man with a flashy new car, when he hit her hard with a snow ball, she said it hurt so bad she could have killed him, later she added with a Hanson smirk and twinkle in her eye, I should have.

They started their life off with little, but had few worries because the country was prospering. They wanted to make it as farmers, mother always loved to grow things. They tried to be share croppers with the family but the Oklahoma dust bowls of the 1930's drove them to live in town so dad could seek employment working for others. Things had changed not only for mother and dad, they had changed for the whole world. Men who were once millionaires were committing suicide. No longer a care free, go lucky society, but one where you had to struggle to survive. Dad seem to do better than mother at losing so much. Maybe it was because she had lost so much more. Every 18 months to two years mother had another new baby to add to her growing brewed until there were six of us stair-stepped about every two years.

Times were hard for mothers and she did the things that a mother and wife must do without running water in the house, no real kitchen, no bathroom so she could easily bathe this bunch, for six of the first eight years, no electricity, two rooms in the houses which was common in the Oklahoma of that time. She cooked on a wood heating stove. She made the two girls cloths from flour sacks, the diapers for the first four children all home made had to be washed and dried ever night. What a small task for the mother of today compared to that time. For mother and her generation, getting fire wood, building the fire, carrying the water, heating the water. This task could be inside in the terrible heat of summer, or outside in the freezing cold of winter. The clothes were washed with lye soap that she would have make. The clothes were scrubbed using a scrubbing board, To keep from burning the babies bottoms when they wet their diapers, they had to be rinsed and scrubbed more than once. Then they were hung out to dry, the place and means was determined by the weather. She raised in her garden a great deal of what was eaten.

In those early years our cousin Jack Hanson came to live with us. We loved having him with us. It was during that time that Ken and I learned how to deal with mother. You teased her. Jack got away with it, Ken and I did not. Mother would laugh and act surprised and shocked at what was said and done, but she loved it.

With World War 2 things changed. We moved to Tulsa where dad worked for Bethlehem Steel and eventually things got better for her. . But even at first, things were still hard for her, for the country was just coming out of the great depression where there was no money. The first house in Tulsa was just a building 12 feet by 16 feet. It was the place where she learned to cook using coal oil. For years as I passed through Tulsa and looked upon the hill where the building stood I would remember how hard mother worked for her children.

We later moved to a great house in Tulsa where we had running water, electricity, inside bath, bed rooms and even a garage, Yes, things were becoming easier for her. But then, the steel company moved dad's work to Alameda Calif. Mother was left with the children in Tulsa. After awhile their was enough money to pay for our trip to California on the train. She took her

six children, the oldest being eleven on a train that was over crowded with military personal who assisted in the move.

Once in Alameda on almost every street corner was a sign, "Uncle Sam needs You" and everyone took it to heart, school children gathered everything that was not nailed down to be recycled. Mother must have asked herself, "What can I do?". With childcare every where being done by older women and supervised by the government to allow younger women to work, because most young men were in uniform. She went just a few blocks away to the Alameda Naval Air Station and ask what could she do to help. They ask her what would you like to do, she said grow things, so she did. The years we were in California and the rest of her life, she not only had a husband and children to be a wife and mother too, she worked outside of the home.

If you are a Treat or a Hanson, or you even got close to one, you received a picture of the six Treat kids taken at this time. We seem to all be smiling. I have thought about that and decided that this may have been the first time we all had for the first time our own store bought clothes from the skin out.

The end of the war, saw a move back to Oklahoma where as the children grew and their role changed from babies to providers her role also grew. She served as PTA president of the local grade school. She was also a football mother, a group of woman that had sons in sports who raised money to pay expenses for the teams. She was president of a group called, "Home Builders". She was always at the events her children were involved in. This while working in a plant that made mens shirts. Her work ethic was great, she was always at work, something she also passed on to her children, Ken never missing a day of his twelve years of school.

While she worked outside the family and did things outside of the family, the work of cooking and house keeping fell to the girls.

In 1951 when dad took a job in Wichita she was again left with the children. It was that way until the spring of 1952 when she went to be with dad. The night I graduated from High School I moved to Wichita to be with them, a room above a tire shop. The girls did not move until later that summer. Mother went to work for Cessna Air Craft where she later drew a retirement.

Over the years she helped with the grandchildren in any way that she could. When Cessna would have a layoff she found work doing other things; custodian for KAKE TV, cook at the Boys Ranch and later cooking in her own restaurant.

Things got a little easier for her after the children started raising their own families

She divorced her first husband and later married George Babb.

With the divorce, all those years of struggle, struggle not because of anything dad or she did or did not do, but struggle because it was a time of struggle. She seem to put it all behind her.

During this marriage she was the happiest she had been since her teenage years. Life in the United States had gotten easier and things got easier for her. She enjoyed her children and their spouses more now than ever before. She could joke with everyone, she got to do things like go fishing, camp out, play games that she really wanted to win at and go and visit the family where ever they were. Things that she did not have the means to do before. She got to play with the grandchildren more than she had gotten to play with her own.

And here is where you see the greatest accomplish of her life, her family. All of them. She was proud of them all and liked to talk about what they were doing. Because of the physical way she lived when she was pregnant and carrying her children she produced six strong bodies. Because of the way she conducted her life, Her strong will has been passed to her children and their children.

I was now always away from the family, and when I got a card, and I got lots of them, it was always; so and so did great in Business College, some one else is doing great in sports, some one had a great looking baby. Always, how great her family was doing.

And now one of the realities that we are all facing today, we will miss her. And with this missing her, we ask ourselves what is it all about.

So now we need something more than just hope, we need certainties.

We need something that speaks with authority.

We need something that brings true comfort, not just sympathy and concern, when we face sorrow and death we need more.

We need the Word of God, not just the teachings of man. ‘We need to hear these words, thus saith the Lord’

The scriptures that I had handed out for you today brings a truth that is greater than our sorrow and even death itself.

The first thing I would like to say, the God that created my mother loved her even more than He loved His own son.

He says over and over again, what He wants to do is care for us until we are mature enough to care for ourselves.

My mother and father attended church twice on Sunday and every Wednesday night for the first four years of their marriage. What happened then I could never get my mother or dad to tell me. This I know, the walls in our homes were pretty bare of everything, but one thing seem to make it in all our moves, all the way to the move to Wichita. It may have been there, I was just older and not in the house. But what was on the wall at every place was a picture, maybe a needle

point, but is was something that read, **John 3:16-17 (KJV)** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

So the God that created Lucille has a requirement, That she believe that Jesus is His son, that he was born of a virgin, died on a cross for the sins of the world, raised again from the grave for the justification of her life.

For just a moment let me speak of salvation, being saved from death.

When Gabriel was speaking to the virgin Mary he said, “Call his name Jesus, because He will save his people.” I ask now that you hear these words, He will SAVE, HE WILL SAVE. Most would say by their teaching and practice that the angel said he will make it possible for His people to be saved. But it does not say that, HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE.

John the Baptist declared upon seeing Jesus, behold the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the WORLD. Every Jew hearing these words, thinking about the Passover Lamb understood them. He TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD. Some would say, “confessed sin”, others “washed sin” and still others would say “dunked sin”, but the Word of God says he took away all sin. I do not understand, do they think that what Jesus took on Himself on the cross, that later, He turns around and places it on some one else?

For he says that He came that we might Have Life and that to its fullest.

So we see that death as the world knows it, is not death if we believe and have confessed Jesus Christ to be who He said he is.

So can we understand what we call death of the believer to be? YES.

Death is like sleep, like walking through a valley, one moment you are here on earth. You are in a state like sleep. If you believe in the Lord you will be taken by an angel into the third heaven where you will be greeted by family and love ones that are waiting for you.

Think of the reception that she had; her earthly father holding her and saying, “well done daughter”, my cousin Jack once again teasing her and saying, “what took you so long to graduate into the TRUE LIFE”, and all the others, all those through out her life, there to wanting to know what is so and so doing, and how is so and so. IT IS A GLORIOUS OCCASION.

So death as the world knows it, is not death if it kills no part of us except that which hinders us from perfect life with God.

Death as the world knows it, is not death if it raises us in a moment from darkness into light, for weakness into strength, from a life of disobedience to a live of perfect obedience.

Death as the world knows it, is not death if it rids us of doubt and fear, of sickness and disease, of sorrow and sadness.

Death as the world knows it, is not death If it once again puts us into the presence of those who have gone before us, those we have loved even more than life.

Death as the world knows it, is not death, because one who was also man, his name was Jesus conquered death

So once again, can we understand what we call death of the believer to be? Yes.

If mother could come back and be with us here now, she would say to us. Prepare for what is ahead. Just not being saved which is a work of faith, a work of grace, a work completed by Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus the Christ, so believe in Him, Jesus Christ. But work at entering the Fathers Kingdom now, work at what in scripture is called being a child of God. Which is so much more than just being saved. Enter now into the Kingdom of God. Seek the fullness of God's Kingdom now, do not wait until death to be brought to it, enter it now.

Now we come to this point in time. As I stand before my mother's body, this I know.

John 11:25-26 (NIV) Jesus said to mother as he says to us all, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Mother said, "YES". If we say "YES" as mother did, we live. But others say, "You can't know you are saved", still others will say "It takes more than this"

And what do I say to such people?

Romans 8:31-39 (NIV) What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written: [speaking of Jesus] "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In the truth of the Word of God, it has pleased the Lord in His divine wisdom and purpose to take from our midst one whom we love; so we must think about on these things as you leave here today. Think upon the God who says "I am LOVE" that I do all things well. He says to each of us if we will hear Him, I took her from pain and sorrow to fulfillment and Joy. The joy

of being with her earthly father, brothers, sisters, husband and friends who she made over her 93 years here upon the earth.

Let us Pray,

We now leave to commit the body of Lucille Babb to its final resting place to await the fulfilment of these marvelous and comforting promises of the Bible. We ask Mighty God give comfort to those who need comforting, heal the hurts of those needing healing. And do the work that mother wants most of all, draw her extended family ever closer together.

Amen

GRAVE SIDE.

Remarks

PRAYER

Our Heavenly Father, we thank you for revealing to us what lies beyond death, for giving to us the Holy Scriptures, and for showing through many wonderful evidences in our lives how great your love for us is. That through the resurrection of Jesus Christ we know these facts; that we have a great joy for our mother, because she is asleep in Jesus Christ because of her belief in him.

That the gift of God for my mother is eternal life through Jesus Christ, and that our Lord Jesus Christ has prepared a place for her because she put her faith in Him.

That one day soon, he is coming back to change this body we are placing here into a glorious body that will never weaken.

And Father for us who are still here, I ask that we become even more aware that while death is our enemy, it has been conquered by the Lord and that He truly works all things out for the good of those who Love Him.

And last Friday He fulfilled one of His great desires, for he said, I have come to heal the sick.

He did that for mother last Friday.

Help us in the days ahead to focus on what the death of mother has done for her. Help us to cast our cares and grief upon you.

We ask that you would comfort and strengthen us all in the days ahead. Help us to rest and draw our strength from you.

These things we ask in the name of the King of King and Lord of Lords, even our savior Jesus Christ who is coming again for each of us who will put our trust in Him.

A Men.