



Eileen Deardorf

By

Donna H Eliason

Ten months before Pearl Harbor, Eileen was born in Oahu, Hawaii where her dad worked long hours as a supply clerk in the shipyards. Even though her family moved to Oakland when she was 2 yrs, she's always loved running around without shoes.

The cool Bay area weather contrast meant Eileen and her brother Arden "were sick all the time." So her family moved to warmer Oxnard. There her mom worked long hours, so Eileen her brother felt like "latch key" kids who "fought like crazy but adored each other." Eileen says, "We had lots of fun building tree houses, sliding down hills on pieces of cardboards, and playing with the ever present cats".

The summer between 8th and 9th grades Eileen worked with migrant workers in the tomato fields for 65cents an hour. Even though this stooped labor job was the hardest work she ever did, she used the money to buy school clothes.

When she was 20 yrs her parents divorced. The children were estranged from their dad for a long time, but remained very close to their mom. Juggling college and work was impossible, so Eileen took a receptionist position at an electronics company in Ventura. When Dave applied for a job, Eileen was engaged to another man. When Dave started working there Eileen made sure he knew she was no longer engaged. "We had a great time together." On their first date, just before payday, Dave took her out to a limited menu restaurant. Eileen's eyes twinkled, "I want to order one of everything." After a very long pause Eileen assured Dave that she was just joking. They married on February 17, 1962.

After marriage they moved to Thousand Oaks where Dave worked for Westinghouse. Eileen was a receptionist for a doctor's office. Their first home was in Camarillo where Darcia was born in 1965. In 1967 they moved to Sunnyvale, Dan and Dena's birthplace.

In 1968 when Christian neighbors invited Darcia to Sunday school, Eileen went too. She attended a women's fellowship luncheon where she heard a speaker tell how God helped him deal with his youngest son's death. Eileen was amazed at how much he loved God even after that great tragedy. After receiving a copy of *The Four Spiritual Laws*, she sat under a park tree and accepted Jesus, as Darcia played nearby.

For two years they lived in the Hudson River Valley, north of NYC. Eileen loved the season changes and East Coast. One Sunday morning Dave said, "I think we'd better go to church". Eileen quickly got the family ready. When the visiting pastor said God wanted him to change the sermon, Dave knew the message was meant for him. He accepted the Lord. Even though he had been job-hunting for 9 months, he immediately found a California position. Eileen says, "I never doubted God's ability to care for us."

They lived in Los Altos until Dave's retirement. Now they're residents of The Villages, and spend time monthly at their Scots Flat Lake home near Nevada City. Since childhood they've both loved living near water.

Eileen loves reading mysteries. She says "If I was job hunting now, I'd probably do something with the police". She loves spending time with their grandchildren: Nicholas 12, Alexa 7 ½, Tyler 6 ½, Alissa 3, and their adoption miracle, Cole 6 months. Ainsley was stillborn in 2003.

Her favorite scripture is Palms 32:8 Eileen shares some words of wisdom: "Let people know you care about them. Most people become selfish and narrow in just their own little world. We must love and care for others beyond our family and close friends."