



Meet Sherry Hadley

By

Donna H. Eliason

Even though Sherry and her husband, Dennis attended the same high school in Beatrice, Nebraska, they didn't meet until both were employed at the Alco Store during her senior year. His sense of humor and his happy, easygoing attitude attracted her. They were engaged the next year and married on April 19, 1980. She says, "He's everything I ever dreamed of. He's my prince charming!"

When Sherry was 5 her parents divorced. Her dad received sole custody, which meant she only saw her mom three times during the next 15 years. She lived with her dad and nurturing paternal grandparents until age ten. When her dad remarried, Sherry had a "Cinderella type" relationship with her stepmother, so she moved back with her grandparents until her grandmother's death.

Her grandmother took her to the Lutheran Church. After she was confirmed at age 14, she joined the youth group, sang in the youth choir, volunteered to help in Vacation Bible School and Sunday school. "I felt it was my calling to teach children," Sherry says.

As a teenager Sherry collected items in a "Hope Chest" that she'd need for independent living. When she was 18, she and her stepbrother carried all her possessions five blocks to her new apartment, while her dad was at work. He was furious, "cut her off", and refused to speak to her.

After Sherry and Dennis married, they lived in Lincoln, Nebraska where Dennis worked in a local Kmart. Michelle was born in Lincoln. Jennifer's birthplace was Wichita, Kansas, and Annette arrived in Tulsa, Oklahoma. As a mother, Sherry began her day care career, which has continued for 26 years. Later she completed two years study for a Preschool Credential at West Valley Junior College.

In 1985 the Hadleys visited her mom and her two stepsisters in San Jose. "We fell in love with the area," says Sherry. In 1988 a San Jose Orchard Supply Hardware store offered Dennis an assistant managerial position. Sherry was eager to have a relationship with her mom, but her anticipation turned to depression because of tensions within her mom's new family.

Sherry renewed her relationship with Jesus at "Spirit West Coast", a Christian Woodstock, that "was a taste of heaven" in Monterey. She remembers, "It was awesome. I wondered what this would mean." She began reading the Bible, journaling, and listening to Christian radio." I read verses that came alive to me."

The Hadleys started attending Bible studies with Tim Wood, and with Dave Hook at South Valley Christian Church. When Pastor Tim came to EVC, the Hadleys joined also. When Dennis was asked to be a pastor, Sherry prayed about being a pastor's wife. She felt God's affirmation to, "just be you, and have love and compassion for people." She continues, "I try to be obedient and follow in His footsteps. I feel I'm so blessed and on fire for God."

Her favorite verses are Romans 12:1., John 8:32 and Romans 8:24. She enjoys sewing, crafts, flower arranging, decorating, cooking, reading, camping, hiking and visiting the ocean. I love "dressing up in feather boas and big hats and having tea parties with my granddaughters" -Krysta (3) and Makayla (8 months). Several books impacted Sherry's life: *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby, *As Silver Refined* by Kay Arthur, and *Lose it for Life* by Steve Arterburn.

We are delighted to have Sherry and her family at EVC.