



Meet Claudia Taylor

By Donna H Eliason

Claudia and her younger brother were born in Burbank. The family lived in Michigan and various parts of LA before coming to the Bay Area. They moved from their Lake Isabella home when authorities planned to flood the area to form the lake.

She was baptized as a baby and remembers attending church during her middle school years. Her father helped build the Methodist Church in Lake Isabella.

As a small child Claudia watched fascinated as her secretary mother typed items for the Lake Isabella Chamber of Commerce. Claudia wanted to learn then, but her mother said she had to take a formal typing class. That didn't happen until she was a sophomore at Blackford High School in Campbell, where typing was one of many business education classes she enjoyed.

Claudia majored in business education with an English minor at SJSU. Her teaching interest became obvious when, as a child, she liked to teach others what she learned. Before she finished student teaching, she accepted a position teaching business at Overfelt High School. On January 1970 she began her 37 ½ years teaching career there. She will be retiring this June.

For four years Claudia coordinated the Overfelt Aviation Academy, a program designed for underachieving students with high potential. Her community-based advisory committee consisted of such people as Vern Miller at the Hillview Airport, and the Civil Air Patrol among others. Claudia taught English so she'd have daily contact with the students.

In 1979 Claudia accepted Jesus into her life during an Easter pageant at San Jose's First Baptist Church. At that time she struggled with a difficult marriage, and felt "her life was at the bottom." A month later Rev. Moses at the church, baptized Claudia and her parents. "Now that I'm with God, I'm thankful for Him in my life. I realize how He takes care of us," says Claudia.

Soon afterwards she came to EVC, handled her own divorce, and met Cliff Taylor in 1999. "When I met Cliff my life turned around. I am totally indebted to God. There are so many things about Cliff that are so perfect for me. We're opposite in many ways, but in different ways we compliment each other. "After two months of dating, both Claudia and Cliff knew they'd marry. That February they won the "How Well Do You Know Your Spouse" game they played with a mostly married couples' shepherding group. They married on August 5, 2000.

Besides sharing the leadership of an EVC cell group and the "bread ministry" with Cliff, Claudia's worked with hospitality for the last 7 years.

Big changes are ahead for the Taylors. They plan a July move to a home at the Lake of the Pines, based on a sale contingency of their Villages home. As a retiree, Claudia plans to organize pictures and read at least a book weekly. The Taylors plan to find a new church and play lots of golf. Claudia wants to reconnect with family and old friends, and especially to have time with her four stepchildren and her elderly father.

Claudia's life Bible verse is Psalm 37:4 "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."

We thank Claudia for her faithfulness and thoroughness as she's served the Lord here at EVC.