

Katherine Anne Freeman

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Her Children Rise Up and Call Her Blessed: A Tribute to Katherine Anne Freeman

ANS NEWS STORY

By Michael Ireland
Chief Correspondent, ASSIST News Service

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA (ANS) -- In 1954, the Freeman family of four, with a baby on the way, moved into an old Litchfield, Maine, parsonage that lacked indoor plumbing.

The husband and father, Arthur Freeman, was the principal of Litchfield Academy, and the interim pastor of two local churches.

"Having a great love for the local young people, our parents started a youth group that quickly outgrew their small quarters. Knowing that Mom (Katherine) was about to have a third child, the head of the church board approached her about building an indoor bathroom," recalls Nancy Freeman Brown on a web memorial to her mother who passed away at age 90 on Valentine's Day, 2009.

"Mom thoughtfully considered their tempting proposal, but said, 'No.' Her desire was that they take the funds and remodel the shed, attached to the house, into a youth meeting room. She knew the next occupants of the parsonage would get a bathroom; however, the youth would not get their meeting room. The board did as she desired, and the church had a thriving youth group for a number of years, while we, as a family, continued to use the outdoor facilities."



**Katherine Anne
Freeman, 1942,
Graduate of Gordon
College, BA**

Brown's brother, Dr. Joel Freeman, former chaplain to the Washington Bullets, said: "Saturday (February 14th) my mother passed from this life into eternity around 9:16 EST. There must have been quite a celebration in heaven!"

"During the past few months we have experienced ups and downs with her health and she has fooled us several times when we thought that this was her time."

Freeman says that his mother was "one of the many unsung heroes who have journeyed their way through life on this planet..." who epitomized the statement of "a life well lived."

On his web memorial at www.freemanmemories.com , Freeman -- who exercises expertise in the areas of executive success coaching, diversity and cultural awareness, and business intelligence and creativity entrepreneurship -- said that Katherine's main focus in life truly was heaven.



**L to R: Stephen Freeman, Nancy (Freeman) Brown, Joel Freeman, Beth (Freeman) Hankinson
-- 2007**

"Loving and serving her family (Arthur, Nancy, Stephen, Joel and Beth) was the main purpose of her life. She was the heart of the family.

"Studying the Bible, singing/humming hymns around the house and prayer were the main disciplines that cascaded down from her consciousness of living for all eternity with Jesus. And did she pray!!!"

He continues: "Eternity will reveal it all. On earth we view some people as celebrities and others as important world leaders.

Perhaps it's an upside down view of eternal reality. While in later years Katherine was physically frail, there is no doubt that in heaven Katherine was (and is) viewed as one who impacted the world from her knees. Smashing beyond the four walls of her bedroom...doing battle in the invisible realm. A world leader, a commanding general, someone who lived the warrior ethos -- known and respected by angels everywhere. Feared by demons throughout the universe. Famous in heaven. Famous in hell."

On the webpage in honor of his mother, Freeman posts an unsolicited note from a family friend who visited Katherine while she was in the hospital: "I've been to Burnaby General a few times in the past couple of weeks... elderly parents of good friends are there, possibly close to their 'glory going time.' They are 90 and 91, married 64 years. The wife is possibly the most passionate person I know when it comes for a deep heart love for Jesus and pleasing him. I think all of Heaven will roar when she passes through the gates. Although she is not in any

pain or really ill...just old age, she is so eager for her time to go, and just for the sake of seeing Jesus that she is almost pained by staying here, although she dearly loves her husband, kids, grand kids, etc. One of those people who, when you are with them, you almost feel you are trespassing on Holy Ground."

About his mother, Freeman writes: "Katherine had her heart and mind on the invisible much of the time -- almost like she had one foot in heaven and the other foot on a banana peel. With her love for eternity, she was still very practical about life here on earth. You've heard of the phrase that depicts hyper-spirituality: 'She's so heavenly minded that she's of no earthly good' Well...the phrase that's true about Katherine changes it up a bit with an opposite meaning, 'She was heavenly minded so that she could be of greater earthly good.'"

Freeman remembers his mother as, "A hard worker. Uncomplaining. Never an unkind word about anyone else. Giving until it hurts and then giving some more. Would give her full attention when talking with you. Extremely frugal. Loved her HUGE vegetable garden, which us kids had to weed."

He recalls that his mother was, "A big fan of vitamin pills, cod liver oil, flax seeds, carrot juice (drank so much my hands seemed to turn a subtle shade of orange...honest), liverburgers (her version of Hamburger Helper...50 percent liver & 50 percent hamburger -- awful!), brewers yeast (yuk), pep-up health drink concoction (triggered the gag reflex), etc."

Freeman says his mother was: "Enthusiastic about projects, like unusual campmobile designs, that would provide basic traveling accommodations without the need for staying at motels or eating at restaurants. Well educated. Intelligent. Fluent in German ('aber junge!'), with a rudimentary understanding of Russian. Very focused on some things, absent-minded about other things. A 'packrat' of odd items like Mason jars. An incredible wife, mother, sister, daughter, grandmother, aunt, friend and neighbor. It's all true."

He says she endeared herself to others in such a genuinely 'unselfconscious' manner.

"Plain and simple: To know her was to love her. But everyone who knew her...knew that her ultimate focused attention was truly on Heaven," Freeman says.

According to Freeman, Katherine had a daily regimen she never missed.

"On certain days of the week she would pray for certain people and certain countries. If she had met a person she would remember details about that person that were uncanny. Months later she would ask, 'So, how is so and so?' And then she would recount aspects of their life that were obviously part of her prayer regimen.

"Katherine was a selfless person who modeled putting others ahead of her personal desires," Freeman said.

He continued: "If there was one thing that Katherine struggled with in the early years it was the spirit of fear. Tracing back to her childhood one could understand why. She was born in the Ukraine during the height of the Russian Revolution. It was a time of upheaval, with her father (a respected educator) and mother experiencing much uncertainty at this time before taking advantage of a small window of opportunity to come over to Canada, with the help of the Mennonites.



Dad (Opa) and Mom (Oma) celebrating Mom's 90th Birthday, November 28th, 2008

"Her father (Gerhard Schroeder) had his life threatened numerous times by bandits who thought of life as of little to no value. The stories we have read in Gerhard's book, 'Miracles of Grace and Judgment', are gripping enough. Who knows what Katherine saw, heard or felt during the first four or five years of her life that will never be chronicled in any book but were a part of her psyche?

Freeman invites readers to visit www.freemaninstitute.com/gpsmain.htm to read about Gerhard Schroeder's experiences in Russia after you have read the rest of Katherine's tribute, viewed the photo gallery and then shared your words of encouragement on the message board at: www.freemanmemories.com .

"You will be rewarded with a new perspective about the Russian Revolution," he said.

"Happiness and depression never mix. Joy and sorrow mix all the time. We're still here, but she has arrived...with a Celestial Reception beyond description. Who will pick up her mantle of intercessory prayer?" Freeman asks.

He supplied the following verbal snapshot vignettes of Katherine:

**Humming hymns while washing dishes, cooking or scrubbing the kitchen floor...

**Apologizing for something benign, wanting to make sure that there was no offense so that she was keeping short accounts with the Holy Spirit and with the other person...

**On her knees, deeply in prayer by her bed, with the Daily Light open before her...

**Pushing clothes down into the agitated water of the old wringer washing machine in the basement of the apartment in Three Hills...

**Sitting at a desk writing an encouraging letter or note to yet another person...

He concludes: "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. Rather, we are spiritual beings having a human experience."

The Freeman and Brown families say they owe a great debt to the Hankinson family, (especially Beth) who took care of Mom (and Dad) during the many years they lived in retirement in Vancouver.

A memorial service was expected to be held Feb. 23rd, at 3pm at Faith Baptist Church, 2551 East 49 Avenue, Vancouver, BC.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Katherine's honor at www.GFA.org or www.OMships.org

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