



I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts. On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness. They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

—Psalm 145 NRSV

Aunty Doris

I was blessed at birth with maternal grandparents, three maiden aunts and an uncle. While my father was overseas, my mother and I lived with them in a loving, supportive home.

Doris, my youngest aunt, taught me the most. She was about 5 and I was her special Baby Doll. Always patient and tender, she was a loving playmate.

Twenty-five years later when I returned “home”, Grandma was gone and Uncle had married and moved down the street, but the aunts were still there.

Doris was now about 7 and my daughter became her new Baby Doll. So another circle of life started as Doris taught of Jesus’ love, hymns of praise and tender gentle acts of kindness.

Doris had been born with Down Syndrome. A life that was not supposed to last a year thrived for 55 years as an example to me of a loving Heavenly Father.

Shirley Magel: “With only one daughter, God extended our family to include four stepsons. This wonderful union has further grown to include 14 grandchildren. God’s blessings are very evident but I still search for answers.”

