

The Five Dollar Miracle

BY EVANGELINE INMAN



My mom watched in dismay as the USS Proteus Submarine Tender Ship slowly headed out to sea. It was January of 1964. She drew her babies closer against the bitter wind. Other young navy wives looked around in confusion. This was not the plan. My dad had gone on board and planned on bringing his pay check back out to my mom. She needed the money before his ship sailed for Scotland. The Navy abruptly changed its schedule and my dad was not allowed off of the ship.

As she watched the ship recede further out to sea, it dawned on her that all she had was a five dollar bill. She breathed a silent prayer as she brushed back her brown, pixie styled hair. Shimmering blue eyes searched the horizon, stunned that the ship was leaving. My parents had met at a church service while my dad was stationed in Scotland. My mom was vibrant and full of fun yet possessed a sweet gentle spirit. They quickly fell in love and married.

Now they were stationed in South Carolina but in just a few days, she was flying back home to Scotland. It would be at least three weeks before my dad's ship arrived at the US Naval Base in Scotland. She squared her shoulders and headed back to their apartment. The only food left was a box of crackers and a few tins of tuna.

A friend dropped in and asked if she needed anything from the grocery store. My mom said, "Yes, please pick me up a small carton of milk and a tiny box of baby cereal," as she reached into her pocket and pulled out her five dollar bill.

"You can pay me later," her friend said.

She arrived back with a large container of milk and a huge box of baby cereal. My mom thought, Oh no, there goes all of my money. She swallowed and reluctantly reached into her pocket and pulled out the five dollar bill. She firmly refused to take the money. My mom slipped the five dollar bill back into her pocket with a quiet sigh of relief.

Later that day her landlord knocked on the door and inquired if she wanted anything from the drive-in. My mom kindly refused, "No thank you."

They returned a little while later. They handed my mom a bag filled with a hamburger, fries and a milkshake. They insisted that she take it. She took out her five dollar bill and offered it to them. They adamantly refused to take it

She planned on calling a cab for a drive to the airport. The elderly landlord's husband insisted on driving her. My mother thanked him profusely and tried to give him the five dollar bill for his trouble but he wouldn't take it.

The first plane was delayed. When she landed in New York, she realized that she had missed her connecting flight. She was stuck in the airport for another ten hours. The airport was huge and she felt a bit overwhelmed. She did not want to miss her flight, so she settled into a waiting room with her active 15-month and 4-month-old baby girls. A cleaning lady noticed my mom had been waiting for a long time. When she got off of her shift, they began talking. The cleaning lady left and came back with a bag of food. My mom was surprised. She reached into her pocket and withdrew the five dollar bill. The cleaning lady refused to take the money.

My sisters had been crawling around on the floor and their pantaloons were getting dirty. The cleaning lady took the baby clothes and headed off somewhere in the airport. She came back a little while later with their clothes washed and folded. The cleaning lady was a total stranger but she stayed with my mom until her flight was announced.

Finally my mom boarded the plane and headed home for Scotland. When she arrived in Glasgow, her family was waiting for her. She was so relieved that she almost threw my sisters at them. She tried to give my uncle money for gas. He looked down at the US money and snorted, "Put your American money away. It looks like toy money."

Three weeks later when she met my dad at his ship, she still had the five dollar bill in her pocket.

Phil 4:19 "My God will supply all your needs..."