

Elizabeth: A Life

By Glenn Currier

Her mom knew her intense insistent desire
to have the answer, to find out, to know,
not knowing was her bane, her briar -
she couldn't bear delay, or walking slow.
"But my dear," her mom said to her.
"You'll have to wait a while this time
for nine months you'll have to defer
your haste for your inside clock to chime."

Oh how she loved to be fast
with her winding softball pitch
to run those bases like a blast
bowling a strike was a prize so rich
she could not retrain her shouts
as she yelped and jumped for joy
and her opponents were thrown out
showing how a girl could beat the boys.

She had grit and courage, she was tough
she up and married a Navy man
but staying back home wasn't enough
she followed him and moved to Japan
picked up the language and went to work
learned statesmanship and restraint
on the job - no mere flunky or clerk
she stood tall - wasn't about to faint.

Sold and bought cars, saw the world
she grew devoted, and practical, and sane
but having two beautiful girls
was the greatest joy she'd attain.

Strong in Christ and human kindness
whatever she did, with ledgers and books
she challenged our moral blindness
she was honest on every road she took.

People of many kinds you could mention
came to the library to *her* station
because she stood stopped and paid attention
and although there were frustrations
she did not show ire or spite
instead she smiled and spoke nicely
she listened and did what was right
explained things softly and concisely.

Although these days she seldom runs
she travels to visit family and friends
and she still knows how to have fun
to laugh and listen and make amends
She watches frogs, speaks to dragon flies
drinks morning coffee and reads the news
occasionally with tears in her eyes
but by noon she's shook off the blues.

She gave all she had to Ray
taught us Jesus with her sacrifice
with devotion she showed us the way
for the good of others she paid the price
but was never paid what she deserved
she is an artist, a lady, and a poet
her place in heaven is reserved
and those who love her know it.

*For Elizabeth Hobbs on her 80th Birthday
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