

## Legacy

Have you ever known a person who had such a close walk with the Lord that it oozed from them? Someone who seemed to continually bask in His presence? For me, one of those people was little Ruth Fisher.

I met Ruth at a small church in Campbell, California in 1995. I had just become a Christian the weekend before while out of town and, upon my return home to the Bay Area, I had opened the phone book to find a church to attend that next Sunday.

I will never forget that first Sunday in church as a new believer! I remember how excited I was to be there; to be around fellow believers, and the sense that I was surrounded by family! I shared my new-found faith during Sunday School that morning and, on my way into the sanctuary, this cute little lady, whom I would later learn was 78, walked up to me and introduced herself as, "Ruth Fisher." She gave me a heart-warming smile and asked if I'd like to sit with her. I happily obliged.

After the service, on our way out of the building, she asked me if I had started memorizing Scripture. When I said, "No," she pulled a little vinyl packet out of her purse, placed it in my hand, and said, "Here you go! Start memorizing these Bible verses and, when you're finished, I'll give you some new ones!" That began a wonderful relationship between little Ruth Fisher and myself.

Over the next 3 years we became best friends; studying God's word together, praying on our knees together next to the love seat in the living room of her little apartment in the assisted living unit, attending home Bible studies through church, and even bowling together. Do you know how humiliating it is, at 35 years old, to get beaten by a 5 foot tall, 80 year old lady! Week by week we grew closer to the Lord during our time together and, in turn, closer to one another.

Ruth and I stayed in touch after my move back to Oklahoma in 1998. I introduced her to my fiancé on a trip back in 2001, and she was so happy to learn of my entrance to Dallas Seminary in 2003. Ruth developed dementia over the next few years, but she never forgot her love for the Lord. In 2017, my family went to visit her for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We talked of how wonderful it would be in heaven and how we would have all eternity to worship the Lord together.

We haven't been able to stay in contact since then, due to her condition, and I believe little Ruth is probably with our Savior in Glory today. But she had a lasting impact on me for the Lord by the way she lived her life and I pray, for you and me, that we may glorify the Lord in our lives like little Ruth Fisher did with hers.