

HELEN SANDERS

5-18-2022

HELEN'S DRESS

With all the unpleasant things happening in the world, I wanted to share a wonderful memory with you that increases our faith in our friends and family.

I was about eight years old. I was the youngest of four in our family. Money was something that was never abundant in our home, as my dad rarely worked, and when he did it was consumed in a bottle of alcohol. It left my mother, who was a hairdresser, trying to provide means for our family.

Often, we had to "stretch" what we had to make things work. In spite of being what the world called "poor," I was rich in character because my mother taught me so many things about life. Most of my clothes were hand me downs, and that was okay, because I was clothed.

My best friend lived next door to me. She was also named Helen. I was always a half foot taller than her, but it didn't matter. We grew up together and spent a lot of time together. Her Dad and Mother owned a restaurant and things were a lot easier for their family than ours. Helen's mother was rock solid, and I loved her like my own mother. She taught me a lot of things, and I always remember her kindness. I did a lot of things with Helen and her parents. Her mother, Betty, sort of took me under her wings.

One day I was at Helen's house and her mother brought out a beautiful Sunday dress. It had lace and frills on it unlike anything that I had ever had. She told me that she bought it for Helen, but it was too big. Remember, I was a LOT taller than Helen. She asked me if I would like it. Of course I did! I wore that dress to Sunday school and felt like a princess.

As I grew older, I realized that Betty bought that dress for me. She didn't want me to feel "poor" by asking if she could buy me a dress. She didn't want to insult my family for not being able to provide "new" things for me. She just wanted to bless me.

I'll always remember her kindness, and the love she showed me through that dress. It remains one of the best memories I have in life. And, as for Helen, she is still my best friend even though we live over a thousand miles apart. She is much like her mother. She gives love without asking for it.