

Preface by Gretchen Quie

Write a book? About my life? This year? I hardly believed what they were saying. Never having the slightest inclination to write my autobiography, I was incredulous when Augsburg presented me with this challenge. As I conversed with the development people, however, they helped me to realize the significance our family has for others.

I am fully cognizant that interest in my life comes first because my husband is governor of Minnesota. My entire married life has been family-oriented, and although I've lived in the shadow of a public figure, been teamed with a powerful workhorse, I've had marvelous opportunities presented to me as Al's wife. I have wrestled with the thought that I should have been more liberated and followed my talents in art, making a name for myself solely on my own. Would that have been more significant? More fulfilling? I'll never know, of course, but I do know the Lord has blessed me in my chosen role as wife and mother.

I treasure this unique opportunity to witness and give glory to my Lord. In years past I have been offered opportunities that I felt incapable of doing, then later regretted not taking up the challenge. So although amidst the fullest years of my life, when my time is so fragmented by incredibly diverse activities; my powers of concentration are weakened by phone calls, schedules, and details; and I feel a special vulnerability as a politician's wife-this book is being written. Karen Matison Hess brings the essential professional ability to this endeavor, and in the process has not only encouraged me, but has become my friend.

The potter's wheel is spinning, God is at work, the clay is ready for yet another pull. I must yield. God willing, he will use me and fill me. I pray that in my sharing, others might benefit and recognize in their lives as well the wonderful ways of God in guiding and shaping the lives of those who love and follow him. To Jesus Christ be the glory!

Forward by Chuck and Patty Colson

Many volumes have been written about understanding God's love. Agape, as the Greeks called it, describes that dimension of caring more for another than oneself. Sacrificial love is often beyond human comprehension.

We learned about it, not from theological texts, but from two people who became very special in our lives. For it was their love for us, at perhaps the darkest moment in our experience when our world was crashing in, that literally touched our souls.

We well remember our first meeting with Gretchen and Al Quie. It was only weeks after my conversion in the midst of the dark and tumultuous days of Watergate. We had been in the homes of many congressmen and senators-presidents and prime ministers for that matter. Many we knew far longer than the Quies. Yet never had we been made to feel at home so quickly.

No pretense, just honest, homespun, down-to-earth friendliness, as if we were on their farm back in Minnesota with lifelong friends. Sitting around the Quie's fireplace, eating homemade apple pie and drinking lemonade, we had our first introduction rich Christian fellowship, our first step into the new world in which we now live. We'll remain grateful always to Gretchen and Al for launching us that night.

Then, in January 1974, we found ourselves in the most desperate situation of our lives, in prison with maybe two and one-half years to go, and disbarred. With my father having recently died and my mother alone, there were some crushing family problems for us. Then came the news that Chris, our second son, was in jail for marijuana possession. Just as we were about to give up all hope, Al called: "Chuck, I'm going to see the president and see if I can serve your prison sentence so you can be home." We have never doubted from that day to this that Christ lives.

Although Gretchen and Al were not called upon to make that sacrifice for us, we have, since that moment of their offer, understood what agape love is. Over the past eight years, their lives have continued to be a magnificent witness to us. This is a wonderful story that you are about to read, of a sovereign God at work in the life of one of his faithful servants.

It is a moving story, too, of a loving wife who, with her husband, has risen to national prominence, yet remains unaffected by it.

In the pages that follow, you'll come to know her and, through her, her husband. Gretchen and Al Quie have been used mightily of God in our lives and in our ministry. We suspect that after reading this marvelous story, you'll be able to say that God has used them magnificently in your life as well.