



# ALBUM



**Philippians 2:3-5**—*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.*

**O**n top of my antique washstand is a collection of family mementos, including old photos, a china thimble, a lone teacup, and a delicate vase. Among these treasures is a worn leather guest book which belonged to my great-grandmother, Josephine Carpenter. The faded entries written in the 1880s to “Josie,” as she was known to friends, hint of the love and faith they shared. Cora wrote, “Josie, may I ever be a bright stripe in your rag carpet.” Another friend encouraged her, “May your chief thought ever be your individual responsibility to God.”

Visitors from Ohio and Kansas reveal clues that my great-grandmother was kind and hospitable. Her sister Stella penned, “I shall always remember my visit at your western home with much pleasure.” Another well-wisher promised, “With much love I remain your friend.” These simple greetings written over a century ago whisper of a woman’s loving life that greatly influenced her family and friends.

Reading Josie’s guest album reminds me of my special friends and the many memories and hours we’ve shared. Like the popular Album quilt, with each of its blocks lovingly stitched and signed by a friend, I can point to people who’ve had great influence in my life.

One who has made a lasting impact is Kathy. We grew up sharing Barbie dolls and playing hide-and-seek. As a teen, she shared with me the life-changing news that I could have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Over 40 years later, Kathy and I are still dear friends and life-long sisters in our faith.

Relationships are like the Album quilt’s colorful blocks. Each acquaintance is like a new quilt patch, presenting an opportunity to add our signature of love and hope. We choose the colors and the stitches. Are we adding something of value to our family and friends’ lives? What clues about our priorities do we reveal to those around us?

A family album, an heirloom quilt, or a single teacup may be left behind, but the faith and love that we stitch daily into the hearts of those we influence will outlast all the treasures of our lives.

## My Prayer

*Lord, help me to be like You and see the needs of others before my own. May I be sincere and loving and leave a lasting impression. Help me choose the colors and the stitches that will leave behind the hope and promise of Your never-ending love. Please let me be a “bright stripe” in the rag carpet called Life—living each day fully for You!*

## My Response

My attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

