Profile Story

This week's feature : Ralph and Marylyn Kuivinen

Ralph was born in Ashtabula, Ohio, and grew up in the harbor area there. He had one brother, David, who was older. Ralph attended Harbor High School and later Bowling Green State University, where his major involved Math and Chemistry. He worked at Systems Research Lab as a computer programmer in Dayton, Ohio at Wright Patterson AFB. Then he returned to Ashtabula, to work as a quality control chemist at Detrex Chemical Co. He met a neighbor of his brother in Cleveland named Barbara, fell in love with her, and married her. They had one son, Eric. Ralph went to work at NASA in the Launch Vehicles Project in the Systems Analysis Branch doing launch vehicle performance analysis and mission design. After the Viking mission he changed assignments to work in the launch vehicle program management area managing several contracts for the purchase of Launch Vehicles and related services. When the Launch Vehicle Project began to change management objectives, he went to work on the Space Station Project managing the logistics of hardware with the other NASA Centers and their contractors, retiring from NASA in 1994.

Marylyn was born in Lakewood, Ohio, and grew up there as well. She attended Lakewood High School and later Denison University. There she majored in education and public speaking as she desired to teach that subject. She began

teaching English at Bay High School but found that senior high kids do not always enjoy English and Public Speaking. She met and married Robert Mach and began to raise her family – two girls and two boys. When asked by the pastor to begin a kindergarten class at Columbia Road Baptist Church she accepted the challenge. She later took a position to teach at a new school in North Olmsted, The King's Academy, and she truly enjoyed it.

Her husband left her and their children and a divorce occurred. Ralph's wife developed cancer and died from it. Upon her divorce Marylyn joined a group for divorced persons which met to provide opportunities for the families to do things together. When she heard that Eric's mom had passed away, she sent him a note inviting him to join her and her kids whom he knew as they participated in activities. When he talked with his dad about it Ralph contacted Marylyn. They began seeing one another and the friendship grew. On May 30, 1980, they married one another and the two families became one.

Ralph enjoyed playing golf in the past but current problems prevent it now. He enjoys watching golf and all other sports events on TV. He daily reads The Bible and leads a Bible Study Class at Westlake Village every week. With Marylyn he daily reads a letter from one of the missionaries with whom Marylyn regularly corresponds and together they pray for that missionary. Marylyn enjoys writing and reading but finds it more difficult to find time to do so now. At almost 89 years of age, she realizes it takes longer to accomplish things!

Our children have done well. Our son Bob and his wife Becky are missionaries to The Ivory Coast. We have been blessed to have visited them 10-11 times and wish we could now. Both of our daughters, Jennie and Julie, are nurses. Our son Tom is with the administration of Cedarville University. Our son Eric is a surgeon.

We attended Word of Life for years either in Upstate New York or in Florida and each time we met a missionary. We continue to hear from them every month. We

donate to one each month and pray for one each day. We are grateful for our past and for being able to attend Prince of Peace Church.

Ralph's brother David and his family attended Prince of Peace in the 80's and 90's before moving to Florida.

When Marylyn was nineteen years old, she wrote the following and kept the copy: "I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." She first heard this as a senior in high school when she had the opportunity to be a speaker at a community meeting held for those who were about to solicit for a new YMCA for greater Cleveland. This statement was printed on the brochure as a fitting pledge for each member of the community. She now feels that she has not lived that pledge as well as she should have and has determined to work toward that goal as she completes her life.

Ralph has a desire to "finish well" and to know the meaning of "well done oh good and faithful servant." One thing that he would like to experience is a 3rd Great Awakening in this land bringing this country back to its roots on which it was founded. There is still more work to be done.

Much appreciation is given to Ralph and Marylyn as the authors

Tom Robinholt : Profile Reporter