

**FOR YOU MOM –
YOUR ACTIONS SPOKE LOUDER THAN WORDS**

When words were sometimes hard for you, your actions always showed how much you cared for me.

Often, because of Dad's traveling, you had to pick up the slack and be both mom and dad to me. When Dad was gone you were always there, like when you would come out and play catch with me. Or do you remember when you came out to high jump with me and my buddies in the back yard and wrenched your knee? I don't know many moms who would ever do that – much less in their mid-40s! You always showed a tremendous interest in my sporting events. I remember you coming to my Little League baseball games and then to my gymnastic meets in high school.

You always gave of yourself sacrificially. We didn't have much money, but I know you and Dad did without many times so I could have baseball cleats, gloves, uniforms, bats, tennis rackets, footballs, and all the other things I thought I couldn't live without. Even after you started working when I was in 6th grade, you never neglected our needs. You had dinner on the table every evening, and when we came bounding out of bed in the morning, you always had breakfast waiting for us. I still chuckle when I think of how you used to ration out the licorice so we wouldn't eat it all in one day. You were even the neighborhood taxi service for me and all of my friends. I know we ran you ragged, but you were the mom that all of my friends knew.

Remember the times when we all played Tripoly together, you and me and Steff and Dad, drinking pop and eating snacks all evening long? I always loved those times together.

As I was growing up, you taught me by example the meaning of hard work and a job well done. I've watched over the past 40 years as you have faithfully served in the church as choir director. I have also watched you diligently and tirelessly strive to give all of your Avon customers the type of service you would like yourself. You are one of the most self-motivated people that I know.

And now, Mom, I truly thank you for playing a large part in the most important decision of my life. After you gave your life to Christ, you diligently prayed for my salvation for the next two years. I know that God faithfully answered the caring prayers of a mother's heart. Then, when Cyndi and I told you about our calling to full-time ministry, your excitement for us meant so much to me. But even after your enthusiasm turned to fearful concern as you learned that we would be raising our own financial support, you continued to help us in every way possible.

I'm sure that many times when you have given of yourself, those sacrifices seemed to go unappreciated. I want to let you know what they are not unappreciated now. Even though words were not always easy for you, your actions spoke volumes about your love for me. Thanks for caring. I love you, Mom.

- Mike