



Women in God's Service

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

I Peter 4:10

## Colleen Detherage

Missions, at home and afar, are a passion for Colleen Detherage. Her life bears out that passion.

Bill and Colleen Detherage came to Broken Arrow in the early 1980s. Hardly had they settled in when Judge Morris asked Bill to teach. This led to a long history "with no looking back" in work with the youth of the Broken Arrow church, a part of Colleen's at-home missions. The Detherages historically are perennial camp counselors and she has spent numerous years as a local Bible Bowl trainer. It is really neat to see the kids she started out working with as grown-ups now, she says.

The 50 Days of Food and Fun program is her current mission spot, she says. Colleen is a long time mentor at Rhoades Elementary. In talks with the principal she became aware of the lack nutrition during the summer for children in the school neighborhood. Through her daughter Wendy who is employed at a WIC site, Colleen learned of a government summer nutrition plan. The FDA recommended having a program to fill in between the meals and with the backing of the church elders a multitude of volunteers have served summer meals and implemented enrichment classes for several hundred children. "This was available if you just knew to jump through the right hoops," she says. Colleen is excited that the program is projected to run full days this coming summer.

In 1995 Colleen made a foreign mission trip to T'ver, Russia. This was followed by visits to T'ver through 2003. She says she was in London the day the current war broke out. The T'ver summer work was interrupted in 1998 when Colleen went on one of the church's early Ukraine Mission trips. She has also participated in several medical missions to Belize, Panama, Dominica and Guyana.



Hi,  
Colleen  
good to  
know  
you!

Daughter Wendy had mission purpose well instilled in her by her parents. She completed the AIM training in Lubbock and worked in Fiji. Colleen spent three weeks there with Wendy. Wendy accompanied her mother on one of the T'ver trips.

Colleen was born in Erie, Penn., to Sam and Lois Colangelo. They moved to Ventura, Calif., and Colleen is a graduate of Ventura High School. She has a sister, Terry, who is five years younger than she and two brothers, Gary and Larry.

Lois Colangelo was not affiliated with any one church but was determined to take her children to church, the nearest one. Fortunately that church was the Ventura church of Christ. Colleen attended church camp in the ninth grade and met her future husband, although she says he doesn't remember her from that year. The next year she was baptized at Big Bear Lake Camp in the middle of the night. Her mother became a Christian but Colleen describes her dad as an "anti-Catholic" Catholic who did not attend any church at that time. He later was converted.

Bill Detherage may not remember Colleen from her first camp but he noticed her later, so much so that he ask her to marry him. They were married in 1973 in a park setting near some stone steps.

The Detherages came to Broken Arrow with their two young children, Zach and Wendy, for Bill's employment at McNabb Coal Mine near Catoosa. Later the Detherages opened a landscaping business. Zach is employed in the company business and Wendy, who is married to Nathan Lee, works for WIC. Both Wendy and Nathan are mission minded. Four-year-old grandson Caleb Detherage is a bright light in his grandmother's life. She cherishes the time she spends with him, especially the time they share as she brings him to Kids Kare in the mornings. This is convenient trip for Colleen as she is a church employee on the office staff.

Colleen's time for hobbies is limited. She does find time to garden, a hobby she loves and she dearly loves her fish in her Coy pond. She started with them when they were gold-fish size and now they are a foot or so long. Mornings she walks and runs for two miles with her big black dog, Galahad. She is an accomplished seamstress but finds less and less time for this. Cooking is a hobby that requires some creativity since both she and Wendy are gluten intolerant. She just takes this in stride, "I can deal with it," she declares.

Colleen Detherage has much "on her plate" but as she sees opportunities for good deeds or for encouraging words, her servant heart is ever ready to serve.

*Roberta Parker*