

## Juli Schenke Sexton

After graduating from Westmont, I taught third grade in Monterey, California. At the end of that year I married Dan, who had just gotten out of the Marine Corp and was an entrepreneur at heart. We moved to Ojai, California, and started our first business--manufacturing RVs in beautiful Ojai, California. That business was going along nicely when we decided to head north to Alaska.

So, with our 8-month-old daughter in tow, we settled in a small community in the "Frozen Forest of the Far North." There wasn't much there, so one did whatever one could. We tried our hand at construction, writing and selling radio ads, and eventually started a commercial greenhouse, Trinity Greenhouse, which we sold in 2005. I finished up my career back where I started -- substitute teaching until 2014.

The two of us also built our home with our own "four" hands; Dan and I did it all, from drawing the plans on a piece of notebook paper to clearing the land to all the finish work. It was a rewarding experience and we still live in this home today.

I've tried my hand at several hobbies and activities over the years: cross country skiing, snowshoeing, ice climbing, and something a little warmer, quilting. I've now taken up the hobby of the retired--watercolor painting.

And, of course, I'm grateful for grandchildren nearby. We have two children; our son and family live three miles from us here in Alaska. Our daughter and family live in Thailand where they have started a Children's Dorm for an ethnic minority. We have 8 grandchildren, ages 1 to 20 years old.

This "California girl" is happy to report that we now spend five warm (for us) winter months in the California desert.

I have so many good memories of my time at Westmont. One particular highlight while at Westmont was being part of the first-ever Education Abroad trips. Dr Bouslough was our wise and patient guide as we traveled through seven European countries. Once we crossed the Atlantic, the first purchase in Germany was a VW bus at the factory. I'll never forget listening to the Soviet tanks rumble through the streets below our hotel rooms as they were departing Czechoslovakia--and they returned a couple of weeks later. Our journey ended in France before returning to the US--what an adventure!

I am grateful for the excellent education I received, a strong spiritual foundation and wonderful friendships that have lasted for over 50 years. I have been truly blessed.



**Education:**

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I'm also grateful for my health. But like many of us at this stage of life, my husband Dan is challenged with health issues—aggressive prostate cancer. God has been so gracious in giving us the joy of His presence and the prayers and support of so many, including our dear Westmont friends. Dan sincerely loves and appreciates this Westmont connection.

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