

“Member Profile”

This week's feature: *Linda Thompson*



Linda was born and grew up in California until the age of eight. Then, with her mother and brothers she moved to a small town of only 500 people in South Dakota. What a culture shock. There are a total of three brothers and a sister. After 10 years, at age 19 and two years of college, in South Dakota, Linda decided, on her own, to move back to the West Coast. She chose Portland, Oregon, where she enrolled in Oregon State University and completed her degree in psychology. After graduation, Linda decided to move to Tacoma, Washington, remaining on the West Coast. Plans don't always work out, and Linda injured her back, damaging several disks lifting heavy boxes during the move. In the meantime, her mother had moved back to California, to the Sacramento area. Linda's mom convinced Linda to move back to California to be with her for rehab. No surgery, but lots of physical therapy with both doctors and a chiropractor got her walking again without pain.

While still rehabbing her back, Linda took a job with the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Soon she met her future husband and they were married. Eventually they moved to Ohio and she worked in her husband's restaurant equipment repair business for ten years. Her marriage broke up, and Linda changed jobs. She went into human resource work, and it was back to school to get her HR Certificate. Working in the HR field then became her working focus. She worked in HR for Wise Trucking, the Ganley Automotive Group, Metro Lexus, and as HR Director for the Cleveland Eye Clinic. Today she is the HR Director at the Spitzer Automotive Group, which has over 700 employees.

Linda has two children. Son, Adam, who was Pastor Bishop's first baptism, is now 22 and studying Mechanical Engineering at Cleveland State University. Daughter, Mariah, is 20 years old, and is studying Sociology at Baldwin Wallace University. As part of that program she will soon be studying in England. Linda says that there are two other members of her family, Stormy and Laney, who are older female miniature schnauzers.

Linda lives in Strongsville and is currently engaged to Ken, who is a Mechanical Engineer. That engineering background has led to Ken's interest in older cars. He has a 1976 Triumph Spitfire, a 1973 Corvette, and a 1984 VW convertible. Ken and son, Adam, have also found common interests discussing engineering. Linda enjoys traveling in the RV. Something you might not know about Linda is that she loves to ride her motorcycle. She currently rides a Yamaha V Star 650, and Ken rides a Yamaha Road Star 1700. For the past 20 years, Linda has found a home and been involved here at Prince of Peace. I do know that with her strong background in HR, Linda will be involved with advising and guiding the PoP New Minister Search Committee. I loved speaking with Linda and Ken. Let's just hope that California doesn't lure her back again.

By Dick Hardy, Profile Reporter