

In a world in which there are so few female role models that exemplify a Christ-like character, it is refreshing to know that there is a remnant of women who epitomize the Proverbs 31 woman. Christie Johnston is one of those who stand out as a model of character, strength, integrity and a steadfast faith all wrapped up in a gentle and loving spirit. In the time I have known her, both watching her public role and in private encounters I have found her to be consistently faithful to the quest of keeping her eyes on Jesus. None of us can ever truly attain Christ-likeness until that day when we are completed, but it is a joy to have a sister in Christ who honestly is seeking Christ's strength for the perfection for which we all long.

It is rare to see someone in the glare of public exposure that has humility; so often in those who have that public life there is a difference between the face they show on stage and that which they demonstrate face-to-face. Christie is the same on-stage and off-stage; what you see is what you get. That quality is what endears her to our church family and makes her teaching so effective; people relate and gravitate to someone who is real.

In a world that is temporarily ruled by the Prince of darkness, what a privilege it is to be in God's army of warriors alongside Christie Johnston. True character, they say is tested in the "fox-holes" of life and Christie has passed the tests that God has allowed her to experience. As a fellow soldier I am happy to be in the battle with Christie "watching my back." Someday when our earthly battle is done, we will look around at those who have been in that earthly battle with us and be filled with inexpressible joy and everlasting fellowship with our comrades in Christ. It is a joy to get a preview of that unity in Christ in this life with one who shares that Spirit.

Judy Smith, sister in Christ

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