

by Jackie Perrone

Linda Hite

Linda Hite has given away more years than mere mortals are able to live. Forty years here, 20 years there, 12 and 14 and 30 - when this lady makes a commitment, it sticks. Don't invite her on your team unless you want dedication and results.

"I wanted two things when I was growing up," she says. "To be a cosmetologist and to travel. Both of those things have been accomplished, along with many other activities in my life. I wouldn't change a thing."

Red Bank Baptist Church has claimed her devoted service for 44 years. That association led to qualifications as a "Commissioned Chaplain," serving 12 years at Lexington Medical Center and 12 years with Lexington County Sheriff Department as well as the South Carolina State Fair and the Women's Auxiliary of South Carolina Law Enforcement Association. She was also a ministry assistant for 11 years at Lexington Baptist Association.

One aspect of giving spiritual encouragement, which immediately attracted Linda was, prayer walking ... a religious experience that is exactly what the name states. Faithful missionaries get together in small or large groups to walk and pray together. The highlight of her prayer walking history? Standing in the Sea of Galilee with arms raised in prayer.

Mission trips provided the framework for much of Linda's world travel. Rio de Janeiro, Venezuela, Taiwan, China, India, South Africa, Israel. Prayer walking in London, Nova Scotia, Atlanta, and Lexington S.C.

But wait, there's more. This tireless advocate for community service served as president of the Gilbert Elementary PTA and worker for 31 years with the Lexington County Peach Festival. Executive Boards: South Carolina Baptist Convention, and S.C.W.M.U. Ambassador for Baptist Foundation of S.C. Baptist Convention, and Lexington Medical Center Foundation.

Linda was married to Donald Hite; after his retirement from Norfolk-Southern Railroad, they enjoyed overseas travel as well as many U.S. travel miles in an RV, until his death 14 years ago. They have two sons, Rome and Ryan, both married, and five grandchildren.

The COVID-19 year of 2020 brought even more hardship to Linda Hite than to the rest of us, as she was involved in a horrific automobile accident in April. Many broken bones and multiple surgeries later, she is back on her feet now and thankful that she was able to travel freely for so many years. You can bet that she will work for her church and her community as long as possible. ■

