

*A Tribute to Mildred Blaising
By Stephen Blaising*

On this day, December 25, 2008, I want to express my deep gratitude and thankfulness for all that you have given to me as your son. My words are insufficient but I want to express the deep appreciation for you that I have in my heart.

I am thankful you chose Trinity Baptist Church to raise our family. Without that I wouldn't know the joy and faith that came from Buckner Fanning's influence and all the leaders at that church.

I am thankful for the way you made me run my business as a paperboy at the San Antonio Light. Without that I wouldn't know the great value of running a profitable business at a low cost.

I am thankful you didn't let me change my major from Business to Sociology when I was having a tough time at UT Austin. Without that I wouldn't have learned an early lesson about perseverance.

I am thankful you made me save every penny I ever made from age 15 to age 21 at GECU. Without this I wouldn't know the key to financial well being which is to spend far less than you ever make.

I am thankful for your genes of longevity and outrageous personality. Without this I wouldn't know the joy of being with and around a wide variety of other outrageous personalities.

Thank you for taking off work when I was a baby, for raising a high standard by sending me to college, for all the memories of family holidays, for being generous with your time and money, for disciplining me, for giving me a brother and a sister, for teaching me integrity, honesty and responsibility.

There are many things I am leaving out. But, I will never forget any of them and I will use all of these lessons for the rest of my life. Your influence will be felt by many for years to come.

With deepest respect and love,

