

Topic: Living life with lessons learned

Abstract: My mother lived in Aguascalientes, Mexico she lived a life similar to others. Poverty, struggles and getting through a life is something people couldn't understand or believe how someone could make it this far. My mother and her family thought migrating into the US they would lose all their problems in Mexico but instead they fell in to the habit of buying and losing the beliefs they had. Problems got worse when they were hoped to be solved but things didn't always go the way my mom and her family had thought.

Keywords: Poverty, Struggles, loss in beliefs, made fun of, and picked over others.

The Changes In Poverty

I decided to ask my mom about her life story knowing that growing up she had mentioned she didn't have half of the things we have or had. My mother shared with me that she always wanted many things that her friends had but her parents couldn't afford it. After talking for hours about her life and things I've never heard her say I learned this.

My mom was the 3rd child of 5. Her parents worked 2 jobs and she hardly saw them growing up, due to them working so much. Her aunt, her mom's sister, was who stayed home and took care of them. My mom was born in Mexico but her sisters and brother were all born here in the US. Her siblings would tease her saying they were going to call "the migra" to come pick her up. I thought this was funny, but she says that it was not a good feeling, being told you didn't belong here and being singled out at school and told to go back where you came from. My mom became a U. S. Citizen and now says she feels she has the same rights as anyone else and especially as her sisters and brother.

My mom always got her sisters old clothes so by the time the clothes came to her, the dresses were like Minnie dresses. This embarrassed her a lot but that is all they had. They would eat simple stuff, she said it was always soups, potato soup, chicken soup, beef soup, anything with water. Its crazy to hear that she didn't have Mc Donald's until she was about 12 years old and they never went out to eat or to the movies which is something almost everyone does every week. They didn't have but one toy a year that she got at Christmas and her doll that she had asked Santa for was naked I was shocked and laughed and just told her, "your kidding"? And she said no, it was a bald doll no hair with a little pink cover, and that was it. (She doesn't think it was new)

My mom remembers the first time she ever saw a T.V. She was about 7 years old, so that would have been 1974, they all ran around it asking their dad what it was, and he told them it's a T.V. to watch. So they all sat in front of it and "watched it" for ½ an hour before they were told it actually had a button that made it work, I laughed so so hard when she told me that, it was hard to believe because staring at a black screen for that long with no clue what to do is just hilarious.

She made me laugh, hearing through her words how things were, and I can't imagine not knowing what a TV is or seeing it for the first time. My mom said she didn't know they were poor and doesn't feel that not having stuff made her less because she didn't know what they were missing, but were she feels it did affect her is not having her parents around because of so much work. Not having her parents around made her grow up extremely poor; Poor of love, affection, attention and worst of all poor of protection.

She says she would only see her parents pretty much once a week. Her parents left before they went to school and they were in bed by the time they came home. It wasn't until she was 8

years old that her parents opened up their own business and then they would see their parents everyday and all day. She remembers fighting with her brother (like usual young siblings) and that her father walked in and was shocked and made a big deal of them fighting, he was so upset and said he could believe that “his” kids would fight like that, And my mom and her brother looked at each other, and said,” what’s wrong with him? We always fight like this” This showed how their father my grandpa never shared any time with them, good or bad. He didn’t know his own kids.

In hearing my mothers’ stories, I asked when did she felt the poorest in her life, and I personally thought that she was going to say it was 2 years ago, when she lost her job, then her car and lastly our house. But yet, her eyes got teary and she said that when I was going to turn 2 and my brother was just born, my father had been laid off.

She said it hurt her so much that she didn’t even have ten dollars to buy me a birthday cake. I was too small to know or care but it hurt her so much because she grew up with no one celebrating her birthdays and it made her so sad. She didn’t want the same life for her kids. This made me realize that most of us consider being poor to not having material things but you can also be poor by being poorest in happiness, of things of the heart. When you love something so much, and you can not provide for that person, weather it be food, or medicine or protection that is definitely the worst feeling of not having the means to pay, buy or give to what your love one needs.

I have learned that in today’s younger society as in teens and people in their early twenties can’t really understand or feel the way things were for others in poverty in the 70s and early 80s. I’m not saying that today’s poverty isn’t bad but back then the poverty people experienced had different meaning to it. Today when you think of someone living in poverty its

materialistic things like not having cars, TVs, stereos, iPods, the expensive things that to your average person wouldn't think of being so hard to afford and many other things. Back then it was losing family, homes, food, and things much more important to someone's life, there are similar things to this day but its to hard to explain what the difference was since I didn't live at that time. From my mothers stories I have gained much respect for the things we have and can afford because I know there are thousands of families out there that have just as little as we do and for some reason we seem to feel like we have it worse.

Its time to start caring about the finer things in life that will always be in our hearts like memories, family pictures, things handed down from generation to generation, things like that. I hope our country will start caring about the things we can carry in our hearts more than the things we carry out at target or wall-mart that may last a year with no affect toward it but the true real affect that ones family can give. When someone asks you what's the most important thing in your life the most common answer is family, but do you really think about it and try to see what the true meaning of your family is?. Another similar question is if you win a million dollars what would you spend it on? Most common answer is a car, shopping, or a house and the last thing is save some for my family. The reason I ask this is back in the days when my mom was a teenager the first answer to every question would involve your family because the economy then wasn't all brainwashed so bad into buying things they don't need.

People were also wasting time and money that didn't involve spending time with your family. Mom would go shopping with the girls and dad would go play baseball or some other sports with the boys, so yes they are spending some time with the kids but they are not spending time together as a full family which always affects them one way or another. Religion was a very important thing to my mom and her family, but now the way the economy is religion and beliefs

have all disappeared due to lack of going to church and watching that NFL football game on Sunday instead or making excuses not to go which all of us must admit to do from time to time.