



The Big Brown Quilt *by Ray Wardlaw*

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” – James 1:17

This quilt was made by the hand of Aunt Mary, who gifted quilts to more than 15 college students who lived in her home. Aunt Mary was given the diagnosis that she had myasthenia gravis when she was in her 30s. This disease causes muscle fatigue, weakness, and an ongoing feeling of tiredness. She agreed with Uncle Glen that they could open their home, near a local college, to family and friends at no cost. I was one of those students.

When graduation came, Aunt Mary presented me with a king-size, hand-tied, and hand-stitched quilt with a safari theme on one side and brown on the other. From time to time, I had seen the work spread out in the living room of the house, and Aunt Mary was trying to complete it when she had the energy to work on it, but I did not know it was for me.

The big brown quilt went on picnics, to soccer games, to outdoor concerts, to the beach, on camping trips, and on family road trips in the car. It was used for floor padding when I did not have a bed, and as part of two layers of a winter blanket when I lived in the north.

Fourteen other students received a quilt that was hand-tied and hand-stitched together by Aunt Mary when she was able to gather enough energy to complete each one. Aunt Mary did say that each time she was making a quilt, she was praying for you. Myasthenia gravis took away her energy on many days and finally made Aunt Mary homebound, but it did not keep her from praying for students who received a place to stay at no cost.

Journaling:

Reflect on how the changes in your life have brought you to a point of decision. Will you trust the Lord to give you the wisdom and strength to make a difference in the lives around you?

Join me in witnessing the increasing value of the gift because of its boundless use. The big brown quilt still travels with us.