



Geraldine Risley Strong



1921 - 2018

So, God Made the Farmer's Wife

And on the 9th day, god looked down on his planned paradise and said “Oh dear, the farmer is going to need help.”

So, God made the farmer's wife.

God said, “I need somebody who will get up at dawn, make breakfast, work all day in the kitchen, bank, school and alongside her farmer and then come home to fix super and wash the dishes, sew her children clothes and do the mending.

So, God made a farmer's wife.

God said, “I need someone willing to sit up all night with their sick child or a rejected lamb in her kitchen. And watch her children grow. Then pray each morning and night to keep them safe and teach them to say “please and thank you”. Make sure her family all went to the doctor but refused to go herself. Always saying, “I’m fine” even when she wasn’t.

So, God made a farmer's wife.

I need someone who can stretch a paycheck or thicken a soup, feed all the family, farm workers and guests. Protect her children from knowing they were poor, and teach them that they were rich in their lives. Encourage them to travel and see the world. Who will work and save money so they could go to whatever college they wanted, to follow their dreams. Who can clean her house all day every Saturday along with washing 5 loads of laundry after a full week of work and find time to work in her rose garden.”

So, God made a farmer's wife.

God said, “I need someone willing to put up food for the winter, always have the refrigerator full, do all the farm bookkeeping and secretarial work, agree to purchasing farm equipment to try and make her husband's life easier, sign a loan with steady

hands, yet calm the farmer when weather or disease threatened to destroy his crops and animals. Who would volunteer to be a den leader, a 4-H camp counselor, 4-H leader, work as secretary and Treasurer on Boards, teach Sunday School, always running and working on Grange and Church supers and always help out family and friends in need.

So, God made a farmer's wife.

God said I need someone that on Sundays after a 200 hour work week would make breakfast, make beds, start to prepare a noon meal, dress all the children and the farmer in their Sunday best to go to church and after church, dinner and dishes insist on spending family time taking rides in the country.

Somebody who'd sew all the family – grandparents, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren – together with strong stitches of sharing and love. Who would greet everyone with open smiling blue eyes and ask "what's new" with open ears.

And who in later years will push the farmer to slow down, travel, get that little school house in Vermont to escape to and still carry on their commitments to the family and in the community they loved.

So, God made this farmer's wife.



Geraldine Risley Strong, 96, wife of the late Norman Randall Strong, passed away on March 1, 2018, peacefully at home.

[Full Obituary](#)