

Reaching Forward

Cathy Guisewite is the cartoonist who created the very popular syndicated cartoon comic strip *Cathy*. It is about a career woman facing the issues and challenges of eating, work, relationships and being a mother.

Guisewite was recipient of the Reuben Award for Outstanding Cartoonist of the Year in 1993 from the National Cartoonists Society. In 1987, she received an Emmy for Outstanding Animated Program for the television special *Cathy*, which aired on CBS. On Aug. 11, 2010, Guisewite announced the strip's retirement, and it came to an end on Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010, after 34 years.

In the comic strip, Cathy routinely had encounters with her mother, who is always full of advice for her unmarried, career-oriented daughter.

Guisewite once said, "I believe very strongly in visualizing goals way beyond what seems humanly possible. I got this from my parents. When my mother first suggested I submit some scribbles to a syndicate, I told her I knew nothing about comic strips. Mom said, 'So what? You'll learn.' When I pointed out that I didn't know how to draw, she said, 'So what? You'll learn.' All parents believe their children can do the impossible. They thought it the minute we were born, and no matter how hard we've tried to prove them wrong, they all think it about us now. And the really annoying thing is, they're probably right."

When we face challenges that lie just beyond our ability, we enter into the realm of faith and hope. It is as we face new frontiers in our lives that we truly encounter what our Creator has endowed us to do.

A black plastic plaque – given to me by a friend – sits next to my computer here in my office, proclaiming in silver letters chiseled into it a quote from Michelangelo: *Lord, grant that I may always desire more than I can accomplish.*

It is a daily challenge to me. Consider it for yourself.

... *Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead* (Philippians 3:13).

– Beecher Hunter

