

## DEDICATION

I owe a debt of gratitude to two precious women and one faithful man, without whose unending prayers and godly example I would not be in a place to write this doctoral thesis.

**In Memory of**  
***Lilian Edna Kaufman Lukesh—missionary***

*Who led my parents to Christ in Germany in 1955 and first exposed me, at eight years old, in 1968, to Christian outreach and ministry through her weekly neighborhood bible studies utilizing flannelgraph to illustrate the gospel message. I like to imagine that Mrs. Lukesh did for me what Ira Sankey, D.L. Moody's singer, did for the little gypsy boy in London during an evangelistic crusade. Before leaving a camp of gypsies, Sankey laid his hand on the little boy and said, "The Lord make a preacher of you my boy." Only eternity will tell of the multitudes "Gypsy Smith" influenced for Christ.*

**In Honor of**  
***Leopoldine Kellner Huf—my precious, godly "Mutti"***

*Who gave me physical life and daily displays of selfless character, epitomizing a Christ-like pattern for me to emulate. Only a spirited, surrendered, and self-sacrificing woman could, at 22, board a ship with her husband and two little children, bid her family final farewells, and take the two-week-long journey across the big blue ocean to a new land of opportunity. Her devotion to God, her husband, six children, 17 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren is unending. She may never wholly capture the significance of that one day in the parking lot of a shopping mall when she, through tears, passionately encouraged me to continue my education and realize my dreams. "I'm doing it Mommy!"*

**In Honor of**  
***Alois Huf—my strong and forever faithful "Daddy"***

*Who at a spry 81 years old is more an example of the heart of Jesus in loving the lost than anyone I have ever known. His unwavering courage after escaping communist Czechoslovakia at 18, in March 1949, has left its imprint on my life and ministry. The book he and mom wrote about their life experiences left me laughing, crying, and wanting more. I pray he will write a sequel one day. His audacious weekly commitment to the inmates at the local jail in western Michigan has resulted in hundreds of salvations. He is the most giving man I know, and his model of forgiveness and love for Jesus breathes life into my very being.*