

## "A Conversation at the Gates"

*One day in the not too distant future, I will find myself standing in front of the Pearly Gates.*

*I knock.*

*A pleasant voice calls out, "Who's there?"*

*"Sherwood Schwartz," I answer.*

*"One moment," says the Voice. "I have lots of Schwartzes on my list. Did you say 'Sherwood?'"*

*"Yes, Sherwood Schwartz. I was born November 14, 1916. My parents were Rose and Herman Schwartz."*

*"Yes, yes, I have it right here. Your parents loved you very much."*

*"I loved them very much as well. I lived with them until I got married."*

*"To Mildred, according to my records," says the Voice.*

*"Yes. I never believed in love at first sight until I met Mildred. I always thought "love at first sight" was just poetic babble."*

*"That's what they all say until it happens to them."*

*"I loved Mildred with all my heart for over sixty-nine years. I'm sure she loved me as much as I loved her."*

*"She did," says the Voice. "And you had four children, Donald, Lloyd, Ross and Hope."*

*"Four wonderful children," I couldn't help adding.*

*"All of them quite different, but all of them talented, and hard-working. I'm pleased I was able to watch each of them reach certain goals."*

*"You sound very proud of them," says the Voice."*

*"Mildred and I were always very proud.*

*We took good care of them when they were young, and they took good care of us when we got old."*

*"I see they each have two children; Donald, two girls, Lloyd two boys, Ross two girls, and Hope two girls."*

*"All of them talented and industrious, like their parents," I say.*

*"All well-educated in different professions:*