

Mothers: The Heart of the Family

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Nations rise and fall, empires prosper or crumble and men are stirred to great accomplishments or driven to shameful failure often because of the influence of a wife or mother. The wise poet has properly said, "The hand that rocks the cradle, is the hand that rules the world."

For most women, motherhood is a great privilege, a crowning joy and a sublime fulfillment. Perhaps the greatest privilege of motherhood is that of sharing and giving. No one shares and gives as a mother does. She shares her body with another in order to conceive. She shares it again with her unborn child. Then she shares her time, energy and talent with it after it is born in order to meet its needs and cause it to grow and develop. But most of all, she shares her heart and her love as she weeps, laughs, sorrows and rejoices with her child through the months and years of infancy, adolescence and youth and adulthood.

Motherhood, while being a great privilege, also involves obligation. No task on earth requires more dedication, greater skill or fuller commitment. Her responsibilities demand devotion to the highest ideals and patient perseverance over long years of time. Her task is formidable because there is no human obligation that is less adaptable to substitution than motherhood. You can substitute for the teacher, policeman, governor and almost anyone else but no one has found an adequate substitute for a mother's love.

The greatest writers and speakers of the ages have tried to capture the fullness of motherhood but all have failed to maximize it. Only in Scripture do we see the blessedness of a good mother fully described. *"Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all. Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised"* (Proverbs 31:28-31).

Happy and blessed is the home and the children of a loving mother -- one devoted to her husband, children and the Lord. Let us thank God if our home is so blessed.

- Centerville Church of Christ, Tallahassee, FL

*The sweetest sounds to mortals given
are heard in Mother, Home, and Heaven.*
- William Goldsmith Brown

News & Notes

MEETING: New Freeport – May 11-15 – Denver Cooper.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. All ladies invited.

FRIDAY NIGHT SINGS:

- Struthers, OH ----- May 16
- Parkersburg (Sunrise Congregation) ----- May 23
- CHESTER ----- June 6

LADIES INSPIRATION DAY: Sat., May 17th, 36th Street Congregation, Vienna, WV. Speaker: Teresa Hampton. Coffee & muffins at 8:30 a.m.; program begins at 9:30 a.m. Any ladies wishing to attend, see Nancy Hadley.

CHESTER'S VBS: June 15-18. Adult Class: J. D. Conley.

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP: June 23-28.

PANTRY: Macaroni & cheese.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Bill Wright, Crystal Spencer.

REMEMBER THESE SHUT-IN'S: Lloyd Cowdery, Dan Williams.

SICK: City Hospital: Ruth Brewer (Skilled). Weirton Medical Center: George Godwin (Jerry's dad). Allegheny Hospital, Pittsburgh: Bill Wright. Valley Hospice, Steubenville: Larry Nice (son of Harry & Imogene Nice). **AT HOME:** Crystal Spencer, Bertha Seman, Linda Parkes, Harry & Imogene Nice. Brightwell Nursing Home, Follansbee: Gary Evans. Others confined to their homes and in nursing are listed on the bulletin board.

God's Masterpiece Is Mother

God took the fragrance of a flower ...

The majesty of a tree ...

The gentleness of morning dew ...

The calm of a quiet sea ...

The beauty of the twilight hour ...

The soul of a starry night ...

The laughter of a rippling brook ...

The grace of a bird in flight ...

Then God fashioned from these things

A creation like no other,

And when His masterpiece was through

He called it simply — Mother.

- Herbert Famham -