

MOTHER'S DAY 1987

*The following was written by Mom (Gigi) to be resource material for a talk I was to give on Mother's Day, May 10, 1987. I asked her to note some things that she, a mother, would want her children to have as a gift from her. These are the gifts she has already given---Earl.*

Who am I? I am a mother. I am a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I have a strong testimony of this church and of the Gospel taught by it. This Gospel is very dear to me.

During my growing-up years, I often heard that when people have children they also have a great responsibility to teach those children to cherish God's way, so that they will have a place with Him in the hereafter. The Gospel teaches us, as parents, that we must teach them about God and His Son, Jesus Christ, by word and by example. If we do not do it the judgement will be upon our shoulders. So, when children were placed in my care, I took the assignment very seriously.

Little children come to this life very helpless. This is God's way of letting us as parents know our responsibility. Therefore, they need many material things. They need shelter and warmth and food as well as much love and spiritual attention. I think that I gave my children an example of the right way---to diligently listen to what God would have them do.

I am sure that those in our care are individuals with their own

personalities. With all of my strength I encouraged them to develop the gifts and talents they had, considering these gifts and talents as spiritual and coming from God, to pray to God for blessings and to ask Him to help them to resist temptations. Temptations are near them all the time. Showing them that it is best to make decisions concerning right and wrong before they are tempted.

During those vital years of early Priesthood and Scouting and Young Woment activities, I felt that many lessons could be learned by my being involved personally in those activities. These were precious times and taught love of God and principles of compassion and the value of being close. They were times when important principles were taught. Gospel principles and matters of every-day life were freely discussed in our home. These were good times to teach my feelings of prayer and that God would answer if my children would listen. By example I would emphasize the Word of Wisdom. In many ways the standards of life were shown. In exchange for their obedience, God has promised great blessings.

As time went on, those in my care grew to manhood and womanhood. knowing that I had a definite purpose in my life to let them realize that they are children of a Heavenly Father and that there is reason for them to be here on earth.

Those who are my lovely children are a joy and a pleasure. They have children and grandchildren who call them blessed. I hope that some of it has been because, so long ago, I decided to be a partner with God,

and to be a good example.

I want to leave a testimony for my posterity. Without a doubt at all, I want them to know that I believe that Jesus Christ is a Resurrected Being, the Son of His Father, God. I would tell that that Joseph Smith was a chosen Prophet, to restore the Gospel for us today. I believe that God has a Prophet, Ezra Taft Benson, to tell the world that there needed to be a restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and that He will come again to be with those that are faithful. This is a rather usual testimony. I want to leave it as a witness to what I believe.

I love you all,

I am your mother

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*Jeanette W Redd.*