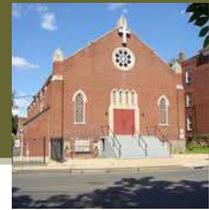


# MT. CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER



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Rev. Dr. Richard L. Nash, Pastor

## A MOTHER CALLED BY GOD - LUKE 1

by Andy Cook

Scriptures: Luke 1:34-38 ; John 2:1-5 ; Matthew 12:46-50 ; John 19:25

What a wonderful thing that God's Word has so many messages just for moms, messages for parents really, for moms, dads, and grandparents. There are also those listening who will one day be in the delightful company of parents, and there are single adults who have such profound influence on our homes. History's most famous mother was called to her task, just as parents today are called by God to their task.

**A mother called by God submits completely to God's will.** When Mary was only a teen-ager, she was confronted with the challenge to be completely submitted to God's will. When Gabriel gave her the angelic message that she was to carry the Christ, Mary was stunned. The key phrase? "I am the Lord's servant. May it be ...". Mary never wavered from her complete submission to God's will. Was she nervous? Certainly. Was she unsure of her own abilities? Who wouldn't be? Was she anxious about the prophecy that part of her future would include pain? Of course.

Mary was a little like the mother who sits up late at night, far past her bedtime, waiting for the date to be over. She was like the father who said the silent, heart-felt prayer as he watched his child drive away from the house, taking all those raw instincts into streets of great danger. Mary was like any parent in this room, who wanted only the best, only the most protection, for her child ... and fully aware that life happens, and not all of life is pleasant.

But Mary was unlike a lot of parents in the world today. Mary was first of all completely committed to God. She was so committed to God, she had no room for commitment to anything else. And that made her a mother worth imitating.

**Despite the fact that she was the mother of Jesus, Mary wasn't perfect!** When Jesus performed his first miracle, Mary's conversation is the most unusual part of the water-turned-into-wine story.

Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, why do you involve me?" It's not my time! Two things: First, a word to children ... Don't try this at home! Second, think of the awkwardness of this situation. Mary's request and conversation with Jesus appears to be out of line with what Jesus was ready to do. Though Jesus performed the miracle, there's a feeling that he did so in part because his mother put him on the spot. If that's not a clear indication of Mary's imperfection, a second case is. While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." If Mary had understood the task of Jesus, would she have tried to interrupt him, or even agree with his unbelieving brothers that his ministry needed to be tempered. Stopping the ministry of Jesus, even for a little while? That was a mistake on Mary's part.

You've made mistakes in the past, you'll certainly make a mistake or two today, and you'll make more mistakes tomorrow. Through it all, God will love you, work with you, and accept you. Through it all, your task of mothering, or of grand-mothering, will be accomplished. How many women have been discouraged by the last few words of Proverbs? It is there that the author writes of the perfect woman. There are 22 lines in the poem, and each one of them begins with successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. It's an acrostic poem that speaks of an imaginary woman. She never sleeps, and she always works. OK, so that's the part of the poem that is reality. But in the poem, she manages a fleet of ships, she runs a farm, she manages a staff, she sews like a fashion expert, she cooks, cleans, and home-schools her children. She has a feast waiting on her husband when he arrives home from his much-less demanding job, and she needs no car pool whatsoever. She simply puts on her Super-mother cape and flies her children (Continued on page 2)

**A MOTHER CALLED BY GOD (Continued)**

to their next appointment. If we were to see in English what we can't see in Hebrew, perhaps it would be a poem that said, "A is for the Apple pie she bakes; B is for the babies she loves; C is for the cleaning of the house;" right on down to "Z is for the Zoo she manages in the back yard." Any woman who tries to emulate the woman of Proverbs 31 will understand the first line that says, "A wife like this ... who can find her?!"

**A mother called by God never relinquishes the title.** Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother. Mary didn't stand stoically and passively by at the foot of the cross, as if she were already made out of stained glass. She crumpled at the cross. She fell down to the depths there, moaning and wailing and begging the God of heaven to stop her hell on earth.

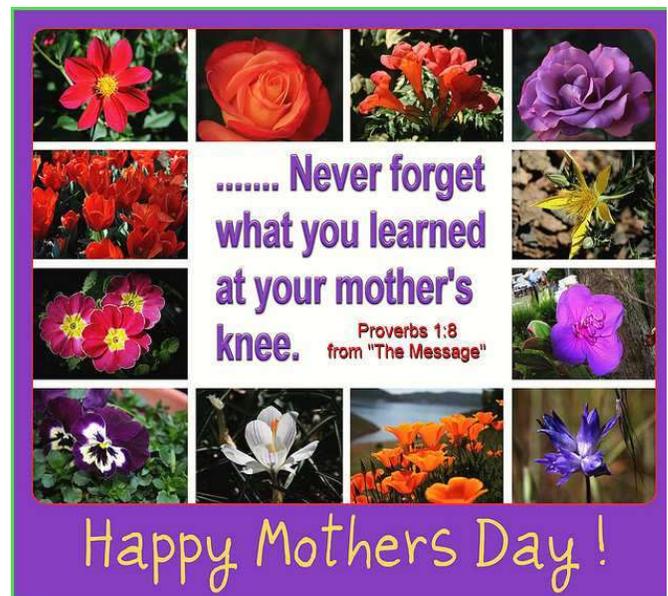
The truth of Simeon's prophecy at the birth of Jesus was suddenly true. The cross cut deeply into Mary's heart. Despite the pain, however, Mary was there. She was a mother from the beginning, and a mother at the end. A mother called by God never relinquishes the title. You'll find mothers like that in the halls of children's hospitals, in funeral homes and in the counselors' offices. Mothers never relinquish the title, even if the child is rebellious, harsh, or cruel. Her heart just will not allow it. Not when she is called by God.

Sometimes, the most difficult decision a mother will ever make comes right at the beginning. There continue to be that brave lot of young woman who realize, under the rarest of circumstances, that the best gift they can give their child is the gift of adoption. And all over the world, that painful giving up of a baby is a whole lot like the painful giving up of a son on a cross. But even at that moment of giving up, a mother's love dominates the scene. It is sacrificial, it is painful ... but it is a loving moment of care, and mothers who give their children to families patiently standing in a line of love need to be applauded, loved, and recognized. When a woman becomes a mother, when a man becomes a father, there is an instant realization that the day will almost certainly come when pain dominated the picture. The crosses are different for every family, but frankly, the crosses usually come. There may be a divorce, or disease, or death. There may be harsh words, and unacceptable actions. There may be tough love, and impossible nights. Through it all, mothers called by God never relinquish the title. Never. There is nothing like a mother's love.

**Conclusion:** Mary had a chance to see God's entire plan played out. She suffered through the crucifixion, celebrated the resurrection, and even was part of the small group that witnessed the powerful presentation of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:14). What a gift from God, to live long enough for parenting to make sense! Some parents live long enough to see God's plan for their children. Some see God working in the lives of their grandchildren. Some surely only see God's plan from the halls of heaven. It's a bit unusual to close a message from the newspaper comic strips, but the children of Family Circus were once discussing babies. One of the young experts announced: "Storks don't bring babies. They come UPS." Some of the other children had different ideas, but the best was saved for last. "Babies," said one, "are connected to their mothers by a biblical cord."

Every idea from this message has come from the Bible. There are so many solid principles for parenting in the Bible, no parent can afford to not know them. If you're going to be a godly parent, be sure to be immersed in God's Word, fully committed to the calling He's given you.

Excerpt from Sermon "A Mother Called by God". Andy Cook is the pastor of Shirley Hills Baptist Church in, Warner Robins, Georgia. For Full Sermon: <https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/sermon-mother-called-by-god-elizabeth-mary-luke-1>



## MONTH IN REVIEW/ANNOUNCEMENTS/ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

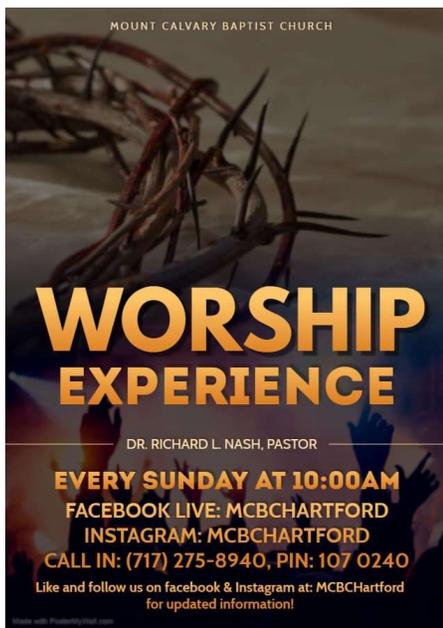
In an effort to comply with the CDC and State of Connecticut recommendations of Sheltering in Place and Keeping Social Distances, Mt. Calvary, which has a reputation for being a traditional Baptist church, is reaching its members and others with modern technology on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings and throughout the week. **Deaconess Donna Campbell, Rev. Lorenzo Elliott and Bro. Brandon Parris** seem to be leading the way in these new directions but applause is also due to **Pastor Nash, the Media Ministry, Praise Ministry and Music Ministry** for coming together Sunday mornings for services. The past services can be accessed on FACEBOOK in the MCBC Group. Upcoming services will be aired live on FACEBOOK.

**Rev. Elliott** has been conducting Bible Study and Sunday School utilizing the ZOOM App.

**Deaconess Campbell** is continuously updating the MCBC Group Facebook page to keep us abreast of those in need of prayer, morning services and sweet memories of Mt. Calvary.

### SERVICES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

- **Sunday School** on Sundays at 9:00 AM via ZOOM  
Meeting ID: 3558323135  
Password: 354022



- **Bible Study** on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM via ZOOM  
Meeting ID: 644-546-941  
Password: 229907

*The family of **Sis. Pearlie and Bro. Juanzia (Van) Williams** would like to*



*thank the Mt. Calvary Family for the many acts of kindness expressed on the passing of her brother. Your calls, prayers and beautiful cards were greatly appreciated and will never be forgotten. May God Bless You All!*



*My Mother kept a garden.  
A garden of the heart;  
She planted all the good things,  
That gave my life its start.  
She turned me to the sunshine,  
And encouraged me to dream:  
Fostering and nurturing  
The seeds of self-esteem.  
And when the winds and rains came,  
She protected me enough;  
But not too much, she knew I'd need  
To stand up strong and tough.  
Her constant good example,  
Always taught me right from wrong;  
Markers for my pathway  
To last my whole life long.  
I am my Mother's garden,  
I am her legacy.  
And I hope she felt the love,  
Reflected back from me.*

***"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."***

## TRUST IN GOD

It is easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn't lose heart because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain and suffering. Remember the next time your little hut is burning to the ground it just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of God. For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves. God has a positive answer for it:

**You say:** It's impossible **God says:** All things are possible Luke 18:27

**You say:** I'm too tired **God says:** I will give you rest Matthew 11:28-30

**You say:** Nobody really loves me **God says:** I love you John 3:16 & John 3:34

**You say:** I can't go on! **God says:** My grace is sufficient II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

**You say:** I can't figure things out **God says:** I will direct your steps Proverbs 3:5-6

**You say:** I can't do it **God says:** You can do all things Philippians 4:13

**You say:** I'm not able **God says:** I am able II Corinthians 9:8

**You say:** It's not worth it **God says:** It will be worth it Roman 8:28

**You say:** I can't forgive myself **God says:** I Forgive you I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1

**You say:** I can't manage **God says:** I will supply all your needs Philippians 4:19

**You say:** I'm always worried and frustrated **God says:** Cast all your cares on ME I Peter 5:7

**You say:** I'm not smart enough **God says:** I give you wisdom I Corinthians 1:30

**You say:** I feel all alone **God says:** I will never leave you or forsake you Hebrews 13:5

-Author Unknown-

Submitted by Sister Marjorie James

## WHY GOD DOESN'T HEAL EVERY SICKNESS, DISEASE, AND ILLNESS

By Chris Russell

[\(James 5:13-15\)](#)

I am a big believer in the doctrine of healing. I have experienced God's healing in my own life, and I have witnessed God healing myriads of people over the past couple decades I've been in ministry. I am greatly comforted by verses like the one in James that gives us a great hope in the power of prayer.

I do believe that God heals, but I also believe that healing is not always the only path that He chooses for us. Sometimes His perfect plan for our lives is to allow us to suffer and experience disease, illness, and hardship. The reason for this is that He can often teach us things through suffering that we would never be able to learn through a book or seminar, or through comfort and prosperity.

Paul had a problem with his eyesight that God never healed. When Timothy was sick, Paul told him to drink wine (not go to a healing service). The Lazarus who was raised from the dead eventually died later. Paul says that he had a thorn in the flesh which he prayed for God to remove over and over again, but God never removed it. Job suffered because God had a whole bigger purpose for him than mere comfort on this planet. And Job's suffering was not the result of a lack of faith.

Some of the greatest blessings in this world come from God's power in the midst of trials. God changes us, molds us, strengthens us, and builds us through hardship. And there is nothing like the experience of being comforted by God alone in that dark hour.

Over the past twenty-five years that I have been in ministry, I have seen people hurt greatly by the false teaching that God always wants to heal every malady. This is because that belief can cause a massive amount of guilt and disillusionment for the afflicted in those times when God actually chooses not to heal. The implication is that the suffering Christian just didn't quite believe enough or is hiding some sort of sin. I have seen Christians destroyed in their faith over this erroneous teaching. We must realize that sometimes it's just not God's plan to heal or to fix a problem quickly for us. And that's ok. He still loves us. He still has a plan. And He still has a profound purpose for that pain that can end up blessing us beyond anything we could ever imagine. Often God chooses to heal! But sometimes He teaches us more and draws us closer when we walk the dark mile of suffering. But to experience such blessing, it is important that we [run to God and not away from Him](#) in the midst of the storm.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/blogs/chris-russell/why-doesn-t-god-heal-every-sickness-disease-and-illness.html>



**to All Born in the Month of MAY**

Sis. Tamela Sanderson	1	Brol Rhashim Campbell	16
Bro. Michael Robinson	2	Sis. Tinika Champion	19
Bro. Melvin Sanford	3	Bro. Julian C. Jackson	20
Tru. George Williams	5	Sis. Debbiemaria Gamble	21
Sis. Alicia Champion	7	Sis. Alice Nance	21
Dea. Louis Johnson	9	Sis. Veronica Robinson	21
Bro. Michael Robinson, Jr.	14	Sis. Hannah Hill	23
Bro. Ricky Brown	15	Sis. Margaree White	28
Deaconess Comalita Elliott	15		



**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

Celebrants	Date	Years
Bro. Jimmie & Sis. Hannah Hill	2	56
Tru. Hugh and Sis. Juanita Branch	15	56
Bro. Johnnie & Sis. Juliette Cole	16	57
Bro. Fred & Sis. Linda Clarke	18	55

**“What therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder.” Matthew 19:6**

*The key to a happy marriage  
is giving as much as taking;  
for always sharing  
a dream in the making;  
for talking things through  
and working problems out;  
for having a friendship  
that's never in doubt;  
and for the many ways  
two hearts discover  
that through life's journey  
they can count on each other.*



*Our Deepest  
Sympathy* to the following families:



The family of **Sis. Georgia Weaver** in the passing of her daughter, Beverly (Pie) M. Holder, on April 12, 2020. Others she also leaves to cherish her memory are children (**Erica M. Moore and Donnell S. Holder**); aunt (**Sis. JoeAnn Wilson**); and uncle and aunt (**Alvin and Rose Mary Merritt**). Pie, described as a beautiful woman who knew and loved God, was educated in Hartford schools and Florida A&M University. She was employed in her parents' establishments, Home Depot, JDS, Mohegan Sun Casino and Prudential Insurance Company.

The family of **Sis. Sharon and Bro. Saul Hargrove** in the passing of an uncle, James Polk Sr., of Sumter, SC. He transitioned after a long battle with diabetes and was 91 years old.



The family of **Bro. Juanzia (Van) and Sis. Pearlie Williams** in the passing of her brother, Elisha Bailey, 80, of Springfield, MA on April 15, 2020. At an early age, he dedicated his life to serving God and was very devoted to his family. Elisha was described as kind-hearted, humble and having had a compassionate and generous spirit. In life, when challenged, he often chose high moral values and was admired for his strong character and integrity. He worked loyally at Moore Drop Forging Company until he retired.

The **Gamble and Judkins Family** in the passing of their cousin Ella Mae Mansell in South Carolina.

**From our happy home and circle,  
God has taken ones we love;  
Borne away from sin and sorrow  
to a better home above.**

**Remember a card, visit or gift sometime after the funeral services may also lift loved ones' spirits.**

## HERITAGE CORNER



### **Edythe J. Gaines** Connecticut's first African American Public Schools Superintendent

When Edythe J. Gaines passed away at the age of 83, her son Richard reflected on his mother's life and her dedication to children, both as a mother and civic-minded career woman. "She believed in kids, even when they didn't believe in themselves," Richard explained. "Her belief in them would give them belief in themselves." Gaines' steadfast conviction that youth should be given the chance to succeed led her to a fruitful career as a pioneer in education. This faith in younger generations would also propel Gaines to becoming Connecticut's first African American public schools superintendent and the first woman in the state to hold the position.

Edythe Pauline Jones was born in Asheville, N.C., to parents who were both active in public life. Her father, Jacob Jones, was a priest in the Episcopal Church, and her mother, Jennie Dillard Jones, who may have influenced Gaines' own career choices, worked as a high school English and Latin teacher. Jacob Jones passed away when his daughter was still quite young and, soon after his death, the family moved to New York City. In 1941, Edythe Jones married Albert Gaines. In 1944, she earned her Bachelor's degree from Hunter College, and in 1947, her Master's degree from New York University. She later earned a Doctor of Education degree from Harvard University in 1969.

In 1945, she began her teaching career in the New York Public Schools, teaching at the Joan of Arc School. Throughout her career in New York, Gaines earned a reputation as a creative leader and innovator. She rose quickly through the ranks of the school system and, in 1964, became the first African American to serve as principal of a city school. In 1967, she became assistant superintendent of School District 12 in the Bronx and, in 1973, was named Executive Director of the New York City Board of Education's Office of Educational Planning and Support.

Gaines' career moves, reputation, and deep commitment to youth education initiatives led to her hiring as Hartford's first African American superintendent of schools in 1975. Her appointment also made her the first woman in Connecticut to hold the post. Though her tenure was short-lived and ended in 1978, partly as a result of political turmoil in the city, Gaines was undeterred from work in Hartford. She chose to remain in Hartford and continued to play an important leadership role in education and community service. From 1979 to 1991, Gaines served as a commissioner for the State Department of Public Utility Control. In 1992, she was named to the Board of Governors of Higher Education, and in 1995, she was given the opportunity to serve a four-year term on the Connecticut State Board of Education.

Gaines was civically active outside of the education sphere. She served as the chair of the Commission on Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut and represented St. Monica's Episcopal Church as chairwoman. She spearheaded St. Monica's Development Corporation's Second Century Project, a multi-million dollar effort that built houses for the elderly while also providing numerous health and human service initiatives. In 1991, she was honored by the [National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs](#) for her work to establish affordable housing for the elderly. Gaines was also the first woman to be elected chair of a Harvard University alumni association and has been inducted into the Hunter College Hall of Fame.

Edythe Gaines died in Hartford in March 2006 at the age of 83.

SOURCE: <https://www.cwhf.org/inductees/edythe-j-gaines>

"She believed in kids, even when they didn't believe in themselves."

-Richard Gaines, on the contributions of his mother

## HEALTH NEWS

### BACTERIAL AND VIRAL INFECTIONS

Bacterial and viral infections have many things in common. Both types of infections are caused by microbes -- bacteria and viruses, respectively -- and spread by things such as:

- Coughing and sneezing.
- Contact with infected people, especially through kissing and sex.
- Contact with contaminated surfaces, food, and water.
- Contact with infected creatures, including pets, livestock, and insects such as fleas and ticks.
- Microbes can also cause:
  - Acute infections, which are short-lived.
  - Chronic infections, which can last for weeks, months, or a lifetime.

Latent infections, which may not cause symptoms at first but can reactivate over a period of months and years. Most importantly, bacterial and viral infections, can cause mild, moderate, and severe diseases.

Throughout history, millions of people have died of diseases such as bubonic plague or the Black Death, which is caused by *Yersinia pestis* bacteria, and smallpox, which is caused by the variola virus. In recent times, viral infections have been responsible for two major pandemics: the 1918-1919 "Spanish flu" epidemic that killed 20-40 million people, and the ongoing HIV/AIDS epidemic that killed an estimated 1.5 million people worldwide in 2013 alone. Bacterial and viral infections can cause similar symptoms such as coughing and sneezing, fever, inflammation, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, and cramping -- all of which are ways the immune system tries to rid the body of infectious organisms. But bacterial and viral infections are dissimilar in many other important respects, most of them due to the organisms' structural differences and the way they respond to medications.

#### The Differences Between Bacteria and Viruses

Although bacteria and viruses are both too small to be seen without a microscope, they're as different as giraffes and goldfish. Bacteria are relatively complex, single-celled creatures, many with a rigid wall, and a thin, rubbery membrane surrounding the fluid inside the cell. They can reproduce on their own. Fossilized records show that bacteria have existed for about 3.5 billion years, and bacteria can survive in different environments, including extreme heat and cold, radioactive waste, and the human body. Most bacteria are harmless, and some actually help by digesting food, destroying disease-causing microbes, fighting cancer cells, and providing essential nutrients. Fewer than 1% of bacteria cause diseases in people. Viruses are tinier:

the largest of them are smaller than the smallest bacteria. All they have is a protein coat and a core of genetic material, either RNA or DNA. Unlike bacteria, viruses can't survive without a host. They can only reproduce by attaching themselves to cells. In most cases, they reprogram the cells to make new viruses until the cells burst and die. In other cases, they turn normal cells into malignant or cancerous cells. Also unlike bacteria, most viruses do cause disease, and they're quite specific about the cells they attack. For example, certain viruses attack cells in the liver, respiratory system, or blood. In some cases, viruses target bacteria.

#### Diagnosis of Bacterial and Viral Infections

You should consult your doctor if you think you have a bacterial or viral infection. Exceptions include the common cold, which is usually not life-threatening. In some cases, it's difficult to determine whether an illness is viral or bacterial because many ailments -- including pneumonia, meningitis, and diarrhea -- can be caused by either. But your doctor may be able to determine the cause by listening to your medical history and doing a physical exam. If necessary, he or she also can order a blood or urine test to help confirm a diagnosis, or a "culture test" of tissue to identify bacteria or viruses. Occasionally, a biopsy of affected tissue may be required.

#### Treatment of Bacterial and Viral Infections

The discovery of antibiotics for bacterial infections is considered one of the most important breakthroughs in medical history. Unfortunately, bacteria are very adaptable, and the overuse of antibiotics has made many of them resistant to antibiotics. This has created serious problems, especially in hospital settings. Antibiotics are not effective against viruses, and many leading organizations now recommend against using antibiotics unless there is clear evidence of a bacterial infection. Since the beginning of the 20th century, vaccines have been developed. Vaccines have drastically reduced the number of new cases of viral diseases such as polio, measles, and chickenpox. In addition, vaccines can prevent such infections such as the flu, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV), and others.

But the treatment of viral infections has proved more challenging, primarily because viruses are relatively tiny and reproduce inside cells. For some viral diseases, such as herpes simplex virus infections, HIV/AIDS, and influenza, antiviral medications have become available. But the use of antiviral medications has been associated with the development of drug-resistant microbes.

WebMD Medical Reference Reviewed by Nayana Ambardekar, MD on April 23, 2019

SOURCE: <https://www.webmd.com>

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## **A MOTHER'S PRAYER**

*I lift my hands in worship to You Lord for You are so awesome. You reign on high and I adore You. I pour out my heart Heavenly Father for a special outpouring of Your blessings upon the lives of my children.*

*You promised me Abba, that if I bring up my children in the right way they will honor You.*

*At this time, I feel that they have turned completely from You and Your Word. So today, I look to You for Hope and Encouragement.*

**Proverbs 22:6** – *Train up a child in the way he should go. And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Author Unknown

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