

Take Your Children to Church

by Bro. Robert Varn
Neptune Beach, Florida

My mother recently went home to be with God. All of my life she taught me many good lessons. She tutored me as a child with my school work. She also taught me how to cook and clean. She taught me to always send "Thank-you" notes as well as how to dress. All of these were great things my mother taught me, but the best thing my mother did for me was to take me to church.

From the time I was a baby until I was an adult, my mother took me to church. At church I learned about the Ten Commandments as well as Jesus Christ our Lord. I learned to do unto others as I would have them do unto me. Many children today are NOT tak-

en to church by their parents, and as a result society is crumbling.

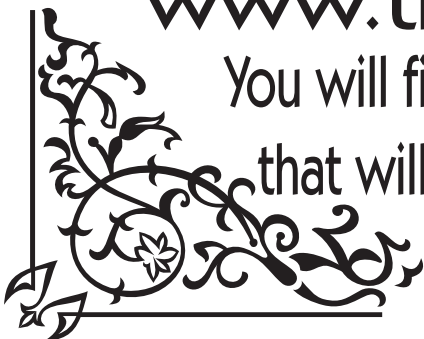
School shootings and stabbings are the norm as there is no respect for life. As a child growing up in church, I learned about the value of life and that all life is precious. I learned that all life is precious, from the unborn child in the womb to the elderly citizen. We were taught that abortion is wrong, and the Lord has burdened my heart to dedicate my life to saving the lives of unborn children.

As I close, I will quote from an old commercial, "You take your kids to a lot of places; why don't you take them to church?"

Please take your children to church so that they may have a good foundation. Be sure you take them to a church where the Bible is clearly taught and the pastor does not compromise with the world and worldly ways. Be sure he takes a clear, open stand for the lives of unborn children, clearly preaching about the sins of abortion, homosexuality, divorce and remarriage, and other issues that are ignored in many pulpits today! The preaching I heard when I was growing up in Waycross, Georgia drew me closer to Jesus, and made me a better man.

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Storms, Rainbows, and Morning Glorys!

by Sis. Martha Gravesen
Rensselaer, Indiana

The storm moved out just past mid-night,

Leaving the meadows wet and spongy,

Plant life, a bent and tangled mass, covered the ground.

Since sunup, the warm "rays" and wind,

Slowed now to a gentle breeze, Have been "working" earth's garden... warming...embracing...reviving.

Flowers, layed low by fierce wind and pelting rain,

Lift their tiny faces off the ground, and reach for heaven.

Slight breezes surround solitary stems,

And flowering clusters alike, lifting...

Some shake themselves off and bounce right back,

Others more slowly, in stages, in varying degrees of density,

Layering hillsides, valley, and dales,

With color depth and incredible

beauty.

The storm is forgotten!

We too, have our stormy midnights, times of pain and helplessness, when fear and depression give strength to, and put scary monster-faces on shadows. Times, when like the little sparrow, we cling to the roof-top, tossed about and whipped by the storm.

"My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread...I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert. I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top." (Psalm 102:4, 6, 7).

How small and helpless we feel in the midst of the thundering storm. How BIG is the roof-top compared to our sparrow-like smallness. During such times in his life, David turned to God for renewed strength. Certainly David had his lonely times, his troubled times, dark and frightful nights.

We all have our rainy seasons, heart-ache, and sad times. Perhaps we are grieving over the loss of a loved one, a dear face and smile so much a part of our lives now gone! Or we may be experiencing a storm caused by financial burdens or illness.

Maybe a child has turned in the wrong direction, or you have loneliness within a marriage. Sometimes our greatest disappointment enters our lives, disguised as our fondest dream. Sadly, disappointing one another is what we human beings do best. We forget God has not lost sight of our plight. We forget His promised rainbow; we fail to remember the morning glory.

The storms WILL move out; the morning WILL come; the meadows WILL whiten with daisies; the sun **will** glisten against the morning dew!!

And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not,

And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

Then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

Deuteronomy 6:10-13