

HELEN SANDERS

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A TRIBUTE TO MOTHERS

One of the greatest gifts that God has given me is the name Mother. I am thankful that he blessed me with children. I gave birth to four and love to four more.

There are those reading this that never had that opportunity. They may have never married, or they weren't able to conceive. Mother's Day is a hard day for them. Their arms are empty. My heart goes out to those in that place. I pray that God touches you today, and every day.

Being a mother is a great responsibility. I often think of Jesus' mother Mary and how difficult it was being pregnant, even though she and Joseph had not come together intimately. The scorn, the mockery, the ridicule. Yet, she endured the shame to be able to raise our savior to manhood and his destiny.

She was there from the beginning and was there at the end when he died on the cross. The prophecy that Simeon gave over her when Jesus was dedicated at the temple as a baby came to pass when he told her in Luke 3:35 that ***"a sword would pierce through thy soul."***

Mary was an ordinary woman chosen by God to carry Jesus close to her heart for nine months but later received salvation through his name. What an honor for her to not only raise Jesus in the natural, but to see him raised from the dead, trusting that God had a plan. Mary was also in the upper room when the 120 were baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Like Mary, many mothers down through the centuries have seen their children cut off from life too early. Some mothers lost their sons and daughters through war, and others from accidental death. There is no way to understand one's grief when they lose someone so close to their heart. Yet, that grief is overshadowed by the fact that they will see that child again when they have chosen the path to salvation through Jesus. Death is only temporary for those mothers.

I am privileged to know that I have also been "a mother" to many that received salvation through my witness. That is a sacred gift from God, leading a "son" or "daughter" to Christ.

As we celebrate Mother's Day today, be encouraged that your prayers do not go unanswered. Mothers, pray that God will send someone to speak to your unsaved children, and you do the same for another mother. Let's add as many souls to the family of God as we can. Then, be a mother to these new babes in Christ, and help them grow in grace.

In closing, let's look at what Proverbs 31:28 says about being a godly mother, ***"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."*** Have a blessed Mother's Day