

## MEDITATION FOR MOTHERS

Mrs. Gordon Graham

As Mother's Day approaches my mind has been drawn to the need of Christian mothers in our present day world. To-day we are living in a fast space age, mothers it seems along with everyone else have been caught up in the whirl of everyday living, working outside the home to help replenish an already strained budget, in the home, with added community activities, trying to keep pace with a fast moving world, until the real purpose for which they were created is put in the background, here I refer to 1st Timothy 5; 14 "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house". While this task given to women is no easy one, God has given mother one of the most trustworthy positions in our nation. What task is more important than being entrusted with little lives in our homes to guide in the right path and at such a tender age they really seem to reach out in their search of a knowledge for God and if given the right direction at this age, they seldom go astray for the scripture says "train up a child in the way he shall go and when he is old he will not depart from it". Some interpret this to mean he is an old man and has wasted his life in sin he will not depart from it, but I like to reach out in faith and believe God means when he is old enough to make a choice he will not depart from it. This was the case with Moses and Timothy. I feel it is quite late after we have influenced our children and grandchildren's lives by living for self and sin in this case we can only expect to reap what we have sown.

I well recall on one occasion in our home hearing one of the boys about five years old sobbing after he went to bed until finally I went to him and asked the trouble, he lifted a tear stained little face and said "I would like to be saved". So right there we had a little prayer meeting and he was soon sleeping in peace.

To-day as a young man he is still serving the Lord and has never faltered from the way. All praise to the Lord our God for his keeping power, to him be all the glory.

I would encourage young mothers to take your children to church as much as possible, true it is tiring and you may miss

some of the message but this is part of guiding the house, what they learn to love when small will act as an anchor later on. I am thankful that I live in the country where these little wigglers are always welcome, it is not always the case in some of our city churches but I feel to frown on a mother bringing her children to church reminds me of the disciples when they frowned on the mothers in their day trying to bring their children to Jesus to be blessed. I believe Jesus still smiles and says "Bring them to me and forbid them not." Of course children must be properly taught, it is no excuse to bring them and permit them to make a disturbance and attract more attention than the minister or to permit them to move about in the aisle while the service is in they can and must be taught respect for God's house and the younger the better. They will soon find out they are not coming to church to be entertained but to worship God if we assume the proper attitude ourselves. I remember when a girl a United Baptist couple came to church every Sunday with five little boys, the oldest about seven years old — not once all through the service was there one whisper, nor did they even turn their heads to look behind them, these children were well trained and is something many of us would do well to take a pattern from.

I well remember the struggle at our house to get five or more little ones ready every Sunday for church and Sunday school and in our race with the clock there would many times be that search for a missing shoe but it has paid the best dividends that we ever invested in for as I see them grown up and taking their place in Christian service my heart rejoices in the Lord our God who gives new strength for every occasion and courage for life's battles.

In Psalm 127:3 we read "Lo children are a heritage of the Lord". What are we as mothers doing for our heritage? Our decision will not only determine the kind of homes we will have, but also the kind of churches, communities, cities and the kind of a world we will have to live in.

In order to properly guard our heritage they must be continually surrounded by prayer. I strongly endorse the family altar with dad as the head of the house reading the word of God and the children present, as you bring each name daily to Him in

malaria cases having to be matched with only 33 beds.

Mr. Hudson told my colleague in Wankie that the incidence of Malaria this year has been abnormal. This is due to heavy rain leaving pools as breeding places, and also to the large number of Africans now working on the roads, at the airport and at the Falls Casino.

The mission is 29 miles from the Falls and 50 miles from Wankie, and stretches to Kasungula. It is run by 5 Europeans.

Dr. Storer Emmett is the medical superintendent. Miss Uta Chase and Mrs. Hudson do the nursing, train the African nurses and somehow manage to run their homes.

Mr. Hudson is head of Administration, headmaster of the school of more than 200 pupils, building overseer, mechanic, and as he says "general factotum". His work includes administering 10 outpost schools.

Miss Chase has been at the mission 8 years.

She has seen it grow to a campus of 6 school buildings, 3 hospital blocks, and 4 European houses.

Dr. and Mrs. Emmett have 4 children. The eldest is 6. The oldest of the 4 Hudson children is 4.

The Government has recognized the fine work the mission is doing and has offered

prayer. When they are infants pray out loud, a little prayer for them as you tuck them in bed for the night, they will soon catch on that this is something special and look for it, if you practice this custom each night. These jewels entrusted into our care are one of our most priceless possessions and why should we allow the devil to have any of our children, let us as mothers carefully and prayerfully guard our heritage and then look to Jesus in faith for the results and he will put a hedge about them that the devil cannot get through. Do any of us feel it is too much labour? 1st Corinthians 15:48 the latter part reads "Forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I would like to close with this poem which I dedicate to my husband's mother who was a great source of Christian strength to us in the early years of our marriage before she passed on. So many times I found her in prayer and she prayed with us and for us at Family altar.

I can see her in twilight  
At the closing of the day  
Mother reading from the Bible  
As for me she knelt to pray

Save them blessed Lord and keep them  
They're my jewels pure and sweet  
Don't let satan ever taint them  
As they worship at Thy feet

They grow up so fast dear Father  
Soon away from home they'll be  
And I can no longer guide them  
So I trust them Lord to Thee

They're my heritage dear Father  
As Thy precious word declares  
Help me win them all for Jesus  
And she'd name us in her prayers

Maybe you have souls that's straying  
Children who are out in sin  
Let us all kneel down that's mothers  
Pray 'till Jesus brings them in.

(PS)

This can be used as a mother's day hymn for children in the tune of "When his glory paints the sky" with the second verse as the chorus.

a £ for £ grant towards a TB block with 30 beds (the estimated cost is £3000).

The chief support for Bethesda comes from the Reformed Baptist Churches of Canada.

The Round Table of Livingstone and Scotland want to help Bethesda buy an ambulance. A figure of 1400 is mentioned — if the Scots can get their money out of Britain.

Thought this might be of interest.

Yours faithfully,

Cheryl Hudson.

## The King's Highway

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## FOREIGN MISSIONS

Bethesda Mission,  
P.O. Victoria Falls,  
19-4-66

Dear Bro. Trafton,

The following is a copy of an article that appeared in the April 7 edition of the Bulawayo Chronicle, a daily newspaper of this area. We thought that perhaps some of the people at home might be interested in it through the Highway. Sorry not to send the paper clipping but we were able only to get the one copy and would like to keep it.

### MISSION LIFE IS HARDLY A QUIET ONE

Where did I get the idea that life on a mission station in the Rhodesian veld was a peaceful, timeless existence? It is an idea that has been shattered by a recent account of life on a typical Rhodesian mission: Bethesda, about 29 miles from the Falls.

Take the mission's hospital. Two and sometimes three adults share one bed; three and often four children lie crosswise in cribs; more patients lying on the floor and under the beds.

That account comes from the Rev. Gene Hudson, who calls himself the "general factotum" at this Canadian-sponsored mission.

The crush in the hospital was due to 147