

The Voyager

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We Celebrate the Importance of Mothers

By Sister Barbara Hilliard



Indeed this is a familiar verse and a very appropriate reminder of the significance of Mother's Day as we prepare to celebrate and honor mothers and motherhood. First created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 as a day to honor one's mother, Jarvis wanted to make her mother's dream a reality for all mothers. Through her persistence, President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day an official holiday in 1914. The majority of countries that celebrate Mother's Day do so on the second Sunday of May.

As we celebrate mothers and motherhood, we are reminded of the reason for honoring mothers here at Mount Helm. We see in them many of the qualities that are the focus of Proverbs 31:10-12; 25-31. The ideal wife "is more precious than jewels...She rewards him with good, not evil, all the days of her life." She does many things to support her household. She shares her wisdom with her children and enjoys a good reputation in the community and in her household. "Her sons rise up and call her blessed. Her husband also praises her. Many women are capable but she [you] surpasses them all." We are reminded that "Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord will be praised. Give her the reward of her labor, and let her works praise her at the city gates."

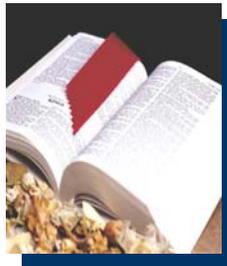
Thus, we say "HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY" to all mothers of Mount Helm.

*Honor your father
and your mother, as
the LORD your God
has commanded you,
so that you may live
long and so that you
may prosper in the
land the Lord your
God is giving you.*

Deuteronomy 5:16

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Praying Mother	2
Tributes to Mt. Helm Moms	3
Yo Momma	4
We Salute	5
National Day of Prayer	5-6
On the Horizon...	6



400th Anniversary of the King James Bible

Paraphrased by Charles Holmes from *USA Today*

This year marks the 400th year of the 1611 Version of the King James Elizabethan English Bible. Lifeway Research of Nashville is a Christian research agency which conducted a survey designed to help reveal the impact of the King James translation.

Their research indicated that **of the 89% of U.S. adults who own at least one Bible, 67% own a King James.** Although there are more than two dozen English language Bibles in many contem-

porary translations, **82% of those readers at least once a month read in the 1611 translation.** The survey noted that age makes a difference. Seventy-six percent of bible owners 55 and older have a King James Version as compared with only 56% of those readers 35 and under.

When Lifeway asked readers about their experiences with the more archaic phrasing, many called it "beautiful" 31%; some said "long to remember" (23%). Others called it hard to understand (27%) or outdated (16%). Finally, about 20% of those under age 35 reported trouble understanding it, compared

with approximately three in ten of their elders.

One of the lead project researchers for Lifeway said, "Christians believe that God's word is truth and that truth is conveyed through languages — these translations have always been integral to the spread of Christianity." He added, **"It is hard to overstate the influence of the King James Version."**

EDITORIAL NOTE: This survey was conducted from March 2-6, 2011 and included 1,007 adult respondents. One may see a video on the King James Version of the Bible on your smartphone. Download the Microsoft Tag Reader App at <http://getting.musi.com>. The video is also available on the web at www.usatoday.com.



Martha Reed Named 2011 Mother of the Year by Deltas

The Madison County (MS) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., has named Sis. Martha

Thompson Reed as the **2011 Mother of the Year.** The honor was bestowed as a part of the Chapter's signature event, "A Morning with Minerva." The breakfast celebration was held April 16 at Pilgrim Rest M.B. Church to recognize the achievements and public service of women in Madison County and to raise funds for the Chapter's scholarship fund and educational programs.

Reed was selected by a panel of judges from among nine finalists — who were all described as, "... amazing mothers who have contributed greatly to their communities.



There's Power in Prayer

By Pastor C. Edward Rhodes, II

I thank God for a praying mother. When I was less than a year old momma dedicated me back to God. After finding me “reading” from a large, white leather bound KJV Bible I somehow pulled from the shelf, she lifted me to heaven and offered me as a gift to the Giver of Life. I’ve had many doubtful, fearful, and painful moments since then but I believe my unwavering faith in things not seen has a lot to do with her prayers, then and now.

I believe all of us can testify that we’re here today because somebody prayed for us. In his National Day of Prayer Proclamation, President Obama stated “Throughout our history, Americans have turned to prayer for strength, inspiration, and solidarity.” Indeed prayer warriors in our lives have offered us strength, inspiration, and solidarity through their intercessions. When I think about the Freedom Riders, whose courageous acts of faith we celebrate this month, and countless other everyday heroes and heroines, I think about the sustaining power of prayer.

Prayer changes things. Prayer changes people. Prayer is power!

In a recent interview with Oprah, Obama confessed that the presidency has helped him pray without ceasing. I can attest that the blessings and burdens of pastoring keep me on my knees too. While being led by the Spirit, I know that any courage I have is fear that has said its prayers. *Whatever your burden, take it to the Lord in prayer. Whatever your blessing, take it to the Lord in prayer.* I’m a witness that God hears and responds when we pray.

My prayer for you, beloved, is that “the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you [...] and his incomparably great power for us who believe.” (Eph 1:18-19) Be strengthened, inspired, and sustained through our prayer-hearing, prayer-answering God. There’s power in prayer.

And let the Church say, “Amen!”

Going Deeper Resources to help you go deeper in your prayer life



This new monthly feature will offer resources on a variety of topics to help you to go “deeper, deeper and higher, higher” in your journey as a follower of Christ.

E.M. Bounds on Prayer
by E.M. Bounds

The Power of a Woman’s Words
by Sharon Joyner

The Lord’s Prayer: Insight and Inspiration to Draw You Closer to Him
by R.T. Kendall

Lord, Teach Me to Pray in 28 Days
by Kay Arthur

Prayers and Promises: For Mothers
by Rachel Quillin and Nancy Farmer

Prayers that Bring Healing
by John Eckhardt

Fasting: Opening the Door to a Deeper, More Intimate, More Powerful Relationship with God
By Jentzen Franklin

A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals
By Shane Claiborne, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, and Eunemo Okora



Poetic Tributes to Mt. Helm Moms

WITHOUT YOU

Mom, without you there would be no me.
 Your love, your attention, your guidance
 Have made me who I am.
 Without you, I would be lost,
 Wandering aimlessly,
 Without direction or purpose.
 You showed me the way
 To serve, to accomplish, to persevere.
 Without you, there would be no empty space
 I could never fill, no matter how I tried.
 Instead, because of you,
 I have joy, contentment, satisfaction and peace.
 Thank you, Mom.
 I have always loved you and I always will.
 Kyle Lampley

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY, MOM

Mom, You are very awesome!
 You are loving and always there when I need you.
 You never give up on me and believe in all my dreams.
 You follow me all the way through life.
 When I get in trouble here and now,
 They always teach me life-long lessons I can never forget.
 You are the best MOM a daughter could ever wish for
 Thanks for all you do, Mom.
 You're the best!!
 I LOVE YOU!
 Love,
 Lauren Davis

SUPER MOM

Hey Momma, I have something to tell you.
 You win the "Mother of the Year" Award in my book.
 You are the best mom I could ever ask for.
 You are always there by my side
 No matter what or what the situation is.
 Mom, I am so thankful to have you in my life
 To support me through school and band,
 And all those late night projects and band competitions and
 other activities.
 I just want to say THANK YOU, MOMMA.
 Even though we have our disagreements and arguments,
 You are always there when I need you--
 Through the good and bad times.
 Mom, you are the best!
 I could not ask for a better Momma than you.

 I LOVE YOU MOMMA!
 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
 Alexandria Jence Davis

SUPER MOM

Mom, you're a wonderful mother—
 So gentle, yet so strong,
 The many ways you show you care
 Always make me feel I belong.
 You're patient when I'm foolish;
 You give guidance when I ask;
 It seems you can do most anything;
 You're the master of every task.
 You're a dependable source of comfort;
 You're my cushion when I fall.
 You help in times of trouble;
 You support me whenever I call.
 I love you more than you know;
 You have my total respect.
 If I had a choice of mothers,
 You'd be the one I'd select!
 --Matthew Lampley



Yo Momma!

by Angela Norwood



Yo Momma so ugly. I took her to a haunted house and she came out with a job application. Yo Momma so fat she's on both sides of the family. Yo momma teeth is so yellow, when she went outside and smiled, cars slowed down.

No, I'm not talking about your mom. I'm talking about the now-cancelled MTV series, "Yo Momma". I recently watched a couple episodes, but if you never had the pleasure of catching the show during its initial run or as a re-run, "Yo Momma" is a no-holds barred comedy competition, whereby trash-talkers are pitted against one another and insult their competitor's mother in order to win "cash money" and prizes. As you can tell, the jokes are mean and can get vulgar. However, shows such as "Yo Momma" do not repulse me, especially when compared to television's recent brand of lowbrow entertainment, but the show got me to thinking about the amount of respect and appreciation we show not only our own mothers, but also the institution of motherhood.

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, an "institution" is defined

as, "a significant practice, relationship, or organization in a society or culture: something or someone firmly associated with a place or thing." Indeed, motherhood is a social institution, whereby certain beliefs, customs, and laws influence how a woman should mother. These ideologies and traditions begin at a young age. Society tells parents to give little girls toys that inspire them to "play house", such as baby dolls, doll-houses and easy-bake ovens. Ultimately, all of this preparation and training culminates in the most stressful, and oftentimes, overlooked job on the planet.

Even most world religions have scriptural law and cannon regarding mothers and we need look no further than our own bibles for examples of the burdens mothers face. Eve, whose very name was inspired because she is "the mother of all living things" (Genesis 3:20), suffered the loss of her son Abel, who was killed by his brother, Cain (Genesis 4:8-9). Jochebed, the mother of Moses, loved him so, that when faced with Pharaoh's edict for the death of all Hebrew male children, hid him along the bank of the Nile, but eventually nursed him as an infant (Exodus 1:22

-2:10). The Canaanite woman in the Book of Matthew so desperately wanted to save her daughter that she faithfully and persistently pleaded for Jesus' help despite being rebuffed several times (Matthew 15:21-28). And finally, possibly the woman who suffered the most pain any mother could face, Mary, Jesus' mother, who watched as her son was tortured and crucified (John 19:25-27).

Motherhood deserves our highest esteem, especially in light of the evolving attitudes and social roles of mothers. More than at any other time in history, mothers are employed, and sometimes they are the sole breadwinners in their households. They take the responsibility for their home and children. This is no small feat when you consider that there are only 24 hours in a day to attend to one's work schedule, children's stuffy noses, an irritable spouse, clingy friends, and unending civic and extracurricular activities. As the saying goes, there is no "day off" from mothering.

So, mothers, when that special" day comes and you sit down to open yet another handwritten card, admire a wilted bouquet of flowers, or, if you are really lucky, stand in that long line outside the Piccadilly, take comfort in the fact that although someone may be making a "Yo Momma" joke about you, many wonderful mothers have gotten through this "job" and you are not alone. Your passion and vigor for your family is not in vain. Please keep up the good work -- we need it, even if we do not know it.

*Happy Mother's Day Vera Jean!
What you have taught me as a
child and shown me as a woman
keeps me going everyday with a
smile and a hop and a skip!*



We Salute...

MEMBER PROFILE:



Brian J. Wilks is the proud son of Willie and Patricia Wilks of Prentiss, Mississippi. Brian is a Sophomore Political Science Major, at Jackson State University. He is very charismatic and energetic young man. During his tenure as a student at Jackson State University, he served as a member of the Student Government Association. Brian has held three key leadership positions. Formerly he served as Freshman Class Senator, Religious Council Senator, and now one of the three justices of the judicial branch of the SGA. His leadership in each of these positions demonstrates his innate ability to complete tasks and facilitate others in the performance of those tasks with humility.

He is a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon honors society and was honored by the Gamma Rho Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority Inc for his leadership in service at JSU.

Brian possesses an unrivaled passion for civic service. He is active in the Political Science Club at Jackson State University. He is a regular volunteer at voting polls in his hometown of Prentiss, Mississippi. Most recently, he held an internship with the Mississippi Democratic Headquarters. While an intern at the headquarters, he was responsible for advocating the importance of voting in the November 2010 midterm elections. As part of his varied civic experiences, Brian has traveled to Washington, D.C. on several occasions advancing his strong political values. In the Fall of 2010, he traveled with the NAACP to represent Jackson State University in a round table discussion with top officials of President Obama's administration.

After graduation from JSU he plans to attend Mississippi State University to study public administration. One of Brian's goals is to become Mayor of his home town Prentiss, Mississippi.

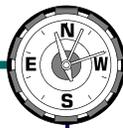
Brian realizes that all these accomplishments would be futile unless he acknowledges that his faith in God has made all things possible. His guiding principle is from Proverbs 3:5, "Lean not on your own understanding..." Brian is a recent member of Mount Helm where he plans to become more involved in the Church's ministries.

National Day of Prayer

The Annual National Day of Prayer, held on the first Thursday of May, has been designated by the United States Congress as a day when people are asked "to turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals".

Several past presidents have promoted this observance. President John Adams declared May 9, 1798 as "a day of solemn humility, fasting, and prayer," during which individuals of all faiths were asked to pray "that our country may be protected from all the dangers which threaten it." President Abraham Lincoln designated April 30, 1893 as a day of "humiliation, fasting and prayer". He stated in the proclamation, "...it is the duty of nations as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God. To confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord."





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**DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE EDITION
MAY 20, 2011**

To be good stewards of our resources we are seeking to keep printing/reproduction costs for the newsletter to a minimum.

The newsletter will be available online at www.mthelm.org as a downloadable pdf on the Monday following the first Sunday of each month. Printed copies will be made available to our sick and shut-in members and to those who do not have internet access. Please inform Sis. Hilliard if you require a printed copy.

Articles, photographs and notices of special events may be submitted to Sister Hilliard or to Sister Olivia Thomas. We look forward to expanding and increasing *The Voyager* and we thank you for your assistance and support.

The Voyager is a monthly newsletter published by Mt. Helm Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi.

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On the Horizon: MAY EVENTS

- 5 National Day of Prayer
- 8 Mother's Day
- 9 Brotherhood Bible Class Monthly Meeting
- 21 Armed Forces Day
- 30 Memorial Day
- 31-June 1 JPS Graduation Exercises



National Day of Prayer *continued*

In 1952, the law that formalized the observance was signed by President Harry S. Truman. In more recent years, the late Reverend Billy Graham promoted the idea of an annual National Day of Prayer during several crusades in the nation's capitol. In his 2009 National Day of Prayer Proclamation, President Barack Obama states,

It is in that spirit of unity and reflection that we once again designate the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer. Let us remember those who came before us, and let us each give thanks for the courage and compassion shown by so many in this country and around the world.

On this day of unity and prayer, let us also honor the service and sacrifice of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. We celebrate their commitment to uphold our highest ideals, and we recognize that it is because of them that we continue to live in a Nation where people of all faiths can worship or not worship according to the dictates of their conscience.

Let us also use this day to come together in a moment of peace and goodwill. Our world grows smaller by the day, and our varied beliefs can bring us together to feed the hungry and comfort the afflicted; to make peace where there is strife; and to lift up those who have fallen on hard times. As we observe this day of prayer, we remember the one law that binds all great religions together: the Golden Rule, and its call to love one another; to understand one another; and to treat with dignity and respect those with whom we share a brief moment on this Earth.

As we note this national observance, we are reminded of the two stated intentions of the National Day of Prayer: (1) that it would be a day when adherents of all religions could unite in prayer; and (2) that it may one day bring renewed respect for God to all the peoples of the world.

And My people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land. My eyes will now be open and My ears attentive to prayer from this place. II Chronicles 7:14-15