



“I OWE TO MY MOTHER”

“All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother” —Abraham Lincoln

I'm sure most of us would agree with Abraham Lincoln, “All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.” Her example of endurance through storms, her unconditional love, her compassion, her protection has always been an example to all of humanity.

The most precious gift my mother has given to me was introducing me to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. She took my brother and me to church every Sunday. She taught me to pray through every storm. She loved me unconditionally when the world was against me. She protected me the best she could. She has been my constant, stable friend. No one can take the place of your mother. Cherish her if you still have her. Treat every woman as if she was her. The world would be a better place if we understood this. All that I am and all I ever hope to be I owe to my mother. I pray that God would comfort you in this season as we celebrate mothers and the women in our lives.

by Bishop Larry Mack

SHE IS A MOTHER

She carries a heart full of love
Her beauty is unmatched
Her understanding runs deep

She guides and teaches
She gives answers that are needed
She exemplifies God's love

She does difficult things with grace
She encourages and inspires
No one else can compare to her

She is immensely powerful
She has a heart of gold
She is extraordinary

She is a Woman
She is a Sister
She is a friend
She is a Mother

by Sister Jenai Whitmore

MOTHER DEFINES A PERSON AND AN ACT

There is a distinct difference between mother as a noun, versus mother as a verb. The conventional definition of mother, as a noun, is the woman who gave birth to a child. Mother, as a verb, refers to the act of raising a child with care and affection, also referred to as “mothering.” It is important to note that the person giving birth and the person bringing up a child may not always be the same person. It is equally important to note both do not have to be biological or a woman.

The world is packed with “mothers” who did not receive a “push present” when the child or children they love came into their lives! And yet, they are no less a “mother” than the one who gave birth. That's why the Merriam Webster dictionary, and a host of other dictionaries, should add a more inclusive addendum to define who and what is a mother.

Who is a mother? Anyone who inhabits or performs the role of rearing children or fulfills the main societal role in raising a child. What is a mother? Someone who makes amazing contributions to someone's life and immeasurable sacrifices for that life. Just because you're not a biological mother doesn't mean you're not a “mother” in other ways. When you choose to love...even when it's hard, and you choose to give...even when you don't feel like it, you possess special skills that make you a mother!

Since 1914, Mother's Day has become a yearly celebration of women who have dedicated themselves to someone's life and well-being. As true as that is, “mother” defines so many more individuals; the adoptive mother, the “bonus” mother, the foster mother, the grandparent, and yes...the single father. A “mother” can be any person who simulates the role of a conventional Mom, Mama, Ma, Mommy, and in today's day and time, “Big Momma.”

We all need to be mothered or cared for, even as adults. It translates into being loved, understood, heard, seen, and felt. On Mother's Day, traditionally, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, godmothers, and sisters are lavished with praise for their role in raising children. However, everyone and anyone who has shared the momentous task of raising a child also deserves some well-earned appreciation and recognition.

This Mother 's Day, amid the shout-outs, songs, and Facebook salutations to celebrate the traditional recipients; let's include that sibling, close or distant relative, best friend, counselor, neighbor, and pastor, who...in some way...defines “mother” as the person and the act!

Happy “Mother's” Day!

by Sister Marsha Jenkins-Sanders

Editorial Team

newsletter@greaterdreamschurch.org

Editor: Deacon Norman Haygood
Advisor: Elder Dr. Thea Hines
Assistant Editor: Sister Jacqueline Robinson
Reporter/writer: Sister Nandi Mandisa
Reporter/writer: Brother Ron Williams
Writer/proofreader: Sister Marsha Jenkins Sanders
Writer: Minister Rickie Constantennia
Layout/graphics: Minister Paul Travis
Digital Coordinator: Minister Steve McCogle
Toledo Editor: Minister Brenda Hailey

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: Mother Angela Hopkins



Mother Angela Hopkin's friendly smile and pleasant demeanor welcomes members and visitors alike, each Sunday at Greater Dreams Church (GDC). She's been affiliated with Bishop Mack's ministry since about 2004 and joined GDC more than a decade ago.

Known as a loving presence at GDC, Mother Angela serves on the Connection Team (previously Hospitality Ministry). Along with a few other members, she stepped in to fill the need because she noticed how important it is to extend a welcome to first-time visitors. She also serves in the Keepers of the House Ministry, ensuring that the church is in order and prepared for each service. Passionate about the things of God, Mother Angela is enrolled in GDC's Restoration Theological Seminary and is working towards a ministerial degree.

At the tender age of 19, Mother Angela started working at the post office. She served as a postal worker for 30 years. "It was a hard job, but I didn't complain. We always had a roof over our head and food on our table," she said. After retirement, the Lord opened the door for her to earn two associate degrees from Henry Ford Community College. It blessed Mother Angela to know that "you can still reach your dreams even if they are deferred."

Greater Dreams has been transformational for Mother Angela and her walk with Christ. "I went to a few churches, trying to find my way, but wasn't getting what I needed," she said. Her sister-in-law told her about Bishop Larry Mack. She took note of the suggestion but was still visiting other churches. "I was a mail carrier and I prayed and asked the Lord to lead me to a church," she said. That's when she saw flyers in her mailbag for the church Bishop Mack was presiding over at the time. Mother Angela joined that church, and eventually became a member of Greater Dreams Church.

She appreciates how Bishop is always "teaching and encouraging the congregation to have their own personal relationship with Christ. (He is) so open and so down to earth, it gave me courage and hope that you can have the same thing too," she said. "Some people think that you have to be on a certain level to have this relationship and get the blessings. But when you go through things the Lord is with you like he is with any other minister."

When it comes to the future, Mother Angela wants to travel to the Holy Land, and be immersed in and experience the history of Christ by visiting places that are significant and correspond with her studies in the Word. "I would love to see the temples, and the prisons Paul was in, and the temple where they brought baby Jesus. I would love to put my feet in the Nile River," Mother Angela shared.

Mother Angela loves to read historical books about the Tudor era of the kings and queens. She explains that you can get an understanding regarding some of our religious traditions and customs and see how the church came to be. She also enjoys reading about Black History and books on African American Religion. Additionally, she says, "I am passionate about my community. I like to see the young people succeed."

Of all her blessings, Mother Angela is extremely thankful for being able to worship in the sanctuary and fellowship in person. It also means the world to her to be able to pray in the Spirit and to stand in the gap for everybody. "I can't find the words to express how wonderful and blessed I feel to be amongst the wonderful people and my Spiritual family at GDC."

Mother Angela lives in Inkster and has two daughters, Keva and Kyra, also living in Michigan. Her granddaughter and six grandsons are her "greatest pride and joy".

JUST FOR FUN

Gardening, Wheel of Fortune fan, being with her family

WORDS TO LIVE BY

Always treat people with respect because you never know...that may be the very person that saves your life.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 30:8 (KJV): And David inquired at the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

POET'S CORNER:
You Can Run but You Can't Hide!!! by Sister D'aira Lewis

You can run but you cannot hide
In God's solace presence is where I desire to reside
There is a peace some search for forever, but in Him you can find
Healing for your heart, body, soul, and mind
No matter how long you try to ignore the call
Knowing that God wants you to give Him your all
Jonah was just like that!!!
Running from God's word
Even though he was certain he heard what he heard
See stories in the Bible are just like us
It gives us direction and guidance, what a plus
If you know it's time to turn in your running shoes
And God is truly asking you to choose
What do you do?
Can you drop everything and serve God with all of you?
He is waiting to love you better than anyone else can
Waiting with a stretched-out hand
You can run but you can't hide
In God's solace presence is where I desire to reside
Do you dream to live eternally in peace, love, and kindness?
Don't you know in Him you can have it and nothing less
God wants our best...
best effort
Best tithes
Best communicate
Best Love
He will give you the same
I pray that this is the day you stop running in Jesus' name!!!

JUST FOR FUN: Three Pastors

One day in Detroit, three pastors got together for coffee and found all their churches had bat infestation problems. "I got so mad, I took a shotgun and fired at them. It made holes in the ceiling but did nothing to the bats," said Pastor Johnson. Pastor Smith said, "I trapped them alive. Then I drove 50 miles before releasing them, but they returned." "I haven't had any more problems," said Pastor Stephens. "What did you do?" asked the others in amazement. "I simply baptized and confirmed them," he replied. "I haven't seen them since."
submitted by Yvonne Woodson



Birthdays:
Angelique Brown- 4/1, Brian Steele- 4/3, Isaac Hood Sr.- 4/4, Toria McCoggle- 4/8, Elder Michael Hailey- 4/17 (Toledo), Deaconess Teri Williams- 4/12, Denise Mitchell- 4/21 (Toledo), Jane Elekonich- 4/23 (Toledo), Minister Paul Travis- 4/25, Joyce Whittington- 4/27 (Toledo), April Dotson- 4/28 (Toledo), Christina Nesbitt- 5/1, Chrystal Dotson- 5/1 (Toledo), Chris Dotson- 5/1 (Toledo), Dei Echols Mason- 5/3, Elder Dr. Thea Hines- 5/6, Josephine King- 5/6, Michelle Smith- 5/9 (Toledo), Kenya Gold- 5/10, Minister Sharon Gamble- 5/25 (Toledo), Sherry Rush- 5/3

Anniversaries:
James & Lynell Jefferson- 4/25 (Toledo)

Sending Prayers Of Healing And Restoration To:
Wayne, MI
Healing miracle for Brother Karl Kersey who has been diagnosed with a blood disease called, "Myelodysplasia Syndrome" and will need a bone marrow transplant.

Sister Earnestine Hill-Buchanan's husband, David T. Buchanan, in hospital.

Toledo, OH
Sister Alexis Lee for the pre-mature birth of Semaj Lee who is out of ICU and still in Cleveland Clinic.

by Sister Jacqueline Robinson