

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Mother's Day at church

(Jerry Fite)

Our word, “church” is from the Old English and German, “kirche”. It has its root in the Greek word, “kuriakos” which denotes that which is “pertaining to the Lord”. Regular assembling of the saints for worship and exhortation pertains to the Lord for He commands His people to assemble for these purposes (*Hebrews 10:24-25*). We use the term “at church” not to emphasize the “building”, though it is a place for assembling, but to focus on the gathering of God’s people.

Men and women, husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, and boy and girls assemble not only on the first day of the week, which is “the Lord’s day” (*Revelation 1:10, Acts 20:7*); but gather at other times with one accord to learn more of God’s word and offering prayers in time of need (*Acts 2:46, 12:5, 12*). Mothers gathering as Christians often have the added responsibility of caring for children in those assemblies. What is their day like?

Wives and mothers are ordained by God to manage the af-

fairs of their household (*1 Timothy 5:14*). She does not usurp her husband’s headship, but as a help to her husband, she assists him as a manager.

The mother’s management skills often come to light early on a Sunday morning. The baby or babies need to be fed, changed, and dressed. All must head to the car, be buckled in for departure so all can be in their respective classes before 9:00 A.M. That is the goal, but a last minute dirty diaper, spit up, or “I can’t find my shoes” cry from an older sibling can make a mother feel less than efficient as she frantically makes last minute adjustments.

Mother has gathered with the saints, who assemble to engage the mind and heart in worshipping God and building up each other in the Lord. The mother as a Christian participates, but is constantly on guard so her children will not be a distraction in the worship services. So, a trip, or perish the thought, multiple trips to the cry room may be needed. Is this not also a distraction?

Those assembled know you are not only considering others, but you are also training your child to sit quietly. Dear mothers, the look you are getting as you depart is one of respect, and thankfulness. Meet the needs of your child; we will get back to concentrating on why we assembled.

When the services end, the little ones interact. The mother, who is a Christian has put on humility and kindness along with meekness and longsuffering (*Colossians 3:12*). These qualities help ease situations when children accuse other children of pushing, hitting or grabbing. Humility surfaces as accusations rise in identifying your child as the instigator. Forgiveness with kindness is extended to the other mother when your child is found innocent. Longsuffering kicks in so you can cope with perceived injustices.

A mother’s management skills, perseverance in training, and meekness shine on her day at church. To all our godly mothers, we thank you for who you are and what you do!