

## Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren

Today my Granddaughter sent me a picture of my two great grandchildren in Colorado sitting on the floor each writing me a letter. This made me so happy. I have written to them on occasion, and it has brought me so much joy to do so, but now they are writing to me. I have always loved writing and to see them writing back is making my day. At one point in my life, I wrote a lot of poetry. I enjoyed it and it was a way to express my feelings at that point in my life. I realized later that my children would be reading that some day when I was gone and so I tore it up and burned it. I did not want my final words to them to be as troubled as I was at that point in my life. I want them to remember me as the loving mother who could handle anything not as a woman unhappy and filled with regrets and sorrow. We all go through the hills and valleys of a lifetime. In those times I have learned to turn to God. He is there waiting to take our burdens and renew us, to give us strength. I still write when I am sad only now, I take it to God also. There is something about my writing it down and then getting rid of it that helps me. Through writing I can clarify it and then give it to God. It helped when my husband had Alzheimer's. I could express my frustrations and problems on paper and then toss it when I felt better.

When we were in Israel we went to the "Wailing Wall" in Jerusalem. It is the last wall of the temple. It is said that you can write your prayers down on a piece of paper, place it in the crevices of the wall and leave it there. God will receive it and know your prayer. We can take our sorrows and joys to the foot of the cross and they will be gone from us. Our mortal problem (at least for some of us) is that we pick them up again. We need to give them to God and leave them. To trust in a God that answers our prayers. Sometimes we don't like the answer. but God will help us through our problems. He is listening. I need to tend to my prayer life better and to remember to say thank you to a loving God that has seen me through so much. At 89 I can truly say that my joys and God's loving care have far exceeded my sorrows. I still have notes from my grandchildren, one complaining that I had put a snake in their beds (plastic and very fake) and they were planning revenge. They were getting ready for bed and Grandma was playing with them. The three of them were and still are my joy. I have been blessed to have them close to me when they were younger and then as they moved, we took trips but managed to see them monthly. Our grandson is always close by and my go to person for computer problems. Although my grandson in law in Colorado does phone consultations. One granddaughter is in Illinois with one great grandson, the other is currently in Colorado but moving soon to Florida. The joy they and their parents have brought to my life is immeasurable. I am blessed.

We thank you Lord for this day and for the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren you bring into our lives. You bless us so much with the gift of babies however they come to us. Be with them, watch over them and keep them safe. Be with our church, may it be your church and may those who come seeking you find you in our services, in each of us and in our pews. Be with our Pastor and his family. Bless them and keep them safe. Be with our leaders and staff bless their work. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

23rd Psalm the Lord is my shepherd I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.