

REFLECTIONS

June 26, 2005

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:17

A Father's Blessing

We celebrated Fathers' Day early this year. The travel schedules of the fathers in our family conflicted with a celebration on the appointed day. So we gathered with our sons and their families for a light supper on Saturday evening. The occasion was brief but joyful. We sat around laughing as we recalled stories from yesteryear that were funny then; and we remembered times that were challenging in those days that we can laugh about now.

Laughter or not, being with my sons always brings me great joy. I feel so blessed to have them and to see what they have become. Growing up, they were happy boys; both excelled in athletics, each eventually competing at a college level; they were committed students; they were honorable in their dealings with others, and they were no more mischievous than boys usually are.

With my boys that evening sat the fruits of their labors, and it is clear that the fruit is not falling very far from the tree. Our grandchildren are happy children; they excel in their endeavors with the potential to extend them beyond their high school days; they are committed students; they are honorable in their dealings with others, and they are no more mischievous than kids their ages usually are.

As I think of my boys, I feel a warmth in my heart. They love the Lord; they lead lives that are honorable; they are wonderful husbands and exceptional fathers. My eyes become wet with joy to feel the love I have for them.

I wonder if God felt that way as He proclaimed His blessing on His Son that day? And can you feel how uplifting it must have been for Jesus to have his Father's blessing announced to all the world?

David and Phillip are my sons, whom I love; with them I am well pleased.

I must remember to tell them that more often.

You are the light of the world,

Richard +