

On behalf of Dad and our family I would like to express our appreciation—

To Every one of you who are here and for those who are watching the broadcast.
To Bishop White and the Rock Creek Ward members for rendering service to Mom, Dad, and our family
To the Relief Society sisters for preparing the meal for us this afternoon.
To Family, Friends, and neighbors who have reached out to us.

Thank you all for sharing your **condolences and your memories of Mom** with us. It means a lot. Thank you.

I want to express special appreciation to my sister **Julie** for her hours of service to our mother and to **Josie** for her medical expertise and her service to her grandmother.
Also, appreciation goes to my nieces **Josie, Rachel, and Amy** and my nephew **TJ**. Having them present the day Mom passed and witnessing them utilize their skills, hands, and hearts to serve and take care of their grandmother was amazing and a blessing. Thank you.

Well...true to form...**Dad** lined me out the other day:

He said, "Just get up there and say that it has been a good ride, Mom and I have a good family... And then sit down."

Dad has never been one for long church meetings.

I will do my best...but as you know we are talking about a pretty incredible woman...

Of Mom, Dad did say, "**Whatever she did it was done right!**"
And, "She was instrumental in creating a great family!"

We love you Dad and appreciate all that you have done for Mom and for us...

In 1978—Mom decided to start this **journal**. She is 41 years old...and **at the height of motherhood**.

I would like to share a few of her entries to give us a glimpse into her life.

In the Spring she wrote:

—A beautiful day to start this journal. Sunny Sunday, green **grass** carpets outside, bright sun lighting a world clean from the **rains**.

The recent rains and today's bright sunshine make this a morning gorgeous to behold. I always enjoy the **grass and trees**. I walked outside early to breathe the fresh air and see if more garden plants are up.

We moved into the **family farmhouse** on Poleline Rd 10 years ago in April 1968. We have remodeled and added to it. **Cindy** (23) and Leon and two girls, Rachel and Amy Jo are at University of Washington. **Julie** is 20, Gina 18 1/2, both students at BYU. **Jayne** is 15, in 9th grade at TF Jr High and **Jerre** is 9, in 3rd grade at Harrison Elementary.

This summer Sandy and I made **Julie's** wedding dress, veil, bridesmaid dresses for **Cindy, Gina, and Jayne**. Also, I sewed my dress, a wedding dress for Gaylene, Julie's nurse's uniform, and a Sunday dress and t-shirt. Now I'm sewing for **Gina** before she goes back to college---5

blouses, 1 dress, 1 slacks, 1 skirt. Seems I can get a lot done when I have a deadline. I need to make some clothes for myself. Also, I want to get the farm bookwork up to date, clean drawers, fix my filing system and make genealogy copies for **my children** and work on life stories and write a history of our years on the farm and ranch.

Every day I look out the back window and see the last **roses** of summer blooming...they are beautiful. We had 2 good, soaking rains so I have had a respite from watering lawns and gardens. I canned 70 qts of **peaches** and did lots of frozen corn...will give some to the girls away from home. We have good spuds, carrots, onions, tomatoes, dill, beets, squash and pumpkins in the garden. Peas earlier.

I painted our **porch** yesterday. It was long and tiring but worth the effort as it is nice to have it clean and evenly colored. I enjoy being with my family and seeing friends and relatives and accomplishing hard work and worthwhile projects. **I don't like to waste time.** I like to do what's right and be a faithful servant in the Lord's kingdom. I don't feel like writing about **problems** and aches and pains—I'm sure everyone has them, but when I have them, I pray and cry and let time help the situation and forge ahead with determination to live better so I can be worthy of the blessings I want and need. I love the gospel of Jesus Christ and want to share it with others. **And I love my family.** They...go together. You can't enjoy one without the other.

Mom was a woman of faith and family. They go together.

So...what of the influence of a mother on her **son**?

That influence is profound, shaping the **foundation** of his emotional intelligence, relationships, and character. Strong maternal bonds foster empathy, security, and success, while guiding him toward integrity, respect, accountability, self-control, and the courage to act righteously.

Mothers build foundations!

Hymn #85 How Firm A Foundation---one of Mom's favorite hymns
Of this hymn mom said, "I turn it on loud to start my day's duties. It is grand!"

The first verse of this hymn reads:

1. How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

As if she were speaking to me...[Helaman 5:12](#) reads...

12 And now my **son**...remember that it is upon the **rock** of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your **foundation**; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, his shafts in the whirlwind, yea, when all his hail and his mighty **storm** shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a **foundation** whereon if men build they cannot fall.

I love the **resolve** in mom's words that she wrote in her journal:

A **testimony** of the gospel of Jesus Christ is a precious thing. We have to work hard to build it and work hard to keep it. It makes me sad to know of some who have had great testimonies and have lost them. **I am determined that will never happen to me.**

From the time I was a young **boy**:

I saw her kneeling by her bed in prayer, reading her scriptures, serving God, family, friends, church members, and community members, and sharing her musical talents.

I saw her following the example of the Savior Jesus Christ and heard her sharing her testimony of Him.

Mom consistently **took my four sisters and I to church.**

She encouraged and supported me in scouting, seminary, academics, athletics, and in every good thing that I wanted to pursue.

President Ezra Taft Benson said:

The essential question of life should be the same one posed by Paul: **“Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”** ([Acts 9:6.](#)) ...

We need more men and women of Christ who will always remember Him, who will keep His commandments...

That [person] is greatest and most blessed and joyful whose life most closely approaches the **pattern of the Christ**. This has nothing to do with earthly wealth, power, or prestige. The only true test of greatness, blessedness, joyfulness is how close a life can come to being like the **Master, Jesus Christ**. He is the right way, the full truth, and the abundant life.

I am thankful for a mother who lived such that her life closely approached the **pattern of the Savior Jesus Christ**. Her example of trying to emulate the Savior has helped to build my foundation and my testimony.

I am sure that all of us here today have felt mom’s love in some way. While we reflect on her life, I think she would encourage us all to reflect upon our **own** lives.

What is the condition of your foundation? What does it need? Through the Atonement of the Savior Jesus Christ, each one of us can patch, repair, rebuild or even replace our foundation, so as to have “a sure foundation, a **foundation** whereon if men build they cannot fall”.

Mom was a great woman and mother, determined to build foundations of faith and family in her son and in her daughters, in her posterity, and in all those with whom she came in contact. **Her influence will be felt for generations.**

Mom always created an **incredible home atmosphere**. She cared about the experiences that we had as a family. As we were all reflecting last week, Julie said, looking around our home, “everything in this home is Mom”.

I want to take us all back to December 1978 and share with you about half of what Mom wrote in **daily journal entries...another glimpse** into her life.

December 1st, 1978

1 Took Mom Tews shopping for **Christmas gifts**.

2 Jerre and I rode to the desert with Gerald to put out protein Blocks to the cows, check water and get a Christmas Tree

3 Kept Jay's kids last night and today while they went to Joyce's

4 Took Jerre Christmas shopping

5 Put a waterbed in Jerre's room. He wanted it. It was less than a good mattress and box springs. Will use it for a guest bed too. (Those poor guests)

I worked on some Christmas decorations.

6 I practiced the organ. It needs some work done on it.

Dec 7th, 1978—Today I am 42. Seems like just a short time ago I was a lot younger! I'm thankful I'm well and for my beautiful family and so thankful for my membership in the church of Jesus Christ...and I'm striving each day to become better, to serve the Lord and others...

Gerald took me out to eat for my birthday.

8 Today we brought in the **Christmas tree**—a juniper from the ranch country. It is pretty and has a good evergreen smell.

9 I have a sore throat—maybe I'm allergic to this tree.

10 I played an organ-piano duet at church...**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

11 Jayne and I finished decorating the tree

We have little fabric wreaths, red handkerchief balls, and wooden baskets filled with shiny balls and evergreen and we hang them on our tree every year along with some glass angels, lots of miniature lights with a tinsel star on top. We still have our **carolers** that Julie and Gina made 10 years ago in Mrs. Millers room at Union School. We place them on sparkly cotton with miniature lights, a white furry Christmas tree and a gingerbread house. The carolers are made of egg cartons and Styrofoam painted, also 2 green trees, lampposts and 2 spotted dogs. They are a family tradition now and very special, being made by **sweet little 8 and 9 year old daughters' hands**. We put lights on the big mantel on our rock fireplace. Jayne helped me make corn husk doll ribbon banners for our archway; we have a red plastic wreath that Gina made in 9th grade.

12 Took GERALYNN out to lunch. Visited Grandma Tews and Grandma Davis. Shopped some for Christmas.

13 Gerald went to Boise to **Idaho Cattlemen's board of Directors meeting**. I went shopping again. Bought some fabric. It will be joyful to have all the girls and boys home for Christmas! Neat!

14 Made Danish Christmas Roll and **Pumpkin bread** and whole wheat bread

15 Took **Jill** back to hospital. (She works at Jay's shop, has been sick, **and has no family who cares about her**).

16 Cindy and family are coming today. Yea!!

17 We went to Church, I played **piano** for a boy who played his violin.

18 Rachel and Amy Jo played here while C & L went shopping.

19 Julie, Ray, and Gina will be home tonight—yea!! It has snowed a couple times so it is **white Christmastime** so far. Amy and Rachel are cute and sweet.

20 We waited for the college kids last night...they got here at 11:30...sure was good to see them home safe. Wonderful to have everyone home together. Ray, Leon, and Gina went to help trail cattle.

21 The troops all went **skiing**.

22 We're making last minute preparations for the holiday. Gerald shopping, me cooking and sewing. Jayne and Jerre last ½ day of school.

23 **Saturday before Christmas** – everyone busy...wrapping presents behind closed doors, I finished our patchwork stockings and a secret project Ray and I did for Julie. Jayne made cookies. Julie, Gina, Cindy and Leon played 4 hand piano and laughed. **It is so great being all here together.** We all went out to dinner for Chinese food. We are enjoying the Christmas lights, and music. Sang carols in the van all together.

24 **Christmas Eve Sunday**. We went to program at church. Cindy and Leon fixed Steak Dianne...delicious. There was last minute gift wrapping and excitement. Julie and Ray presented the program they had prepared—scripture, stories, manger scene. Rachel (2 ½) was Mary riding on the donkey (Julie) and Jerre was Joseph. We opened gifts and had ham and baked potatoes and ribbon salad. **It was heaven to have us all together.**

25 **Christmas Day**. We fixed dinner for Novaks, Mom Tews, Dad and Mom Davis. It was a joyful day. We played a few games and visited.

31 **Last day** of this year. -6 degrees. Snowed some. Went to church. Supper at my folks. Played PIT and spoons til 1 am with Jayne, Gina, and Jerre.

Well... If we had more time, I certainly have the material... These **journals are a treasure**.

The good part about what I just shared was that I was only 9 years old... You see this scene that you just visualized in your mind went on for several more years for me as a boy and a young man. **Memories that I will cherish forever...**

And who was at the heart of it all?! My mother...an incredibly beautiful, talented, hard-working, considerate, loving, kind, spiritual mother that made our house an incredible home... She was amazing... A Woman of Faith and Family

Final text exchanges with Mom over 4 days went as follows:

How are you today, Mom?

Fine, do you have a job for me? (2/19/26)

Love you Mom

Love you so much (emojis) (2/20/26)

Thank you for the beautiful flowers!

You're welcome, Mom. (2/21/26)

Your white shirt fixed.

Hope you are home safe (emojis) (2/23/26)

I didn't reply to that text, but stopped by and picked up a pressed **white shirt** on a hanger. I passed Julie, who was there helping in the kitchen, serving mom just like mom has served and loved us. Julie looked at the shirt and we exchanged a smile as I went to leave. Little did we know that Mom would fall that night and this **white shirt** would be the last item Mom would mend.

This morning at 6:46 am I sent a text to Mom's phone...

Thank you Mom for fixing the **top button** on my **white shirt**. I'm wearing it today.

Thank you for being a great Mom.

I love you. (heart emojis) I miss you.

I know you are home safe now.

In Jesus name, Amen.

2.
In ev'ry condition—in sickness, in health,
In poverty's vale or abounding in wealth,
At home or abroad, on the land or the sea—
As thy days may demand, so thy succor shall be.

3.
Fear not, I am with thee; oh, be not dismayed,
For I am thy God and will still give thee aid.
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

4.
When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of sorrow shall not thee o'erflow,
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

5.
When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply.
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

6.
E'en down to old age, all my people shall prove
My sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
And then, when gray hair shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs shall they still in my bosom be borne.

7.
The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I cannot, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!

I consider myself to be a musician. I'm glad I could enjoy my music for as long as I did.

Nov 23, 1980

It is raining fairly hard. Jerre and I are in our warm living room writing in our journals and reading scriptures.

I'll be back to work soon...

Sonny boy

Emery ...song of a bird
Sacramento meeting...song of a bird

Mom was my best friend.

Flowers...made sure that every year for Mother's Day, mom had a corsage to wear to church. I didn't miss a year. I sent her flowers for her birthday or would randomly bring her flowers.

Picture of me on piano. The dig.

After 2 weeks of being down from her back injury, she said...I'll be back to work soon...and smiled.

Jessica D+

Seems like I'm having a hard time functioning today...how are you dad?

I'm okay... It's tough, but grandma would not want us to not stop working and improving and serving, etc.

I have thought that same thing...pretty sure she'd give me a D+ today for effort...

It's okay to be a D+ for a bit... Grandma would want you to work through it and to get that grade up...

While visiting with Dad the other night and reminiscing about Mom, Dad said, "I would give everything I have to see her walk through that door right there."

Sonny Boy

Nov. 21, 1984

Life is full of hopes, dreams, delights, and disappointments. We must continue on in faith, smiling and trusting that our God will lead the way.

What do they quietly speak to your mind?

Regarding her love of music, Mom said, "Music carries a message and comfort and answers where sometimes spoken words don't provide. I have received answers to prayer in the middle phrase of a hymn quietly spoken in my mind."