## A Parent's Love

There were days when we were growing up, wishing that our parents could be nicer to us without scolding or hitting us that much. Then, as we are older and are more matured in our thinking and when some of us become parents, we truly understand why our parents had to do certain things and reacted in certain ways.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour your father and mother — which is the first commandment with a promise — so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." (Eph 6: 1-4)

Expectations on how parents should react and express themselves matter to the children. They are watching and learning from their parents and family members every day. This influence is far greater than learning through the schools, friends and media. Where a child spends more time, the impact will be greater. Well, family as how we define it, is always close to the hearts of children, no matter what happens.

This love from our Father in Heaven bears some comparison to how our earthly father under normal circumstances would react. They love us and practise tough love at times. This love nurtures us to be who we are today in the world that we live in. Of course, we do attribute the molding of character and survival instincts to different situations in life. Really, when we are at the verge of facing death, who do we think of? Loved ones deemed as family to us? Those who have been there at such times would understand what it means to love when we have a chance to. Please treasure every moment to show love no matter how tired, angry or nonchalant we are. We give thanks to God when our parents are still around. For those who had never known or had lost their parents, our Father in Heaven understands and loves them too.



On 4 June 2017, Jurong Christian Church (JCC) dedicated this day to brothers and sisters-in-Christ who are parents. In addition to the lunch provided after the service, there were dedicated songs sung by the youths and young adults to the families at JCC. A montage on families at JCC was also presented.



I had the chance to obtain the poem recited by a group of older kids from JCC on that day. For those who missed it and to the parents out there, this is for you, "A Parent's Love".





"For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with

his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. (1 Thess 2: 11 – 12)

To my Heavenly Father, I am speechless as always with gratitude to you for being there for me all this time. Thank you for your love and the hope in life.



Joyce Tan

A Parent's Love
No gift on earth is greater
No treasure held above
The joy that comes from knowing
A parent's endless love

In spite of how it's tested
It grows from year to year
Providing strength and comfort
It always draws us near

It warms and it protects us, And guides us from afar, Shedding light upon us Like a bright and shining star

And when all things are measured, Not one shall rise above Or be compared in value To a parent's endless love!