

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."



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George L. Faull, Editor

What You Taught Us

By Terry Carter

I wrote the following poem for my mother, Georgiena Mae Carter, on Memorial Day, May 29, 2017. She had gone on hospice just three days before. She went to be with the Lord just five days later.

I read this poem at her funeral the following week. She had always wanted to be a teacher. That is a dream that she never fulfilled professionally. However, she taught her children, and anyone else who would listen, a great deal about some of the most important things in life.

As was said at her funeral, she didn't just raise children, she raised Christians.

Furthermore, both my father and stepfather owe their salvation primarily to her influence. She taught Sunday school since she was a teenager and also VBS.

I provide the reader with this bit of information so that you can better appreciate the thrust of the poem.

As with most poems of this sort, some of the lines are much more meaningful for those who knew her best. Although I penned this poem, it is really a thank you note from all of her children and ought to be read as such.

To Our Mother and Finest Teacher By Your Grateful Children and Students

"Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her" Proverbs 31:18 NKJV

You taught us how to crawl, walk, and run
When to work and when to have fun.

You changed our diapers and wiped our noses
While teaching us to stop and smell the roses.

You washed our faces and cleaned our clothes
While teaching us not to watch just any television shows.

You fed us well and brushed our hair
While teaching us to always play fair.

You taught us how to know wrong from right
When to walk away and when to stand and fight.

You disciplined us by spanking our rears and boxing our ears
You comforted us by calming our fears and wiping our tears.

You taught us the value of a good book
How to straighten out a child with just a look.

You taught us to love the greatest Book of all
How to walk with the Lord and get up after a fall.

You taught us how to sing and how to pray
How to start and end each day.

You showed us the strength that comes from faith
You taught us to endure the storms while still feeling safe.

You taught us the importance of our work at school
How not to act or live like a fool.

You taught us how to count and how to spell
While kissing our knees each time we fell.

You taught us how to write and how to read
How to be content with only what you need.

You taught us that until you know what the important things are
You will never be able to get very far.

You taught us to solve for ourselves the problems we had made
To deal with them and not to be afraid.

You taught us how to face your problems and stand up tall
What to do to avoid taking a fall.

You taught us of hard work not to be afraid
That is how dreams into reality are made.

You taught us how to speak your mind and have no fear
How to be honest with those you hold dear.

You taught us how to laugh and how to smile
How to boldly face each and every mile.

You taught us how to learn what is already known
And also how to reason and think on your own.

You taught us that money can be a useful tool
But pursuing it alone will make you a fool.

You taught us the value of family and friends
How to leave a legacy that never ends.

You taught us how to face good health and bad
How to deal with the happy and the sad.

You taught us how to win without any brag
How to be loose gracefully when behind you lag.

You taught us how to laugh and how to cry
How to live, love, and finally die.

Though you never taught as your profession
That we learned the most from you is our confession.