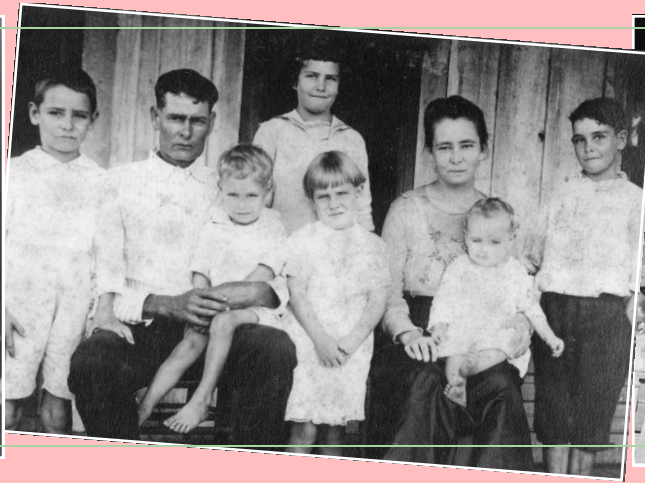


# Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

May 2010



## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

On Mother's Day at our denominational church, we would sing what I always remember as the "Mother's Day Song". A lot of years have come and gone, but the words are still imprinted in my heart.

*O blessèd day of motherhood!  
We lift our hearts in praise,  
To thank the Source of every good:  
Thy joy crowns all our days.  
O God, our Father, bless this day,  
Enrich its golden store  
Of blessèd mother love, and may  
Thy children Thee adore.<sup>1</sup>*

It is a wonderful privilege to be a mother and raise children in the Lord. Our influence over young lives should cause us to surrender completely to our God. We can make a difference when we walk before Him with all our hearts.

The Apostle Paul noted the influence of Eunice and Lois on the life of Timothy.<sup>2</sup> As a mother and grandmother, they had schooled him in faith. Their genuine faith in God was obvious to the Apostle Paul. Today I too see children and adults who captured the light of the "glorious gospel of

Christ"<sup>3</sup> from their parents. It goes without saying that each individual must choose Christ for themselves, but it is wonderful when the pathway before them is walked by their family.

The scripture is very clear when it speaks to children, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."<sup>4</sup> This verse presupposes that parents are "in the Lord". As Christian parents, Wayne and I worked diligently to set an example for our children, Joel and Suzanne. In fact, in the beginning of their young lives, we worked too diligently. I remember well the lesson I learned from the Lord. I used to stand the children in the corner as punishment. It provided an opportunity to think about obedience. One day as one of them stood in the corner, I heard these words in my spirit. "Next time you stand him in the corner, stand him with his nose out so that he can see the example you are setting for him." It was a lesson I have never forgotten. In the real estate business, they say the key words are "location, location, location." In the parenting "business", I believe the key words are "example, example, example."

Our friends are usually surprised when I relate that story because they know the obedience of our children. One of them even asked me, "Was that [standing in the corner] necessary?"

I always reply, "Probably not." Wayne and I had seen so many "parents obeying their children"

that we were determined to prevent that in our family.

One reason the scripture declares God's command, "Children, obey your parents,"<sup>5</sup> is because children are immature and lack good judgment. Parents who study their Bible and commune with God can have godly perception and wisdom to "train up their children."<sup>6</sup> They are not dependent on worldly advice, which may not reflect the truth of God.

Years ago as I was studying on the subject "how to raise children," I learned a lot about the word "train". In the scripture, it means to "discipline", to "dedicate".<sup>7</sup> From my studies, I observed that training children progresses in three steps. The first is "I will do it for you." Every baby is dependent on mom and dad to meet his or her needs. We do not expect or anticipate their help. In the beginning, we feed; we diaper; we dress; we console. They are recipients of our loving care.

As children grow, we teach them one task at a time to help us. We say, "I will do it with you." I remember teaching our children to make their beds. For a long time, they only watched while I did all the work. Eventually, I made one side and they did the other. We worked together. This training process takes much patience, but over time, they learn simple tasks like picking up toys and complex jobs like cleaning up their room. Eventually, they dust the furniture, iron shirts, and prepare meals. This training

is essential.

The most important training we give our children is their spiritual education. As a young girl, I learned to read my Bible and pray every day. It would be years before I understood the significance of this practice. It was, however, the best training my parents could give. The truth of the old song "Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before"<sup>8</sup> became an increasing reality in my life. All of us want this same spiritual nutrition for our children. They must become dependent on God.

We want our kids to be successful physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. As we strive toward this goal, there will be lumps and bumps along the way. There will be discouraging moments and apparent defeat. But as we imperfect parents trust God, He will provide wisdom and power. He will work in our children. Then that "little kid" that said, "I can do it by myself," can really, with God's help, "Do it by himself." Can it get any better than that? I don't think so.



<sup>1</sup> "Oh Blessed Day Of Motherhood! Words: Ernest F. McGregor, 1925  
<sup>2</sup> 2 Timothy 1:5  
<sup>3</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:4  
<sup>4</sup> Ephesians 6:1  
<sup>5</sup> Colossians 3:20

<sup>6</sup> Proverbs 22:6  
<sup>7</sup> H2596 Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D., 1890  
<sup>8</sup> "Everyday With Jesus" Words: Robert C. Loveless



*Thelma Combee  
1920-2010*

**Thelma Lee Combee**, 90 of Lakeland, passed away March 11, 2010, due to heart failure. She was born in Brooks County, Georgia January 10, 1920.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 65 years, Cecil F Combee, in 2002 and a son, Jesse Lee Combee in 1947. Survivors are three sons: Charles Leonard Combee of Davenport, Cecil Wayne and Glenn Edward

Combee of Lakeland, and daughter, Shirley A. Lester of Lakeland, 8 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren,

2 great-great grandchildren, 3 sisters, and 1 brother.

Mrs. Combee was a dedicated Christian mother and grandmother. She was an active member of Gapway Baptist Church for over 60 years. In September 2009, the church honored her by naming the church library, Thelma Combee Library. She loved to study family and church history. In 2009 the Gapway History book was completed by her and her daughter.

She and her husband were farmers and sold vegetables at the local farmers markets for many years. They also worked at the church 27 years caring for the yards and buildings.

*She is greatly missed.*

