



FEBRUARY 2017 DEVOTION

Healthy Families - \$60,000

Have you personally seen or suffered from parental neglect or abuse? Has substance abuse caused your family or a friend's family pain and suffering? Did your childhood include times of hunger or lack of a clean place to lay your head? Those who can answer "yes" to any of these questions can certainly relate to the many children and families suffering from the same situations today. For the ones who can answer "no", an extra measure of thanks needs to be given to God for being spared from these travesties of a sinful world. Living in this world exposes most of us to one of these situations at some time in our lives. Was there someone that served as the "savior" – who came to the rescue by providing a need? Or were you blessed to be the one to come to the rescue? How precious is the knowledge of the complete, undeserving love of our Father in heaven. A Father so desiring for His children to live as a part of His family forever that He sent His only Son to suffer all the earthly travesties for us. We know Jesus is the one and only Savior we need, and that we are provided "daily with all that we need to support our body and life." In thankfulness, may we as sisters and brothers in Christ willingly share our mite offerings in support of the social and spiritual work performed through the Centers for Healthy Families in Nebraska. May we also remain diligent in our communities in recognizing the families and children in need of the same love and care.

Who doesn't find joy in the sight of love being demonstrated between a parent and a child? It may be a hug, the sound of laughter, arms cradling a sleeping child, or a firm word of discipline; all things that lend to a healthy and happy family life. This is God's desire for us all, how can we not share?

Lord, we pray for the many families, especially the children, suffering in poverty and despair, lacking in the hope we have as believers. Please bless the efforts of the Centers for Healthy Families as they seek to meet the needs of many. We ask that You open our eyes to the needs of the many around our home and communities. Open the hearts of the needy and provide us with the opportunity and courage to share not only our earthly rewards, but the knowledge of our eternal reward—a life free of pain and suffering, praising and worshipping You forever and ever. Amen