MAMA’S GARDEN

When I was growing up we had a big garden. It was called “Mama’s Garden” because she was the one who laid it out, did most of the work cultivating it, and figured out what she needed for the family. It was a BIG garden because she had a BIG family to feed, besides her and dad, there were 9 children, 6 boys and three girls.

There were times I hated that garden. If you do it right and have a large garden, it can be “back-breaking” work. I remember mama was in that garden early and late. She made sure it was properly cultivated and weeded because that was the only way it would produce what was needed.

Growing children are a lot like mama’s garden. They must be tended to, which means attention to the various needs. In the garden we had to plow, weed, prune and harvest. It is not that much different with children.

For a child to develop properly, his abilities must be cultivated and encouraged. He must also be weeded, or disciplined from time to time. Then there are things he must give up (pruned) in order to develop the right kind of character that will make him a good citizen of society. Then bringing them into adulthood by letting them grow up, making them responsible for their own decisions.

Paul put it this way, “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord.” (Eph 6:4) and that takes time.

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