

To My Own Dear Family,

It is so good to see you assembled here again today, and to see the love you have for each other. When I see how many of you love the Lord, I feel like Paul when he said "I have sown the seed, someone else watered and God gave the increase." You, as parents have watered this seed of loving and serving the Lord in the lives of your children.

I thank God continuously for His love and care over all of you.

When I came to America, I indeed felt the Lord had led me to the land of milk and honey. I was not promised an easy life, but I personalized the promises of God gave to the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 30 and 31, that if I was obedient to the things God commanded He would be with me in this land, I would be prosperous in all the work of my hands, and into fruit of my body, the young of my livestock and the crops of my land.

I have walked in the ways of a faithful God who can do no wrong.

The land looked different when I came to America. We worked hard to clear the land and to build our homes. The joy of this new country made all our hard work worth it many times over. To have the freedom to choose our way of life, to raise our families according to our principles, and the opportunity to speak up for what we thought was right has been a blessing from God.

When I see you, my family, here today, it made all hardships, deprivations, persecutions and ridicule that we endured both in the old country and here in America all worthwhile.

Remember. God's love over you is like an umbrella to shield you when you need it. Nothing ever will come to you except that it passes through your heavenly Father's hand first.

Peace, love and grace be unto you from God our Father.

Your Joseph