

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers. Mother's Day can mean different things to different people. For many it represents the celebration of life and great joy. For others, it could be a reminder of a struggle or a mark of grief. Today, we just want to honour all mothers, knowing that you are treasured and loved by our Heavenly Father, God the almighty.

Mother's Day – A poem by Amy...

Mothers

- To those who gave birth this year – we celebrate with you.
- To those who lost a child – we mourn with you.
- To those who have warm and close relationships with your children – we celebrate with you.
- To those who have disappointment, heartache, and distance from your children – we sit with you.

This Mother's Day, to all mothers, we walk with you!

My name is Cindy. My husband is Scott Davidson, and our children are Kaiyin, Kaijie, Kaimei and Kaiquan. Sometimes I feel like I/we have created and are managing a "small community;" whether we have gotten it right or wrong, the belief behind this is "keep trying" and "keep fixing."

I am a mother of four children.

Our first pregnancy ended up with a miscarriage. So, Kaiyin is a child that we eagerly anticipated and were excited about.

Two and a half years later we welcomed our second child Kaijie. I remember the midwife saying that he was a beautiful baby. Others also commented that he was so pretty, like an angel.

Kaimei, our third child arrived fifteen months later. She is a precious gift from God, in God's perfect timing.

I was unwell after having Kaimei and sought help from a Chinese traditional physician, and since my ill-health was childbirth related, he advised me to have another child and nurse my poor health through proper post-natal care. Thus, came our youngest child, Kaiquan.

Today, I want to talk more about my second child, Kaijie. Many of you know that Kaijie is a special needs young man. Kaijie was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) when he was just over two years old. It was a very difficult time for me. I remembered being anxious about him as a toddler not meeting his milestones. He was not making eye contact, he was not responding to his name, not talking, not eating, strange behaviours, sudden upsets and with no obvious reason.

ASD is a developmental disability; it is to do with something in the brain. It was something he was born with. It means he may not act or respond how others would expect him to. That doesn't mean he is naughty - he just processes things differently in his brain.

Since he was young, Kaijie has had problems with social communication and interaction. He has restricted or repetitive behaviours or interest. Some parents here in this congregation, whose children were at St. Brigid's School with Kaijie, may remember that Kaijie was fixated with road signs at school. He still is, but now he googles them online.

Year after year, we have seen Kaijie facing challenges as he struggled to make sense of his surroundings, and we struggled with him too. It is painful to see him suffering but it is even more painful to see how some people in the public treat him. Fortunately, with lots of help from lots of people, teachers, teacher-aides, parents from school, a team of specialists, etc., Kaijie learned again and again, and slowly he overcame those obstacles. To all those God sent angels (all the helpers) in Kaijie's life, I thank God for you. Thank you, I am grateful for you.

My children do bring me joy, happiness, fun and a meaningful life. Motherhood teaches me many things, one in particular is to juggle many tasks at once. Although being a mother takes a lot of mental and physical strength, it has also made me strong. I have learned from my children. Kaijie has shown me the meaning of perseverance, taught me how to get through challenging times and not to give up.

Some people ask, "How do you do it?"

It wasn't easy, and I know that I could not do it on my own. I thank my husband, Scott.

Psalm 127:3 the Psalmist says, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is His reward."

As mothers (and fathers) when we welcomed our children into our homes, God calls us to partner with Him in parenting our children. We accepted the responsibility to love them, cherish them, teach them, and lead them to eternal life.

Back to that question, "How do I do it?"

Thank you, my Heavenly Father, thank you for walking alongside me all these years as I care for my children. Thank you for your promise that you will never leave me nor forsake me.

All glories and praises to you, O Lord!

Amen.