

# TRUE VINE TIMES

## The Blessings of Family

by Pastor Chuck Swindoll

### Update on Sunne Conley from Katie Poole...

I saw both yesterday - (Mom and Grandma). We decorated Grams apartment with Christmas decorations and a Christmas tree; she loves Christmas. She is doing well, sitting up in her favorite chair watching Christmas Hallmark movies, lol. Mom is doing well, very excited as my family is hoping to throw a baby shower for me on Sunday. She's been less anxious and more excited for the shower lately so thank you for the prayers!



A FAMILY IS LIKE MANY THINGS, perhaps most like a garden. It needs time, attention and cultivation, the sunshine of laughter and affirmation. It also needs the rains of difficulties, tense moments, and serious discussions about issues that matter. And there must be spadework, where hardness is broken loose and planting of fresh seeds is accomplished with lots of TLC. Someone recently passed on to me suggestions for fifteen rows worth planting:

**Plant four rows of peas: preparedness, perseverance, promptness and politeness.**

**Then three rows of squash: squash gossip, squash criticism, and squash indifference.**

**Along with five rows of lettuce: let us be faithful, let us be unselfish, let us be loyal, let us love one another, and let us be truthful.**

**And three rows of turnips: turn up with a smile, turn up with a new idea, and turn up with determination.**

And then? Well, from then on, it's simple. Water, weed, tend with care, and patiently watch your garden grow. Someday, like me, you'll look back and realize it was worth all the years of all the work and effort and prayer. Like a lovely garden, it will be a thing of grateful pride, of seasonal beauty, of daily sustenance.

Or, as the psalmist exclaims, the family is like a well-tended vineyard:

“How joyful are those who fear the LORD—all who follow his ways! You will enjoy the fruit of your labor. How joyful and prosperous you will be! Your wife will be like a fruitful grapevine, flourishing within your home. Your children will be like vigorous young olive trees as they sit around your table. That is the LORD's blessing for those who fear him.” -

~ Psalm 128:1-4

**Update on Vic and Nancy Miller-**

I had an enjoyable phone conversation with Vic Miller the other night. He reports that Nancy and himself are recuperating from a very busy election season. Vic noted that with early voting alone, they served over 9,000 folks. Thankfully they are both doing very well. Also of note is that Vic Miller will be recognized for serving the town of Clarence Fire District with 50 years of service !

**Please continue to keep Daniel Schmidt and family in prayer as he continues to fight cancer. You may access more info at <https://www.facebook.com/daniel.schmidt.37625>**

*Please be sure to reply to the recent survey sent out via email about the Christmas Eve service.*

**What blessings await you and your family this season as you offer thanksgiving to the Lord your God.**

**Sarah Jendrowski - working hard-staging winter hay.**



**Owen Atwell** fed his three little pigs for the last 5 months...now they will feed him ( and a few others! ) for the next 5.

In this season of Thanksgiving, let us consider all the ways the Lord provides!

