



Ensuring All Twelve Are Fine – A 2018 message about Mrs. Emma L Wilson King

Psalm 127:3-5

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

On November 21, 2004, Mrs. Emma L Wilson King entered through the gate. It is to the things this mother sought to come to peace with, that is instinctual of every mother who simply wants to ensure before departing this good earth, her children will be okay. The words from the book of Psalm speaks to this life and death matter as we take another look at Mrs. King's life.

From the moment each of her twelve children came from the womb her natural instinct was to ensure their success. Whether it was breast feeding them to ensure proper nourishment, to preparing that special sweet potato pie or delectable fried chicken, as adults all of them would come home year in and year out to her comfort. Mrs. King was carefully keeping to script, ensuring those children would be fine when the day would come when she was no longer with them by sight but in the faith, she had taught them growing up.

She always wanted her children to be educators even if they did not. A good paying job with School District 189 was for an achievement and a decent livelihood she would always point out. If they were teaching they would be giving back and be role models in the neighborhood. If you graduated college with a teaching degree, in her eyes it was a good thing. If you did not, she would candidly suggest you go to the Regional Superintendent of Education Office to acquire a certificate to work as a substitute teacher. In some instances, she would front the funds to cover the cost of the paperwork. Even though she was not degreed credential she knew to remind you to not allow your credentials to lapse. She was forever being our conscious.

Her visits to her children's homes was her way of authenticating: "Yes, they will be alright in Los Angeles, Chicago or Washington, D.C." One of those final trips was to Washington, D.C. the Memorial Day weekend 2004. While all were asleep, she had gotten up early and opened doors and gone from upper floor to the basement inspecting the row house being assured, this son should be fine. It was during this visit; she and her elder son shared a story with visitors of her concern about the elder son's whereabouts so she asked the brother to climb into the window to check on his safety. As the brother climb the ladder, he turned and saw Mrs. King directly on his heels following up the ladder.

A mother's act of love till the end was emblematic of Mrs. King. Whether it was the courageous move from Mississippi with short stays through Texas, Tennessee & Missouri before moving to Edwardsville, IL then in 1948 to East St. Louis to better her young children's lives, or watch her last in 1985 graduate high school she was preparing the family. Which as Mrs. King's transition reveals through Second [Corinthians 5: 6-8](#), *So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*