

to cheer

to comfort

to speak
sweetly

The Parable of the Purse



by Elder Quentin L. Cook

When I was recently assigned to a conference in the Mission Viejo California Stake, I was touched by an account of their four-stake New Year's Eve youth dance. Following the dance, a purse was found with no outside identification. I share with you part of what Sister Monica Sedgwick, the Young Women president in the Laguna Niguel stake, recorded: "We didn't want to pry; this was someone's personal stuff! So we gingerly opened it and grabbed the first thing that was on top—hopefully, it would identify her. It did, but in another way—it was a For the Strength of Youth pamphlet. Wow! This told us something about her. Then we reached in for the next item, a little notebook. Surely this would give us answers, but not the kind we were expecting. The first page was a list of favorite scriptures. There were five more pages of carefully written scriptures and personal notes."

The sisters immediately wanted to meet this stalwart young woman. They returned to that purse to identify its owner. They pulled out some breath mints, soap, lotion, and a brush. I loved their comments: "Oh, good things come out of her mouth; she has clean and soft hands; and she takes care of herself."

They eagerly awaited the next treasure. Out came a clever little homemade coin purse made from a cardboard juice carton, and there was some money in a zippered pocket. They exclaimed, "Ahh, she's creative and prepared!" They felt like little children on Christmas morning. What they pulled out next surprised them even more: a recipe for Black Forest chocolate cake and a note to make the cake for a friend's birthday. They almost screamed, "She's a HOMEMAKER! Thoughtful and service minded." Then, yes, finally some identification. The youth leaders said they felt greatly blessed "to observe the quiet example of a young lady living the gospel."



Favorite Scriptures

Thoughts

Lion House

Hearty Chicken Noodle Soup

2 tsp. chicken soup base, or 2 bouillon cubes
6 cups canned chicken stock (broth)
2 cups chopped carrots
2 cups chopped celery
3/4 cup chopped onion
2 cans (10 1/2 oz. each) cream of chicken soup
1/4 cup evaporated milk or 1/2 cup whole milk
2 cups cooked diced chicken
2 1/2 oz. (about 4 cups) egg noodles (Try "Country Pasta, homemade style egg pasta" from Costco or Sam's)

Heat chicken soup base (or bouillon cubes) and stock together. Add carrots, celery, and onion, cream of chicken soup and noodles. Simmer until tender. Add cooked chicken and milk. Salt and pepper to taste. Serve with biscuits or whole wheat bread, or over mashed potatoes.

Lemon Pudding Dessert

1 cube butter
1 cup flour
1 package (8 Oz.) Cream Cheese
1 cup powdered sugar
1 cup Cool Whip
1 large package instant lemon pudding

Cut butter into flour. Press mixture on bottom of 9x13" pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Cool completely. Blend cream cheese, sugar and Cool Whip, then spread on baked crust. Next mix lemon pudding according to package directions. Spread over cream cheese layer. Top with additional Cool Whip. Chill until ready to serve.

Birthday Calendar

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

The remarkable pioneer woman Emily H. Woodmansee
penned the text of the hymn,

As Sisters in Zion

1. As sisters in Zion, we'll all work together;
The blessings of God on our labors we'll seek.
We'll build up his kingdom with earnest endeavor;
We'll comfort the weary and strengthen the weak.

2. The errand of angels is given to women;
And this is a gift that, as sisters, we claim:
To do whatsoever is gentle and human,
To cheer and to bless in humanity's name.

3. How vast is our purpose, how broad is our mission,
If we but fulfill it in spirit and deed.
Oh, naught but the Spirit's divinest tuition
Can give us the wisdom to truly succeed.

She correctly asserts that the "errand of angels is given to women." This has been described as "nothing less than to do the direct and immediate bidding of our Father in Heaven, and 'this is a gift that ... sisters ... claim.'"

Sweet Compliments

for you or someone you love

(Take one and make someone smile today!)

You are so thoughtful

I like to hear you laugh

Your smile makes me happy

You are a great friend

You make life sweet

You amaze me

Your kindness made my day

You brighten my world

You are lovely

You inspire me

You have a beautiful soul

You look really good today