

Recognizing Women on the Farm

Deeper understanding of a Biblical passage ...

Hats off to those women who keep the home-place going while their husbands find employment elsewhere. The women's work goes on endlessly. They not only have to raise the children on their own, but also care for their elders.

Their first responsibility is to the well-being of their own house-hold. When the budget doesn't quite stretch, they have to find the means to extend the income through their own creative endeavours.

If the family lives on a farm, there's the field work to tend to ... and the chores. There's the necessity of calling for help when a piece of machinery craters. Equally, there's the need to be there for a neighbor or friend in trouble.

Of course the children miss their dad when he's away, and the tendency is to let things slide during those few days he's back home. In-between, mother has to be the teacher, the person who lays down the law, and the one who tries to pass on the family values. It's a huge and lonely job, and it demands all the stamina and courage one can muster.

In any agricultural setting, one must also stay active, to some extent, within the social and faith communities. Friends and neighbours try to stay attuned to each other's needs.

Whether the partner works in Fort McMurray, or had to fulfill responsibility for the Jerusalem's rulers, the work of the family at home remains similar. Three thousand years ago, according to the insightful poem found at Proverbs 31, we read about the resourceful work of a persevering farm wife who fills in so many gaps while her husband is away. The ancient writer acknowledges her never-ending endeavours. There is a convergence here between the life of this Biblical woman and contemporary women.

How better to say it? "Many have done valiantly, but (she) has surpassed them all!"

(written by Joyce Sasse, 2010)

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