

Antoinette R. Ford

Artist Statement

First and foremost, Antoinette is a believer of the Lord Jesus Christ, and she attends church regularly. She is a mother of 7 children and the grandmother of 5 grandchildren.

I attended college and I stress that my family should continue their education, take care of each other, and to be loving and kind to those in their sphere of influence to live life more abundantly.

“Tele-stories has been very influential to me in looking over my life and the lives of my children and putting it on paper in a poetic form. It is truly a blessing—I didn’t know I was capable of it without the help of Christina.”

Doing Good



You look out for your siblings, cousins, and friends,
Getting them to do what they know is best.

You show you care through your actions and words,
And encourage others to do the same in a loving way.

THIS is why you are a mentor.

My Second Home



I love my Church because they are a caring community.

They are thoughtful and kind to each other.

They are an extra family to me,

Beside my regular family,

They are my Church family.

We care for one another,

We look out for one another,

And we just love...

Unconditionally.

Amen.

Peaceful Streams



To be loved
Is to be cherished,
Thought of,
And welcomed
Into his precious hands.
Love flows like a still stream,
Calm and peaceful.
When it washes over you,
You feel his warmth and caring spirit.

Seeking the Lord



To those who are stressed:

I would say, "Take a moment and utter a prayer."

"Lord, you see me, what's going on. Help me in this situation."

And the Lord would say back,

"Be still and know that I am God."

In the stillness, one would feel loved.

Helped.

Satisfied.

That Was My Summers, Pt. I



In childhood summers
I lived from day to day
With no great aspirations.
My uncle picked me up and took me to the country.
That was my time to have fun.
I would ride my bike,
Roll down the cemetery hill,
Make a little money picking fruit.
You got to eat all the fruit you wanted.
As long as you could climb a ladder,
Or get on your knees to pick some strawberries,
They let you.

That Was My Summers, Pt. II

One of the main fruits was the peaches.

When you buy them now, they are hard as rocks.

When we picked them, they were ripe, juicy, and delicious.

I picked this fruit,

I earned this fruit,

And it was good.

With that first bite,

The juice goes all over my hands and face.

It's a sticky situation.

Now I buy canned peaches to get that sensation.

Family Statements



Christmases would come

And there wasn't much under the tree.

Except this year.

My mom's mom's boyfriend bought all sorts of presents.

I got dolls, a wedding doll, games, and another dolls.

When I was five, I got one stuffed animal.

But this year different.

Later on in life I heard that

He thought he was my grandfather.

His brother would say,

"I saw your mom being made."

My Loving Grandson, Namon



Being a grandmother feels awesome.
When my youngest grandson was born, we were so elated.
He was born in our city.
He looked like a little string bean.
That little bean moved away.
At age four, he came to live with me for a semester.
Then he went back home.
And then, he came and stayed for a year.
Even though he gave me a hard time,
(He was really balking)
He is the joy of my life.

The Principles of Raising and Loving Your Family, Pt. I



Go to school.

Get your education.

Apply yourself.

Get the best grades you could possibly get.

Start working at age 12.

The main criteria is to love your parents and your grandparents.

When they have a need, take care of them.

And just love the Lord.

Know that he is first in your life.

As you grow older, apply these principals to your children, too.

If you don't have children, dote on your nieces and nephews.

There are good times.

There are times when you worry

Will they hold to this criteria?

Will they go to school?

Get a job?

Is there going to be sickness?

The Principles of Raising and Loving Your Family, Pt. II

You have to deal with the ups and downs of life

To the best of your capabilities.

It's what you make of it that counts.

You could sit in a pool of self-pity,

Or you could apply yourself where you could

And wait for healing and a blessing.

Some people wait around and say,

"I can't do this; I can't do that."

You need to see what you CAN do.

Apply yourself and count the blessings you DO have in your life.

Shelter,

Health,

Parents,

Children,

A good work ethic,

Love of self and others,

And, I would say, love of the Lord.

Seven is completion.

Eight is new beginnings.

Look forward to the future.

The Gathering of the Saints at the Banquet Table in Heaven



At the table in heaven,
All the people who passed before us gather together.
They sing, praise God, and they eat!
Bread falls like snow,
And quail comes from the sky,
To be dressed and prepared by the chef, my son.
They don't have no more pain, no more sorrow.
They are healed.
They are rejoicing.
They have new life.
And they are blessed.

A Day on the Court, Pt. I



On your hand, feel that medium-sized rubber ball.

It's tight—in terms of air.

You know you got a good one when it bounces.

Bounce, bounce, bounce, bounce, bounce.

Like a bowling ball but you gotta dribble it,

You gotta run with it,

And you gotta hit your target.

There would be a lot of noise: cheers, maneuvers,

Just going back and forth with each other.

When they hit the mark,

There's cheers!

A Day on the Court, Pt. II

The children and the coaches are there.

The volunteers are in the stands.

You have activity all over.

You hear whistles blowing, telling people:

Get in line!

Take your turn!

Stop what you're doing!

Foul!

In the air, smell the trees.

They are like pine trees,

So, they have that smell.

Basketball is fun,

Exercise,

Camaraderie...

It gives the children a sense of identity.

Tele-Stories Reflections

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-Antoinette

"Antionette, your zest for life, love of God, and commitment to community are infectious!