

DEDICATION

Women have been a blessing throughout my life, but there are three women whom I particularly want to recognize as influencing me and supporting me in ways that helped bring me to the place where I could complete this project.

My Mother, Joy Buell

She introduced me to unconditional love, supporting and encouraging me from the time I was a little girl, always praising me and inspiring me through her faith and optimism, comforting me in my trials and rejoicing with me in my accomplishments.

My Daughter, Dena Baker

She has given me the opportunity to offer unconditional love, first as a young girl seeking a family, and then through adoption into our family, helping me learn the truths of Titus 2 as we have shared the blessings of mother and daughter.

My Dearest Friend, Lynn Etta Manning

She has helped me to know the covenant love of Christian friendship. Her strength, loyalty, gentleness, and wisdom have helped to transform me into the woman I am today and I thank God for bringing us together as heseid friends.

I have also been greatly blessed by three men who have made it possible for me to have the opportunity to serve at Dallas Seminary and minister to the women students.

Dr. Mike Lawson

He has championed women all his life, and opened doors of opportunity for me ever since I first was his intern in the CE Department, challenging me past my fears and motivating me to pursue my passion of reaching out and ministering to the women at DTS.

Dr. Lin McLaughlin

He has always respected me as a colleague, but valued what I uniquely offer as a woman, always showing appreciation for my gifts and praising me for the contribution I make to our Christian Education team.

Dr. John Reed

He has always supported and encouraged me as I pursued my DMin, and would often stop me in the hallway and whisper from Esther 4:14... Who knows but you may be here for such a time as this.