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### HOLD ME TIGHT, DAD

In looking for an illustration of the power of a father's love, I found it right in our own living room. Our youngest son, his wife and our precious new granddaughter (now two months old), were over for supper and visit. "Be prepared," our daughter-in-law cautioned us. "Lucy 'melts down' about this time every night."

When Lucy's prophesied howling began I figured I could deal with it. No problem, I told myself, I'm the mom of two and the grandmother of three. I've done my share of cuddling, burping and comforting - it's all about practice. So I thought.

As mom's attempts to quiet the little one failed, I extended my arms and hands. "Let me hold her," I offered. Much to my disappointment, I'd either lost my skills or forgotten that they didn't always work. At first Lucy merely tossed about and cried. Then she began to howl in earnest...but it was when she stiffened her body and screeched that I began to seriously doubt my abilities to quiet this "perfect child". When her dad stepped in I was happy to relinquish the precious but inconsolable child.

Laying her in his hands (fully half the size of her body), he held her close then laid her on his chest. Stroking her back gently she began to relax; finally, yielding herself to his embrace, she fell asleep. Arms askew and nestled close to his side she was, once again, the picture of contentment. I imagined her unvoiced request, "Keep holding me tight, dad."

That's how it is with God. Yes, He's the Almighty Creator of the universe, the Lord of lords and King of kings. But wonder of all wonders, He deigns to call Himself my Father.

Happy Father's Day to dads who do their earthly best. Praise to the Heavenly Father who never fails.