

# PURE RELIGION

## I Will Give unto the Children of Men Line upon Line

June was in her late forties when she came to work at Deseret Industries. She had recently separated from her husband, who had abused her physically as well as emotionally. He told her she was unattractive, incompetent, and unable to care for herself so many times that June believed it must be so.

After years of criticism, June felt ill-equipped to earn a paycheck. When her supervisor introduced her to her area—a small section of clothing on the sales floor—she froze. She stood trembling, unable to move, the ghosts of past abuse paralyzing her body and seizing her mind.

Noting her distress, June's supervisor took a more basic approach. "You'll be here six hours today," the supervisor said. "All I want you to do is straighten this one rack of blouses."

But still, June could not do it. She stood, weeping, in front of the one rack she was to tend, afraid and terrified that she would fail. She was literally immobilized by the possibility that her husband had been right all along. Before she had been on the job 30 minutes she wanted to leave, give up, go home.



Her supervisor took her back to the rack and explained that the only thing she had to do for the entire day was to remove the empty hangers.

June felt that she could accomplish that. And she did. Next, the supervisor told her to remove any item of clothing that wasn't a blouse. She did that as well.

And so it went, step by step, until June stood before one rack of perfectly merchandised clothing. The next challenge was to take an additional rack, and then three, until one day, June not only had a full area of racks sized, straightened, and colorized, but she could be relied upon to help train others who were not doing as well. Eventually, June became a lead in the clothing area, rediscovered her self-confidence, and ultimately grew to the point where she was able to leave Deseret Industries and obtain employment elsewhere.

On her last day, June returned and stood in front of the rack she had agonized over so long ago. She expressed her appreciation for her supervisor and for Deseret Industries. She was confident that whatever the future held for her, it was full of promise and possibility.