

May  
2015

## A Tribute to Mothers

I know all you busy mothers will relate to this....

It all began to make sense, the blank stares, the lack of response, the way one of the kids will walk into the room while I'm on the phone and ask to be taken to the store. Inside I'm thinking, 'Can't you see I'm on the phone?' Obviously not; no one can see if I'm on the phone, or cooking, or sweeping the floor, or even standing on my head in the corner, because no one can see me at all."

I'm invisible – The invisible Mom.

Some days I am only a pair of hands, nothing more. Can you fix this? Can you tie this? Can you open this? Some days I'm not a pair of hands; I'm not even a human being.

I'm a clock to ask, 'What time is it?'

I'm a satellite guide to answer, 'What number is the Disney Channel?'

I'm a car to order, 'Right around 5:30, please.'

I was certain that these were the hands that once held books and the eyes that studied history and the mind that graduated summa cum laude – but now they had disappeared into the peanut butter, never to be seen again. She's going, she's going, she's gone!

One night, a group of us were having dinner, celebrating the return of a friend from England. Janice had just gotten back from a fabulous trip, and she was going on and on about the hotel she stayed in. I was sitting there, looking around at the others all put together so well. It was hard not to compare and feel sorry for myself. I was feeling pretty pathetic, when Janice turned to me with a beautifully wrapped package, and said, 'I brought you this.' It was a book on the great cathedrals of Europe. I wasn't exactly sure why she'd given it to me until I read her inscription: 'To Charlotte, with admiration for the greatness of what you are building when no one sees.'

In the days ahead I would read – no, devour – the book. And I would discover what would become for me, four life-changing truths, after which I could pattern my work: No one can say who built the great cathedrals – we have no record of their names. These builders gave their whole lives for a work they would never see finished. They made great sacrifices and expected no credit. The passion of their building was fueled by their faith that the eyes of God saw everything.

A legendary story in the book told of a rich man who came to visit the cathedral while it was being built, and he saw a workman carving a tiny bird on the inside of a beam. He was puzzled and asked the man, 'Why are you spending so much time carving that bird into a beam that will be covered by the roof? No one will ever see it.' And the workman replied, 'Because God sees.' I closed the book, feeling the missing piece fall into place.

It was almost as if I heard God whispering to me, 'I see you, Charlotte. I see the sacrifices you make every day, even when no one around you does. No act of kindness you've done, no sequin you've sewn on, no cupcake you've baked, is too small for me to notice and smile over. You are building a great cathedral, but you can't see right now what it will become.'

At times, my invisibility feels like an affliction. But it is not a disease that is erasing my life. It is the cure for the disease of my own self-centeredness. It is the antidote to my strong, stubborn pride.

I keep the right perspective when I see myself as a great builder. As one of the people who show up at a job that they will never see finished, to work on something that their name will never be on. The writer of the book went so far as to say that no cathedrals could ever be built in our lifetime because there are so few people willing to sacrifice to that degree.

When I really think about it, I don't want my son to tell the friend he's bringing home from college for Thanksgiving, 'My Mom gets up at 4 in the morning and bakes homemade pies, and then she hand bastes a turkey for three hours and presses all the linens for the table.' That would mean I'd built a shrine or a monument to myself. I just want him to want to come home. And then, if there is anything more to say to his friend, to add, 'You're gonna love it there.'

As mothers, we are building great cathedrals. We cannot be seen if we're doing it right. And one day, it is very possible that the world will marvel, not only at what we have built, but at the beauty that has been added to the world by the sacrifices of invisible women. Great Job, MOM!

Share this with all the Invisible Moms you know... I just did. And kids should share it with their moms, too!

Author Unknown



# COLE

(From: Adventist Frontier Mission - December 2011

Tai – Kadal) By: Zoe Lieben

“Two Months?” My anxiety must have been obvious because Ngom followed with, “Uh, yes. Do you...think you could keep him for just two months?”

“Um...Let me talk it over with Kaleb and pray about it.”

Kaleb and I had offered to help out our “younger brother” months earlier. Ngom, now a single dad, was trying to care for his three – year – old boy, Cole, while working full – time and at the same time trying to finish school. I had asked him how it was going with his

energetic son. He responded, “I hired someone to take care of him for me. However, I notice that he is not learning good things.”

I knew he worked near our home. In my mind, a debate ensued. Should I offer my help? Then I heard myself saying, “When you go to work in the morning, you should drop him off at our house and then pick him up after work.” Ngom had expressed that he would like a Christian person to look after him, but didn’t jump at my offer.

My thoughts returned to the phone conversation with Ngom. I thought of all the work that filled my days, with three bundles of perpetual on my own and our project goals. *How could we do it? But, he needs help.* As my heart softened, I believe God helped me see the benefits of such service. Suddenly I realized this was another opportunity to build relationships – our number-one priority! As my thoughts raced ahead, it dawned on me that, really, opening our home to Cole could bring us much closer to the people we have come to love and serve. What an idea!

It’s been more than five months now. Cole is just the playmate Dietrich, Aria and Hadassah wanted. They don’t ask for a little brother anymore because they have one – for a while anyway. Dietrich, our deep thinker and a boy of few words, said of Cole, “He is so funny. He never stops talking!” In a few words, that describes him very well.

At first I worried that taking this child into our home would detract from our work, but the effect is something wonderful. After Cole had been with us just two weeks, people were already commenting about the positive changes in him. Now, people who comment about our children’s good behavior can see that they weren’t necessarily born that way. Using God’s methods to shepherd our children’s hearts proved that other naughty children could also be taught to be self – controlled, respectful, kind and obedient. No longer are people saying, “Your children are so good.” Now they are saying, “You know how to raise children. And to that we can answer, “God is our teacher. He can help you, too.”

Bringing Cole into our home hasn’t just changed his heart; it has changed our hearts, too, and his changed life has begun to soften other hearts to the Gospel as well.

Our offering this quarter is going to Northern Asia – Pacific.

We will be celebrating 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath this quarter by reinstating cuisine from the countries we are sending our offerings to for that quarter. Also, we can further enjoy the day by wearing the customary attire for that area. (Submitted by: Kay Cheser, Sabbath School)



# Being a Christian Mother in a Changing World

By: Heather-Dawn Small

We live in a world that is constantly moving. Sometimes I get giddy with the many things that are going on in my life and in the lives of my family, especially my children. It seems that they live on their cell phones and other electronic media. Keeping up with what they do and where they are is a challenge. Being a Christian mother can be daunting, but the Word of God gives us good advice that applies to

raising children in any age, social group, and culture.

I think that the best advice for a mother I have found in the Bible is in the book of Proverbs. Over and over Solomon writes words of wisdom that we can apply to our relationship with our children.

**Seek first the Lord** – “Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” Prov. 16:3.

Having a daily relationship with God is vital to my role as a mother. Each day I ask for the fruit of the Spirit in my life so that I can live these as I related to my children. And I surrender my children in the hands of God each day, because although the challenges they face are beyond what I as a mother can fix, God is able to do all things.

**Provide a Good Example** – “He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor.”

Prov. 21:21 When I put God first in my daily life and my children see this, they realize by my example that God is to be respected and honored in our lives. They also honor and respect me because I try to live what I have taught them. In their early years I taught them the importance of having a daily relationship with God.

**Get good educational information** – “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom.” Proverbs 4: 7.

At times when I look at the decisions my children make, I pray for them to have wisdom, but I also need wisdom in raising them. I know I have made many mistakes in rearing my children, but one of the things I did that I know helped me was to educate myself about the various stages of my children’s lives as they grew. I then tried to implement what I had learned.

**Be patient with your children, as God is with you.** – “The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook a transgression. Prov. 19: 11 And that brings me to mistakes. We all make mistakes as parents, and it is because of my mistakes that I realize I need to be more patient with the mistakes of my children. When Solomon writes, I know he is speaking to my heart. Showing patience in my relationship with my children is also showing God’s love. How patient my heavenly Father is with me, His child. Can I do less than pass that on to my children?

**You are the best teacher!** “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when his is old he will not depart from it.” Prov. 22: 6. This text has been interpreted in many ways, but what God is saying to my heart is that I should live the life I want my children to live. Be their example. This is something that happens when we sit to talk, but we also need to find teachable moments in our day. When we are walking, sitting, driving, eating, shopping (Deut. 6:7) I must use every opportunity I can to teach my children as they grow, and when they are grown, the teaching never ends.

**Being a Christian mother is a challenge, but the Word of God is our guide and encourager, and gives us strength for the journey. We just need to seek it out.**

Presented by: Kay Cheser, Women’s Ministry (taken from: Woman’s Bible- a co-production of the SDA General Conference Women’s Ministry Department and Editorial Safeliz.)

# PASTOR'S CORNER



A Minister passing through his church In the middle of the day,  
Decided to pause by the altar To see who came to pray. Just then the  
back door opened, And a man came down the aisle, The minister  
frowned as he saw the man Hadn't shaved in a while. His shirt was  
torn and shabby, And his coat was worn and frayed, The man knelt  
down and bowed his head, Then rose and walked away. In the days  
that followed at precisely noon, The preacher saw this chap, Each  
time he knelt just for a moment, A lunch pail in his lap. Well, the min-  
ister's suspicions grew, With robbery a main fear, He decided to stop  
and ask the man, 'What are you doing here?'

The old man said he was a factory worker and lunch was half an  
hour Lunchtime was his prayer time, For finding strength and power. I  
stay only a moment Because the factory's far away; As I kneel here  
talking to the Lord, This is kinda what I say: 'I Just Came By To Tell

You, Lord, How Happy I Have Been, Since We Found Each Other's Friendship And You Took Away My Sin.  
Don't Know Much Of How To Pray, But I Think About You Every day. So, Jesus, This Is Ben, Just Checking In  
Today.' The minister feeling foolish, Told Ben that it was fine. He told the man that he was welcome To pray  
there anytime. 'It's time to go, and thanks,' Ben said As he hurried to the door. Then the minister knelt there at  
the altar, Which he'd never done before. His cold heart melted, warmed with love, As he met with Jesus there.  
As the tears flowed down his cheeks, He repeated old Ben's prayer: 'I Just Came By To Tell You, Lord, How  
Happy I've Been, Since We Found Each Other's Friendship and You Took Away My Sin. I Don't Know Much  
Of How To Pray, But I Think About You Every day. So, Jesus, This Is Me, Just Checking In Today.' Past noon  
one day, the minister noticed That old Ben hadn't come. As more days passed and still no Ben, He began to wor-  
ry some. At the factory, he asked about him, Learning he was ill. The hospital staff was worried, But he'd given  
them a thrill. The week that Ben was with them, Brought changes in the ward. His smiles and joy contagious.  
Changed people were his reward. The head nurse couldn't understand Why Ben could be so glad, When no flow-  
ers, calls or cards came, Not a visitor he had. The minister stayed by his bed, He voiced the nurse's concern: No  
friends had come to show they cared. He had nowhere to turn.

Looking surprised, old Ben spoke up And with a winsome smile; 'The nurse is wrong, she couldn't know,  
He's been here all the while.' Every day at noon He comes here, A dear friend of mine, you see, He sits right  
down and takes my hand, Leans over and says to me: 'I Just Came By To Tell You, Ben, How Happy I Have  
Been, Since We Found This Friendship, And I Took Away Your Sin. I Think About You Always And I Love To  
Hear You Pray, And So Ben, This Is Jesus, Just Checking In Today.' Jesus said, 'If you are ashamed of me,' I  
will be ashamed Of you before my Father.' If you are not ashamed, pass this on. So, FRIENDS & FAMILY, this  
is ME ..."Just Checking In Today"

**I know the Pastor is busy with his new family, hope you enjoy the picture of Emma Isabel who was born 3/9/2015. I know there must be another picture of her but this is the one I could find.**

Pastor Michel Rodriguez & wife Elizabeth and daughter Emma Isabel —Phone: 817-219-7347

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## May Birthdays

- 3— Maxine Plier
- 4 - Sarah Langham
- 11 - Donna Ernest
- 22 - Marilyn Vaught
- 25 - Marcus Christensen
- 26 - Carissa Abbott
- 29 - Natalie Smith
- 31 - Tom Bates

No Anniversaries given for this month.



## Calendar of Events

- ◆ **Weekly:** Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays at 7pm  
Jail Ministry: Sundays 6:30pm at the Clanton Jail - Steven Radford needs women volunteers to sign up and visit the Women's end of the jail. Currently they aren't being visited at all... Pray about it and call him. If you don't have his number he can be reached through my number or email. Thanks for helping with this worthy missionary project.
- ◆ **Monthly:** Tennis Shoe Sabbath: 1st Sabbath each month, after lunch. Come help us make Kingdom Friends for God.  
Book Group: 2nd Sabbath After Lunch in the Teen Room.  
Sabbath School Visitation: 3rd Sabbath each month.  
Nursing Home Visitation—4th Sabbaths
- ◆ **Speaker Schedule** for May: Because of Campmeeting Pastor Rodriguez's next time to be here will be June 20.  
May 2 - Pastor Rodriguez, May 9 - Shawn Smith,  
May 16 - Noel Brooks, May 23 - Chip Anderson  
May 30 - Lary Petty

Last months picture: I hope we haven't changed so much that you couldn't identify us, LOL. My husband and I at our wedding, 46 years ago in the Chapel of Madison Hospital in Tennessee. Two of my sisters: Anita Shriberg (who just moved up to Prattville from Boca Raton, Fl.), Dora Aguilar (who lives in Centreville), my Uncle Al & Tommy Worthen from Tennessee were in it.

So let's see, in this months picture, I see, Ed Plier, Elder Melmine, Marcus Christenson, of course Verla Gill honoring us with our favorite special music. Looks like we had a "present tree" not sure what the occasion was but thought you might like to reminisce. Rosa Kreaseck sent this to me quite awhile back, "She just thought I would like them." So who can date about when this picture was? OK, I would think it is about your turn. Until next month, Brenda

## Beatitudes of a Mother

- Blessed are the Mother's who did without for us, They will be rewarded.
- Blessed are the Mother's - who lost sleep when we were sick, They will find rest.
- Blessed are the Mother's—who taught us how to pray, They will share God's Kingdom.
- Blessed are the Mother's - who comforted us, They shall be comforted.
- Blessed are the Mother's - who taught us right from wrong, they will know justice.
- Blessed are the Mother's - who shared with us the meaning of peace.  
They shall know peace.
- Blessed are the Mother's - who shared with us the Christian life by example,  
They will live forever.
- Blessed are the Mother's - who taught us the importance of loving God and each other,  
They shall see God.

Just thought I would update everyone regarding Elder Clay and Becky Grice. I know that I heard they had moved to Colorado. They are happily living in Wetumpka, their children are a lot closer to this area than they would be if they were out West. They do have help taking care of the horses that are boarded on their property. They were really in good spirits when we had lunch with them at Burger King last week. Becky is missing her communication job but they do keep busy and enjoy getting the Newsletter, she likes the printed copy to read like several of you do also. Yes, she said she is worth the 49 cents, LOL.

Websites that Bill Weise has set up for everyone & would like special prayer about the responses from these sites.

[www.stepsupward.org](http://www.stepsupward.org) [www.eqwhiteclassicquotes.org](http://www.eqwhiteclassicquotes.org) <http://www.grandmastidbits.org>



Kay 3's Vegan Recipes

## Raisin and Walnut Cookies



1/2 cup brown sugar

1/4 cup sugar

1/2 cup vegan shortening, softened

1 egg substitute...I had good success with 1Tbl flax seed meal dissolved in 2 Tbl water and add, allow to thicken

3/4 tsp vanilla

1 cup plus 2 Tbl flour

1/2 tsp salt

1/2 tsp soda

1/2 cup golden raisins

1/2 tsp roughly chopped walnuts

1tsp safflower oil

So does anyone have a favorite Recipe? Donna brought the Hobo Casserole to fellowship dinner awhile back. How are you liking these recipes each month? Don't forget to give me your favorite poem, thought, story or something that you think others will enjoy and get a blessing from. Until next month, Brenda

Whip safflower solution then add sugars, vanilla, and oil and beat till thick and creamy.

In a medium bowl, combine flour, salt, and soda, mixing well. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture, mixing well. Stir in raisins and walnuts. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 8 to 10 minutes, til light golden brown. Cool on wire racks, and store in air tight container. To keep cookies chewy, lay a slice of bread on top of cookies.

We have a website!! <http://clantonsda.org/>, Tony Plier has posted sermons, music & a lot of info, look under News to find this publication on line each month. We have all the issues for this year 2015. If you wish to have any back issues, just let me know.

I am still receiving choices of which way church members want to get their Newsletters. Thanks for communicating and sharing what you want to put in the Newsletter each month. Don't forget it is YOUR/OUR newsletter...

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