



Missionary Evangelism to Corrections

Sharing the gospel and Christ's love

with those in corrections since 1982

Learning About and Loving Mother

**April 30, 2016
Newsletter**

MEC Spotlight

Happy Mothers Day

What does the Bible say about Mothers? The New Testament alone has 88 references for mother. Learning from them is an integral part of His commandment that we love others as ourselves. This article discusses real relationships that are sometimes very difficult but bear with it as we will get to the more joyous discussion following that.

When Matthew wrote of the wise men worshiping Jesus, the angel who spoke to Joseph about caring for and protecting Mary, and Elizabeth when Mary visited her, Matthew did not use her name but he spoke of her relationship to Jesus. (Matt. 1 and 2, Lk. 1) Christ spoke of our relationship to Him being more important than our mother and that those who do His will are his brother, sister and mother. (Mtt. 10-12, Mk 3) These verses speak about our relationship with God being more important than our relationship to our mothers and can help when thinking about the painful areas where our mothers were



not able to provide for certain emotional or spiritual needs. There are times when if we do not learn unconditional love from our mothers

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Almeda Geselle



Almeda says. "I don't know what you can say about me, but I love Jesus and I can pray." When asked what she would like people to know about her, she responded. "There is a theme in my heart for the last 15-20 years since the accident. That was the catalyst of it. It is to trust God...one day at a time.

I went to a counselor and said, 'I just can't hold on anymore.' He asked 'hold on to what?' I said, 'To God'. He leaned back and smiled. He said 'its ok, He's got you'. I asked what he meant and he said, "He's holding on to you. You can let go." I just sobbed and sobbed. There were days I would set times like 'I will trust you for, the next few minutes or the next hour or until noon'. As I got better, the times increased but I still find it best when I work one day at a time. There is a hymn that says it well. "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His word." Last week I wrote out the entire hymn in my

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Photo Karen Selby

we need to replace that understanding with God's love.

Replacing negative perceptions, defenses and control with trust and obedience, aimlessness for purpose, tears, pain and sorrow for joy, and laughter and rejection for love is letting go of the old nature and letting God replace it with the new. It isn't that all trials and challenges are

gone, but they are overcome and bring an enriching balance of emotion that includes trust and love. This is a soaking process which happens over time, in silence and worship, in conversations and prayer. When it takes place, we can go back to the one that we were hurt by or childlike with and relate on a more mature level. Then not taking on pain when they lash out or perceiving pain when direction or good was intended is easier. Sometimes we can talk ideas through and resolve conflict. Then good overcomes pain and evil.

God provides mothers that we need even if we have to leave our own. For some, this may mean a physical separation, for others it may mean leaving an emotional scarring behind. This is often accomplished when God brings someone who can demonstrate His love to us. This may be through therapy, a sponsor, a prayer partner or a friend. "I assure you," Jesus said, "there is no one who has left house, brothers or sisters, mother or father, children, or fields because of Me and the gospel, who will not receive 100 times more, now at this time—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and eternal life in the age to come." Paul gives instructions for Christians to "treat older women as mothers." (1 Tim. 1) When we do so, some of them become spiritual mothers to us. In Romans 16 Paul greets Rufus's mother and mine. Additionally, Mother in laws are important in our interactions, Jesus healed Simon's Mother in law (Mk. 1)

Paul talks about caring for others as a nursing mother. (1 Thes. 4) Many people would say that this type of relationship would have boundary issues, but perhaps his asking those he ministered to, to open their

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journal and the last line says it for us. 'O for grace to trust Him more.'

Tom and Almeda pastored in Chisago City for years before they were in a severe accident. Following it they went on to other vocations. She works in a Chisago school and he is a Chaplin with Presbyterian Homes. They raised three children and now have 11 grandchildren.

The intercessors for MEC receive an eight page prayer letter every ten days with requests from inmates and volunteers. Almeda also prays for us at many other times. Without using her name, I often share a story about her that reflects their need to trust. God was helping me learn trust when I had such a strong conflict with something she shared that I needed to leave the room and almost left the church. In the next room there was a book on the table about birth order and the way people with different birth orders relate to others. It was exactly what I needed to see we could work together. I share that, this person who had such a different view became a good friend and prays for me. She is even praying for you (the inmates) today. K.S.



Photo Karen Selby

hearts to a love like this is something we can learn from.

(Mk. 10) Pregnant and nursing mothers are vulnerable (Mtt.24 and Mk 13) The Atlantic Weekly printed an article about neurological changes that happen. There are changes in a woman's brains that start when she becomes pregnant. " Gray matter becomes more concentrated. Activity increases in regions that control empathy, anxiety, and social interaction." These changes open her up to increased potential for anxiety and depression as well as deeper bonding with the baby... Women have a 'brain-hormone-behavior constellation' that's automatically primed for mothering. Men show similar brain changes when they're deeply involved in caregiving; ... caring for one's baby forges new neural pathways. God has additional care for those that are bearing and leading others. (Is 40)



Whether our experience with our mothers was or is challenging or deeply loving - and most relationships include both aspects - we need to honor our mothers. Honoring and giving to them reflects our commitment to God and we are promised blessing if we do. (Mtt. 15, Mk. 7, Eph. 6, I Tim. 1) Our faith can increase as we accept what faithful mothers and grandmothers pass down (2Tim. 1)

Our mothers have carried us inside themselves and many have prayed for us before or since inception. Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit while still in his mother's womb (Lk. 1) Whether or not they express it well, a mothers thoughts and prayers are deep in her heart, before, throughout and after her child's life. His mother kept all these things about Jesus in her heart. She was at the crucifixion, the tomb and with Him afterwards. (Lk. 2, Jn. 19, Acts 1) The need of her daughter caused a gentile's mother to seek and to cry out to Jesus (Mtt. 15)

Mothers can sometimes be overzealous, as the mother of Zebedee's son's was. (Mtt. 20) Men who marry need to leave their father and mother and to cleave to their wife. (Mtt.19, Eph. 5)

Mothers need support and others to pray with. Jesus' mother Mary was at the crucifixion and Jesus gave her to John as a son after Jesus death. She was continually united in prayer with other Christians. (Acts 1) His mother's sister and others were with her at the crucifixion and the visit to the tomb (Jn. 19).

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Gratitude is something that creates a great space to live from. Just saying "I'm grateful for today; I'm grateful for the person that I am." It's incredibly healing. Unless you assume God, the question life's purpose is meaningless. God is not just the starting point of your life, He is the source of it.

Focusing on ourselves will never reveal our life's purpose. It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance and our destiny. Every other path leads to a dead end. Without God, life makes no sense.



"God is with me and for me right now! He rules everything and is everywhere and is in everything." Pray it as often as possible so it is rooted deep in your heart. Say "You are with me / I want to know you / I belong to you / Help me trust You / You will never leave me / You are my God." Kevin R. HCJ

There are some additional interesting observations regarding the word mother. The Bible recounts the interactions of Jesus with his mother more than with Joseph. These include when He was a child and upset her, a wedding where He questioned her involvement and she instructed others to do what He said. This was the introduction of His public ministry. Jesus gave her to John to care for her after His death. (Mtt. 11, Jn. 2 and Lk. 2, Jn. 19) Simeon spoke to Mary. (Luke 1,).

There are a few other notes concerning the use of the word mother in the New Testament are that Jerusalem is referred to as our mother (Gal.4), Jesus is said to be a Priest without mother or father (Hebrews 7) and Babylon is the mother of prostitutes (Rev. 17)

Thank God for our mothers who give us physical, emotional, and spiritual life. Take time to learn more about your mother, look up to her and to thank God for her. If she is not still with us ask God to let her know of your love. If she is still with us, thank her today, on mother's day and the days beyond that.

Karen Selby

Ministry Friends

We know that we are not alone in
Ministry.

This month MEC's shout-out is to

Connected Families

Connected Families exists to bring uncommon grace and truth to those parents longing for more than simple answers and quick fixes. Helps you discern what is going on inside the child that motivates behavior and connects you as a family.

<http://connectedfamilies.org/>



Happy Mothers Day Music Plus Faith

Link for Top Christian Songs for Mothers—(listen free)

<http://musicplusfaith.com/top-christian-songs-for-mothers/>

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