

Ladies Prayer International Newsletter



United Pentecostal Church October 2016



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A Mother's Earnest Prayer

By Robin Shutes



My story started even before my birth. My mother lost her fourth child and almost lost her own life in the process. She asked the Lord to give her another child, promising to give the child back to Him for His purpose.

I didn't know that story, but almost twenty years later, I found myself on the mission field, working with my husband in the former Soviet Union. Around that time, with tears flowing and her heart open, my mother told me of the promise she had made to God. He heard her prayer and she was faithful to those words she had spoken before Him. What is truly amazing is that up until that time, I was the only member of my family to walk in truth. My life was truly shaped by that earnest prayer of my mother.

My story reminds me of another mother who made a similar promise. Hannah was a devout believer from the mountains of Ephraim. One year, when they went to worship before the Lord, Hannah poured her soul out before God and vowed that if He would give her a child, she in turn would give that child back to Him for His service.

"And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life" (1 Samuel 1:10-11).

In 1 Samuel 1:24-28 the Bible tells us that Hannah fulfilled her vow.

"And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her . . . and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young. And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD."

As mothers, whether physical or spiritual, we have the privilege of dedicating the precious gifts we have been entrusted with back to the Lord for His service. We continually cover them in prayer and guide them through this life to later become great men and women of God. Though we may be unsure of where God may lead them, we must hold nothing back. Even the gesture of letting them go for His purpose can become a testimony of our faith and trust in Christ.

Note: Robin Shutes is the wife of missionary Mark Shutes. They have served in Global Missions for over twenty-three years. She currently serves as coordinator of Ladies Ministries for The CIS and Baltic Republics as well as secretary for the Europe/Middle East Ladies Ministries.

The Blessings of a Birth Story

By Esmeralda Delgadillo



A recent study was done showing a correlation between birth story narratives from mothers to their daughters and a strong sense of self-esteem in adolescent girls. The more often a mother shared with her daughter the events and emotions surrounding the day of her daughter's birth, it produced a sense of purpose and connection with her mother.

When my sister was twelve, she overheard our mother say that she wanted an abortion when she was pregnant with her. For many years this caused her to adopt a negative core belief until just recently. While she knew that she was born in a near state of death, something that would overshadow her for the rest of her life, what she did not know was that the Lord miraculously healed her and she was a walking miracle. My sister's story of survival had now become a story of miraculous purpose and sovereign intervention by the Great Creator Himself.

Reflecting the glory of God in the lives of our daughters is reinforced when we remind them of the undeniable relevance of this truth, "You matter, you were born with purpose and destiny, you are unique, and I am blessed you are a part of me."

Although not every birth story is a positive one, studies show that as a mother matures and goes from life stage to life stage, the narrative changes from detailed oriented to emotional memories. When a mother intentionally verbalizes the preciousness of her daughter's birth at any stage in her daughter's life it promotes feelings of self-worth and encouragement in every facet of her life. Scripture speaks of the power and impact words have when we speak them into the lives of others. Proverbs 25:11 tell us "a word fitly spoken is as apples of gold in pictures of silver."

Many are the daughters who have wondered lost, lonely, and comfortless because of well-intended thoughts never shared or expressed. What we say to our daughters, the dialogue between us, brings something to the atmosphere.

Imagine, if negative words have the capacity to wound those we love, what can happen when we speak words of life and blessing? Like the prophet who spoke life over dry bones, as mothers we can speak life into those we love, igniting passion and a love for God. The daughters of this generation are looking to us for the mantle of genuine Pentecostal

experience and apostolic anointing.

Mothers, let your voices echo in the lives of your daughters the significance for which they are separated. Tell the birth story, the testimonies that will both shake and shape a generation that will, from your reflection, also reflect the glory.

Note: Esmeralda Delgadillo, MA, BCCC is a Board Certified Christian Counselor ministering as a pastor's wife with her husband Gabriel Delgadillo at Family Fire UPC in New Caney, Texas. She is a mother of a ten year old daughter, Hannah, and an eighteen year old son, Josiah. Esmeralda earned her MA in Counseling and Human Relations from Liberty University, is a graduate of Texas Bible College, a Member of the American Association of Christian Counselors, a Facilitator for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training, a Certified Sexual Addictions Specialist, and a licensed minister of the UPCI.

Covered with Prayer

By JoAnn Thornton



It was mid-winter meetings, an exciting annual event for youth presidents and their wives nationwide to come to St. Louis and meet with other youth workers for instruction, fun, and to build friendships. My husband and I, looking forward to the trip, began making preparations. However, finding childcare that we felt comfortable with for our two girls, ages seven and two, was a difficulty.

As we all know, people may volunteer to keep your children but schedules, beliefs, and environments may not always coincide with your parenting standard. I had been raised in an extremely dysfunctional home, and due to many factors of that home life, I was hypersensitive about leaving our daughters. After some inquiries, we found someone we both felt comfortable with. After much discussion, we decided to let them stay for the couple of days we would be gone.

In my effort to make every detail as secure as possible, packing for the girls meant labeling what outfits for what days, lists of bedtimes, habits, needs, our numbers and several other precautionary instructions. This included explanations to our girls and prayer over them before leaving. And with all of that done, I still left town with heaviness and concern.

We arrived in St. Louis, began the meetings, and were having a wonderful time. On the second afternoon, we called to check on our girls and discovered that some family members from out-of-state had unexpectedly come to town and "stopped for a visit." With the knowledge that they were a danger to children, my world began to spin. I spoke as calmly as possible to our sweet little girls, asked the care givers to please give extra care and let us know when the company had left. As we hung up the phone, I literally crumbled onto the floor, overcome with panic and fear of what could happen. As I sobbed to the Lord, my husband consoled and prayed with me.

After some time of distressed prayer, the Lord spoke words that still comfort me today. He said, "If I was able to keep Moses in Pharaoh's house, I am able to keep your children." Such a peace came over me! God gave me an assurance that He knew every effort on my part as a mother, and when we call on Him in prayer, He has us covered.

"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (Psalm 61:1-2).

Note: Joann Thornton has served as president of Missouri District Ladies Ministries for nine years. She is blessed to be married to her husband of twenty-six years, Pastor Chris Thornton. They work side-by-side in the city of Lebanon, Missouri, where growing Harvest Tabernacle is their passion. They have three amazing children, Ceci 24, Celine 19, and Christopher 15, who are the loves of their lives.

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From the Editor



Debbie Akers

God is doing mighty things! God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in English, Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Portuguese, Russian, Greek, Arabic, Farsi, Czech, Chinese, Swahili, Hungarian, Tagalog, Indonesian, Romanian, Italian, Norwegian and Polish.

Please help us pray for a Serbian, Bulgarian and Japanese translators.

If you wish to receive any of the above translations please send request to LadiesPrayerInternational@aol.com and we will be delighted to add you to our mailing list!

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Who we are . . . Since 1999: Ladies Prayer Intl. is made up of women worldwide, who meet on the first Monday of each month to unite in focused prayer for their children and the children of the local church and community.

Our Mission . . . We are committed to the spiritual preservation of this generation and beyond and the spiritual restoration of previous generations.

Our Need . . . Committed women who will join together on the first Monday of each month and pray focused prayer for their children.

Three Priorities of Prayer...

- The salvation of our children (Isaiah 49:25; Psalm 144:12; Isaiah 43:5-6).
- That they take ownership of the faith at an accountable age (1 John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
- That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38).

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**Ministries we support...
TUPELO CHILDREN'S MANSION**

Children live in an environment with opportunity to grow spiritually, physically and emotionally.

NEW BEGINNINGS Maternity care for birthmothers considering adoption and child placement for adoptive couples.

HAVEN OF HOPE A program for girls ages 13-16 with behavioral and emotional issues.



LIGHTHOUSE RANCH for BOYS Healing broken and hurting lives of teen boys.



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