

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Enlightening the Community

Mothers

By Evelyn M. Bingham
SUN COLUMNIST & POET



The month of May, is a beautiful time of the year. May is also the month, which we have set aside for honoring the special women in our lives, the beautiful women, whom we each affectionately refer to as MOTHER, MOM,

MAMA, NANA, or, some other more personal title of endearment.

Not every female, will be a mother, yet each of us reading these words, has one! She may or may not, be the person who physically gave birth to us, but she must obviously have been our source of physical and emotional love, care, and concern.

Some dictionary definitions of Mother, are: a woman who has borne a child; a woman as she is related to her child or children; such as, a stepmother, an adoptive mother, mother-in-law; the female parent of a plant or animal, that which gives birth to something; the origin or source of something; or nurtures in the manner of a mother; a woman having the responsibility and authority of a mother, an elderly woman, used as a title of affectionate respect!

We, who are blessed enough to be *seasoned* mothers, realize the honor, importance, and seriousness of our role, and realize with humility, that it is *only* through the grace of God, that mothers make it through the childrearing portion of our lives. As mothers, I'm sure that our joint prayer and goal, is, and has always been, to raise responsible children of love and integrity, and, who will be a credit to the world.

Here are two articles, I'd like to share with you regarding mothers, which I read many years ago:

Mothers: How to keep them running smoothly

Perhaps mothers should come with a maintenance agreement that provides a complete overhaul every five years and after three kids or 300,000 miles, whichever comes first. Here are several points that ought to be included:

Fuel: While most mothers will run indefinitely on hot coffee, pizza and hamburgers, an occasional gourmet meal for two in elegant surroundings, will add immeasurably to increased efficiency.

Motor: A mother's motor is probably one of the *most* dependable anywhere. A mother can reach top speed from a prone position at the sound of a single cry from a sleeping child. To keep that motor at peak efficiency, regular breaks are recommended. A leisurely bath and nap every 1,000 miles and a two week, live-in sitter every 100,000 miles will do wonders.

Carburetor: When a mother's carburetor floods, it should be attended to immediately with a tissue and a soft shoulder.

Brakes: Use them often, and slow to a full stop regularly ---- to look at a flower, chat with a friend, or pat a dog. Remember that the race is not always to the swift and that there is more to life than increasing its speed.

Chassis: A mother operates best, when her chassis is properly maintained. Regular exercise should be encouraged. When the chassis begins to sag, there are a number of effective remedies, including walking, jogging, working out, tennis and a low-cal, fat-free diet.

Tune-ups: Mothers need regular tune-ups. Compliments are the cheapest and most appreciated. Flowers, candy or other thoughtful gifts such as a hug and a kiss can work wonders. Nothing keeps a mother equipped to deal with the detours of life like a good sense of humor, which should be kept on the glove compartment of her heart at all times, pulled out and used on a regular basis.

By following these simple instructions, the average mother should last a lifetime, to provide love and nurturing to those who need her most.

Never alone

By Evangelist Barbara Colbert
SUN COLUMNIST



The prophet, Jeremiah (23:24), assures us that God is always with us, there is no place we can be out of His sight. Yet, in times of upsets and uncertainties, it is easy to feel that we are indeed, alone.

God is present at all times and in all situations. He desires to walk with us through the pressures of life, and provide comfort and companionship.

However, we must learn to tune our hearts to His voice, yield to His embrace. Today's world limiting social contact and enforcing self-quarantine, presents an excellent opportunity to cultivate a relationship with the Father. Get to know Him, almost as well as He knows us.

One. Develop a stronger awareness of God. Strive for a desire to be in His presence, become more in tune to His voice, and be increasingly transformed into the image of Jesus. (Psalm 27:4) Pursue God's will for our lives, and base our decisions on His guidance. We will find ourselves growing more dependent on Him, and developing more strength through Him.

Two. Learn from our spiritual stepping stones. Take time to reflect on events or encounters in our lives that had a deep spiritual influence on us. A time when God came to our rescue and we learned something about His sovereignty. This may have been God's way of revealing to us our areas of weaknesses and where we need strengthening. Pray about them and ask God how we can gain insight and growth in Christ Jesus. (Psalm 119:9-11)

Three. Stop, Look, and Listen! Learn to STOP before acting or reacting. LOOK for God's omnipresence. LISTEN for the voice of the indwelling Holy Spirit who is waiting to lead us in the way of the Lord. Remember that the voice of the Holy Spirit is soft and quiet. We will only be able to hear Him when we make a conscious effort to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN. (1Kings 19:11-12)

Four. Learn from interruptions. Consider interruptions as more than mere annoyances. They are often opportunities to hear a word from God that may be specific to our own personal circumstances. When we find that our plans have been interrupted, we should ask God to show us how He wants to use that interruption to change our thinking, or even the direction of our lives. Remember, God's way is not always our way - but His way is always the right way! (Proverbs 3:5)

Five. Let the darkness help us to see the light. Commit the suffering and hardships that come our way to God, and trust Him to be with us every step of the way. Let the negative experiences we encounter motivate us to pursue God even more. Learn from losses and mistakes and remember that hard times can usher in transformation and new life. Learn to cast our cares upon Him. Why? Because He cares for us! (1Peter 5:7)

Six. Be our brother's keeper. No matter how grave situations become in our own lives, remember to pray not only for ourselves, but others as well. We should strive to help others as much as we can. When we take our eyes off our own problems, and focus on helping others, selfishness decreases and selflessness increases. (1Peter 3:8) Turning the trials of life into the triumphs of life, is what separates light from dark. This is the very essence of a God who is Light and has assured us that He is always with us, and will never leave us alone!

Black women, have you forgotten how to pray? Part 1

By Minister Gloria G. Lee
SPECIAL TO THE SUN

You will recall with me, historically and presently, women have never had total freedom. Our society from in-depth in the times of women of courage like Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Julia Cooper; the biblical women like Esther, Ruth, Hannah, and Mary Magdalene; they only struggled to emerge. They took courage to resonate. The women prayed endlessly; prayed without boundary. They prayed without time limit; so, did we in the past. Black women, have you all forgotten how to pray?

It has been an imitable culture of the American black women to lead their generations in struggle through prayer whenever violent storms have knocked at our doors.

Take, for example, revolutionist women; they underwent dehumanization that varied from slavery, rape, sexual harassment, racial discrimination, and chauvinism, all in their plate of anguish. But did they fail to succeed? These women stood firm in bravery guided by the light of prayer; the shield of our Lord God. They triumphed for they prayed. Why then should we deviate from prayer when oppression knocks onto us; why resort to weapons never known to us to retaliate? Black women, have you all forgotten how to pray?



Across the streets of our cities and towns; our men, husbands and sons; black men of strength, die without reason from the hands of police. The men are helpless and harmless; they walk with heads down in fear, in a society that takes black skin for a felony. Do we have guns to pose riot against the incivility of the police? No, your gun, my gun, is the word of the Lord; the prayer you say in silence, the powerful mumber you make to God in all times of the day like Hannah did; it's the weapon you need. We cannot fight it otherwise without prayer! Black women, have you all forgotten how to pray?

Far and beyond and now, black women lose their children to white women; to foster care families. Sometimes it's unjust; we are compelled to take to unrighteous ways to defend

our rights, we forget that prayer is the best tool; the strongest fist of war that even the devil fears. Or could it be we have prayed far too long without answers? Even so, the Bible in Romans 12:12 encourages us, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer." Psalms 102:17 further emphasizes, "He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; He will not despise their plea." How then shall you avoid praying? Oh black women have you all forgotten how to pray?

When God created mothers

When the good Lord was creating mothers, he was into his sixth day of *overtime*, when the angel appeared and said, *You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one!* And the Lord said, *Have you read the specs on this order?* She has to be completely washable, but *not* plastic; Have 180 moveable parts. . . all replaceable; Run on black coffee and leftovers; Have a lap that disappears when she stands up; A kiss that can cure anything, from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair; And, six pairs of hands. The angel shook her head slowly and said, *Six pairs of hands . . . No way! It's not the hands that are causing me problems*, said the Lord. *It's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have. That's on the standard model?* Asked the angel. The Lord nodded. *One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, What are you kids doing in there? When she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't, but what she has to know, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child— when he goofs up and say, I understand and I love you, without so much as uttering a word. Lord, said the angel, touching his sleeve gently, Come to bed. Tomorrow. I can't said the Lord, I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick . . . can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger, and can get a nine year old to stand under a shower.* The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. *It's too soft*, she sighed. *But tough*, said the Lord excitedly. *You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure. Can it think?* Said the angel. *Not only think, but it can reason and compromise*, said the Creator. Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek of the model. *There's a leak*, she pronounced. *I told you, you were trying to put too much into this model. It's not a leak*, said the Lord, *it's a tear. What's it for*, asked the angel? *It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride. You are a genius*, said the angel. The Lord looked somber . . . *I didn't put it there.*