



# Lively Stones | PETER 2:5

*Holding forth the word of life*

ISSUE 9, 2006

14 MAY 2006

*For Private circulation only*

Dear Readers,

Last year, some of Lifers shared and paid tribute to their mothers on the Lively Stone's Mother's Day issue. This Mother's Day, we have an article to encourage mothers to raise godly children for God.

The article is a summary of Dr John MacArthur's sermon 'Hannah, A Godly Mother'. Dn Woon has very kindly transcribed the message for us. Though not all of us would be able to adopt all that is suggested in the article; especially to quit our jobs to be with our children, I believe that there are characteristics that we can learn and emulate. May we be blessed by the message.

SL

## Example of a Godly Mother

**I** came from a non-Christian home and grew up in a village without electricity or gas. From the time I was 3, my mother started teaching me survival skills to enable me to become independent, educated and taught me morals. For example, my mother taught me how to fry an egg though I was too short to see what I was cooking and had to stand on a stool. Later, she taught me how to start a fire using firewood, kerosene and a match and how to control the fire well so that I did not burn my food. Mother taught me well! She showed me how to look for food in the farm (not from the fridge! no electricity), how to locate sweet potatoes underground, how to spot the biggest and sweetest tapioca, yam or carrot, how to take an egg from the chicken nest while the hen is still nestling without getting pecked. [Do you know chicken laid their eggs while standing? Not sitting down? They sat down most of the time waiting for the moment when it was ready to lay the egg, they stood up and plo! The egg is out. By the way the egg shell is soft and moist when it is out, it only dries up and turns hard after a few minutes. God made it this way so that we do not get chipped or broken eggs.] Mother showed me all these things and more!

When I was 4~6 years old, mother taught me how to ride a bicycle. She also taught me how to draw, read, do simple stitching, use the sewing machine, light the pressure lamp, till and seed the farm ground, cook and feed all the dogs and cats, where to cut grass and feed the carps in the pond, how to bathe and feed the pigs, how to fetch water from the wells, and light & place night lights for the chicken coop. Although we were very poor, she decided to purchase both

Chinese and English newspapers daily so that my siblings and I could read and learn. She taught us moral virtues; to respect the elderly, be kind to others, share our things, etc.

I remember how we boasted about our mothers in school; how well they cooked, how much they accomplished at home taking care of us, even taught us new knowledge and skills. We were proud of our mothers. My mother was not a Christian, but I believe she faired far better than many mothers these days. The impact she had on me significantly moulded me to be what I am today.

Are mothers still the pride of this land today? It does not seem so. With increasing rates of abortions, divorces, orphans, battered children, violence in the family, the standard of the family unit seems to be going downhill.

**L**et us examine some biblical injunctions on role of mothers. **Mothers are makers of man.** In that the role, the woman will **raise godly children and teach them virtue.** While on the one hand woman might bear a stigma for having lead in the fall in the Garden of Eden, she reverses that stigma by leading the production of a godly generation through her spiritual influence to her children. But this all seems outdated and irrelevant today. Many women seemed to have diverted their attention and emphasis from the family to building their own career.

Paul wrote to Titus on the role of mothers: **Lovers of their husbands, lovers of their children, chaste,**

*(Continued on page 2)*

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

# Example of a Godly Mother

\*\*\*\*\*

*(Continued from page 1)*

**pure, keepers at home.** 1 Tim 5:10, to raise children and be brought up a Godly generation. This is God's design for the woman. It started with Sarah who was a gift of God to Abraham. Sarah was a model of faith, of obedience, given a child late in life, nonetheless demonstrated the faith and sanctity of marriage and motherhood. There are many other examples; Rachel, Debora, Ruth, Elizabeth mother of John the Baptist, Mary – the mother of our Lord Jesus. The bible gave us the most details in the example of Hannah. Her example sets the profile of a godly mother. She had a right:

1. Husband Relationship
2. Heavenly Relationship
3. Home Relationship

### 1. Right Husband Relationship

Children learn about human relationships from and through their parents; they learn about virtue, sin, love, forgiveness, sympathy, understanding, compassion, honesty, integrity. **Far more important than your relationship with your child, is the relationship with your spouse** which is projected to your child in the long run. In 1 Sam 1:1, the word of God first stated the relationship between Hannah and Elkanah. It was not a perfect relationship. Hannah was married to a polygamist. We have to understand it was a primitive time and polygamy is part of the culture but never God's design. Polygamy was so pervasive that it took a long time to root it out. Likely Elkanah having married Hannah and was not able to have children, resort to marrying another wife Peninnah, purely to pro-create so that the children can take over Elkanah's inheritance. **Not a perfectly right relationship but nonetheless a good one, reason being they worshipped God together.** Elkana was a worshipping man. Each year he would go out of city to worship the Lord in Shiloh.

**Hannah had a believing husband.** This is the first pre-requisite for raising godly children. Ladies, marry a man who is godly because you need the spiritual headship. **They worshipped together.** v19 They rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the Lord. In order to worship together, one must stay away from mixed marriages.

**They shared Love.** Clearly Peninnah was there just to produce children, to create a future for his family, his inheritance. But Hannah was the one he loved! He made no attempt to hide that. Hannah's security was in her husband's love for her, not bank account, new clothing, or a retirement plan. **There was**

**security, trust, warmth, quietness, absence of anxiety and frustration, so that she could give herself to her children.** She did not need to be a beauty queen to win her husband's affection. **They shared feelings.** Elkanah heard her heart, understood the conflict between her and Peninnah, he was sympathetic, thoughtful, tender towards her. Elkanah understood that Peninnah made things very difficult for her, constantly reminding her of her barrenness.

### 2. Right Heavenly Relationship

Hannah also had a right heavenly relationship. She had a passion for the Lord's best, **she wanted a child not for selfish motive,** to live out her own fantasy, need or love. **She wanted a child to give to God.** A godly mother should not be a reluctant mother who found children an intrusion to her lifestyle and crowd her schedule. A godly mother loved her children, and endeavoured to raise a godly seed.

**Woman of prayer.** She rose up after eating, probably after some encouragement from her husband, she went to the temple of the Lord to pray. When she had problem, she went to God. She came into the temple greatly distressed, her soul was literally bitter and she wept sore. She was crushed! Being a woman of prayer, she understood only God can give her a child. Her distinctive virtue was her faith! **She had the virtue of constant faith and she was totally dependent on God.** Many a times our prayers were reluctant, hoping to keep it short and end it soon, but here Hannah continued in prayer despite the environment and situation. This spoke of her Right Heavenly Relationship, she knew where to go when she had problems.

**A woman of promise** (v11). She promised God she would give Him this child. Her only desire was to fulfil her part as a mother, she wanted to raise a godly son to give back to God. While praying for a child, she did not ask for a wrong reason but for a right reason, to return that child back to God from where the child came.

**A woman of purity.** (v12) Eli misjudged Hannah but she respected him as a priest and replied she was not drunk, and she disassociated herself from that group of people. In OT times, drunkenness was associated with rebellion (Sam 2), idolatry (Deut 13) and lewd acts (Jud 19,20). She was a virtuous woman, like the woman of proverbs 12:4, 31:10. She was a godly woman, a pure woman.

**Woman of patient faith.** (v18) After prayer, she went her way and did eat and her countenance was no more sad! She fully trusted the Lord and cast all her cares upon the Lord. True faith does not doubt God's power

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*

# Example of a Godly Mother

to handle our petitions. True faith does not leave us frustrated after praying.

**A woman of praise!** (Chap 2) When God gave her the child, she expressed her unbroken and pure praise, out of a thankful soul. Those 10 verses, a masterpiece of praise, should be read carefully. A godly mother is known by her praise.

### 3. Right Home Relationship

**Elkanah was a faithful and godly man.** He and his house went to Jerusalem yearly to offer to the Lord his sacrifices. But Hannah would not go up until little Samuel is weaned. The trip would take at most 2 to 3 weeks, yet she would not go. Travelling there would take a week and another to travel back (Palestine from one end to the other was less than 200 miles). It was not too far, why did she not go? **When God gave her the child, she was dedicated to the child.** She would not forsake her time with the child, even for a few weeks. She would not take the child on the trip because it was uncomfortable, they had to walk. The child needed sleep, the gentleness of home, the quietness of a nursing environment.

This is very different today, many women would entrusts their babies to another care giver to return to her job after 3 months of maternity leave. But not Hannah, **she is totally committed until the life is trained,** till the little life is nursed, loved and cherished. Spending time talking to the little one about God, preparing his heart for the time he would be dedicated. The child must be at least 3~6 years old when he was dedicated to the LORD. These initial years are the most critical period of his life, an important time to be spent with a loving and caring mother. She took all the

time to teach the child the things about God. **Not only dedicate yourself to the child, you must dedicate your child to the Lord.** She sought not to bring up the child to earn big money so that she could retire in comfort and luxury. She sought not to make the child learn much, be famous and gained power in society. She trained the child to give to God. **Train up the child in the way they should go, to consecrate their heart and life to God and for His use.**

Hence to be a godly mother, one must have the right husband relationship, the right heavenly relationship and the right home relationship. **Hannah has set a model for us to follow.**

#### Application

**Ladies:** Are you a godly mother? Are you preparing to be a godly mother? If you are an older woman, are you preparing younger woman to be godly mothers?

**Gentlemen:** Are you creating an environment where your wife could be effective as a mother? Are you raising sons who would raise godly families of their own?

**Young people:** Are you honouring your mother? Are you obeying your mother as God has given you a godly mother? Nobody is perfect but as mothers yield to God and gave themselves in the upbringing of you, this is the greatest gift, are you thankful? For those who do not have a Christian mother, are you praying for her salvation?

The hope of society really rests upon the next generation and so much in the hands of godly women.

**Deacon Woon Sin Wei**



## Next Issue.....

*Read all about the Senior Department of our Sunday School as they have their promotional Sunday on 28th May*

## Announcement

*The Sunday School Ex-co will be having their next meeting on 21st May*

## A Mother's Investment Plan

The wife of noble character in Proverbs 31 knew a great deal about investing. She purchased a field and with her earnings she planted a vineyard. She also had a home business making belts for the tradesmen. But I think one of her most notable characteristics was her investment in her children who rose up and called her "blessed."

This is not an accolade that is earned overnight, *but only after daily deposits into the hearts, souls and minds of children.*

When I became a mother, I wondered what exactly this woman did to cause her children to bless her. To find some answers, I've observed mothers through the years, listen to what grown children have to say about their mothers and prayed that God would give me wisdom in raising my own child. Amazingly, I have seen seven key ways to invest in the lives of children that promise great dividends. The seven elements fit the acronym of **BLESSED**. She's a *beacon* who is available, a *listener* who tunes in with all the honing devices God provides, an *encourager* who instills courage and confidence, a *self-esteem* builder who lays a foundation of unconditional love, a *seed-sower* who sows seeds of scripture and prayer, an *example setter* who understands her children will imitate her actions and she's *diligent* - she doesn't give up, she doesn't give in, and she gives her children to the Lord.

That sounds like a pretty tall order, but no one ever said motherhood was easy. If it was, I don't think it would start with something called labor! And what is the value of such a mother who initiates such an investment plan? Her worth is far above rubies (Proverbs 31:10). I read a book review last week in which the author lamented that she lost between \$600,000 and \$700,000 in possible income and pensions during the years

when she stayed out of work to raise her son. She goes on to say, "I sacrificed more than half of my expected lifetime earnings." But can you put a price on motherhood? Can you reduce the rewards and losses to dollars and cents? I think not. Tim Kimmel once said, "You can't leave character in a trust account. You cannot write your values into the will. You cannot bank traits like courage, honesty, and compassion in a safe deposit box. What we need is a plan - a long-term strategy to convey our convictions to the next generation."

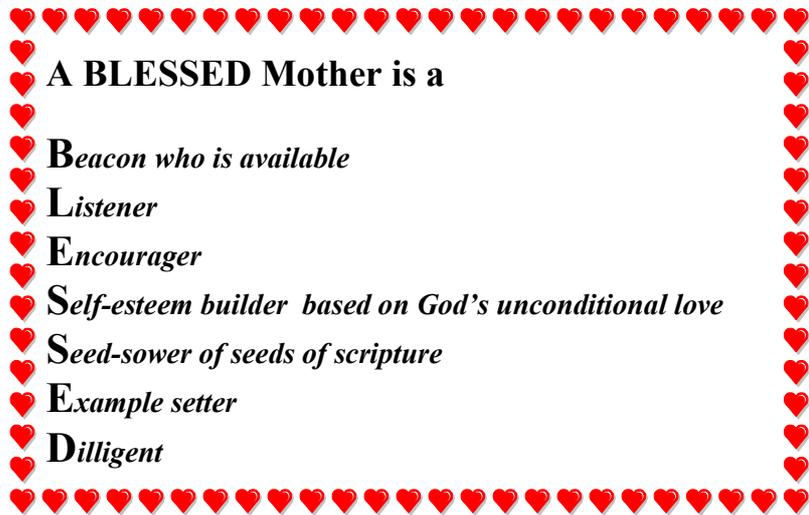
At the Proverbs 31 Ministry, we do have a plan. Our third principle states, The Proverbs 31 woman believes that motherhood is a high calling with the responsibility of shaping and molding the children that will one day define who we are as a community and a nation. Being that kind of mom reminds me of the story of a world-famous violinist. An admiring fan ran up to him one day and cried, "Mr. Kreisler, I'd give my life to play as you do!" To that he replied, "Madam, I did." Some people treat being a mother like playing a slot machine, putting in as little as possible and hoping to hit the jackpot. **But being a mother is a diligent investment of sacrifices that reaps dividends with compounded interest over time!**

President Theodore Roosevelt said it well. "No other success in life - not being President, or being wealthy, or going to college, or writing a book, or anything else-come up to the success of the man or woman who can feel that they have done their duty and that their children and grandchildren rise up and call them blessed.

Happy Mother's Day and happy investing!

A Mothers' Day message by Sharon Jaynes

(article reprinted from [proverbs31.gospelcom.net](http://proverbs31.gospelcom.net))



**A BLESSED Mother is a**

**Beacon who is available**

**Listener**

**Encourager**

**Self-esteem builder based on God's unconditional love**

**Seed-sower of seeds of scripture**

**Example setter**

**Diligent**