



Ministering to Women in All Seasons of Life

www.sheilabaileyministries.org

May 2010

Happy Mother's Day!

“Stop • Rewind • Play • Fast-Forward”



Approaching Mother's Day, as I reflect upon my memories as a daughter, mother and grandmother, I have mentally and emotionally pressed each of these indicators as I would on my DVD player. Please join me in the reviewing, viewing and previewing of your personal comedy, suspense and sometimes drama filled adventure.



STOP / PAUSE

We know that every day is Mother's Day, but May 9, 2010 is the official day that is set aside to recognize and celebrate mothers. Of course you are busy with many items on your "to do list" or in your Blackberry, but this year I want to encourage you to STOP and be INTENTIONAL about honoring your mother!!! Plan ahead! Don't wait until Saturday to make your dining reservations, send flowers, and select a gift. Don't wait until Sunday night to call to say "Happy Mother's Day" to your mom, mother-in-love and special women who are models of motherhood. Lovingly, share with your husband the significance of this day so he'll have time and hopefully, money- honey. I remember teaching my daughters and son, when they were very young, the meaning of Mother's Day. Their dad and I also told them that it would be nice to make or buy a gift, too. Sometimes they would go shopping with their dad. I have saved some of the gifts that they made for me when they were in elementary school.



REWIND

My mother, Mama Lucy, has been in heaven for eight years. The memories are more special to my sister and me now as we reflect upon our childhood and teenage years in Stamford, Conn., as well as the five years of her life when she lived in Dallas with my sister and her family. My mother-in-law has been in heaven for a few years and spiritual moms are also there, but the memories are more precious. You should hear the stories that the grandchildren and my brother-in-law have to tell. Often we will say, "Do you remember", especially when we begin to act, unconsciously, like one of them. However, there are some memories that you may not want to review such as abuse, neglect, abandonment, miscarriages, abortion or death. Choose this day that you will press forward because you are more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus.



PLAY

See the picture, not just the clips. Know that God has a wonderful plan for your life (Jeremiah 29:11). Seek God's will for your life. Live in the present tense by loving, serving, forgiving and reconciling to the Glory of God. Sometimes my schedule becomes wild and when I haven't seen my three year old granddaughter, Bailey Shanice, I'll call her mom, Shenikwa, and tell her that I need a "Bailey fix!!". That may mean an unplanned breakfast together, more hugs and kisses than usual, sending her a text message so her mom can read it to her. Life is short!! You don't realize that it is a vapor until you are at the hospital or funeral of your loved one. Love while you can.



FAST FORWARD

As I see my daughters, their husbands, my son and granddaughter maturing, I too must embrace my mortality and plan a holistic inheritance for them. So, I have begun to fill in the blanks of books such as "A Grandmother Remembers" and "A Journal of Faith and Love-Grandmother's Memories to her Grandchild", as I continue to share my time, talent and treasure with them.



~~ Please read the articles and prayer written by gifted people of God who love you dearly ~~



Stephen G. Brown

Unsung Heroes

Of recent months, I have been enamored by the *TV One* show “**Unsung**.” It presents musical legends of the past who never received their full recognition or fame. Some may call them “*One Hit Wonders*,” but their contributions, once fully examined, demonstrate their true worth. Can the same premise be made about our treatment of our mothers? Is it possible that because of their accomplishments in the past, we have neglected to honor them properly in the present? Or perhaps we have been so mesmerized by our own achievements as adults that we mistakenly accept accolades that are actually due our mothers?

For most of us, our mothers have become “**Unsung Heroes**” whom we casually honor a couple of times a year. We feverishly rush to grab the last greeting card on the shelf, but in stark contrast, she gave us her first and her last! We provide seasonal meals and treats, but she nurtured and carried us in season and out of season. If we’re honest with ourselves, we have treated our mothers like “**Unsung Heroes**.” I am most guilty...

Our Scriptures teach us to honor our mothers, and in doing so, we reap the benefits of a quality and fulfilling life. As we honor her, God will bless us! It almost seems like a challenge from God. Let’s garner a new perspective that seeks to honor our mothers beyond seasonal holidays. Let this Mother’s Day be the beginning of a life-long pursuit of honor, reflection, love, appreciation, and genuine remembrance. Let us not forget the sacrifices that were made for all of us, as our mothers risked their lives, so that we might live!

Mother, please forgive me for how I have so taken you for granted. From this day forward, I will seek to honor you during this season and beyond. Your love and care for all these years are so appreciated. May I demonstrate that appreciation in a manner that will make you proud.





Shenikwa Cager

A Letter to My Daughter and Yours

You are beautiful inside & out even when you don't always feel like it.

You are strong in Christ Jesus even when you are weak beyond measure.

You are always forgiven even when the world says otherwise.

You are free to be exactly who God created you to be even when it goes
against the crowd.

You are making great decisions even when you feel like you are flying by
the seat of your pants.

You are the young lady who made me the happiest mom in the world!

I am so proud of you even when we don't see eye to eye.

I am the best "secret keeper" even when it's the biggest secret in the world.

I am in awe of how much you are so much like me even when we hate to admit it.

I am your biggest cheerleader even when it's not that much to cheer about.

I am the person who always prays for you even when you don't feel it.

I am the mom who prays for wisdom and the strength to be all God wants me to be in your life!

Happy Mother's Day to all of the "**imperfect**" mommies

who love with a "**perfect**" love through Christ Jesus.





Ella M. Tharpe

A Prayer for Mothers --Thank You!

Father God, as we approach the day of celebration for mothers, we want to thank you for creating and ordaining mothers. Your Word admonishes us to, "Honor our father and **mother**, as the Lord our God commanded; that our days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with us, in the land the Lord our God gives to us." We honor mothers by saying, thank you. Mothers have been, are and always will be a foundational strength to the family, church and the community. We thank you for your unfailing love towards mothers. Thank you for mothers who labor with and give their time not only to their own children, but to all of the children with whom they come in contact. Thank you for praying mothers who take all of their cares to you, knowing that you care for them. Thank you for those mothers who have not learned how to pray or to depend on you. Connect them with other mothers that love you and know your heart; who will take the time to mentor them in prayer and teach them to honor you in all they do. Thank you for all mothers, from the youngest to the oldest, who bind up the broken hearted with words of comfort and peace, and who open their hands to the poor. Give them wisdom and strength to birth, teach, mentor and train children, and to love and cherish their family, church and community. Please give them rest when they are weary and strength when they are weak.

I also pray for those who long for the physical presence of their mother, the warm hugs and the pleasant smiles. Let them remember every special moment with tears of joy and laughter, and let them always give thanks to you for every precious memory. Please cover them with love when they feel unloved and a garment of praise when they are heavy in spirit. As they remember their mother, let them thank you for the great works their mother accomplished, the lives she touched, the words of comfort and peace she spoke, and the great and powerful prayers she prayed. Lord, thank you for our mothers who leave us with a lifetime legacy of godly wisdom. Help us to share and pass it down to our children. Thanks be to you Father, for all of the great things you have done and will continue to do through mothers. In the mighty and majestic Name of Jesus, Amen!



Sisters Touching Assisting Networking with Dignity



We are on our way to S.T.A.N.D. July 5-8, 2010. Register at our regular rates now through June 18, 2010. Conference rates \$170 (includes Luncheon) or join us for Women of Influence Luncheon on Wednesday, July 7 @ 11:45 am for \$50.

Visit www.concordinallas.org for more information and to register.

Don't Forget Father's Day!

We now have available these classic sermons, *"A Father for all Seasons"* and *"An Approachable Father"* by **E.K. Bailey**. Please call Olivia DeBerry at 972-849-2949 or e-mail oliviad@sheilabaileyministries.org to place your order.

Speak Sheila! Sheila B.'s Engagement Calendar



Visit <http://www.sheilabaileyministries.org/engagementcalendar.html> for more details

May 15 - Bethlehem Baptist, Mansfield, TX

June 5 - Love Tea 13: Women & Cancer Prevention - Texas Discovery Gardens - South Dallas

July 5-8 – S.T.A.N.D. Conference – Fairmont Hotel, Dallas, TX

July 13-15 - Elizabeth Baptist Church – Women's Conference - S.W. GA

July 16 - Great Commission Baptist Church - Women's Ministry Retreat - Fort Worth, TX

July 21-24 - Mt. Erie Baptist Church Women's Retreat - Indian Wells, CA