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MINISTERING TO WOMEN IN ALL SEASONS OF LIFE



Happy Mother's Day CELEBRATING MOTHERS BY DR. SHIRLEY CLARK

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Mother's Day Issue 2012

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Over 150 years ago, Mother's Day was started in the United States of America. It was a campaign started by a mother, Anna Jarvis, in an attempt to bring awareness of poor health conditions in her community. It was a cause she believed would be best advocated by mothers. She called it "Mother's Work Day."

As I pondered on this mother and the reason she initiated this campaign, I realized today there is still a need for mothers to advocate for mothers. Not so much in the sense that we need to advocate for Mother's Work Day, but to celebrate the diversity of what warranted many women to experience motherhood.

The traditional way, of course, of receiving the title of "mother" is to have a child born from your womb or to adopt a child. While others have come into motherhood through default -- a child's parent died and they were chosen as the guardian. In addition, some have chosen at will to be foster parents. Indeed, these are the most common circumstances that endow one to be called a "mother."

But today, this title is also borne by women we would call non-traditional mothers. These are mothers that have secured this title not by their biological fruitfulness and/or family planning shrewdness, but because of their innate spiritual maturity and prophetic insight. These are the mothers we would call spiritual mothers. These are the mothers God is also using to help birth out a generation for the advancement of the kingdom of God.

The Word of God is filled with stories of how different women came to experience motherhood. As we study the Word and look at some of these mothers of ancient days, many of them experienced treks that led them toward their motherhood.

For example, Sarah, the mother of Isaac, was well up in age before she conceived a child. Moreover, just when she thought it would never happen, she conceived Isaac. However, before this happened, she let her fears and anxiety prevail, so she decided to help God out by giving her maid to her husband, Abraham, for her to bear him a son. Just in case, you are not a Bible scholar, and not familiar with this story, it did not work. It did not fill the emptiness that was in her heart. In fact, it exasperated the problem more. Sarah's story is like many today who have gone ahead of God and complicated their problem even more. But when Sarah abandoned her way of trying to help God out, she conceived a child, and eventually experienced motherhood.

Another mother in the Bible that comes to mind is Pharaoh's daughter. Her journey to motherhood came in the expression of an ark floating in a river. As she heard the sound of a baby crying, she opened up the ark and found a male child within. Immediately, her heart was knitted to the child and the prophetic destiny of a leader of a nation was secured for the Children of Israel. She named this child Moses and he grew up to experience God like no other person that lived. Forty-days in a mountain he was caught up in the glory of God.

And then there was Hannah -- a woman that God used to change the priesthood lineage forever through her motherhood encounter. Even though her journey started out much like Sarah, feeling forsaken and barren, but when she make a vow to God and cried to Him, here situation changed. God elevated her spiritually, she conceived, and the child grew up to be a priest in the house of God.

Celebrating Mothers Continued on Next Page...

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Celebrating Mothers Continued...

All three of these women had various stories of how they became mothers, much like many in our society today. As well, mothers, today, have many roles they have to play as well as many hats to wear. But whatever brought a person to experience motherhood really does not matter. But what does matter is that mothers for generations have been used by God to nurture and cultivate a generation of children to release the greatness of God from within them.

Therefore, as Mother's Day is approaching in America this weekend, we need to honor and celebrate mothers. I heard once that every generation is pregnant with the next move of God. If this statement is true, then mothers will forever have a "job." LONG LIVE MOTHERS!!!

Dr. Shirley Clark is an ordained elder as well as a freelance writer and prolific author of over 17 books. She is a sought out ghostwriter of which her writings have been featured in various local and national publications: The Potter's House of Dallas, TX Ministerial Affairs Newsletter, Epitome & Beyond Borders Magazine, Bible Schools, business journals and non-profit organizations. For the past 12 years, Dr. Clark and her husband, Thurman, have been the owners and CEO's of Clark's Consultant Group of which Jabez Books Writers' Agency is one of the departments. Dr. Clark loves writing and appreciates any opportunity she can to share the love of Jesus with others.

Happy Mother's Day from Sheila B. Ministries

Mother, Sister,
Grandmother,
Aunt, Cousin,
Mother-in-Law,
mother-in-**LOVE**,
you are like a mother to me,
mother to be.



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