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A Newsletter of WIN - USA Ladies

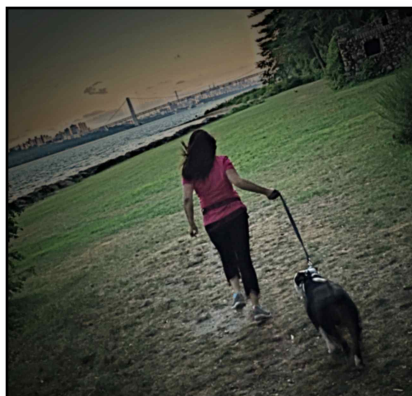
## THE WOMAN OF GOD IN THE MODERN WORLD

*Bembem Raness-Silao*



Women juggle their responsibilities based on the standards of this modern and diverse world. In the news and media, we hear stories of women reported to be evil or applauded for being a hero. However they are being portrayed, the world is not complete without them. Divorce, sexual immorality, pre-occupation with self-fulfillment have taken its toll causing the breakdown of the family unit as well as the destruction of individuals who wrestle to live a better life. While this civilization quickly goes out of control, the Bible speaks about the world and its families and how women play a significant role in the hope to bring revival to the world.

It is an irrefutable fact that our past and backgrounds do so much influence our day-to-day living. When we became born again, the struggle to leave the worldly life is never easy. Notwithstanding what we encountered, we chose to carry our cross and follow Jesus Christ. We acknowledge it is by knowing God that we establish our relationship with Him through meditating His word.



Godly women are in partnership with God in serving others through the church, their homes, and the community. The Bible is our guide, and that is

why we all gather to worship and listen to His message as we fellowship. But each one of us is called to different ministries and despite our burdens in life, our service to the congregation is voluntary and to glorify the Lord, not ourselves.

In whatever ways we participate actively in the church, our ministry does not end there. It reaches to our homes, our work sites, and to the world in general. That being said, motherhood is another ministry where we teach our children and lead them to follow God by setting an example to them. Even if they refuse to obey at times, our role as mothers is not to give up in leading them to the Lord.

I am a mother of three growing boys as well as an educator. Teaching young and confused high school students with special needs demands tender loving care and a lot of patience. Guiding them requires wisdom and strength from the Lord.

I admit I fail at times in tackling the challenges both at work and home. After an exhausting day at work, I have to deal with my family's mess at home before I could even start preparing dinner, which is really frustrating. It took a while for me to learn how to cope with this since I am a perfectionist. It used to agonize me to shut my mouth as I tidy up the living room, pick up shirts or socks off the floor, or remove an empty glass on the TV shelf or table since I'm used to nagging all the time. It was only until I learned to submit to God's way of dealing with my family that my relationship with them got healthier. My sons look up to me as their role model, and so I gradually learned how to submit to the will of God for my family. I needed to accept the fact that my purpose here on earth is not to satisfy

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## The Woman of God . . .

*Continued from Page 1*

my own needs and wants but to serve and love others and that should start with my family. Taking baby steps, I had to let go of my perfectionism and no matter how many times I failed, I learned to stand up and move on. I practiced incessantly self-control in my day-to-day life.

It has been my desire to become a Christian counselor. Doing my masters in social work has toughened up my schedule during school seasons. This is another area that I have trained myself with time management to ensure that there is a special spot for God in the middle of my busy schedule.

My race is not done, and I still need so much help. In my weakness flows the sufficiency of God's grace. I believe I am called to holiness despite my imperfections and I am confident that this is where God wants to train me to be able to be used by Him to help people someday. Despite my ministry as treasurer in the church, challenging students, messy situation, work to home to school, husband, children, financial issues, etc., still there are tons of reasons to be happy and to be grateful for life. God stands by us, and so I give all the credit to Him for all I have. I will continue to approach life with confidence where faith is activated and taking a step against fear. I am getting out of my comfort zone to face life's challenges and difficulties with courage and action when fear is trying to attack me. Faith will take me out of every fear. Every day is a learning process, and I am a work in progress.

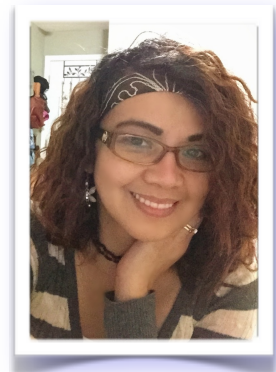
Women can do so much in this world as long as we rely on Jesus as our source of confidence. He is our blessed assurance. No matter how much we desire to serve our church, family, and community, we should do it with gladness, confidence, courage, faith and full trust in the Lord. We are all in

agreement that whatever we do for His glory, eternal rewards await us. We should be grateful for what we have instead of whining. The hustle and bustle of life is normal. It is okay to get tired but when we feel it, pray for God's comfort. Things may not happen the way we want it to be but regardless, we are so blessed to have Jesus in our life. Not everyone understands the privilege of being called the child of God and we should be grateful we do.

Women of God are determined that is why they are successful. They are strong and courageous. They are hard working. They are humble and wise, and their confidence comes from the Lord. They are joyful and are set to be an example to other women. They are busy doing things for the glory of God that's why they do not have time to gossip. They are storm-tossed yet they stand still.

Women who successfully balance church, community, family and work have one thing in common: They do what it takes to make God the center of their lives. As it is said, a godly woman always faces tomorrow with confidence and a smile.

We women of God can do all these because of Christ Jesus, who gives us strength.



*Bembem serves as Treasurer of WIN New York and an educator of children with special needs.*

<sup>3</sup>By *wisdom* a house is built, and by **understanding** it is established; <sup>4</sup>and by *knowledge* the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

- Proverbs 24: 3-4



## The Blessing Count

*Marita Villafuerte Pierce*

People say that you should count your blessings. Can you count your blessings?

Time to reflect...

*Blast from the past, photo taken when I was trying to look reflective since I could not pose for the camera looking serious. Est. 2005*

If you really think about it, you cannot and will not be able to count your blessings accurately. I'm talking about detailed accounting style, no sloppy counting here. No matter how you try, you will make a mistake.

If you think you can count your blessings, you are actually in trouble. Why? Because if you CAN COUNT your blessings, then either you do not have enough blessings or you are missing to acknowledge so many blessings.

God has showered each one of us COUNTLESS blessings as innumerable as the stars in the universe and the sands by the seashore. That is how He intended it to be because His love is vast and immeasurable. He loves us big time. "God has lavished His love upon us!" Woo hoo!

The best way is to ***be Thankful moment by moment, grateful and gracious by the second.***

In my recovery from cancer, I am amazed to see so many blessings I've overlooked in my life: nitty gritty detailed blessings bestowed by God who is into every detail of my life.

Here's an example:

Unlike some cancer patients who are devastated when they lose their hair due to chemo treatments, I was

thankful for hair loss because it was very convenient during my pain-stricken days. My bald head was easier to keep sanitized. Now that my hair has grown, I am tickled with thankfulness at the unusual sensation I feel when I put my hair behind my ears!

Every time I carry an object or walk, I am amazed at how my body functions. Each teeny part cooperating to fulfill an action. Just carrying a book is like a Herculean weight-lifting achievement for me. In the rare times that I bend to pick up an item on the floor, I feel like doing a Cirque du soleil acrobatic feat, truly an "Thank you, Lord, moment." Every time I walk and turn my neck, I bless the Lord for blessing me for such profound movement. Every time I shower, I am so glad to be able to do it independently and safely.

*The more I missed some functionality, the more I felt blessed to realize that God has been empowering me all my life. (Sometimes, we have to lose something, to acknowledge how blessed we are.)* I was definitely more agile and flexible in my younger life and pre-cancer days. My bones are still healing and movement everyday is victory for me. But whether I am able to do or not do certain functions or skills, ***what matters is that I feel so blessed to have been able to do so much in the past and to be able to do some today.***

There were many loving people who did things for me during my cancer days when I could not move. The weight of their love and support, such blessings, can never be measured.

Wham! This is when I realized that each thing that happens to me is a matter of perspective. **The best view**

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## The Blessing Count

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is the thankful outlook infused with the attitude of gratitude.

Counting entails adding and subtracting. Counting requires thoroughness and accuracy. Blessings are items that do not fall under the accountable item. ***Blessings are by God's grace, they are countless and their value is not based on numbers but on God's Favor.***

Blessings are like butter. Once you spread it, you cannot separate and count it. It just spreads it's value of goodness all over wherever it touches. Mmmmmmm blessings!

I AM Blessed! I AM thankful. I AM content! I do not have to count my blessings. It is impossible. ***I will not count but I will PRAISE God constantly.***

The blessings I feel and see daily happen because of Countless blessings that operate by the second like clockwork

in my life,  
in nature,  
and in the world around me.

Everything is related.

Do not count. It is not fun.

BASK in the blessings that God gives you.

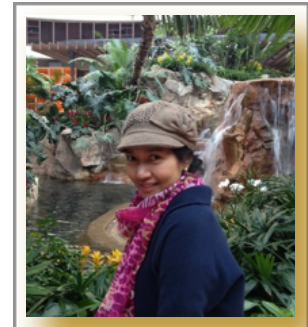
***Do not compare what you have and have not with others. CHERISH what you have and have not.***

Thank you, Lord, for overwhelming blessings. I bask in the blessings you give me daily. Alleluia!

Psalm 40:5 New International Version (NIV)  
5 Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

Ephesians 1:3 New International Version (NIV)  
Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ  
3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

*Marita and Elijah Pierce,  
Cypress, Texas.*



Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders You have done. The things You planned for us no one can recount to You; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare.

*- Psalm 40:5*



Tess Cordero and mom, Maluz



Ceres Acosta with Camille and Caitlin



Maria Sheffey and John



Maica Atienza and mom, Boots

## A Tribute To Moms

We celebrate Mother's Day once a year. Wouldn't it be great to honor our mothers every day! Our heavenly Father instructs us in Deuteronomy 5:16 to "Honor your father and mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you . . ."

Several people have become influential in our lives as we were growing up and one of them is our mother. She has influenced us in one way or the other. This influence shows through our beliefs and values which are formed through our home life and are later replaced by godly values and beliefs we acquire from reading Scriptures. Life with mom may have dealt us with positive and negative experiences but God has instilled in our hearts to honor our parents, our mother specifically, no matter what the circumstance.

The value we place on our parents, our mother, highly determines the success and failure of our relationships. We model to our children how we want them to honor and value us as they in turn honor and value other people.

Here are some stories of women and how their mother influenced particular areas in their life.

### Felina



Nickie Paulate



*When I was little I used to love watching my mother bake cakes and other pastries. I think she liked my taking the initiative to help her; especially when I used to scoop out the remnants of the baked goods out of the pan. She was such a great homemaker, baker and cook. I learned industry and patience from her. You really need patience in cooking and baking, plus it is an art! She used to bake our birthday cakes with delicate flowers and borders; just like those you buy in a bakery, very professional!*

*She often reminded me to pray for her and for guidance as I was growing up. She was so religious, she even made all of us wear white with a blue sash when we went to church on Sundays!*

*My Mom passed away in the year 2007. These are only one of the moments I fondly remember of my mother. I can still picture those precious times vividly in my mind.*

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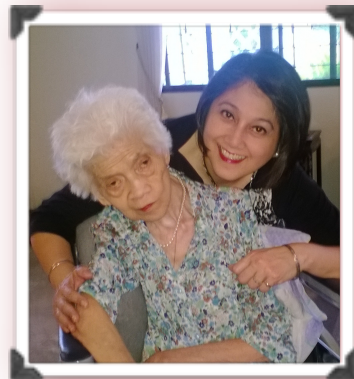
## A Tribute To My Mom

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### Betty

Rosemarie Ortiz Jose  
WIN Seattle/Tacoma



*My mother's influence on me was her love for Christmas decorations; decorating the house for Christmas; Christmas is a big thing for us. Gift giving - no matter who you are Mom always had a gift for everyone; Christmas and/or birthday. She is a good and loyal friend. She likes to dress well for any occasion. Cleanliness is a must for her like keeping the house clean - but not anymore, haha.*

### Eufracia

Angie Baliton Guieb  
WIN Seattle/Tacoma



*My mother is a great cook. She follows traditional cooking and can also be a creative cook.*

*How great is she? Well, I just found out in my late 30s that I have been eating leftovers creatively cooked and garnished well. Now that is a great cook! Just like Mom!*

*My motivation in cooking good is not out of love nor joy of doing it. I have to be creative like Mom. It was out of fear of eating the same food for days until it was all gone. Hahaha! My wise mother made sure I will watch, learn it fast and excel in it.*

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**4. . . Longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother, Lois and your mother, Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.**

**- 2 Timothy 1:4-5**

# A Mother's Day Prayer

by Aaron Lockhart

Father, we come before you humbly in prayer for the gift that you have given mankind.

It is said that you created mothers because you wanted your love and kindness to be with your children at all times. Mortal intelligence is hardly capable of comprehending divine schemes. What we can do is thank You for our mothers to whom You have entrusted the care of every precious human life from its very beginning in the womb.

Father, You are the author of all life in the universe you have given to woman the capacity of bringing to the earth a soul with infinite potential. You have given her the chance of participating with You in the creation of new life. Grant that every woman may have this chance, grant that they come to understand the full meaning of that blessing, which gives her an unlimited capacity for selfless love for every child she may be privileged to bear, and for all Your children.

Watch over every mother and strengthen her faith in You. Give her courage in times of fear or pain, understanding in times of uncertainty and doubt, and hope in times of trouble. Grant her joy in the lives of her children as she guides and nurtures them into Your Love.

To mothers You have given the great privilege and responsibility of being a child's first teacher and spiritual guide. Grant that all mothers may worthily foster the faith of their children, following the example of Mary, Elizabeth, and other holy women who follow Christ. Help mothers to grow daily in knowledge and understanding of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and grant them the wisdom to impart this knowledge faithfully to their children, and to all who depend upon them. Help all mothers to impart a knowledge, that brings about a wholesome development in their children. A knowledge that makes them respect the rights of others. A knowledge that makes them offer a helping hand to those in distress. A knowledge that helps them to make a difference in this world. A knowledge that leads them to the path of their salvation.

Provide comfort to all childless women, those who, though they may have no children of their own, nevertheless selflessly care for the children of others -- of every age and state in life. Grant that they may know the joy of fulfilling this motherly calling of women, whether in teaching, nursing, religious life, or in any other work which recognizes and fosters the true dignity of every human being created in Your image and likeness.

Father I ask that You send Your Holy Spirit, to all mothers who sorrow for children that have died, are ill or estranged from their families, or who are in trouble or danger of any kind. Help grieving mothers to rely on Your tender mercy and fatherly love for all your children. Be a comforter to these women and lead them to the path of happiness.

Motherhood is a great gift. We ask your blessing on all those to whom You have entrusted motherhood. May Your Holy Spirit constantly inspire and strengthen them. May they ever follow the example of Mary, mother of Our Lord, and imitate her fidelity, her humility, and her self-giving love. May all mothers receive Your Grace abundantly in this earthly life, and may they look forward to eternal joy in Your presence.

We ask this through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You AMEN.

*Aaron and Ida Lockhart,  
WIN Seattle/Tacoma. Ida is the  
Ladies Ministry head.*



## A Tribute To My Mom

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## Socorro

Avine Macugay  
WIN San Francisco-Bridgepoint

My memories of my mom and how she continues to influence my life.

1. She is a great woman of faith:

She introduced Jesus to us. She taught us to pray. It's from her I learned how to ask God for what we need and desire. To top it all, she showed great faith in God. One example of this is how we got our home. It was next to impossible but soon as she stepped foot in that foyer, she said "ito na!" (This is it!) The doubting Thomas in me was like, "yeah right, mom!" And to cut the story short, indeed it was the home the Lord gave us. We claim nothing on that home, because we offered it to the Lord as His. Her faith showed us great examples of serving God with our gifts, she played music (the electric organ in the Catholic church), and still continues to serve because of her great hospitable attitude. I pray I'm at least half of her level of faith in God.

2. She is a great wife and mother:

- because she attended to my late father's needs; she always tells us, even if we are mad with our husband, we still need to serve them and sit with them when they eat, just to mention a few. She was by my dad's side during his last days, making sure she was comfortable, keeping him company and being his sidekick eating whatever he wanted to eat especially after dialysis. A trait I would want to keep and be remembered by too!

- because all I remember is her being home taking care of all of our needs; from our clothes, homework and other schoolwork and projects, to our personal hygiene, our allowances, etc. It's from her I learned to bake and got interested in it.

3. She is very patient and quiet.

Unfortunately, a trait I never got because I inherited my father's loud and boisterous characteristics, according to her, hahaha. My mom is the opposite. The epitome of patience, hardly complains, suffers in silence. She shares with us that my dad prayed for the woman whom he thinks is good for him and she says all the time, never fails, that's why she is his wife. If one knows how to read her, they'd say, she should stand beside Dr. Jose Rizal in Luneta. Patience is one of her best traits. When God poured patience, she was wearing a big hat, holding a big basket and she caught most of it.

4. She is a great home maker, a great cook and baker;

Her eight children got one of her homemaking, cooking and baking abilities. Most of her sons are good in the kitchen. They know the basics of cooking, and her daughters are quite good cooks and bakers to! I love the fact that she was a stay at home mom and was with us almost always – a trait rarely seen in mothers nowadays.

She is a 'girl scout,' always prepared; literally with anything one might possibly need. One of my best memories of that is when I was about eight years old and all their friends' family had a beach outing, and after dinner, someone asked for a toothpick! Well, guess what? She had toothpicks with her. Talk about always prepared. If we're to go on a trip, her luggage is ready a month in advance!

5. She has a great memory; I'm only in my mid 50's, she's in her early 80's and yet she knows everyone's birthday, yes, every ones birthdays! She even remembers one's favorite dish or delicacies. If you tell her something, she remembers, so watch what you say!

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## A Tribute To My Mom

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6. She is a very hard worker. Her motto in life is, "time is gold." Which means don't waste time. She's never idle. Either she's cutting her veggies to cook her vegetable lumpia, or rolling lumpia shanghai, all 10 lbs of it, if not cooking, crocheting, if not that, writing recipes and reading cookbooks. She enjoys the food channel and said she enjoys cooking in the US because all the ingredients are available. Never idle, we kind of think of her as speedy Gonzales, hahaha. She is the only senior I know who enjoys America and doesn't want to live back in the Philippines. She said, she'll go back just to visit.
7. She is selfless. Never claimed fame or the limelight, always happy to work behind the scenes, never desires attention. Always humble and never arrogant. Such a forgiving soul, a peacemaker, a good caregiver.

There's so much more to say, but to wrap this up, I think when Solomon wrote Proverbs 31; He was thinking of my Mom!

## NATIONAL LADIES ADVISORY TEAM

Nickie Paulate  
Tess Cordero  
Rosemarie Jose  
Ana Miciano



## Variations

### Sweet and Sour Fish

Add cut Green Peppers, Carrots and Pineapple chunks and some pineapple juice. Keep the vinegar and brown sugar.

### Blackbean

Add fermented black beans to this and lessen the vinegar and Soy about ½ a ladle. Or don't add vinegar.

### Egg Drop Soup

Add water or chicken broth. Bring to a boil. Beat about 2 eggs and just add it to the soup while stirring it. No vinegar and lessen or you can just add the Soy Sauce later to your taste. Also don't use too much oil.

Use Galonggong if you're doing the egg drop soup version. Add slivers of Batchoy or Chinese Cabbage.



### Sarsiadong Isda ( Sautéed Fried Fish)

#### Ingredients:

1 whole fried fish (Tilapia) (Sea Bass) (Blue Runner)  
Ginger 1 whole medium peeled and julienne  
Garlic 6 cloves minced  
Onions (white) sliced  
Tomatoes chunks  
Vinegar 1 ladle  
Soy Sauce 1 ladle  
Salt and Pepper to taste  
Sugar (optional)  
Green leaf onions (scallions), cut up  
Oil

#### Procedure:

Sauté the garlic, ginger in medium heat (do not burn the garlic) add onions and Tomatoes. Add the vinegar and soy sauce. If you want more sauce add more vinegar and soy sauce (equal parts) add salt and pepper. Or you can use fish sauce instead of salt. Add a dash of brown sugar if it is vinegary or add more water about ½ a ladle. Taste your sauce before adding the fish. When the sauce is to your liking add the fish and turn it a couple of times so it soaks up the sauce.

**Great to use leftover fried fish!! ~ Angie Baliton Guieb**



Sonia

Our family visited Turkey two years ago. It is such a beautiful place, friendly people with rich culture and traditions, and food is excellent. One of my favorite dessert is Sutlac (pronounced 'soot lahch' baked rice pudding). The recipe is so simple.



The Ladies' Ministry helped us build a stronger relationship with God, with our husband, our children and community around us. I myself have enjoyed the ladies' fellowship thru our tea parties, learning how to cook from other ladies, some physical therapy techniques, learned the art of relaxation, and so much more.

Studying God's word and discussions are always part of the Ladies' fellowship.

- Sonia Guce,  
WIN New Jersey



### Sutlac (soot lahch) Baked Rice Pudding

#### Ingredients:

- 38 oz whole milk
- 1/2 cup uncooked rice
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tbsp cornstarch
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 egg yolk, beaten

#### Procedure:

1. Wash rice and place in saucepan with enough water to cover it by about 1/2 in. Bring to boil and reduce heat. Let the rice simmer until rice is soft.
2. Set aside 1 cup milk. Add the remaining milk, sugar & vanilla extract to the rice. Bring the mixture to a boil reduce heat & let boil gently for about 10 minutes.

3. Using a whisk, mix together the reserved 1 cup milk and cornstarch until it is smooth. While stirring, gradually pour in the mixture. Turn up the heat and continue stirring the pudding until scalding. When the mixture thickens, continue to stir & cook for about 2 more minutes.
  4. Remove from heat & fit in small ovenproof cups.
  5. Beat the egg yolk and drizzle small amount in the center and swirl the egg yolk to spread evenly.
  6. Bake the pudding in 360F /180C until tops are nicely browned. Let the cups room , then refrigerate.
- Enjoy!