

# A Mother's Promise *by Laura Sapko*

When I was considering what to do for this devotional, my attention was drawn to the first part of Proverbs 31:28 because of what it means to me as a mother at this stage in my life. "Her children rise up and call her blessed." I always wanted it to happen as a young mother and prayed that it would. But at times, I was discouraged with myself

as a mother and doubted it would ever happen. Now I realize it is a promise and a God given result we can expect as we trust in our Lord to lead us as we are conformed to His image and strive to work out all the aspects of our own salvation that motherhood brings to our attention.

When we first look into our baby's peaceful sleeping faces, we are overwhelmed with what an incredible gift they are and truly a heritage from the Lord. (Psalm 127:3,4) We start on a new journey of love and another opportunity to realize the Father's love for us as we surround our children with the love of Jesus. We are challenged daily to fill our homes with the love of Christ. "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 1 John 4:7

As they grow and we diligently teach our children those character traits that will develop them into wonderful adults (Deut 6:7) and train them in honesty, integrity, obedience, responsibility, respect, etc, Prov 22: 6) and discipline them,

sometimes with a rod (Prov 23:13), we are first challenged with our own opportunities to grow and be more like Christ in those very same traits and in our attitudes. Their needs put demands on us that often bring us to the throne of grace for guidance and strength. And what a refuge we have!

*"Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of*

*A Christian mother's love contains  
A gospel all its own,  
Because the King of love has found  
Her heart an ample throne.*

*- Crawford*

*grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*  
Heb. 4:16

But we should also always remember to have fun parenting! That may seem like unnecessary advice but there will be days when we need to remind ourselves that our precious gifts are really in God's hands and just as you trust that "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6 for yourself, you must learn to trust in this promise anew for them as well as you lead them to the Cross of Christ and salvation lest you take on more responsibility than was intended. Being a parent can sometimes be hard but enjoy your role as a mom. Thrust yourself whole-heartedly into it.

*"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Colossians 3:17*

This brings me to my own experience. I can remember a little rhyme I used to shake myself out of being overly worried for my children especially as they got older and needed to start making good choices.

"Do your best,  
Pray that it's blessed,  
And let God do the rest."

That would start me down my mental check list of scripture, some of which I shared above and ending with "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58

As mothers who care and nurture our children through good times and hard, sickness and health, good choices and bad, we can sometimes get weary and tempted to wonder in a negative direction if all that we do and pray will come to fruition in their lives. Sometimes we wonder "will they ever get it?" And sometimes we wonder will they remember us? Will they realize we meant all those hand slappings for their good? Will they realize "All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness" Hebrews 12:11 and actually thank us for that?

Well I'm here to give you hope and to encourage you not to lose heart and tell you when your children are faced with life's challenges on their own they do remember and in their way and God's time, they do let you know how thankful they are for your Christ centered teaching in their lives! All three of my children have thanked me for ultimately being faithful to teach them God centered character and values. I think this is because of another promise: "So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11



# Choosing Joy

*"Consider it all joy..." James 1:2-3*

Issue 1/ January / 2009

Devotional:

## *Worrying About Worry*

*by Lori Ginsberg*

In our last newsletter, we studied together the lives of Mary and Martha and learned from Scripture the importance of sitting at the feet of Jesus. Sitting is a necessary prerequisite to walking, because in walking there are inherent dangers. If we sit first, by studying His Word and praying, we are aware of those dangers. We recognize the potholes, ditches and ravines that occur along the pathway of life and are better prepared to avoid the dangers. However, some dangerous road conditions are often hidden or disguised and suddenly we find ourselves disabled on the side of the road and in need of help.

This newsletter we are going to talk about one of those potholes. With the Lord's grace and wisdom I pray we will be able to see the red flags and be averted from one of the most dangerous, and yet, one of the most common sins we face as Christians. What is this pothole, this ditch, this ravine that so easily derails us? Worry.

Have you worried about something in the past year?

Have you worried about something in the past month?  
This past week?

Yesterday?

Today?

If we were all gathered together in a room and I asked you to raise your hand to the above questions, I think without hesitation we would all have our hands raised.

The Church of Jesus Christ is filled with worriers. *cont. on pg 3*

Book Review:

## *Overcoming Worry, Fear and Anxiety* - Elyse Fitzpatrick

by Robin Kruzner

*"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:6-7*

Do you struggle with fear and worry? If so, you are not alone! For women, these are common emotions that are battled daily -- in regards to our marriages, our children, our work, our education, our spiritual life, our health, our finances and much more. God knew these emotions of fear, worry and anxiety would be a problem for us and He provides us with a multitude of comforting promises and help in His Word. Here are just a few (take a moment and look these up and let them encourage you!): Psalm 34:4, 55:22, 56:3, Matthew 6:25-33, 1 Peter 1:6-9 and 5:6-11. In this book, Elyse Fitzpatrick takes you on a journey to help you: identify the real source of your fears and worries, find specific strategies for overcoming anxiety, learn how to replace worry with joy (that's a big one!), and finally, to rest in God's protective and sovereign care of your life. I highly recommend this book if you find yourself battling with the besetting sin of fear, worry and anxiety -- it is littered with verses from God's Word to help you overcome this area of your life!

## Upcoming Events:

### Ladies Discipleship & Dessert Night

Last Monday of the month, 7:00pm  
at Jeanne Wadsworth's home

*Tote - Class 1: Tuesdays, April 21 and 28,  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm at CVCC*

*Tote - Class 2: Tuesdays, April 21 and 28,  
6:00 pm to 9:30 pm  
at Jeanne Wadsworth's home.*

### In this issue:

- Devotional by Lori Ginsberg
- A Mother's Promise by Laura Sapko
- Meet our Sister - Lorraine Mandrillo
- Book Review by Robin Kruzner
- Recipes For Father's Day
- Focus on Joy
- Craft Corner by Robin Kruzner

# Lorraine Mandrillo



On April 13, 1974, in the Grace Community Church chapel, Lorraine Boulanger married her high school sweetheart Vic Man-

drillo. Thus began one of God's most wonderful works of His grace and love on display! The Lord has greatly blessed Crown Valley Community Church since our earliest days with Vic and Lorraine and their family. Vic serves our body in many capacities as a Deacon and our Worship Team leader, while at the same time serving as president of Victor Plumbing, a medical and industrial plumbing company his father began many years ago. They have six children and are Nana and Papa to seven (soon to be nine) grandchildren! Their oldest son is Tony who loves coffee, calendars, and Disneyland and is a joy to all! Melissa is their oldest daughter who is a florist and is Mom to Sebastian, Isabelle, and Gabriel. Their son Peter, an accomplished bass player who works in plumbing supply, lives in Fillmore with his wife, Margo, and their son Logan. Victoria is their daughter who has the distinction of having the first wedding in our church building, six years ago! Victoria and Wayne live in Kentucky and are parents to Matthias, Adella, and a baby due in May. Steven is their son who plays the drums and serves with the youth here at Crown Valley, and is married to Rebecca. Steven works for LA County and he and Rebecca will be welcoming their first baby very soon. The youngest of the Mandrillos is Jonny, a senior in high school, who serves Crown Valley in the

audio-visual ministry and as part of the youth group. Lorraine taught her children at home where they have had a rich and varied education, enjoying 4-H animal, sewing and cooking projects (to name a few), music practice with many voices and instruments at all hours, lively discussions of Scripture, history, and the classics, and a consistent example of hospitality.

Lorraine's interests and priorities are in her home. She enjoys gardening and jewelry making, and makes her home lovely with her own painting and sewing. She also spends time with her parents and sisters, one of whom is our own Jeanne Wadsworth. Lorraine has blessed many women over the years in her home with her conversations on marriage, child rearing, keeping a home, and honoring Christ in our daily lives.

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in you; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." John 17:20-21. These wonderful verses of the High Priestly Prayer are the ones that the Lord used to bring Lorraine to Himself during a New Year's Eve service. In the first early minutes of 1972, through the ministry of Pastor John MacArthur, God opened her eyes that Jesus was praying for future believers and they would have a unity through the Living Word, by His Holy Spirit. "He was praying for me...I could know Him. There was a reason Jesus Christ was crucified and that reason was to cover the debt I owed for my sin." Since that time she has sought to honor the Lord with her life and serve Him in the priorities He has given her. Philippians 1:6 reads "...

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." Her ministry focus has been supporting her husband's work here, praying for the maturing of our body of believers, and plugging in where it looks like she can be of service.

Whether it is studying Ephesians with a small group, teaching ladies to bead, or discussing the care of a baby or husband, she points people to Christ. An important verse ("How do you choose one or two?") is, "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good work." 2 Thess. 2:16-17. By His grace, He has established Lorraine and her family in the good works, and we are the grateful recipients!

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Patti Floyd, Chelse VanDen Vrijhoef, Sonya Martin, Laura Sapko, Michele Mawhorter, Tracy Moore, Robin Kruzner, Jeanne Wadsworth, Nicole McGuire

The Women's Ministries Board meets every second Sunday of the month - all women are welcome to come and participate in planning events.

# Focus on Joy

There is a joy which is not given to the ungodly,  
But to those who love Thee for Thine own sake,  
Whose joy Thou Thyself art.

And this is the happy life:

To rejoice to Thee, of Thee, and for Thee.

This it is, and there is no other.

Lord, tune our hearts to sing Your praises.

~Augustine's Confessions, circa 400 A.D.

## MORE SUMMER EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

**Ladies & Kids Swim Days** @ The Moore's and The Mawhorter's will begin on Tuesday, June 2nd, from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. We meet each Tuesday at this time, so watch for an informational flyer coming in late May!

**Ladies Summer Nights Out** We will be going to the Hollywood Bowl, Getty Villa, and Glendale Center Theater. Watch the bulletin for more information, times and dates.

## CRAFT CORNER

### DECOUPAGE PLAID VASE

BY ROBIN KRUZNER

#### Materials Needed:

- Mod Podge Gloss, 8 oz.
- Any size clear glass vase
- Colored tissue paper
- Wax paper
- Foam brush



Instructions: Clean vase thoroughly with glass cleaner. Tear tissue paper into strips about 1/2" - 3/4" wide. One by one, lay each strip of tissue on wax paper and brush a coat of Mod Podge on it, covering completely. It is best to have an even but light coat. Begin by applying the first strip vertically to the vase, starting at the top, making sure the ends wrap slightly over the top and bottom of vase. Smooth the tissue carefully to make sure there is complete contact with the glass. Choose a different colored strip and apply parallel to the first strip, leaving a small space between them. Repeat alternating colors until the vase is completely covered. Next, tear tissue paper into 2" - 3" long strips and apply horizontally around the vase, overlapping ends and leaving a space between the colors. Let dry.

This is a fun and easy craft to do with children and can be a special gift for Mothers, Grandmothers, Aunts, Teachers, etc.! Happy Spring!!

*(cont. from frontpage)*

Worry has become the acceptable sin in that it is so common that no one is ashamed of it or unwilling to admit to it. However, what if I asked if you had cheated on your taxes this past year; or if you lied today; or were cruel to your children this morning? Would we easily raise our hands to those sins?

Worry is sin and it is as serious as any other sin and can have grave consequences. Worry has physical repercussions like fatigue and ulcers. It makes us incapable of handling life's responsibilities and problems. But worse than these, worry is a lack of faith in God. It keeps us from assuming our responsibilities and serving the Lord. We need to call worry sin because the Bible calls it sin. I am sure that some of us are letting worry keep us from living as faithfully as Christ would like.

So, I think it would be fair to say that what we all want to know is: What can be done about worry? What does the Bible have to say about overcoming this sin?

Please join me as we open our Bibles and learn the good news that we CAN overcome the sin of worry. We really can.

This is an introduction to the full study. It can be downloaded in its entirety at [crownvalleychurch.org](http://crownvalleychurch.org) > Ministries > Women's Ministries > Choosing Joy > Devotionals