



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



The Legacy of Faithful Mothers

A Mother's Legacy

When we think of Microsoft, we think of the name Bill Gates. When we think of Bill Gates, we think of his wealth, his influence on computer technology and his philanthropic work through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Yet most of us familiar with Bill Gates' accomplishments do not recognize the name Mary Gates. *Who is that?* you ask. Mary was Bill's mother and one of the key [people who encouraged Bill to give back to society](#).

It has been said that [the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world](#). From the cradle onward, mothers play an important role in shaping the hearts of their children. Their prayers, the strength of their words and their powerful faith can leave a lasting imprint that continues for generations. Both biblical and modern examples show how a mother's influence extends far beyond childhood into adulthood and even has a global impact.

A Mother's Influence

In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul talks to Timothy, whose faith was inspired by his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois: *"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well."* Eunice had been deeply influenced by her own mother, showing how faith passes from one generation to the next.

As Paul watched Timothy's life, he could see the young man's mother's and grandmother's faith dwelling in him. Our faith, our character and the very fabric of who we are today were planted in us by those who came before us. This is the power of praying mothers who prayed over us, sacrificed for us, taught us truth and lived out their trust in God.

Mothers, you are to be cherished. The effects of your life on your children will live on long after the task of raising them has ended! You may never know the full effect of your prayers or the seeds you plant in your child's heart. But God knows.

A Living Testimony

A faithful mother's legacy is more than just instruction; it is a living testimony of perseverance, love and trust in God.

In Proverbs 31:25–26, the writer shared, *"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue."* Let us honor and cherish the faithful mothers in our lives, and may we continue to remember their inspiration of faith for generations to come.

- Dr. L.W. Edwards



House Keys of Hope: Celebrating Foster Moms

Happy Foster Parent Appreciation Month! If this announcement surprised you, you aren't alone. The commemoration of foster parents is often overlooked in the celebration of Mother's Day. Foster moms may not get all the attention of biological mothers, but they are every bit as essential – and [some would even argue, more so](#). Ask the 40+ children raised by Emma Patterson of Montgomery County, Maryland, and they would certainly agree.



Emma Patterson (WRC-TV)

On May 31, 2024, [Montgomery County Executive Mark Elrich honored Emma](#) with a certificate of appreciation in a special ceremony. The 88-year-old woman had spent more than 30 years fostering. That's 30-plus years of investing in her community's future. Now the fostering heroine is ready to hang up her extra set of house keys and retire — but not without having made a lasting difference.

The Foster Carer Difference

Emma's house keys opened countless doors of opportunity for the children in her care. Her love for the children tapped into their deepest needs and unlocked their potential. Her hospitality offered them a place of safety and stability. Above all, she laid the foundation for a thriving future.

The results speak for themselves: Some of her foster children have become professional athletes, business owners and medical professionals.

Proverbs 31:28a puts a capstone on the virtuous woman's attributes with these words, "*Her children rise up and call her blessed. . . .*" At the ceremony honoring Emma, one of her foster kids shared [these heartfelt words of blessing](#): "My nanna has been influential all my life. She's given me a foundation. She's showed me what a family structure is like – to have respect, responsibility and become a better man."



Emma Patterson with some of her foster children and loved ones (Montgomery County Government)

How would you like to have that kind of life-changing influence on a child?

For orphaned or displaced children, you could be a dream come true, a reminder of what home looks like. Learn how you can get involved today. If you are in the state of Illinois, you can [fill out an online application](#) or call 312-814-6800. Otherwise, check out these [helpful online resources](#) to get started.

- Cameron Edwards