



United Pentecostal Church Intl September  
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## Remember the Harvest at Home

By Rachelle Harding



"Just imagine God looking down on us like tiny little pixels."

My 6-year-old said that while we were walking through our neighborhood one evening. We paused and looked up at the sky.

"Does God love us because He made us... and because we are so tiny and cute?" he asked.

That simple moment reminded me—these walks, these conversations, these wide-eyed questions—this is the harvest at home. These are the moments where faith is planted and watered.

Raising God-centered children doesn't just happen. It takes intention, prayer, and purpose. As parents, we've been entrusted with a special calling: to plant seeds of truth, faith, and love for God in our children's hearts. And the truth is—none of us are experts. Every stage is new, and we're constantly learning. That's okay. God didn't call us to be perfect—He called us to be faithful.

Deuteronomy 4:9 (NKJV) reminds us: "Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen... and teach them to your children and your grandchildren." It starts with us remembering—and retelling—what God has done. The simple, everyday moments—mealtimes, car rides, walks—become powerful opportunities for passing on faith.

How do we do that? We seek wisdom. Read books that encourage God-centered parenting. Ask friends what's working in their homes. Learn from mentors. Most

importantly, ask God for guidance—He promises to give it (James 1:5).

And don't underestimate the power of storytelling. Kids remember stories—especially real ones from your life. Tell them how God provided, comforted, or answered prayer. These stories become part of your family's faith heritage.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NKJV) says: “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children...” That word diligently means consistent, earnest, and with energetic effort.

Even schoolwork, instrument practice, or robotics isn't separate from God's plan—it's part of it. Every skill learned shapes our children to live out the purpose God has prepared for them.

Here's a simple way to grow a HARVEST of faith at home:

H – Highlight God's blessings – Create a photo wall or blessing jar.  
A – Ask questions and talk – Connect everyday moments to God-lessons.  
R – Read God's Word together – Use a fun Bible app like The Action Bible.  
V – Value spiritual milestones – Celebrate baptisms, memory verses, Bible trivia wins.  
E – Encourage worship – Play music your kids enjoy that honors God.  
S – Share “God Nods” – Talk about how God showed up that day.  
T – Talk to God often – Pray together regularly (Psalm 55:17).

Parent with intention. Remember the harvest—what God has done—and plant seeds for what's to come.

**Let's remember the harvest at home.**

Note: Rachelle is a coffee-loving wife to Philip and mom to three fun kids. Through Impact Junkie, she helps others find their passion and purpose. You'll find her organizing (again), baking treats, enjoying family game night, or sorting her 6-year-old's latest rock and stick

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## **When Motherhood Hurts – But God Still Heals**

By Annaliza Reiko A. Namiki-Le



I never imagined I'd be here—mid-forties, wife to a licensed minister, mother of four, and deeply committed to the will of God. But my journey didn't start with light and victory. It started in pain, confusion, and what felt like irredeemable mistakes.

My eldest son, almost 21, recently moved away. While he doesn't fully reject God, he's not living for Him either. His father is an unbeliever, and though his grandparents are contemporary Christians, I wrestle with the feeling that the damage is done. That I failed. But still—I pray. I plead the blood of Jesus over my children every day, even when I don't see the fruit. Especially then.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.  
Proverbs 22:6

I came to the Lord as a former mocker of the faith—what some might have called an “anti-Christ” spirit. I was a single mom of three boys, struggling to survive, when God broke into my life. When I joined UPCI, I thought I'd launch a single mom's ministry. I asked God for another chance to be a biblical wife, and He answered. But I had no idea how hard blended family life would be.

Motherhood didn't become easier. In fact, it felt harder. I questioned what I was teaching my children—split between households, between belief and unbelief. One of my sons was baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost, and I remembered a dream I had of him surrounded by bad influences but still receiving the Spirit. Maybe God was showing me: “I've got him.”

Yet guilt creeps in. Shame from my past—four children by three different fathers—tries to disqualify me. My psychiatric past whispers that I'm unworthy. But I reject those lies. My God delivered me from depression, from co-dependency, from suicidal thoughts that began when I was only eight. The enemy tried to write me off, but God gave me a new name and a new mission.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Now, I am part of the Music Ministry Team, lead Social Ministry, and help victims of domestic violence. But most of all, I pray. I cry out that when my sons face things they can't share with me, they'll run to Jesus. That they'll remember the prayers I cried when life was unjust and violent. That they'll recall not just my words—but my tears, my surrender, my worship.

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Galatians 6:9 (KJV)

Kids remember what they see. And if nothing else, I pray they saw me choose Christ over chaos.

That, even in my weakness, they saw faith. Because motherhood may hurt—but God still heals.

Note: Reiko serves as the Center Manager at the Domestic Violence Action Center in Honolulu, HI, where she leads with compassion, faith, and lived experience. As a minister's wife and a survivor, she is called to walk alongside others in their healing, offering strength through Christ-centered care. Reiko's mission is to transform pain into purpose, building bridges of hope for those in need.

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## Remembering the Harvest at Home

By Kay Burges



*“A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted . . . because they were not.” (Jeremiah 31:15)*

*It was a normal Wednesday evening Bible study being taught beautifully by our assistant pastor. I honestly can't remember his entire message, but I'll never forget how I felt when I heard him state that Jacob had prophesied Rachel's death when he declared, “With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, let him not live . . . For Jacob knew not. . . .”*

*I knew that, had taught that, but it struck me again how tragic that Rachel never entered the Promised Land and did not live to see her children grown. As prophesied, she died giving birth to Benjamin before Jacob made it home to his family.*

Jacob, unaware of all the goings-on of his household, did not know that Rachel had stolen her father's idols and was hiding them from the searching men. How tragic that she felt she needed them in her new home. Were they that valuable? Did she feel the need of some sort of insurance, some kind of fallback plan if this new Canaan adventure didn't work out?

How tragic that Jacob had not successfully transmitted his belief in God to his family. How tragic that she attempted to enter the Promised Land bringing her past with her. Believing they were all on the same page, Jacob rashly declared, *“Whoever has them let them die.”* The idols were not found in the search due to Rachel's subterfuge, but she reaped the harvest of her actions. She died in childbirth before entering the Promised Land.

Would Joseph and Benjamin's lives have been different if their mother had lived? Most

definitely . God ultimately had His way in the lives of Rachel's children, but at what cost? There is no denying that their upbringing could not have been easy given the dynamics of that household. Joseph went on to become the savior of the entire clan in Egypt, but he suffered greatly in childhood and as an adult. Benjamin ultimately produced many great warriors including Saul, the first King of Israel and the apostle Paul, but his was always the smallest tribe. At one point, the tribe was almost annihilated because of their warlike and depraved behavior. Would it have been different if Rachel had lived? I must believe so.

Mothers, we must not wait until tragedy occurs before we cry out. The time for action is now. We must be present and engaged in spiritual warfare for our little ones from the beginning. This treasure that God has placed into our safekeeping is worth so much more than any graven image or idol. The value of one soul far outweighs any material gain we could possibly obtain by holding onto our past idols and dreams. There is nothing in this world worth living for. Only what we will have in the world to come is worth fighting for. God has a better future, a better plan for our children than we can possibly imagine, but we must stay in the fight and not cede our place or responsibility to another. He promises that our work will be rewarded and that our children will come again from the land of the enemy, but we must stay in the fight until we reap the harvest at home.

*“Restrain your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears, for your work will be rewarded,” declares the LORD. “They will return from the land of the enemy. Jer. 31:16*

*Note: Kay Burgess has served in missions with her husband since 1989, for the last ten years in Madrid, Spain. She has served in various capacities and positions in leadership over the years, but considers the titles of Mom, Wife, and Nonna to little Mr. Boston to be the most awesome of them all.*

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## Spotlight on Translators



Ruth Maetala is from Solomon Islands and is Ladies Prayer International translator for the Solomon Pijin language. She. She loves the lord and loves her family and spends her spare time with her three grandchildren. Ruth is presently the National ladies president for the United Pentecostals Church in Solomon Islands.



## From the Editor

Debbie Akers Robbins



God is doing mighty things!

God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in:  
English, Arabic, Chinese simplified, Chinese traditional, Czech, Dutch,  
Fijian, Filipino, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Polish,  
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