

Introduction to Photo Presentation

This is a tribute to all the women we admire.

Proverbs 31:30

“Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”

A modern translation might read “No matter what you look like or what worldly riches you have, a woman’s commitment to the Lord is her greatest attribute.”

We come together today to celebrate not only mothers, but all women whom we have come to admire and who inspire us, women from the past and the present.

Throughout history there have been women who go above and beyond to work to better the lives of those around, Clare Stowey-Allen has a family lineage that goes back to Lady Godiva – her great ,great grandmother (many times removed). While Lady Godiva is well known for her famous nude ride through the streets of Coventry to lower taxes, she was also a persuasive force behind many acts of generosity to women and children, advocating for the oppressed with a deep compassion for those less fortunate.

There are others in modern history that have made a great impact on our world today:

Florence Nightingale, who was part of the Church of England, and had one desire – that God would present her with a life-defining task. She went on to completely transform the quality of care in war time when she organized and trained nurses. Florence Nightingale went on to improve healthcare all over the world and is regarded as the mother of modern nursing.

Mother Teresa at the age of 12 decided she wanted to go to India to spread the Christian message and serve the poor. In 1929 she travelled to India and dedicated her life to serving the poor – work she described as God’s work. Her deep Christian faith and commitment to living out a Christian life was evident in her tireless

work among the sick, dying and destitute. Her approach was profoundly rooted in love and compassion. She viewed every person she helped as 'Jesus in disguise' believing that in serving the needy, she was serving Christ himself. Despite numerous world-wide accolades, Mother Teresa continually emphasized the importance of small acts of kindness preformed with love.

Queen Elizabeth II was Britain's longest serving monarch – for more than 70 years. She saw her country through good times and bad and was in the public spotlight almost every day of her life. She expressed her faith through her yearly Christmas broadcasts and public statements, often referencing the teachings of Christ and her personal accountability before God. Her faith was her strength and guidance, and an anchor in her life. She was quoted as saying that she longed for Christ's return before she died so she could lay down her crown at His feet.

These are just some of the women who made a difference throughout the world. We give thanks to God today for the women that have inspired, encouraged, supported us and made a difference in our lives.

Exodus 15:20 says:

"Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand and all the women followed her, with tambourine and danced."

One of the great things about being a woman is that there is always a group of wonderful women to support you in your endeavors. If you pick up a tambourine, they'll dance alongside you, if you fall, they'll be there to pick you up and that is true of the women in this church.

Thank you to all who provided photos of women who have made a difference in their lives. Here is what some have said about their mothers and friends:

My mum Rose had a very difficult life at times. She lost her mother when she was 12 and had to help bring up her two younger sisters

and then when her father married again, she then helped bring up 5 more siblings. She was not treated well by her stepmother and later lost her father in horrific circumstances. She has had significant health problems over the years and during all of that has brought up her own 4 girls and now has 14 great grandchildren. She has always had an unwavering faith in God and at 96 years of age never complains about anything but accepts and loves us all. She is an inspiring woman to many, humble in her outlook and always encouraging to others. A great prayer warrior. love you mum.

Margaret Breach wrote: My mother and father became Christians after they'd been married for about 12 years. My father fell away from faith almost straight away with the lure of other things. My mother kept praying for him. At their 50th wedding anniversary party, Dad could see that Mum's Christian friends were the "real deal". He apologized and told her that he'd been wrong and re-committed his life to God. She is another real prayer warrior.

Jenni and Ian Booth wrote about their mum's – Jenni said her mother has always held her family together in unconditional love. Faith by name and faith by nature. Ian described his mother as an incredible woman. Widowed at an early age she brought up 6 boys by herself. She lived her life for her family and at her 90th birthday she said her family gave her a purpose for living.

Margaret Price's mum, Vera Clarke, committed her life to Jesus at the age of 14 and served him faithfully for the next 84 years – witnessing from her bed in the nursing home in those last years.

Kay Bradfield wrote of her mum: she never had peace about heaven as she thought she was 'too naughty' but her faith was seen in the prayers she wrote out for the Methodist Ladies fellowship. She knew it was important for her two children to be part of a church family and God did his work!

Marlene Stark wrote about her mother, Marion Millard – who by her love for the Lord was a living example of her love for Jesus.

Marlene's mother-in-law, Joy Stark, loved reading her bible and sharing her faith.

Margaret Merx wrote of her very good friend, "I've chosen Judy Sleeman because she was such a wonderful support when I went through a very difficult time in 2000 and she has been a great friend ever since!"

Judy Sleeman provided a photo of Roma Drummond and wrote, "Roma is an amazing lady whose life journey has encouraged so many. I joined the Schizophrenia Fellowship after my son was diagnosed. I felt like a leper at the time struggling for understanding and help. Roma will be 100 in June, now becoming frail. Roma's strength has always shone throughout many difficult times of her own. Her life has always been to listen and help others."

Not all women are mothers, but women, especially in this church, are mothers to those around them. Through their love, support, friendship and giving of themselves to their families, neighbors, strangers, fellow workers and friends. Be it through the music every week; setting and cleaning up of communion; morning tea after church; through Make and Mingle and Blingg; Life Groups; Playgroups; volunteering at the Mustard Tree, Seniors Hope; the Food Bank; our church office staff;; providing a lift to someone so they can come to church – every week!; providing a meal when needed; or just to be available to sit and talk when needed.

The women of Lilydale Baptist church are an amazing group as you are all, in your own often quiet way, showing God's love and commitment to your faith to those around you. There is not one woman here who does not inspire another person to be the best we can be in Christ.

Please sit back and enjoy these photos of women we admire and who inspire us.