

Honoring our Mothers



**Patricia
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Cover: Holley Ann Troiano gives her grandmother, Claudia Troiano, a kiss at Claudia's 70th birthday party. Claudia lives on the Tuscarora Reservation in Sanborn, New York. (See story p. 4)

Photo by Rosalyn Troiano

When my mother died in 2000, even though I was a mother of five and grandmother of nine, I felt the great loss of being without a mother. Now, however, I realize that I have been blessed with many mothers, not just my biological mother. I have had any number of spiritual mothers—many of them younger than I am—and many emotional and intellectual mothers as well. In addition, I share with all humanity the mother we call earth—the planet and its systems that give life to all of creation. All of these mothers have given me birth in different areas of my development.

How can we ever honor our mothers adequately when they have given us life? May is the time in the United States when we traditionally try to express to our mothers how much we appreciate what they do for us, but there are many women in our lives who we may also think of as mother figures. Sometimes it is a special auntie, a grandmother, adoptive mother, or a friend who gives us spiritual, intellectual, or emotional life; if we are fortunate, all this can come from our biological mother, but in most circumstances, this is not the case. Yet, it is significant to remember the special women in our lives who have given us so much. And, if we are mothers, it is significant to remember ways our children and grandchildren honor us.

Many times the rewards for mothering another are much smaller—at times even non-existent. Still, mothers from all walks of life continue to give physical, spiritual, emotional, and intellectual life to others. It is one of the unique gifts we share as women. Some of the most remembered women from the Bible are honored for their selfless mothering: Sarah, Hannah, and Mary the mother of Jesus, to name a few. In several places, scripture uses the analogy of mother for God. Jesus uses the analogy of a mother hen gathering her chicks under her wings for himself. Honoring our mothers becomes one important way we can connect with God and thank God for the abundant life we enjoy in Christ. Whether we are biological mothers or not, we are givers of life to those whose lives we share.

Sister Question for July–August

In preparation for the next issue of *timbrel*, which will focus on Human Trafficking, consider: **In what way does “modern day slavery” intersect with my life?** Send your response to <PattyB@mennonitewomenusa.org>. 