



*God shines
through you
to me!*

Awesome Women's Day 2020

From Janie Carsten regarding Paula Moss

My friend *Paula* is a blessing to me for many reasons--I got to know her best as we set up communion together, though she does the bulk of it! She's so faithful and has a tender heart, blessing others in practical ways. Seeing how her family loves and care for her is a picture to me of how she has loved her kids well:) I'm so thankful we're friends!

From Patty regarding Terri Brown

My friend *Terri* is and has been (for at least 30 years,) such a blessing in my life. I have watched her endure many heartbreaking trials, but she has persevered in her love for the Lord and remained faithful. Her faithfulness to God and unconditional love have been beautiful examples of God's devotion and care for us.

From Diane Neff regarding Connie Johnson

I've been privileged to know *Connie* for many years. I also was privileged to be included in the process of her coming to have a relationship with Jesus. This makes our relationship extraordinarily special. Dearest of friends and sisters in the Lord. Connie has an amazing heart for God. She follows Jesus wherever He leads. Still to this day she weeps as she speaks of her love for Him. Her kindness, generosity and humbleness of heart continually challenges me in my own faith to excel still more. Side note... What many people don't know about Connie is that she has a wicked sense of humor. We've had many a laugh together through the years. That aside, she is an amazing wife, mother and grandmother. Proverbs 31 says it best-

"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she smiles at the future. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband also, and he praises her, saying: "Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all."

From Burney Nadler regarding Jane Krogmann

My friend *Jane* has been such a great friend because she has qualities in her life that are so fun to see. She prays and exhibits great faith. I also don't believe it's possible to out-give her. ...and I love that one minute we can be in a serious talk and the next we can "loud laughing".

From Linda Asjes

Lauren is a great friend and daughter because she initiates with people, she is fun loving and adventurous. I love having her work from our house during the pandemic. *Kelsey* is a great friend and daughter because she is tender hearted, thinks ahead, and is very conscientious. I love visiting her in her own home in Mpls and love when she visits us.

From Dave Nadler (about my girls)

Burney is a great friend because she helps keep me grounded. The way she welcomes, extends friendship, and is drawn toward kindness inspires me and helps bring color to my often black-and-white world. I am grateful for her true partnership in the journey. *Rachel's* overcoming spirit makes me proud to be her father. The way she faithfully fights the good fight is a gift to me from God. *Keira* lights up a room when she enters - and her affectionate love causes me to take heart for her role in her Kingdom life. Beautiful!

From Ray Webster

I have many women in my life from my wife *Sarah*, to my daughters in law (Trisha and Natalie) and my granddaughters (Allegra, Corinne, Aubrey, Genevieve, Aislinn and Lena). I love them all dearly, they *each bring joy to my heart in the unique ways God has created and gifted them* and I am blessed to have them in my life.

Lori Manderfield

Talk about my *mom*? Gladly! Keep it short....that's the tough one. My mom was one of my greatest gifts from the Lord. The word that comes to mind is "balanced". She lived a life that was a beautiful balance of working hard, playing hard, and knowing when to relax. She was fiercely serious about loving her husband, family, and friends, but didn't take herself too seriously. God gave her 64 years on this earth and she made the most of her time here. Her final lesson was showing us how to trust the Lord as He walked her home. It's been almost 16 years since we said, "Good bye for now" and I still miss her every day.

Julie Richards

My *mom* was an example to me of putting others first. She was very hospitable and always had the right thing to say. She knew she belonged to Jesus and was ready to meet him!

Dave Kester

I couldn't imagine a *Mom* who could care for me, sacrifice for me, was patient with me, and saw my good side more than my Mom. The way she nurtured and protected me gives me the joy to face each day. However, in her death, she chose to face it with courage and faith, and in that, it gives me courage, faith, and hope, rather than fear.

Sherry Carrington

My mom, *Bonnie*, was always the first one there for me and has continued to be a lifelong friend. Whether it was crying with me over a break up or always listening to a rough day. I remember sitting around the kitchen as a teenager with friends and she would just "hang" with us. Throughout my adult life she has still made it known that she loves me and cherishes our time together.

Nancy Schornack

My *mom* brought me a model of resiliency gained through having a friendship with God, a picture of generosity in her giving of her gifts and talents, and also through her way of seeing the best in others, and a gift of persevering love to me and her whole family. From her kids, to her grandkids, to her great grandkids...we all know she will always be a safe place to fall, and she will always have our backs."

Ray Webster

My mom *Helen* brought safe, sacrificial love to me and my sister in the face of the challenges my dad experienced following his WWII service. Despite her needing to work to help support the family, she was there to support me and my sister, be interested in what our interests were and consistently encourage us. She would do this with our spouses and her grandkids. As we left home, she returned to school to finish her college degree, take on greater work responsibilities, master the changes technology offered her and begin her walk with Jesus. She would amaze me with her zest for life, desire to learn and understand. When you see me, you catch a glimpse of her.

Erich Lage the Younger

Proverbs 31: 16-18

"She goes to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is energetic and strong, a hard worker. She makes sure her dealings are profitable; her lamp burns late into the night." When I was young I never noticed it: but while raising a reckless boy- my mom bought a house for us to be safe, went back to college to provide better for us, made sure I was fed, clothed and to school on time without one complaint. She was a shining example of bravery and devotion, absolute selflessness. An energetic, strong hard worker pushing her own desires behind that of a mother's duty. My mom made me who I am, and she's cool.

Erich the Older

Over the decades *Tami* has gently, patiently, and lovingly trimmed away the spikey parts of me by her unending examples of love for me and the *three roses* given to us.

Elders 2020

From Rod Carsten/re: Mom

The thing that I appreciated the most about my *mom* is that she faithfully prayed for me/us. That required perseverance, faith, and patience on her part during my days of running from the Lord. We never doubted that she loved us and faithfully remembered us before the Lord until her final breath. – Rod Carsten

From Janie Carsten

My *mom* brought me a wonderful example of loving her family and creating a home. She worked at making sure our families stayed connected as we got older and delighted in her grandchildren; I learned a lot about serving others from the way she invested in our family. She richly blessed my life!

From Linda Asjes

My memories of my *mom* are her love, her smile, her delight in my husband, kids and grandkids. I also remember her warm hospitality and good cooking/baking, her readiness for any outdoor or travel adventure and she did a great job of taking care of my dad for 60+ years! I miss her.

From Dave Nadler the old

“My mother *Mary* brought me a faithful example - to my father (who could be difficult) and to her 7 kids (of which I am the oldest). I can't EVER remember thinking anything but that my mother loved me - then my wife - my kids - my grands. My memories of her will always be her smile, her singing disposition, and her ability to joyfully adapt.”

From Kyle & Keira

Keira and I both love our *mother* for a number of reasons. We admire how hard working she is and how much effort she puts in to make sure our family has everything we need. Her joy and hopeful spirit keeps our family floating during difficult times, and we can't imagine life without her.

From Rod Carsten

The quality that first comes to mind when I think of *Janie* is friend. Part of that is that she has one of the most “friendly” smiles I know of. She has the gift of serving and it has been a blessing to me over our married life to observe her faithfulness as a friend to many and to gladly put herself out to serve them. Her sensitivity to the needs of others and action to give an encouraging word has been an help and encouragement to me in relationships.

I have always appreciated that *Sarah* is not afraid to step out into something new and unknown. I am thankful that she knows Jesus and continues to seek Him for direction in her life and for wisdom in raising her daughters.

From Tim Kelly

Irma is such a rock for our family she deeply cares for me and our family and is so gifted at connecting with people and engaging them at home or just about anywhere. Her greatest desire is to be a servant and bless those she loves which is a lot of people. *Meredith* has been deeply tested and is a beautiful testimony of God's grace and looks forward to helping her fiance Matt raise two children after losing their mother to cancer. She is beautiful inside and out. *Katherine* is so gracious and kind with a mature faith that shows itself in welcoming hospitality and reaching out to those God puts in her life. She is a diligent hard working mother who teaches her children well and has many literary talents and makes me delicious lattice crust cherry pies. *Rachel* is my problem solver girl. Lots of energy and a burning desire to help people. She is drawn to the needy of this world and strives to share her faith especially to some of the hurting children in her neighborhood. *Melissa* loves to cheer people up when they need it. Very talented in her work, she has a unique ability to bring order out of chaos. I am delighted when I listen to her pray.

From Tony Tallman

“Georgia is the glue that holds our family together. Her heart for service starts with each of us at home and spreads to our extended family as well as our church family. She really knows how to make each of us feel loved.”

From Wyatt Sann

“Simply put, I am so thankful for *Danielle*. Words cannot describe how awesome it has been watching her step into the shoes of motherhood this year. While there have been trying times, I know I can always count on my best friend to be there by my side. And at her core, the love she has for other people inspires me!” - Wyatt Sann

“If I could sum up my daughter, *Genesis*, in one word it would be ‘Joy’. It’s amazing to see God’s light shine through her little 6 month personality, and she has been such an encouragement during these last few months. I couldn’t imagine life without her now!”

From Colby Judd

Emily is a truth speaker. She often cuts through the “noise” with words of encouragement & wisdom without being cutting or condescending. She is my rock.

Cheri is such an awesome example of pursuing her passions. From her artist’s heart, to her wisdom/truth she speaks into others about life and the Lord is amazing.

From Brian Glick

Liz (wife) – Liz is amazing in all kinds of ways as a wife, a mother, a friend, a spiritual encourager, and so much I can see how much she has been a rock in my life and totally believe 100% that God brought us together as there is no other way to explain the story. I thank God for bringing us together and have learned so much since I have been with her about being humble, selfless, and learning lessons.

Brenda (my mother) – My mother is such a loving and caring individual and she has/did the best she could to raise us right and I will say that all those times that I didn’t listen or follow her lead, that I apologize that I know now being a parent myself, that she was just trying to keep me safe, secure, and wanted the best of me in a loving and nurturing way. I love her and miss her much.

Jennifer (my sister) – My sister is such a wonderful and an individual full of goodwill. I know that I may have not have been the nicest of brothers to her all my life and I feel that we have come a long way and I highly respect her as a good mother, a caring sister, and love her so much and miss her as well.

From Jessica Leaming

My mom has always been an amazing example, not only to me but to so many others. As I grew up I was able to see what it means to “open her mouth with wisdom, and teach of kindness on her tongue” Proverbs 31:26.

From day camp to Sunday school, all the meals, showers and play dates-her gifts have been so many. I am so thankful she is the example I have to follow in being a mother. Selfless, giving, loving, kind, funny, and self-assured, that’s my mom.

Sent from my iPhone

From Josh Carrington

Jessica has always been a great example of service and support as a wife and mother. I have always been able to tell right away that she genuinely thinks in a way that supports me, and serves other people. Whether its taking care of the kids and I or reaching out to others, her service and support shows up big.

One thing I didn't see growing up, is how selfless *Sherry*, my mom, is. Looking back I see now that she rarely chose anything for herself over anyone else. Her selflessness showed in the way she raised us and supported my dad. She truly wants best for us and for others, and always places others first.

From Owen Binns

Adriel is a rock. Yeah of course she has bad days just like everyone else but when it comes down to it she chooses a good attitude over a bad attitude every time. It's so refreshing. She has made me stronger in that area of my life with her example. She is a great companion and friend.

From Gary Bierma

This is an easy one for me. With our 45th Anniversary coming up I'm reminded how Thankful I am that God has given me *Deb* to share my life with. I know it's a good thing when I still lol forward to see her when I come home from work to just get caught up and just visit with her. I love seeing how great she is with the grandkids/great grandkids! God has been so good to me! :) Also I am so thankful for the two Proverb 31 gals God has given me. Katie and Liz. I see a lot of Debs qualities in both of them. I really enjoy watching them raise their kids following Christ. Where do I stop? Once again, God has been very good to me! :)

From Dennis Judd:

Cheri - she is such a learner. Her desire to keep growing and to pursue God - hear His voice - wrestle with God - pursue relationship makes our home and life beautiful and delightful. *Emily Ruth* teaches me new things about life and loving. Always ready with a hug and usually brings a cheerful disposition. The simplicity of perspective keeps me appreciative. *Clara* (my Mom) - though she passed away 18 years ago, her hospitable approach to life continues to remind us how to extend ourselves in a kind way in our neighborhood and to share what we have. *Carolyn Findell* (my Mother-in-law) - she's an overcomer. She's had 3 battles with cancer (so far) and numerous other maladies. She's in her mid 80's and has no intention to "throw in the towel"

Emily Frances - our daughter-in-law (Colby) is a delightful person. Always seeing the opportunity and positive side but not in a cheesy way - she embraces the future with determination and joy. She's a "can do" person. *Johanna* - our daughter-in-law (Colin) is a spirited and determined person. Very capable and her ability discipline herself always challenges me to consider decisions and habits. *Wendy* - oldest granddaughter - she is vibrant and energetic and so far is someone who will "give us a run for our money" with joy. *Maddi* - second granddaughter - she brightens a room with her smile and seems to be a joy bringer. *Elaina* - third granddaughter - she is spirited, joyful, and funny. She has a clever sense of humor already beginning to be expressed.

From Sommer Durby

I appreciate the way that my *mom* goes out of her way to help me when I ask her to. She can have a schedule that is already packed full and she will still find time to squeeze in something I ask of her! I also appreciate her being such a fun and active grandma for my children. From horseback riding to biking to water sports and tennis. My kids are able to learn these things from their grandma! I also really appreciate her spiritual wisdom. We have been getting together for the last few years to study the Bible together and her input on spiritual things has been very rewarding to me. Her influence in my life has been invaluable!

A Few words about May from Wade:

First of all, I'm so thankful that God brought *May* and I together. It truly was an act of God. I think the Lord brought her around, just at the right time in my life. I had a secret crush on her right away, but for her I think it took an act of God... One day she just woke up, and said to herself, 'I think I like Wade.' And so it began... and my life would never be the same.

May is an amazing wife, and as each year goes by I feel like we grow closer and closer, more free with each other. I'm so blessed.

I'm thankful we have a healthy relationship. We never let the sun go down on our anger. We always kiss and make up, and always forgive the other, so we don't let any bitterness enter into our relationship. I'm thankful for my mother and others who are able to watch the boys once a month or so, so we can get a way for a little while. Something we've tried to be vigilant about, though difficult at times.

Positive. When I first met May I thought she had a really simple way of looking at life, but I found out I was wrong. May just has a way of filtering out things that don't matter — paying attention to the important things in life. Nothing else matters or distracts her. She chooses to have a positive outlook on life. This is really good for me, as I love to get lost in the trees, and am naturally a pessimist.

Sacrificial. May allows me to escape once a week for a guys night. I know this is unbelievably rare, so I'm grateful.

Prayer warrior. May really enjoys a good run in the morning—it's a time spent away in prayer. I know a great many enlightening moments have happened on her runs with the Lord, and prayers answered due to them. She wishes she could do it more. One prayer that came true... when we were looking for a house, she'd prayed for good neighbors and for a neighborhood with kids. There were a few others, but those are a couple I remember, and sure enough... we love our neighbors and we have good kids in the neighborhood that come over and hang out in our backyard almost every day in the summer time. It's been a real joy for us to watch, and a blessing to the boys. God is good.

Servants Heart. May has a servants heart. She is always thinking about the needs of the family. She serves her family with all she has. She cooks breakfast, lunch and dinner most days for the boys and I. She does most, if not all, the house work everyday. I occasionally help out with laundry — something I told her I'd do before we got married. She sacrificed her career to become a stay at home mom. She homeschooled Isaac for a couple years, and is doing it again now that school is over due to Covid.

Teacher/Protector. May really looks after the boys hearts, and is really diligent in finding books, movies, educational materials for the boys to read or watch. She takes the boys on field trips and let's the boys be boys, even when I know it's frustrating and difficult. She teaches them manners, and how to behave in public. May is pretty consistent when it comes to discipline, she has high expectations. She's a tough cookie.

Resourceful. May is very resourceful, always looking for ways to save money on items we need. She loves a good bargain. For example, due to her efforts, Isaac gets free violin lessons through the dsm symphony.

Creative/Industrious. May is always on the go... it's hard for her to turn off. I wish I had a little more of that myself. I enjoy watching her dream up with all the cool cake creations—I'm glad she has that as a creative outlet. It's been fun seeing how successful she has become. I love seeing the joy it brings her.

Loyal/Supportive. I've had some difficult years, and May has been an encouragement through it all. She'll also tell it like it is, when that's needed as well. Sometimes I regret telling her to just tell me what's on her mind, instead of

From Kristi Long

My *mother* is a wonderful woman. She is loving, generous, gentle, playful, and absolutely irreverent, funny, and fierce. One of the many, many things that I treasure about her is her lack of pretension. She does not pretend to be anything more or anything less than she is, and in that has modeled to me God's grace in her compassion for others and such wonderful humility through her flaws and her gifts. She's a magnetic, effervescent personality that draws people to her and also a calm, deep well that provides refuge. **and Jane Krogmann...**

While *Jane* may not biologically be my mother, I always introduce her to new people as "my mom's best friend, my second mom." From the beginning she has loved me as if I were her own. She is also one of the most fearlessly generous and loyal people I know. She does not love blindly, but she loves deeply, through thick and thin. She also may not be the most outspoken person in the room, but there is a steadiness, security, and rootedness to her that leaves her feeling, to me—flighty as I often feel—like someone who is not easily shaken.

This was actually hard for me to write. Partly because there is so much I could say—and so much I could say that, while true and delightful about each of these two wonderful women, is also probably not fit for church consumption. It's also partly because they are both still a mystery to me. I know them as my moms, but I also know that they have depths and desires and identities that are entirely their own, and that I am not—nor do I need to be—privy to. I have been so blessed to have both of these amazing women in my life, who model in their own ways strength, generosity, faith, doubt, stumbling, humility, general badassery, love and so many other virtues that model to me how to grow into a better woman, into the woman I want to one day be. Well, that and the fast-talking dames from black-and-white movies (which to be fair, the love of them these two women instilled in me).