

Pp1 A Mum's Mission or a mission to Mums.

PP2 What is the mission of a mum? What is my mission in life? Marianne thinks it is to do the best I can for her boys, all three of us, Jackson, Flynn AND John.) but it is also to do the best they can for God. That all sounds too hard sometimes, have you seen the boys bedroom or have you seen how many bikes, guitars, cameras, button accordions, trains and other assorted collections there are in our house!!!. The boys muck up, all three of us. Life is extremely busy, John works funny hours, the boys well they are 16 and 13 and they are boys.

But I remember them when they were born, Jackson and Flynn that is not me. They were so cute and vulnerable, I still think they are excessively cute, however I may be biased!! But I didn't know what to do with them. I didn't know what to do with them, but Marianne did. She had plenty of experience with babies as she is the eldest of all the cousins on both sides of my family. She's a good mum. These precious little ones were given to us to look after and to be honest, Marianne does most of it. We love them dearly but it is a lot of work, no more sleep ins,

no just sitting down for a rest there is always someone saying mum The reality is they go to mum as first port of call.

Even Mary had that with Jesus, This little being in her arms, she knew He was different but still so little and I dare say she thought he was cute, I've never really thought of God being cute before but lets face it all mums think their children are cute. PP3 Mary's mission was to care for the Son of God, what a huge job. Look at this:

PP4 LK 2:16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they

had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

How does that reflect on me? Our job is to care for the people we have been entrusted with. Our children, our wives, our husband's, well your husbands, I don't have one of them, our friends whoever. This is a huge job and it can be daunting at times.

Yet as well as that we are called to care for those who come in contact with us. (More about that in a few weeks)

I guess PP5 Mary had to contend with all the things regular mums have to contend with. Sleepless nights, dirty nappies and loads of washing. She didn't have disposable nappies or a washing machine.

Notice a big thing here. She treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. She treasured them – kept them close, made them valuable to her, but also notice she pondered them.

We all treasure our children, but do we ponder them. Well, Marianne and I wonder what goes on in those brains sometimes, but one thing I think we need to do

is dwell on them. Maybe **PP6 The best way to ponder is to pray.** Not only in the asking for protection and health and care or even spiritual development but pondering through pray what God has for these children or this child. What is God's will for this child?

One thing I remember after Flynn was born was a reaction from Marianne that God is exalted by Flynn's birth. Theologically, it struck a chord with me.

The birth of a child, our little boy was worship.

PP7 Did Mary pray for Jesus? What did she pray for, after all she was one of the few people who had any inkling of how special Jesus was at that time. Maybe we need to ponder who our children are, who they will be and who they could be. Then pray through those ponderings. Maybe it is part of the mission of mums!!!

My mum would come in of a night when I was in bed and pray for me and with me. I know that she still prays for me everyday and for that I am very thankful. Let's move on before I get all emotional here. After all I don't get to see my mum on mum's day.

Lets look at another few verses:

PP8 LK 2:21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.

LK 2:22 When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"),²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

Notice here PP9 they did what they had to. Their belief structure and system had ways of dedicating the children, we dedicate children in our church, this was a presentation of the child and the parents to God. They did what was expected. We need to do the same – put our children in a place to hear about Jesus

and the education has to start early. Day 8 may seem a bit early for a dedication but it was the way it was done. The idea is that PP10 The child begins a connection with God from the outset.

Mum and Dad had me in church the first Sunday I was out of hospital. But you know something funny, they forgot to dedicate me!!!! I went through Sunday school and experienced the way they lived, grew up got Baptised and then found out when Marianne and I got married that they forgot to dedicate me. They took me to YFC Rallies, church services and they always encouraged me but the final decision about whether I wanted to be a Christian was always mine.

One more set of verses

PP11 JN 19:25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," 27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

How horrid would this have been for Mary, to see her son executed. But she was there. I think this is the biggest lesson in a mum's mission. Always be there for your children. Be at every stage of their lives. It is a beautiful picture of Mary supporting her son and in return Jesus giving her a support system by getting John to be her "adopted" Son. She has support, John has support, Mary has support. Mums have a mission to love their children through thick and thin, Marianne tells a story about her grandma and grandpa in how they reacted to Marianne's Uncle John who was part of a bikie gang. The family were in church one Sunday sitting down the front when in walked the gang to get Uncle John for a rumble. (Err that's bikie for fight!!) They didn't bat an eyelid, Uncle John went, they stuck with him through thick and thin. He became a pentecostal pastor. It isn't always easy but it is our mission.

These have been just a few thoughts for us mums. Let mothers' day be a commitment day for us to continue to care for our children and family. But on this day also let us

PP 12 Remember to honour our mum's for their mission.

And

PP13 Help mum's in their mission.