

'MOTHERS IN ISRAEL' SPECIAL EDITION!

Letters from our Missionary Wives

"The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain." {Proverbs 31:11}

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BAPTIST FAITH MISSIONS

bfm NEWS & REPORTS

Assisting Baptist churches to send God-called missionaries to fulfill church-planting missions in the nations of the world

A MARRIAGE & MINISTRY ORDAINED BY THE LORD



Bobby & Charlene Wacaser

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April 29, 2024

Hello our dear praying friends, Charlene here, taking advantage of the opportunity to share with you a little of our ministry world from this missionary wife's perspective. Above and before all else, I want to say that it is a privilege to serve the Lord alongside my husband, Bobby, and also say that I have always been thankful for this calling. There are unique challenges I face serving in Brazil, but I also know that everyone has their own set of challenges just because we, as God's children, are not of this world. The Lord told us in advance in His Word that, if we wanted to be His followers, then we would face trials, obstacles and opposition in this world.

The Lord definitely ordained mine and Bobby's marriage and ministry. We are so different from each other in personality and skills, but He uses those differences to complement and complete us as a team. Bobby is a more visionary and big-picture sort of person, and I am a more detailed and "give me the plan" type of person. Does this cause problems? Sometimes, of course, but more often it helps us accomplish more as our differences work together to fill in the gaps that



Charlene in action

"We are so different from each other in personality and skills, but He uses those differences to complement and complete us as a team."

Charlene Wacaser

normally come up when trying to pull off a ministry or event.

My role provides me with a wide variety of experiences. For example, recently I accompanied Bobby on an evangelistic trip to several native indigenous tribes in the jungles of Argentina. We shared God's love with 6 different villages all in one day. Their material poverty was apparent, but thankfully, the riches of God's grace were shared with them and many of them became heirs with Jesus through the word that was shared. We also evangelized in neighboring Paraguay in 120-degree temperatures. I have to be honest and admit that I was very

uncomfortable, but I do count it a privilege to have done that for God's glory.

One of my favorite roles is to be an encourager to our team leaders' wives. I know what it feels like to move to a new place, leaving friends and family and starting a ministry from scratch alongside my spouse. I am able to share that experience with them and how God always comes through to supply everything we need to be faithful and pleasing to Him. I also realize that it is my role and privilege from the Lord to support

and encourage Bobby in what the Lord has called him to do. We really are a team and I'm glad to be on it.

Let me close by telling you how grateful and thankful I am for your prayers, love, and faithful support on our behalf. May the Lord richly reward and bless you as well.

Yours in Christ,
Charlene Wacaser



Indigenous people in Argentina



Visiting their missionaries in Portugal

"And...they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles." -Acts 14:27

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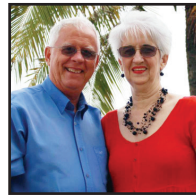


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PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR WHAT GOD WOULD HAVE HER DO



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[Re-printed from May 2019 issue]

This month we missionary
wives have been asked to write
the letters for the mission sheets,
so here I go with the many memo-
ries.

...It seems as though it was just
yesterday that AJ started his cam-
paign to convince me to go with
him to be missionaries to Brazil.
As many of you all have heard, in
the beginning I was hard to con-
vince, but God is faithful, and He
worked on my heart. So, when AJ
told me that he was going before
the Church on Sunday night to tell
the Church he was surrendering
to be a missionary, God put these
words in my mouth, "I am ready".

I have not regretted—not
once—that response. Our first
place of service was in Garça,
Brasil, with Odali and Kathy
Barros. I helped Kathy with the
children and AJ worked with

Odali. There I used all the vari-
ous skills that I had learned in
Owsley County, Kentucky, as the
daughter of Pastor H. W. Baker,
who was a mission pastor. We
stayed in Garça for 6 years being
parents to up to 21 boys. There
are many stories that could be
told of those years. Needless
to say, we have many children
who call us Mom and Dad
there in Brasil. We share that
honor with their biologi-
cal parents and with Odali and
Kathy. Of all the boys that went
through our care, some have their
own businesses, some are law-
yers, others are in the business
world, and another is finishing
his studies to become a veterina-
rian.

Have you ever washed clothes
on a wash board? I did as a teen-
ager and again in Garça. Have
you ever had to heat your water
on a stove or in a big tub outside?
I did as a teenager and again in
Garça. Have you ever had to walk
to Church? I did as a child and
again in Garça. As I said before,
God prepared me early for what
He would be having me do later.
In the words of AJ, "God is AWE-
SOME!"

After Garça, we moved to
Jacarei, Sao Paulo, where we had
plans to open another orphan-
age. As we worked through the
paperwork, we started a mission
church and there I continued to
work with children. We had sev-
eral families in the neighborhood
who did not have transportation

to get to a Church. They also had
children, so I worked with them
on Saturday and Sunday in Bible
schools and Sunday schools. But
after two years we realized that we
were not going to be able to get the
approval from the mayor for the
orphanage, so AJ began to pray for
a sign to stay or
move on. Maybe
you have heard
this story, but
God answered
these prayers
with a seques-
ter. You see, we
were living on a
farm way out in
the country and
were a target for
theft. This gave

AJ his answer, so we moved to
Caraguatatuba. There we worked
with Pastors in two churches and
then we opened a new work there.

My service for the Lord contin-
ued to be with children. With the
help of one of the boys from the
orphanage in Garça who came to
help us in Caraguatatuba, we had Sat-
urday Bible school in the homes
of various members. As we began
to look for a place to open a new
work, one of the children from
these Saturday Bible schools, who
started as a babe in arms in these
Bible schools, stopped us on the
streets. He stopped us on the street
and said, "Mrs. Barb, when are you
coming back to our neighborhood
to teach us?" So, guess what that
sealed our decision as to where to
start our new church.

Caragua Baptist Church came
to life in this young man's neigh-
borhood. There again my job was

*"God prepared
me early for
what He would
be having me do
later."
Barbara Hensley*



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*May God give them wisdom and discernment
as they prayerfully make decisions.*

 **HENSLEY**
continued on page 3

HENSLEY

continued from page 2

with children. God sent many, many children to our location and we love them all.

So my time in Brasil has been an adventure where I have sat up all night rocking a sick boy, planned a wedding for one of the boys in our care, taken in people who are down on their luck, women who have been abandoned by their husbands and grandmothers whose homes are being flooded, and counseled women in their day-to-day problems...to name a few of the things that God has let me do.

I just want to say, "Thank You, God," for working in my heart to make me willing to go on this adventure with AJ Hensley. We serve an AWESOME God. Thank you for all these memories and we look forward to many more.

In His Service,
Barbara Hensley

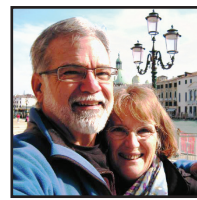


Barbara and some of the girls with the pillowcase dresses made by American ladies



Barbara with children at Jacarei

CHANGES IN THE LAST YEAR



John Mark & Judy Hatcher
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April 10, 2024

Wow! Another year of our lives has passed. Looking back, what do I see? What has changed? What is the same?

Last year at this time we were making final preparations to move house. We moved to France via suitcases..bit by bit. I often asked myself, "How on this earth have we accumulated so much stuff!" A gentle reminder of what are the truly important things to hold to. After a whirlwind of sorting, pitching, and packing we moved into our new place the first of June.

Fortunately, we only moved about 2 miles from our old house, so it could be done in lots of small trips. Our church family helped with painting and moving the big items. We are settled and loving it! Of course, we have new neighbors and that opens doors for sharing the Good News. Also, we are closer to our son, Philip, his wife, Amanda and girls. No words can express the honor we have to be able to work alongside them.

Physically, John and I are well. We are thankful that we are able and capable of sharing the News!

To celebrate our 70 years of life and 50 years of marriage, our children gifted us with a trip to the States to be able to be together, all 22 of us for one whole week! We played, laughed, and just enjoyed being together. Our children knew that the best gift they could give us was time together.

The normal Bible studies

restarted after the summer break. The Christians in Mazères continue to grow in their knowledge of God and how to live for Him. The group there are very attentive to one another's needs and work together well.

The second year of the group in l'Union added a new person. We are having very in-depth and open discussions about Jesus and how He is the only Savior. Being on the front line and seeing the Holy Spirit move and work in ways we can't

imagine is exciting!

For the second year, John, Philip and Amanda and I have the privilege of going to the home of a Christian family that lives about an hour from us. There is no church in the area. John or Philip has Bible study with the

mom and dad, and Amanda or I do a class for the 4 children. This past year the oldest child has trusted Jesus as Savior. What a privilege to share the Gospel and how to live it out wherever we are!

The hostess of the study in Mazères has had a burden for some of her friends who are English speakers. She asked if it would be possible for us to do an English-speaking study. Of course! It has been a blessing to see how God works!

Another new outreach is with a family that lives about 3 hours from us. I believe that John has shared how we came into contact with them. The lady continues to grow and bloom in her faith.

Lots of things have changed over the course of the year, but one thing is never changing: God's immense love for us and the privilege of sharing it here in France! Thank you!

Judy Hatcher

"Lots of things have changed over the course of the year, but one thing is never changing: God's immense love for us and the privilege of sharing it here in France!"

Judy Hatcher

SEEING GOD AT WORK IN THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN



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April 12, 2024

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it is with great joy I write you once more. It's a privilege to share with you all God is doing here in São Paulo City. First, I want to share about God's work in our children's lives. Sarah is graduating from High School on June 10th. We celebrate her accomplishments and a new phase as she prepares to go to college here in São Paulo. We are grateful for God's work in Laura's life, as she demonstrates daily her spiritual growth and knowledge about Jesus. We praise God for Benjamin's life also. He gives us so much joy as he develops not only in stature and academics but also in his faith and love for Jesus. Melissa, from all four, is who has grown the most in every area of life. She really has improved in her learning abilities, her performance in sports, her social skills, her confidence, and interest in spiritual practices. It's amazing to watch them becoming young adults, and Melissa becoming a teenager, with all that phase brings (LOL). I'm thankful for your prayers; we need it so much!

Second, I would like to share the results of our First TBRI National Conference, organized by ABBA (Associação Brasileira Beneficente Aslan). We had people from six states, and more than twenty cities. We had five speakers, three representing Texas Christian University – Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development, one from Pontes de Amor, an Adoption Support Group, and me. This conference was done by faith. I'm thankful to partners like Nikki and Jason Estes (iCG Pay), who raised funds and supported us from the start. I'm thankful for Srini Sirigire, he owns Whiztek. I'm thankful for D & A Papéis, and FlySkyCare. Without their contributions it wouldn't be possible. I'm also thankful

for an amazing team, who worked non-stop to make this conference a success. If you would like to support our ministries with Foster Care, and children and adolescents in risk and social vulnerabilities, please make donations to BFM and specify "Jud & Raquel's Foster Care Ministry".

Prayer requests:

> Our family health. There is a dengue crisis going on here in Brazil.

> Our kid's last two months of school, and future education plans for Sarah.

> My dad's health. He almost had a heart attack on April 10th. He's on the waiting list for a heart valve transplant. His heart is very weak, and he is having symptoms such as shortness of breath, high blood pressure, and stomach discomfort.

> My mom's health. She was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer in September 2023. She'll go through chemotherapy and radiotherapy in the next months.

> We have two babies in our foster care program. Please pray God will send us more foster families, it's a challenge to recruit Christians families to receive these little ones in their homes.

> Our TBRI trainings. Many non-profit organizations ask us to train their staff and team. Pray for wisdom, and funds.

> Pray for our Agape Baptist Church. We'll have a community outreach this upcoming Sunday. Pray for salvation.

It's an honor to serve Jesus Christ through Baptist Faith Missions. We feel privileged to be part of this great mission. Thank you for all you do for our family.

Raquel Hatcher



Raquel



The first TBRI National Conference in Brazil



Raquel speaking



TBRI Conference



TBRI participants

View more pictures
on our FaithWorks
Blog!

www.bfmnow.org

Raquel Hatcher serves the Lord with her husband Jud and their family in São Paulo, Brazil. While their main ministry is church planting, Raquel also serves as coordinator in a Foster Care Program and is a licensed TBRI trainer.

THANKING GOD FOR MY MOTHER & THE THINGS SHE TAUGHT ME



Odali & Kathy Barros
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April 9, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
 Pray and hope that each of you

them to do, so it's really easy for them to get influenced to go the wrong way. So we try to spend as much time with them as possible. That is one of the reasons we are working on building the camp—to have a place for them to have fun

and have some time learning more about God. When I go on Saturday to Ubim, I'm taking some of the teens from the mother church to help me and they are learning to work with the

“For He died for us and is always faithful to care for us. Be thankful with your attitudes.”

Kathy Barros quoting her mother, Alta Hatcher

have had a wonderful blessed month. Thanks for your prayers and support and God's guidance in our lives, we are doing well.

Every day I thank God for my mother and the things she taught me. One of the things I remember the most was her visiting and inviting people to church every week. She did visitation with other ladies of the church and I always went with her. She all told me that whatever I did I must do it for the Lord. She would say, “For He died for us and is always faithful to care for us. Be thankful with your attitudes.” Wonderful memory!

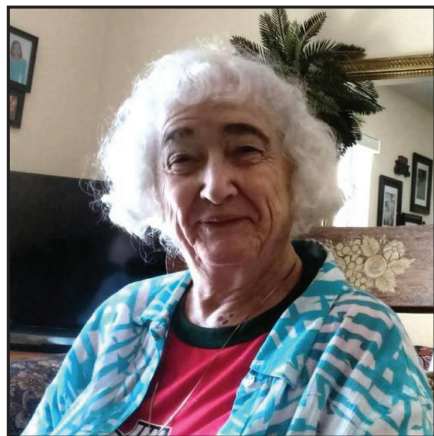
There are lots of small villages in this area. More and more the people are coming to live around here. Pray that God would help us and give us wisdom and strength to reach these people. Thanks for your love, prayers, and support!

God has helped me and given me the ministry of visiting and counseling mothers and helping them with their children. The ministry of the village of Ubim has been wonderful. The kids who came when we started there are now teenagers. We are working with them and are asking God for wisdom to help them accept Christ as Savior and for those who are saved to grow in the Lord. Things in this world today are so crazy and this village has nothing for

and have some time learning more about God. When I go on Saturday to Ubim, I'm taking some of the teens from the mother church to help me and they are learning to work with the kids. As they learn, they can help at the mother church.

There are lots of small villages in this area. More and more the people are coming to live around here. Pray that God would help us and give us wisdom and strength to reach these people. Thanks for your love, prayers, and support!

Love in Christ,
 Kathy



“My Special Teacher” (Kathy's mother Alta)



Kathy and her mother, Alta Hatcher

Kathy Barros grew up in Brazil as a missionary kid, daughter of John & Alta Hatcher. She now serves in Northern Brazil with her husband Odali, teaching and training the ladies and young girls from their church to share the Gospel and minister to children in villages such as Ubim.



Teens helping singing in Ubim

Left: Kathy visiting and helping families

GROWTH IN THE LAST YEAR



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April 10, 2024

Greetings to you all from me all the way over here in Kenya. As I do every year, I went back to read my letter from last year and was so excited to see that we are in a very different place this year! Last year, we were coming off more years than I want to count of severe stress, trauma, and struggle. We were learning how to lean hard into God's grace and be okay with holding our joy in Christ in one hand while simultaneously holding struggle and grief in the other.

Though I won't pretend we don't still struggle (a lot) from day-to-day, the struggle has been different this year. God has given us a chance to take deeper breaths as the seasons of trauma seem fewer and farther between. Having said that, the seasons of trauma are still intense, and I often pray to see more spiritual and mental growth in our precious Chloe. When I take a step back, though, I see the tremendous growth that actually has occurred – not just in Chloe, but also in Roger and me. And I am so thankful.

Speaking of growth, there has also been a lot of physical growth in Chloe. She's only nine years old, and she's over five feet tall! That's over six inches taller than the average girl her age! Her shoe size is even bigger than mine! LOL!

There have been other exciting changes for me personally this year. Last year I began teaching the elementary computer classes at RVA (Rift Valley Academy, for those who are unfamiliar). Over the course of the past 12 months, I've gone from teaching all the elementary computer classes...to actually rewriting the curriculum...to adding teaching 4th-6th grade Swahili to my job description...to actually writing a brand new children's Swahili curriculum complete with books, activities, songs, interactive PowerPoint games, picture playing cards, and assessments! And having fun doing it! This is all while still doing the computer classes and getting my teaching certificate from Bob Jones University.

It hasn't all been roses, however. God has had to really stretch me into these roles. I remember clearly the day I walked into my principal's office in tears after my Swahili students had mostly failed a pretty big assessment using the original curriculum. I sat down and said, "Katy, I don't think I'm the right person

for this job." She looked at me and said, in her wonderfully Scottish, straightforward manner, "You are exactly the right person for this job. Nobody else has the skills you bring to the table. You'll figure it out." That was it. There was no more discussion on the matter other than she was available to bounce ideas off of. Forty-eight hours later, an entirely new and mostly complete curriculum was in my head.

This has been a theme from God in my life this past year. I can't tell you how many times I've gone to Him with the heart cry of, "I'm not the right person for this job! I can't do this!" And every time, He reminds me of two things. First, He reminds me that He chose me for this. Sure, there are probably reasons, but anything I bring to the table are things He built into me. I can't take the credit for any of it – all the glory goes to Him. Second, he reminds me that His strength is made perfect in my weakness. I don't have to pretend I have it all together. I don't have to "fake-it-'til-I-make-it," I don't have to give in to toxic positivity that totally ignores the entire book of the Psalms, of Lamentations, of Jeremiah...and so many others. Because it's when I am most broken that I am most aware He must provide the strength for me to put one foot in front of the other. And when He does (which He always does) it's so obviously Him, that I must praise Him!

Some quick prayer requests from my mother's (and daughter's) heart. 1. Pray for my parents. They are really struggling with their health. My older brother Jim and his wife were helping to care for them, but Jim suddenly lost his sight last summer. So, you can pray for him, too, please. 2. Pray for my adult children. Life isn't always easy, but God is good. Pray that they will taste and see. 3. Pray for Chloe. The support worker who has been with her for two years suddenly quit (long story), and she has a new one who is learning the ropes. In some ways we've taken ten steps backward. Lynn leaving has left Chloe feeling like she's trash – like she ruins everything. She often tells me how badly she feels about herself and that I should just throw her away. This absolutely breaks my heart. 4. Pray for a Western teacher for Chloe. I know that sounds terrible, but the educational system here simply isn't great, and the mindset of educators is very harsh. I truly believe this would be a game changer for her.

Thank you for all your prayers and support! My love to you all!

Julie Tate

Julie Tate has served in Kenya with her husband Roger since 2008.

Quoteable Quotes

"The fact that I am a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I am a Christian makes me a different kind of woman." -E. Elliot

"Mothers, you have a calling that can become the long-remembered ground of faith, not just for your children — mark this — but for the untold numbers who will be affected by your children. And that's in addition to all the other thousands of ripple effects of faith in your life."

-J. Piper

"When a woman is absorbed with God's glory, she will interpret her life according to His truth." -S. Hunt

Proverbs 31

³⁰ Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.

³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates.

"You are as much serving God in looking after your own children, and training them up in God's fear, and minding the house, and making your household a church for God, as you would be if you had been called to lead an army to battle for the Lord of hosts."
-Charles H. Spurgeon

53 YEARS IN CRUZEIRO DO SUL



Mike & Beverly
Creiglow

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April 9, 2024

Hello from Cruzeiro do Sul, the furthest northwest city in Brazil.

First of all, I am not good at writing this kind of letter. It is very hot right now, probably the hottest it has been in a long time. We do not run our air conditioning all the time either, mostly just at night. I run a fan most of the day-time.

Mike and I are the oldest active missionaries right now and he is very active! We have spent almost 53 years together in Cruzeiro do Sul. Most of what I do is scheduled around whatever he is doing. As age creeps on me, I am slower and do not travel very far with him, especially on river trips.

We recently had a visit from Mark and Valerie Pyles, from Grace Baptist Church in Fairborn, Ohio. It was a very enjoyable time. We were able to show them our lifestyle, the city and many congregations in and around town. Mike took them on a boat ride. They got to see our camp that has many retreats during the year. They also visited our wonderful church. I do not think I have ever been part of a church like Primeira Igreja Batista (First Baptist Church). It is like no other I have ever visited. It is very mission-minded, lots of missionaries, solid Bible teaching and our members love

to praise the Lord. You should hear them sing! Just ask Mark and Valerie. There are many souls saved, people coming to our church from other churches, and every couple of months baptizing an average of 15 plus. Mark and Valerie got to see Mike baptizing at a mission point called Gama.

Last month we celebrated Jesus My King—the whole month dedicated to Him as our King. All the lessons, sermons, songs, Bible-reading and memorization were with this theme, Jesus My King. Love my church!

I enjoy doing all kinds of crafts, besides it is therapeutic for me. I have done macramé, costume jewelry, decorative bottles and boxes, plus several other crafts. I decided since I am not getting any younger, I would try as many crafts as possible. I either sell them or give as gifts.

Love to all,
Beverly



The Creiglows arriving in Brazil in 1971



The Creiglows with Mark & Valerie Pyles
at Primeira Igreja Batista (First Baptist Church)



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LIBRARY



You can read
letters from
the Creiglows'

first years in Brazil in our Legacy Library!
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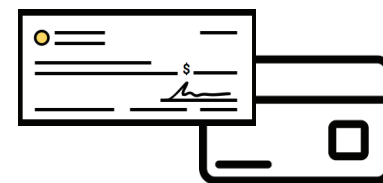
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May 2024 Issue

**ONLINE
EDITION**

IN THIS ISSUE

► **ODALI & KATHY BARROS:** Serving the Lord in Brazil together since 1987 [PAGE 5]

► **MIKE & BEVERLY CREIGLOW:** Serving the Lord in Brazil together since 1971 [PAGE 7]

► **JOHN MARK & JUDY HATCHER:** Serving the Lord in France together since 1999 [PAGE 3]

► **JUD & RAQUEL HATCHER:** Serving the Lord in Brazil together as third generation missionaries [PAGE 4]

► **AJ & BARBARA HENSLEY:** Serving the Lord in Brazil together since 1996 [PAGE 2]

► **ROGER & JULIE TATE:** Serving the Lord in Kenya together since 2008 [PAGE 6]

► **BOBBY & CHARLENE WACASER:** Serving the Lord in Brazil together since 1985 [PAGE 1]

Pray for all our faithful missionary couples and their families!



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"Mothers in Israel"

SPECIAL EDITION!

During this Month – read, honor, and pray for our Missionary-Wives...

“MOTHERS IN ISRAEL” Judges 5:7

Deborah, the judge, called herself “a mother in Israel”. She was not referring to her biological children because we don’t have written record, at least, that she and Lapidoth had any biological children. But, she was ‘a mother in Israel’ because of the spiritual leadership and nurturing she demonstrated during this time of spiritual declension. She provided the leadership of conviction, moral courage, and inspiration to trust and obey God – and she influenced and strengthened many.

So have our missionary-wives who have as faithfully and valiantly served with their husbands to be mothers, not only to their own children and families, but to countless others also. So, in keeping with the Mother’s Day tradition we observe here in the States, we have asked our beloved missionary-wives to write this month’s letters from their own distinctive perspectives. This is our way of recognizing them, honoring them, and rising up with their husbands and children to bless them! Proverbs 31:10-31

*“The heart of her husband safely trusts her;
So he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good and not evil
All the days of her life.”
[Proverbs 31:11-12]*

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