**Tribute to the Unsung Heroes: Mothers**

This tribute is a heartfelt expression of gratitude to all mothers, the unsung heroes of our lives, for their unwavering love, endless patience, and the profound impact they have on shaping our lives.

*And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.* *– Deuteronomy 6:6-7*

I have heard it said, “A mother’s heart is her child’s classroom.” I thank God for my mother, Carmel Rutherford, and all she taught me through the years. She is a portrait of a Godly mother, and I am blessed to be her child. I want to share two things I learned from my mother. These lessons have greatly influenced me. I trust that as you read this, you can also remember what your mother taught you, because we carry our mother’s wisdom in our hearts.

My mother taught me the importance of having a relationship with God. She would say, “Without God you are nothing.” She told me to remember that whether getting good grades, excelling in athletics, or anything I do, God is the one who woke me up and helped me to do all things. My mother taught me Philippians 4:13. I learned to believe that through faith and God's strength, I can overcome anything. She didn’t just teach faith; I witnessed her live it. This was the most important lesson my mother taught me, because it is the blueprint for everything that I faced in life. Even as an adult, my mother would remind me:

You can do it.

With God, you can do all things.

Have faith and never give up!

My mother also taught me how to endure. She told me never to give up and to try, try, and try again. Growing up we endured so many hard times, but through my mother’s perseverance, we learned to keep going and keep trying. As a young child, I was impressed by my mother’s constant devotion to and her display of love for God. It was contagious in our house. She would start to hum, “*This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine . . .* .” Before you knew it, all of us kids would be singing, but none of us on the same key. My mother never complained, instead she praised. “No matter how hard life gets, keep singing praises to God. When praises go up, blessings come down!”

That is what she always said.

It’s funny, I can talk about my mother forever. The Bible emphasizes the importance of remembering God’s actions and the lives of the righteous. We should remember significant events and people who impacted and changed our lives. We should especially remember godly mothers who were sent to strengthen and shape for God’s purpose.

To our mothers, our unsung heroes, our first teachers, we remember you, and we carry you in our hearts.

*Carmen Rutherford is a Child of the Most High God. She is a native of Kingston, Jamaica, but has lived in San Francisco for over 30 years. Carmen has been a member of the New Providence Baptist Church since 1989. She has served as Sunday School Superintendent, VBS Coordinator, and Youth Director. She has also served on the Usher Board and in other areas within the church when needed.*

*Her desire to grow in the Word of God led her to join the Daughters of Zion Women’s Ministries, where she has served and studied for over 15 years. However, she credits and honors her late mother, Mother Carmel Rutherford, for setting a foundation for her strong faith.*