



Testimonies

Testimony 1

My name is Elise R. My group leader is Barbara S. This is my fourth year at Mom to Mom. I have two children, Peter, two and-one-half, who is enrolled in the Mom to Mom childcare, and Sonia, five, who goes to nursery school. In the fall Sonia tagged along with Peter and me for the childcare open house, as her nursery school program had not yet begun. While Peter was meeting his teachers and classmates, I brought Sonia upstairs to see where the “moms” go. The room was quiet and empty, without the chairs set up in their familiar configuration. Sonia asked me: “Do the moms come up here and play basketball together?” “No,” I told her, “we learn about how to be great mothers, and we also pray.” I figured she didn’t need to know about the coffee and goodies.

Every Thursday morning I walk up the stairs, turn the corner, and look for my name amidst the rows of neatly arranged name tags. I feel like someone is expecting me. Is it God calling me by name? (See Isaiah 43:1.) I know I belong here. It makes me think of that old TV show *Cheers*. The theme song goes something like this: “Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they’re always glad you came.”¹ Perhaps Mom to Mom is like *Cheers* for mothers, with the added bonus of childcare!

Now, I don’t want to minimize the importance of the Mom to Mom leaders by comparing them with a bunch of bar buddies. These women are alive with the promise that Jesus Christ has for each of us. They are living with passion and excellence, models of intelligence and integrity. I know that God is working in my life because I can rely on the prayers of my Titus 2 Leader and the group members. I feel taken care of when I come here, filled with strength and practical wisdom for the daily challenges of motherhood.

To Linda, Barbara, my past leaders, Lois, Kay, and Connie, and to each one of you who gives her time for this program: Thank you for being “God with skin on” to us.

Elise R., Massachusetts

1. Gary Portney and Judy Hart Angelo “Where Everybody Knows Your Name.” Available from Internet: www.lyricsondemand.com/tvthemes/cheerslyrics.html



mom to mom

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Testimony 2

Dear Linda:

Where can I begin to summarize how three years of Mom to Mom wisdom, guidance, love and support in the areas of motherhood and child rearing, marriage-building, and the power of God, have impacted me and my family? It will be difficult, but I will try.

- You gave me back my sense of self-worth. Gone are my feelings that motherhood has no socially redeeming value. Being a mother at home, I'm not contributing to some company's financial bottom line. However, I am rising to the expectation that God has had of me since He gave me my first child: I am striving to raise confident, responsible, honest, loving, compassionate, joyful human beings who turn to God in everything they do and who make a difference in the world by using their talents to help bring joy to others. What job could be more important than shaping a child?
- You helped me understand how marriage changes with the birth of children, and how we both need to actively seek ways to maintain our marriage in the midst of raising children. You encouraged us to look for ways to love, honor, support and serve one another. You showed me how to see Jesus in my husband and thereby treat my husband with as much respect and love as I would Jesus Himself. You reminded me that a happy marriage begets happy children.
- You gave me tools for helping my children feel wanted, accepted, valued and loved. I learned how to open the lines of communication between them and my husband and me, and between them and God. You helped me to recognize my own destructive behaviors towards my children and to replace them with words and actions that instill self-worth in them. I am working to build their character, teaching them how to resolve conflict, and encouraging their service to others.
- You made me realize that, with three now adolescent children, I have learned some useful parenting techniques that I can pass on to younger moms; dare I say that I am a bit of a Titus 2 woman? And yet, moms with younger children have just as much insight to offer. In our group, we have learned from and encouraged each other. It has truly been a mutual give and take experience.
- You gave me back my sense of identity. While being a wife and mother are important, I now realize that God gave me gifts and talents that He wants me to use to grow myself, benefit others, and glorify Him. It's okay to build in time just to be me, in addition to fulfilling my other roles.
- You pointed me towards the One who leads me and loves me, the One on whom I can depend, the One who died for me. Prayer is my line of communication, and there is power in prayer. In Jesus I can find strength, understanding, and wisdom to get me through even the toughest moments of parenting. With Jesus I can relish the joys and achievements of child rearing.

Truly, Mom to Mom has touched me and my family in so many positive ways. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. May you continue to help many other moms and their families establish Christian homes in which each member is loved and appreciated, has room to grow, and builds a lifeline to God. And may God bless your efforts and multiply your successes.

Sue G., New Jersey



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Additional Testimonies and Comments

I was standing in back of our group yesterday and had tears in my eyes thinking how blessed we are to have a safe comfortable place to come as moms to be mentored and loved on by our Titus 2 moms, sit and share and listen to other moms in their lives, a place to unload our own situations with others, and just be who we are as moms without judgment. Such a highlight for me every week. —Mariah

My involvement with Rolling Hills Moms' Ministry not only gives me a place to connect with other moms, but more importantly it helps me to be purposeful and intentional in raising the beautiful children that God has entrusted to me. —Charlotte, Tennessee

The RH Mom's Ministry has been huge in my life. I started Mom-to-Mom in the fall of 2012 and was in a dark place. I had a 3-month old and an 18-month old, and I was completely overwhelmed. Every Tuesday morning I came here and was reminded that I wasn't alone in the motherhood journey. The girls in my group encouraged me and let me cry through my frustrations. The Titus 2 leaders helped me realize how God was using this time to shape me and help me become a better mother. —Grace, Tennessee

Involvement in our Moms' Ministry was the best thing I could have done for me and my family. I learned with other moms how to see our kids through God's eyes. New insight into my kids has given me more patience and helped me be more calm with them. I'm still learning, but have comfort knowing God isn't finished with us yet. —Shelly

I loved Mom to Mom these past few years. It was so super timely for me way back in 2009 when Gabbie was a newborn and I was a new stay-at-home mom. To this day, I can tell you that my biggest takeaway from Mom to Mom came in my first year: "You are the mother that Gabbie needs" and "you have to allow your husband to parent the way he needs to, without hovering and controlling." —Becca

My childhood was not a good one. Growing up, I did not have a good role model for how to be a wife or mother. Mom to Mom has helped me to be the kind of woman, wife and mother that I want to be. I believe it has changed the trajectory of my life, my daughter's life and the lives of future generations. For this, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. —Tina C., Massachusetts



Testimonies

Linda's heartfelt lessons combine with a supportive group of caring moms to help me feel God's grace as I both struggle and rejoice in being a Mom.

A few years ago, I found a local Mom to Mom group. Little did I know, it was just what I needed as a very new mom of my little boy, just turned 3 and recently adopted from China. We found the program had a terrific playgroup with childcare for him as well as a place of belonging and understanding and encouragement for both of us. These weekly visits to St. Michael's Church (we call "God's house") enabled us to grow our faith. I received the blessing of time to learn and to pray; to breathe more deeply and to feel God's love in new ways. Plus, I simply got to sit down and to sip some coffee or tea!

The Titus 2 Leaders are wonderful mentors whose reassuring presence, commitment to serving the Lord, and down-to-earth good humor give me hope. The real-life stories featured in the curriculum along with relevant biblical passages Linda shares let me see the bigger parenting picture in order to improve my perspective. Through Mom to Mom I have made friends, been given great recipes, borrowed books, received prayers of encouragement and even got practical help on finding a new family car when my old car "died". My mom to mom group really strengthens and sustains me.

—Julie L., Massachusetts

Answering: Would you encourage a friend to attend Mom to Mom?

- * Definitely! So grounded and I've made amazing friendships!"
- * "YES! It's a lifeline for me."
- * "An amazing group of women. So perfectly placed together."