

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Women in different stages of life discuss how faith helps them triumph over challenges

## Faithful through the ages

By Jenny Twitchell  
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Mother's Day has come and gone, but the impact of a mother needs to be celebrated more than one time a year. Women everywhere should continue to be celebrated for their keen sense of intuition, natural nurturing abilities and faithful spirits. A woman's influence on children, communities and nations cannot be measured, but sometimes the day to day grind of life can be daunting. These four women, who are all in different stages of life, talk about what helps them fight the battles of Satan and stay true to Christ.

**Samantha Brown, 17,  
student at Foothills High  
School in Henderson**

The life of a teenage woman is a stage when women are constantly surrounded by peers in high school. It is full of endless temptations, peer pressure, body image obsession, and the desperate desire to "fit in." Arguably it is the easiest and most dangerous time to succumb to temptations that lead away from a life full of peace and happiness in Christ.

There isn't anything, however, that combats these self-image pressures like being close to Christ, according to Samantha Brown, 17. "For me personally, I feel more at peace with myself, more self confident," she said. If her relationship with the Lord starts to weaken, she says she "feels distant, out of place. I start getting down on myself, less self confident."

Being involved in a church group has allowed her to create a friend group that is a good example to her, and has helped her to stay away from falling into a bad crowd. "It's really hard to go to school if you don't have those kinds of influences like church," she said. "It's easy to get sucked into what everyone else is doing by people that don't hold the same values."

What helps keep Samantha faithful in the Lord when things get tough? "I personally like hearing testimonies and experiences of other people, and what has strengthened them. When they talk about that, I can look in my life and see what I've learned from similar situations," she said.

**Dyanne Coon, 31,  
mother of five year old, seven  
year old, and nine year old**

Although Dyanne Coon didn't grow up in the most religious home, as a mother of three, she sees how motherhood has altered her perspective towards God and church.

"It's changed because now that I have children, I don't want them to turn out like vandals," she said. "I pay more attention to what's going on in church. Anytime that I hear other parents giving talks, I'm looking for advice to make things better for the kids. I look for what they're doing to help themselves be more spiritual in their lives, and how they keep Christ's spirit in their home."

However, knowing that it's important doesn't mean it's easy. Once after painstakingly sewing by hand her daughter's Easter dress, she was so excited to be sitting at church with her daughter in her new dress only to find that she had pooped during church, and it was one sticky situation. "I was by myself, my husband was working, and there were no extra clothes,"

she said. "There was poop all over that dress that took me forever to make. That was a disaster for me."

Crying babies, poopy diapers, and restless toddlers made Dyanne wonder at times if church was worth the hassle. "When they're younger, and you feel like they don't understand, you think, 'what's the point in coming,' but you have to push yourself. You go for your kids."

Now that her daughter is seven, she's seeing the fruits of her labor. "My daughter has a very sweet spirit. She says a lot of little things where you know she realizes. She's very spiritual, and always has been. I see kids who don't grow up with spirituality, and see them misbehave. It makes me want to be a better Christian."

And in teaching the children about Christ, she's learning herself. "Now, God is much more of a focus," she said. "I'm much happier. I see other people struggle with different situations who don't see their blessings. I know that if I did not have religion in my life, I wouldn't be in the good place like I am right now."

**Mona Shield-Payne, 47,  
mother of 18 year old  
and 21 year old**

For Mona Shield-Payne, who has two grown up sons who are both about to move out of the house, her views on religion and church have changed some from when her kids were younger. "For me, I use to think when I was in my 20's that I had to be cautious about how I acted because I believed the way I acted could be a stumbling block for my kids," she said. "How you are is an example to them."

Now that her kids are older and have a good foundation, she's become a lot more relaxed. She sees that her children are in a good place, and have turned out to be good Christian people. "They are good boys. I know if I say a swear word or something, it won't rock their foundation."

Being without them at home, however, poses its own struggles, even when it comes to going to church. "It's totally sad. I don't have this warm fuzzy happy feeling that you're all going to church (See Mothers, Page 17)



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