

“PLEASE TELL ME I’M NOT A BAD MOTHER...” (SM)

Heavenly Hope for Earthbound Moms

[A JEANETTE GARDNER LITTLETON PROJECT]

“I’m such a bad mother!”

How many times have you moaned that to yourself, to someone else, to God?

Maybe your child is failing at school. Perhaps you’re catching yourself being impatient with your kids or hollering at them. Maybe you’re worried that your kids aren’t turning out the way you’d hoped. Some days you might wonder why you even became a mother.

Most moms have experienced those same fears and frustrations. When I worked on *Cup of Comfort Devotionals for Mothers* a few years ago, I was surprised at how many mothers expressed a sense of guilt for being “bad mothers.” Motherhood is difficult no matter which way we look at it. And even the best moms face challenges.

What’s your story? How have others, or God, reassured you that you’re okay? How have you found redemption in being a human mom? What experiences do you have that can help other moms get through the mom guilt and see God’s purpose and blessing and calling in their “momhood” status of life?

We’d like to hear from you! We’re still formulating which direction we’re going with this book, and still exploring options. So we’re accepting manuscripts on several levels:

1. Personal experience stories: In 700 to 2000 words, tell us about a time when you were facing the tough stuff of motherhood and show us how you found hope and help and reassurance. Use your drama well and pull your reader into the experience by “showing” (dialogue, description, and detail). You can feel free to use scripture, but this needs to be a personal experience story, not a how-to article or Bible study.
2. Devotionals: use a scripture at the beginning of your devotional and tell us how God’s Word gives hope and help to moms, within 350 words.
3. Poetry: Yep, we’re even willing to look at poetry in case it can fit in our mix. But it has to be poetry about motherhood.

MISCELLANEOUS POINTS

1. Since we’re still looking at options, we don’t know yet what we will pay for accepted manuscripts. However, we will give you the option to accept our payment and be part of the project, or to reject the payment and pass on the project.

2. Humor is great. Stories aren't always about traumatic situations. Talk about the light times when you felt like a bad mom. How about the time when you walked into the mother/child preschool tea and realized your husband sent your child to school looking like a homeless kid—and all the other moms gave you “that look.” We moms have to laugh to preserve our sanity, so feel free to give us something that makes us moan and say, “Oh, I’ve been there!”
3. Be positive. Even negative challenges have hope and redemption, so make your reader feel encouraged, not dismayed.
4. **PLEASE make sure you have your name, address, phone, and e-mail address on each manuscript (not just in your email).** We prefer manuscripts in standard format—one-inch margins, double-spaced in Times New Roman font.
5. You may submit as many manuscripts as you'd like. Please submit them as attachments to an e-mail. Do not paste them in the body of the e-mail.
6. Please pass this along to other writers you know. If you received this from another writer and would like to be notified whenever we are looking for manuscripts, just let us know at JGLProjects@earthlink.net. We do not sell our mailing list.
7. Please be patient. We'll try to acknowledge your manuscript when it's received, but final decisions won't be made until September.
8. Deadline is August 26, 2014. Submit your manuscript to Jeanette Littleton at JGLProjects@earthlink.net