

Transforming Daily
“ . . . *mother-in-law* . . . ”
Ruth 2:23

It is clear that Ruth had a great relationship with her mother-in-law. Ruth was obedient to Naomi's wishes and will. As a result, not only did Naomi benefit, but so did Ruth. This was a matter of Ruth's heart. From the beginning of this story, it is very clear that Ruth had nothing to gain by “dwelling” with her mother-in-law. However, due to her faith in God and her willingness to follow her mother-in-law's instruction, God used Ruth in a mighty way to bring Christ into the world and salvation to all mankind.

Unfortunately in American culture, there is standing resentment between sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, and their respective mothers-in-law. There have been songs, poems and stories written to celebrate the negative and downright bad feelings between the two. There have also been materials resources to celebrate the positive and nurturing side of a mother-in-law, but most of the time the mother-in-law relationship is reported as one of unbearable misery.

I am happy and delighted to report that my experience has not been negative regarding my relationship with my wife's mother. I love my mother-in-law, Hilda (and my father-in-law, as well as all of my wife's siblings). She has been a strong supporter of mine personally and of my wife and me in general. She is kind, considerate and always thinking about me and my success, and not just because I married her oldest daughter. In every challenge and development of our ministry, especially concerning school, she has always been there to give words (and financial support) of encouragement, wisdom, and insight. Hilda is pleasant, sophisticated and soft spoken. Another interesting aspect related to this story, and my mother-in-law is that her middle name is Ruth.

Let me encourage you to establish and develop a good relationship with your mother-in-law (and mothers-in-law and fathers-in-law you set the example for a better relationship). Don't listen to or buy into all the negative rhetoric about mothers-in-law. I'm sure in some cases, as it is with all relationships, there might be tension between you and your mother-in-law. If so, do your best to remedy the situation so that you might dwell peacefully and profitably with your mother-in-law.