

# PREFACE

to “Walking my Mother Home” by Ardis A. Nelson

Let me start by saying that I haven’t always been a writer and I haven’t always been bold with my faith.

These both took a huge step forward the days immediately following the passing of my mother in February 2011. While flying home after giving her eulogy, the Holy Spirit nudged me to start writing about the events and circumstances that led up to her passing.

I had no idea what I was going to do with my writing. I just sensed an urgency to capture what was going on in my life. At first my writings were private musings in my journal or personal letters between Rosa, the mother of the Spanish exchange student who lived with my family for a short time, and me.

I am Protestant and Rosa is Catholic. Rosa’s mother passed away shortly before my mother, both practicing Catholics, leading to a bonding of our hearts.

When I shared with my family and friends in America about my relationship with this Spanish family and the story of our shared grief and faith, I repeatedly heard and was encouraged to write a book. One year later, while still in the grieving process, I wrote and submitted my manuscript to Cladach Publishing.

The story was accepted and originally published in *Journeys to Mother Love: Nine Women Tell their Stories of Forgiveness & Healing*, by Cladach Publishing in August 2012. It was a gift from God to be able to honor our mothers in this poignant way with the publishing of our story.

Since then I have accepted that the writing, the speaking, the sharing of my story and my Spanish connection are a normal part of my life. It was a gift that I was open to receiving when I released my mother’s life to the Lord. So I blindly answered the call to write in honor of my mother and in obedience to Him. I continue writing about how God turns our healing into hope at [www.healingtohope.com](http://www.healingtohope.com).

I never take for granted that the Lord put all these steps in motion on my journey. He placed the desire to write on my heart many, many years ago. When the timing was right, He gave me a story that would touch the lives of others in similar situations.

I regularly receive comments and feedback on how this story touches and inspires people in their walk of faith. I welcome you to do the same by writing me at [ardis@healingtohope.com](mailto:ardis@healingtohope.com).

Whether our stories are publically shared in print or privately amongst friends, our stories of faith are a gift from God. Be ready to share your story of healing, never forget, and watch God redeem it. You never know how He will use it or when.

## Acknowledgements

As this story is now being published in an individual book format, I can publically add my personal acknowledgements to those who contributed to the creation of “Walking My Mother Home” in other languages.

First and foremost, I thank God for prompting me to write and submit this story for publishing. He healed me, and He gets the credit. He is using my pain for His glory and I am eternally grateful for that.

Second, I am indebted to the bi-lingual expertise and selfless donation of time and energy by Oscar Farfan (Saddleback Church, CA) for the Spanish version, and Marvin Klein (American

missionary in Grenoble, France) for the French version of my story. I am grateful for their making this story available to a new audience of readers, and for having it ready in time for release while on my Celebrate Recovery mission to France and Spain in the fall of 2014.

I am also grateful to:

- ❖ Cathy Lawton, publisher at Cladach Publishing, for seeing the value in this story, accepting it and granting me permission to translate it into other languages.
- ❖ My Celebrate Recovery community at Pine Lake Covenant Church, for their steadfast support throughout the writing process and for approval of the CR mission to Europe.
- ❖ My prayer partners, mentors and pastors who encouraged and supported my healing and writing journey.
- ❖ My Spanish family, especially Rosa, Rafa, and Pedro, for extending their friendship and love across cultural, language, and religious differences, and for being such an integral part of my healing process.
- ❖ My husband and sons, for their patience, understanding, and love as I pursued my writing dreams and the call into missions.

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