

Foremother Sarah
“FRUITFUL AT ALL AGES”



Our beloved Sister Carmella of the House of Soldier Azor, has recently given birth to her second son in less than two years. This is becoming the norm in Israel. What is the big deal you ask? Sister Carmella is 42 years old; her first pregnancy was over 23 years ago! Deemed as 'high-risk' by medical professionals in the world. Like our foremother Sarah, having children in our later years is a real possibility and of the LORD. We were intrigued and wanted to know how she was managing all the recent changes in her life in hopes that her story will be a help to sisters in the future.

1. What characteristics of our Foremother Sarah do you relate too?

I can definitely relate to Sarah laughing in disbelief at being pregnant, I was completely taken by surprise, I thought I had backache and a possible kidney issue. It took a sister to say to me I think you should take a test and it turned out I was 5 months pregnant at 41 with our son Isaac Daniel and did not know, and that is why we named him 'Isaac'.

2. What were your thoughts when you found out you were expecting?

I was over the moon and very surprised! My lord had it in the back of his mind that I might be pregnant but had not said anything until I showed him the double pink lines on the test strip. Initially, I was scared but had faith that The Most High had blessed us and all would be alright. The scriptures tell us that he would not give me more than I could handle.

When I found out I was pregnant with our son Ezekiel James (at 5 months again), I was completely shocked I was pregnant again. I was really happy that Isaac would have a little person to grow with.

I was worried about my body as I put on weight with Isaac and did not want to put on any more with this pregnancy. So, I was very careful with my food and only gained the weight of the baby.

3. What did you enjoy about being pregnant in your forties?

I enjoyed being pregnant and having the time to notice my body change as the babies grew, thinking about what spirits the children would have.

I loved the hair growth, and my nails were super strong. I felt very alive and vibrant and impressed that my body could still do its thing after years of not being able to conceive APTTMH&C for opening my womb.

4. What was the hardest thing to cope with and what scriptures helped you through?

The hardest thing with Isaac's pregnancy was the constant fear mongering from the hospital. They said that Isaac would get stuck on the way out due to their fear of his predicted weight, the consultant tried to convince me that a c-section would be needed if he exceeded the 9.5 lbs predicted. I was also told to consider having my labour induced at 38 weeks.

The thought was to take him out early so he did not grow bigger and get his shoulders stuck on the way out and possibly needing his collarbone to be broken by the midwife at birth. My lord was my backbone through the concerning comments from the doctor. He constantly reassured me to trust in The Most High. My labour was induced at 39 weeks and Isaac was born naturally weighing 10lbs 8 ounces.

These are the scriptures that helped me through.

Proverbs 3.5 *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*

Romans 8.28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

With Ezekiel's pregnancy at 37 weeks, we found out that he was a footling breech. I knew there was no chance of a natural delivery with a baby who is foot first. The only option was a C-section. I was terrified of having to have surgery and the recovery and if I would be able to look after both babies as Isaac is now 1year and 3 months. We were told to wait until 39 weeks, if he turned, there would be no need for the C-section, but this was very unlikely in their opinion. We waited; the whole family sent up prayers that he would turn if it be the Lords will. We did keep this news between my Lords household and our counsellors, their support helped. On the 39th week appointment we went for the scan and APTTMH&C he had fully turned, they scheduled me in to be induced that Sabbath. The Most High broke my waters that Monday evening at 6pm and Ezekiel was born Tuesday 3.40am I had no medication it was a natural labour 8lbs 4oz.

Ecclesiasticus 38:1 & 12 *Honour a physician with the honour due unto him for the uses which ye may have of him: for the Lord hath created him. Then give place to the physician, for the Lord hath created him: let him not go from thee, for thou hast need of him.*

5. What scripture/s describes your children? (personalities/character/spirit)

Our daughter Kyra just turned 24, her scripture is: *Sirach 6:5 Sweet language will multiply friends: and a fair speaking tongue will increase kind greetings.*

She is very friendly and down to earth; she can talk to many different types of people and people always say how lovely she is.

Our daughter Mica just turned 14, her scripture is: *Sirach 26:16 As the sun when it ariseth in the high heaven; so is the beauty of a good wife in the ordering of her house.*

She is very driven, she loves a good project and puts all her energy in what she is doing, from the largest to the littlest detail, she has her standards on how things should be done, she loves to put things in order.

Our daughter Symone who is 13, her scripture is: *1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

She is very gentle and helpful, she will help others before herself, she puts people first and is very empathetic.

Our son Isaac's scripture would be *1st Chronicles 28:20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.*

Because he is strong in everything he does, he is physically and mentally strong and even when being gentle he does that with all his might.

Carrying our son Ezekiel was very peaceful, now at 3 months Ezekiel is a very loving and happy baby the scripture that comes to mind for him is:

Galatians 5.22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

6. With the increase of your Lords household, what impact has it had on your marriage?

We are a blended family and having 2 more additions has brought us all closer. We have gone through so much with 2 pregnancies in 2 years our girls have really grown up during this process. They are getting some valuable hands on experience with two babies and learning by helping my Lord and I look after and care for the boys.

It has definitely brought pressure to our marriage in a good way, as older parents there is no comfort zone thinking "we have time". It has made us realize the firm foundation we have to be as a couple raising children in this truth. We have less time alone and less sleep.

7. What advice would you give other sisters expecting later on in life?

My advice to older sisters would be to always have someone with them when dealing with the hospitals, because of the strict Covid laws in place in the UK in 2020, my Lord was not allowed to attend the pre-natal hospital appointments and I found they took liberties when I was on my own, trying to force their agenda. I found that my age was used against me constantly when speaking to healthcare providers, they really pushed for me to be induced early at 38 weeks and have an unnecessary C-section. Do not feel pressured about questioning their reasons for these procedures, they will say it is because of your age, you are high risk, but there is no clear evidence.

Write down any medical terms you are unfamiliar with and go and research their answers, ask the sisters in the congregation that work as doctors, midwives and nurses, there may also be brothers that are doctors/nurses that your Lord can get advice from, do not be afraid to get a second opinion.

I would not let your age get you down, your age gives you experience and patience. Rest as much as you can during your pregnancy, do not feel guilty because once the baby is here you will be busy and let your sisters help you. I received a wealth of knowledge and support from my sisters in Midlands and London camps which was invaluable to me. And above all trust in The Most High, he has blessed your Lords house.

