



MARY LATIMER

“SUPERCHARGING YOUR SCRIPTURE STUDY”

(Friday Session 1)

I grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah in a noisy, inventive family of eight children. My parents, Don M and Arda Jean Christensen, provided a nurturing and stimulating home for the tribe that included vagabond trips to the sand dunes of southern Utah, horses, ducks, and the random peacock. A seminal experience in my teens was spending six months on a semester abroad in Israel where I learned to love the Old and New Testaments.

After studying Spanish for several years, I was called to serve in the Taiwan Kaohsiung Mission from 1978 to 1980, where I met my amazing husband, fellow missionary Kyle Latimer. We have three wonderful adopted children, two from Taiwan and one from Hunan, China. Our youngest, Eliza, is currently serving a mission in the Taipei Taiwan Mission.

Before living in Beijing, our family lived in the celestial Oakton Stake in Northern Virginia for 12 years where inspired leaders helped us to raise our children.

I'm grateful for the opportunity I had to earn a bachelor's degree in English from Brigham Young University and a master's degree from the University of Utah in British and American literature. I love teaching, and have taught middle school, adult high school, ESL classes, and most recently English composition at Northern Virginia Community College.

A tremendous experience was assisting my parents in writing four books—*Yours Can Be a Happy Marriage*, *You Can Have Happy, Obedient Children*, *You Can Become Pure in Heart*, and *You Can Control Your Thoughts*. I have also written a history of my paternal grandparents, *For the Heritage They Left Us*, and a history of the family I grew up in, *No Empty Chairs*.

A great challenge and blessing was teaching early morning seminary for two years which changed in profound ways how I study the scriptures.

I love reading, traveling, doing family history, and serving as the Relief Society president of the Beijing 1st Branch where we are an ever-changing family, hearts knit together in love.

I'm so grateful every day for the amazing blessings from God in my life.