

Just a Mom

...and wife, counselor to young moms, women's Bible study leader, worship team member, part-time employee at the International Mission Board



When asked her role, Marcela Mangieri replied, “Just a mom.” But when she describes an average week, it’s clear she carries out many roles. She is the wife of Fernando Mangieri (church planter/pastor of Iglesia Bautista Conexión in Chesterfield, VA), the mother of two children, a counselor to young moms, a women’s Bible study leader, a worship team member, and a part-time employee at the International Mission Board. How does she manage it all and stay grounded in Christ? We thought we’d check in with her to find out.

► What role gives you the most fulfillment?

Marcela describes her roles as a mom—care-giver, nurturer, and instructor in the ways of the Lord. She loves watching Joel and Sarai grow up in Christ. Joel wants to be a pastor like his dad. At the young age of nine, he is already involved in ministry every week. He helps set up for church, plays drums in the worship team, and serves as a greeter. Sarai wants to be a pastor’s wife like her mom. She came to faith in Christ when she was four through watching her parents live out their faith. At eight years old, she assists with the preschoolers and serves as a greeter.

Marcela quickly adds that she finds great joy in “seeing people’s lives change.” She describes young women and moms who were far from God but are now walking with Christ and serving the Lord and their families. These blessings are what make sacrifices in ministry worthwhile.

► How do you keep your marriage healthy with so many demands on you and your husband?

Marcela says that the time after the children go to bed is when she and Fernando catch up on the day. Communication is essential since they are going in so many different

directions. The children also spend two to four weeks each year in Texas with their grandparents, which is good for the children and for their parents’ marriage. The family also enjoys doing things together outside of ministry activities.

► What causes the most stress for you?

“Time—[I] need more time—learning how to live with priorities and squeezing things in, such as laundry. I have had to declare some things not to be as important as they once were.” With a smile, she shares that the house is not as well kept as she would like, but she has helped the children and Fernando learn to do more. She is learning to adapt to change and rest in the fact that God has a plan. Part of her role is to help the children understand change. Over time, she has learned to see change as good over time and not to be discouraged by short-term changes

► How have you dealt with so many expectations from others?

Marcela describes an initial struggle with expectations but has resolved, “[I am] to please God. He is the One to please, not the expectations of family, church people, [or] outsiders... I lay everything beside God’s Word. I was not called to be a great cook, Mrs. Everything—so I had to get out of my comfort zone. Some expectations and needs were God’s plan to grow me. I had to learn how God was using me. Not every pastor’s wife is the same. We are all different, in different life stages, roles, and gifts.”

No matter what your role(s), remember to view your life through God’s Word and rely on Him to help you.

RESOURCE

BOOK:

The Church Planting Wife: Help and Hope for Her Heart by Christine Hoover