



For
Moms with
Hearts in their
Homes

The

Mother's Heart

Issue #69
Mar/Apr 2013

Kym's House &
Decorating



NEW



- *Bees
- *Daddy!
- *Stories

- *Lost Key
- *Puppetry Art
- *PB&J Station
- *Increase Faith

Weekly Wakeup



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Who We Are

We are the Wright family: **Mark** (daddy), **Kym** (mama), **LeShay**-’82, **Chantelle**-’84, **Brent**-’86, **Neal**-’89, **Kelsey**-’91, **Kaylor**-’93, **Morgan**-’94, and **Kaitlyn**-’95. There are eight children: 7 biological with 1 adopted.

Mark is an executive at a large corporation. Kym manages the home: home schooling, baking, gardening, sewing, painting, quilting. They used to live a fast life with both parents working. Kym had her own business as a Wardrobe & Image Consultant. She shopped for and with clients, helping them create the type of image they needed to succeed in their chosen profession. Following God's lead, she eventually closed the doors on her business, and came home to focus on her family. (Kym shares her story in Volume 1, issue #1.)

When writing or making a submission by mail, if you would like notification that we received it, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Or you may send letters and articles by e-mail to:

KymAWright@gmail.com

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God Bless,

Mark & Kym

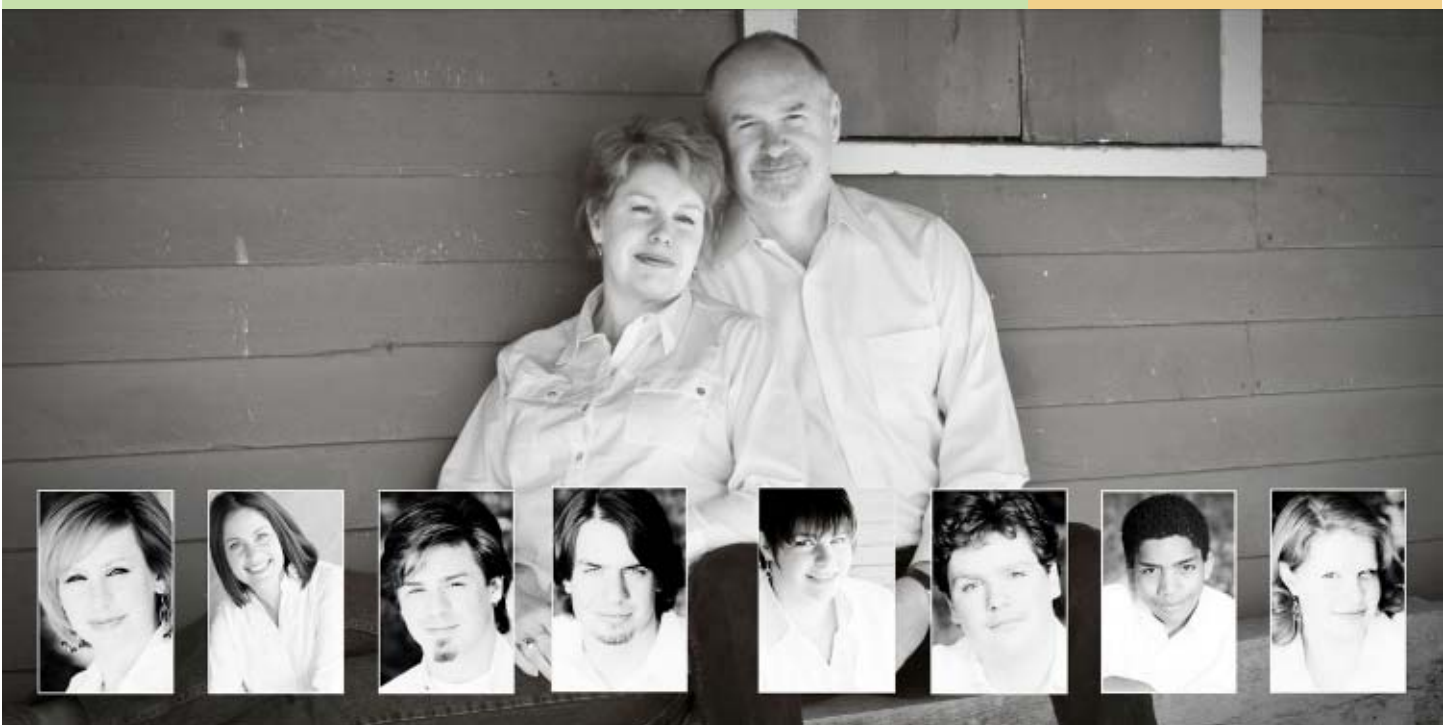
For the last few issues, we have included recent family pictures, for which I have not given credit. Let me take time to do so now.

Kevin Wright Photography is the studio, Kevin Wright took the pictures. He is Mark's brother. You can view his work at: www.kevinwrightphotography.net

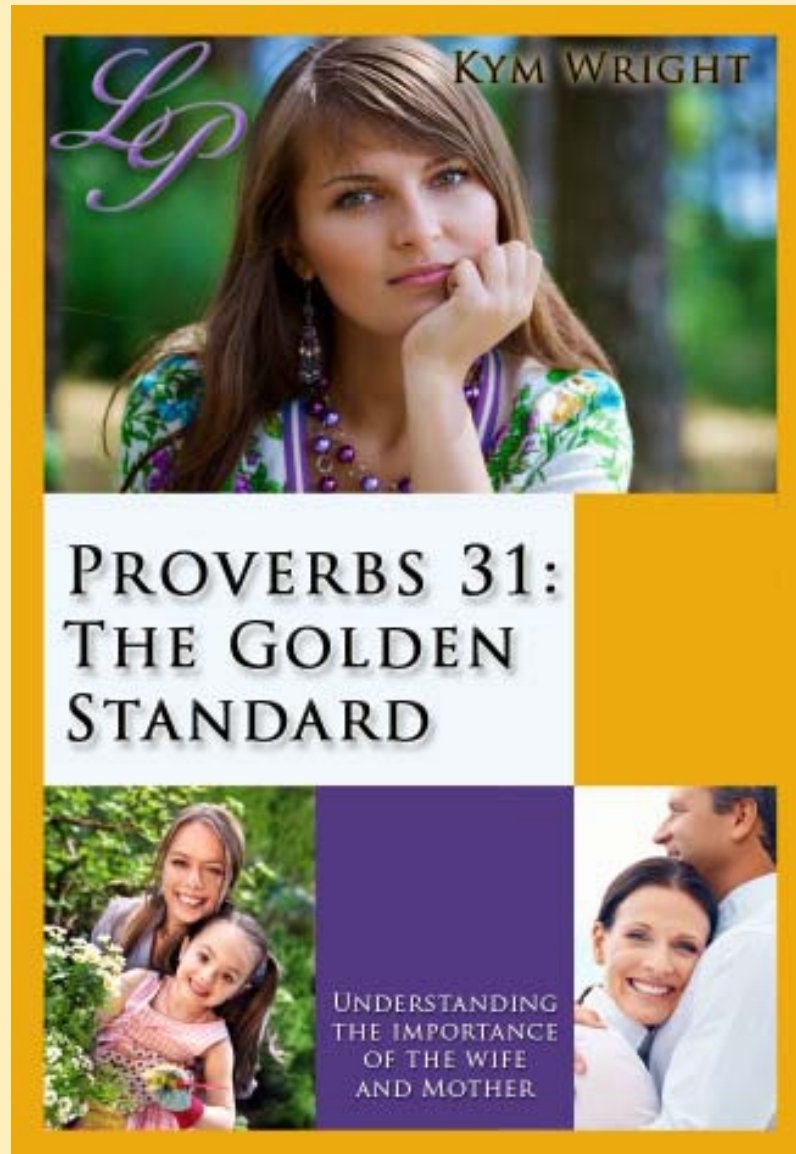


Statement of Faith: We are Christians, believing the Bible is God's Word, salvation comes through Jesus Christ alone, and that God has a wonderful plan for families as stated in His Word.

Photo: Kym & Mark
Insets, L-R: LeShay, Chantelle, Brent, Neal, Kelsey, KB, Morgan, and Kaitlyn



The latest addition to the family



"Kym Wright is the most Proverbs 31 woman I know. She inspires me to live with joy and purpose, and to do many things well. Her example and advice have been invaluable to my wife and me." ~ Joel Kilpatrick

Joel Kilpatrick's work has been featured in Time magazine, the Washington Post, USA Today, CBS Radio and the Dallas Morning News. He has authored and ghostwritten more than 40 books, including a 2007 New York Times bestseller. He is the founder of LarkNews.com, the world's leading religion satire website. In 2005, he received the Christian industry's top humor award during Dove Awards week.

DIALOGS

- Front Porch Swing**
- Happy Spring** 6
- Our House** 10



INVITING GOD IN

- Weekly Wakeup with Kym Wright**
- Breakfast** 14



Someone has to be there to prepare the food for the family. I'm not a stickler for this – it doesn't mean that I have to be the one cooking. But, I do consider myself the overseer of this portion of our household. We've done it different ways over the years. Let me share.

- Inviting God In Daily**
- Praying for Bees** 60

In our independence, we do not want to bother God with the trivial things of our life. We take charge of things ourselves, making decisions. Only when our seas become tossed do we come to God asking, "What now?" Only then do we submit to relinquishing the reins of our path and the decisions that make each day unique. But it is those small decisions that are the heart's joy and communion with God.

- Suffering Savior or Living Lord** 36

I was raised in the church and had learned all the important Bible verses a child is to learn. I'd seen the picture of Jesus with the little sheep and the one of Him on the cross. But not until I was much older, did I understand the true meaning of either of them.



- Enrich & Increase Your Faith...** 46

Clearly, disciplined reading and study of the Bible is an effective way of increasing one's faith. From my research and observation, I've discovered seven other ways to enrich and increase your faith power. Let me share them with you.

- Passing on a First-Hand Faith** 32

Nana set the example of what faith looks like in the life of a believer. Her sweet, gentle and quiet spirit made faith attractive and attainable. And now, as a mother and a pastor's wife, I have that same responsibility to pass on my faith to my children and others. So, how does a mother do this: pass down her faith to her children in a real and tangible way?



RELATIONSHIPS

- Family**
- Family Stories** 42

As I walk into the room, she is sharing one of those "fork in the road" stories that we all have. One by one, people begin contributing their own stories. Soon the room turns nostalgic and a gentleman suggests she writes down her stories for her children and grandchildren.

- Making Time for . . .**
- Daddy!** 63

Spouse is busy with a more-than full-time job, plus being on boards and speaking at conferences – and his plate is greatly full. But – and this is the balancing act we all face – he wants to be involved in his children's lives. So, how do we help make this happen?



- Friends**
- Analogy of a Friend** 67

A God-given friend is one we'll appreciate throughout our lifetime...then love throughout eternity.

Get in the dirt!
Plant flowers and veggies.



HEALTHY LIVING

Medical Health



White Glove Treatment 38 Treating Your Physicians with the Respect They've Earned

Did you know that most doctors work in excess of 50 hours per week and that's the low end of the spectrum for a physician? The truer estimate is 60-70 hours a week.

Food

The Peanut Butter & Jelly Station 51



Long after the macaroni and potato salads had been returned to their iced coolers, the chips had gone stale and the relish and dessert trays had lost their appeal by drooping from the heat, the PB&J Station continued to do a good business.

EDUCATIONAL

Loving your Little Gifts from God Enjoying Puppet Art 16

What is a puppet? It is an object whose movements are controlled by someone through hand movements, strings, or rods. Puppets are used mainly to entertain children, but have held a place in entertainment for all ages. So if your child asks, "What can I do today?" Say, "Let's make a puppet!"



Homeschool Guarding the Sabbath 22



Few Christians truly understand or practice Sabbath as a regular part of life, and consequently, neither do their children. As parents, we bear the responsibility of teaching our children the value of observing the Sabbath through our words, and more importantly, through our actions.

5 Mistakes I Made While Homeschooling 26

As the support group leader of a 120 family homeschooling group, I often encountered women who felt like homeschool failures. I learned early in my tenure as the leader that the best way to encourage women is not by putting our best face forward, but by sharing our struggles with honesty and transparency. In this spirit, I want to share some of the mistakes I made in my 17-year homeschooling journey.



Beautify
your garden
area.



Reading Building Reading Skills 54



Why It's Okay to "Just Memorize"

There comes a time in your child's reading journey when he retells favorite stories. He certainly knows the story word-for-word. Don't worry, as this is a normal and essential part of learning all about the complicated skill we call reading.

Tips for Reading to Preschoolers 57

Websites for Dolce Word Lists 57

Dolce List: Non-Nouns 58

Dolce List: Nouns 58

Special Treasures Growing Up Kind 65

There comes a time in every young man's life, when he wants to try his wings, lean on Mom a little less, and make his own way in the world, including making his own decisions about his own life. And this is hard, if the young man in question has special needs. The desire is there, but sometimes the means to express it is not. Sometimes they hope to make these transitions, but the ability to care for themselves is severely lacking. At times like these, what's a mother to do?



Chantelle's Araucana chickens lay "Easter Eggs," so-called because they can be pastel pink, green, aqua, blue, beige or brown. And shades of each of those colors. The greens can range from a light yellow green, to a nearly light army green.

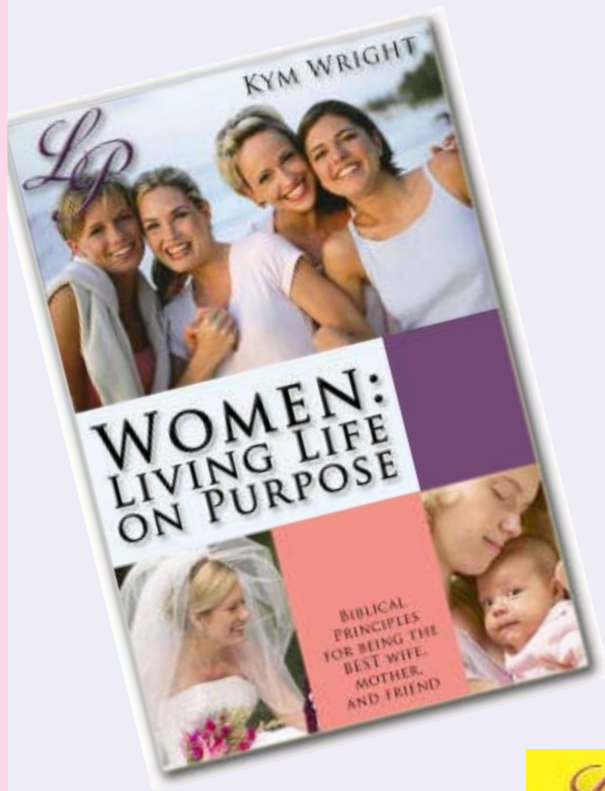
Oh! Happy, happy beginnings of spring!

After the wonderful holidays, some snow days, and re-adjusting our lives - we now have a pretty good schedule for getting things done.


Last issue I wrote something that stayed with me, and needled me. Pricking my thoughts. Nudging me to make it better. Make my life better.


This is what I said: Moving on to the New Year, have you set your goals yet? Each year I write out specific goals for my life. They are a road-map, yet there is room for life to happen. I used to view goals as hard-and-fast destinations. Now they seem to be more of a if-nothing-else-stops-this, I'd like to accomplish these things this year. Sort of like an old-fashioned recipe: a bit of this, a bit of that, and bake until it looks done. That's my life.

That, in itself, is fine. But I felt that I wanted a bit more control of my life. Not of others - I'm not a controlling person. Decisive, yes. But, I let other people make their





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Lp Women Living Life on Purpose
 I am now reading your book
 Thank-you!
 Kerry 

Lp Women Living Life on Purpose
 I loved Women: Living Life on Purpose
 I have been waiting to read
 some more from you and your family. I am excited.
 Kelly Q. 

Lp Women Living Life on Purpose
 I am now reading your book
 Thank-you!
 Kerry 

Lp Women Living Life on Purpose
 I loved your magazine and study
 Women: Living Life on Purpose.
 God bless,
 Jenna 

Lp Women Living Life on Purpose
 you certainly have a knack of
 inspiring others!


own choices. In my heart, I felt I was meeting the needs of others, but in the little bits of time I could carve out of our full lives, in which I could accomplish something - I felt I was falling far short of where I wanted to be. Still being flexible, but filling my life to the brim.

So, I fell back on my homeschool training and set up "courses" for myself. Creating lesson plans (goals), supply lists, and setting target start and finish dates - I put together notebooks. The things I wanted to learn, are subjects I'm interested in, but have put off really digging in and becoming more proficient at - because life was already so full with Spouse, eight children, homeschooling, and all that goes along with those.

These are mostly sewing and gardening topics, along with one cookbook, sort of.

Tools for Cooks does have some recipes in it - but it's more of a resource and technique book. So, as I go through the book, learning about all these neat tools, I'm applying it to my life:

Do we have this, or something similar?
Is it out of date, or will it suffice?
Do I need one, a new one, or can I do without?

Then, the book offers recipes to use those specific tools. For example, the chapter on "Cutting, Grating & Peeling," covers the different types of knives, their uses, different ways to sharpen, the parts of a knife, storage options, safety and specialty knives. Then on to cutting board varieties, how the practical application: cut veggies and a leg of lamb. Another portion of the chapter covers "More Cutting Tools" and introduces me to "soft fruit peelers" and a mango slicer. Never



knew there were such things. So, as I come to each entry, I'll decide if it's something I can't live without, or if I need to replace ours and buy a new one - or upgrade what we currently own. Last, I'll find a place to store what we do have and our new toys and tools, so at the end of the course, my kitchen will be outfitted *and* organized! And I'll have learned new skills. Additionally, my family will benefit from my newly acquired skills, when I practice them in recipes.

There are several more courses I've put together for myself: *Beading Artistry for Quilts: Basic Stitches & Embellishments Add Texture & Drama*. Can't wait to learn that.

Photo Album Quilts and *Photo-Inspired Art Quilts: From Composition to Finished Piece* are resources to teach me how to make a quilt from a photograph. We'll see how I do with that, but it does look interesting. I took a course online based on the first book, and it looked good - but very detailed and time-consuming.

Another sewing course: Alabama Chanin's three books - on her specific embellishing techniques of beading, embroidery stitches, and cutting out shapes and backing them with other fabric. Very pretty with some practical applications.

Lest you think me super-charged, let me share that I'm not zooming through these. I finished a course on creating a pattern from your favorite jeans - and it took me about six months to complete it - just because life got in the way. A schedule is coming about slowly - when I can work it all in.

Another addition: I'm joining about sixty others to become a Master Gardener. It's something I've wanted to do since LeShay, our eldest, was a wee thing. One of our friends developed the program in Florida, and he invited me to take it then. However, my life was so full of children and chores and schooling - it wasn't the right season for it. But, now I can fit in things, with good planning and organizational skills. And I'm loving it.

The first class on plant botany and propagation, we learned how to plant fig branches to make little figlings, I call them. I went right home and pruned our three fig trees and planted a hundred figlings! Now, we're waiting for them to grow roots.



With so much going on, Mark and I treasure time together, and with his ever-increasing responsibilities at work, we have to create little oases of minutes for us. After workout on Wednesday mornings, we go out to breakfast together - just the two of us - and we talk about our land, our gardens, the projects we want to do outside, the animals we want to buy, and the fruit trees we have and want. We decided to name our little group of two, and call it the "Green Dream Team!" So, there you go! We both find minutes to research different topics and bring the information to our meetings.

We're wanting to build a gazebo, learn how to keep bees, and add some sheep and cows to the menagerie. We discuss, research and get to it. And our projects and dreaming together makes

me fall in love with him even more.

And, lastly, for many years, we have trusted God to help us find the right house for our family. From the house in the woods in south Florida, to the ones in Connecticut, Georgia and Michigan. Now, here, He has blessed us with a wonderful home. There are two apartments in this house - and they are put to good use. Chantelle, our second daughter, lives in the one on the fourth floor. My mother lives in the one on the next floor down - the elevator goes straight to her two-bedroom flat with living room, dining area and kitchenette.

We had looked at over fifty homes here, became a bit serious over a couple of them, but none were just right. So, finally, we backed off and prayed - again - and invited God in. We asked Him to lead us to the house He wanted us to live in. Having lived in the country, we weren't wild about the idea of living on an acre in the city - but we were willing.

As soon as we pulled back, we found this home. Vacant for four years, with a housekeeper cleaning it weekly, and a lawn crew, it was love at first sight. A southern plantation look from the front, and an Italian villa from the back - it fit us perfectly - with some tweaking.

Well, our real estate agent shared with a newspaper journalist how we had bought the home and remodeled it, which led to an interview and a two-page write-up in the local paper, complete with color pictures.

So, I thought I'd share it with you. We hope you enjoy it. We've added some "before" pictures here, so you can see the difference from where we started. Click on the Winston-Salem Journal photo on the next page, and it will take you to the article about our house.

Love from our house to yours,
Mark, Kym & Kyds

Kitchen

Before



The kitchen before we remodeled, and after we added our touches.

Tuscan Touches

Tuscan Touches: Tobaccoville home features warm colors, layered look

By [Tammie Wright](#)

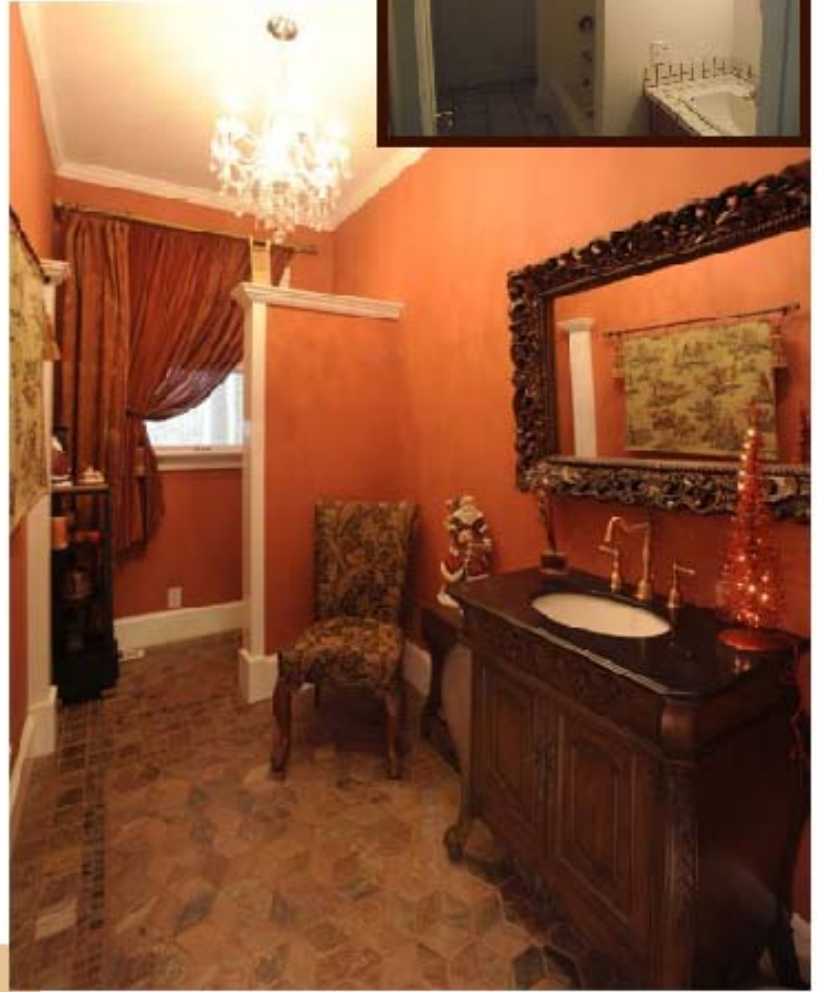
Nov. 14



Our kitchen bathroom began its life with a tub, but it was so crowded. So, we gutted the room and made it into a parlour or lavatory. One of my favorite places- warm and cozy.

Before

Kitchen Lavatory



Library Quotes



Master Dressing Area

Before



Before



Library



Before



Our library is so cozy and livable. It invites us to sit and read or chat. I stenciled two quotes above the doors: "Let us read and let us dance!" and "Read to live!"

Master Bedroom

The master bedroom - before and after. We love the rich reds and golds.





Sewing Emporium before

This is my sewing corner, where my machines are located. I absolutely LOVE to sew and do other fiber arts. My current machines include: two Bernina sewing machines (I still have the first one we ever saved pennies to buy!), a Bernina embroidery machine, a Juki industrial sewing machine and industrial serger, a coverstitch, blind hemmer and a embellisher (feltng) machine.



Sewing Emporium

We added the cabinets and countertop, along with the chili pepper reddish/orange paint. This room is such fun to be in and inspires creativity!





TOTALLY NEW WEEKLY WAKEUPS!
JOIN US AND SEE WHAT'S UP!

Breakfast

I would start to school in the morning on a well-filled stomach with pancakes, maple syrup, sausage and sometimes sauerkraut.

Lucille Imes, 82, Noble County*

Now, I don't go for sauerkraut at breakfast. Pickled food just doesn't sound right for that early in the morning. But, the sentiment is there: feeding our family a good breakfast to help them through the day.



The underlying theme is that someone was there to prepare the food for the family. I'm not a stickler for this – it doesn't mean that I have to be the one cooking. But, I do consider myself the overseer of this portion of our household.

We've done it different ways over the years. When we were first married, before the little darlings arrived, Spouse and I would make a grocery list together sometimes, then I would shop

while he was at work. He was a much more intuitive cook than I was – meaning he was better – but he was very patient with me. Helping me learn, applauding my efforts. Except with pancakes. I never really mastered them – no matter what I tried,

it seems they always had pockets of salt in them. Or I burned them. Or they were undercooked.

Then as the children came along, we shopped together – the little ones and me. They learned to hold onto the side of the van until everyone was out and ready. Then the littlest ones would go in the cart

Kym writes a weekly E-Couragement for moms, emailed straight to you. You can subscribe to Weekly Wakeups with Kym Wright by clicking here to join!

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– along with those whose hands just couldn't stay off the merchandise! – and the rest would hold onto the side of the cart while we shopped. I learned to pack little snacks for those who needed a bit of sustenance or distraction. One dear friend told me, "If you forgot to pack a snack, head straight for the cracker aisle, grab some Animal Crackers, and let them eat those. They love them and it keeps them busy. Then you pay for the box along with the other groceries." Bless you, Debbie!

Now that the children are much older, Spouse and I are back to going together to buy our food. It's become an early Saturday morning ritual. Our special son comes along so he can have breakfast out – the one day of the week we splurge! So, we have a little time together and Spouse has input into the menu for the week. And he sees how much we spend on groceries – our budget has increased over the years – due to inflation and bigger bodies to feed.

And I'm not the only one cooking anymore. We've had different schedules. From me cooking all the meals, to each child taking a turn learning how to

make the different foods: breakfast, lunch and dinner. Then we each took a day when we would cook every meal. Now, with schedules so different, our one meal together is dinner – everyone is on their own for the other two meals. But, if I don't buy fast-food for breakfast entrees, then they won't eat them. Yes? Cereal is a treat, which we buy maybe once a month. However, we have a great granola recipe we make weekly, without sugar – and it's very filling.

So, most of the time we follow the example of our Proverbs 31 role-model, in one way or another:

*She rises also while it is still night,
and gives food to her household, and portions to her maidens.*

Proverbs 31:15

From one mother to another,

Kym

* Taken from the "Memories of Hoosier Homemakers" series of books

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Enjoying

Puppet Art

with your preschooler



Puppets have been around for thousands of years and are a great source of art and entertainment. The very earliest puppet shows possibly had their beginning in India. Stick puppets were used to play out the Indian epics.



Neoma has been a farmer's wife for 54 years and still counting—and farming, and raising beef cattle, along with preparing the soil for her husband to plant when he got home from his rural mail carrier route. She's been a full-time homemaker to their three children and has taught Sunday school classes and sponsored Youth-in-Action Mission Groups for many years. They have nine grandchildren and just had their ninth great-grandchild.

Neoma Foreman



These puppet shows described very sacred and beloved texts, but did so in an entertaining way. In the Middle Ages the Christian monks and priests used puppets to spread church doctrine. The Nativity, the story of the birth of Jesus, was a favorite play.

What is a puppet? It is an object whose movements are controlled by someone through hand movements, strings, or rods. Puppets are used mainly to entertain children, but have held a place in entertainment for all ages.

So if your child asks, "What can I do today?"

Say, "Let's make a puppet!"

Puppets can be simple or elaborate, and can be made from materials you have on hand. There are many kinds of puppets, but let's start with a sock puppet. You can even use socks with holes in them and glue paper decorations over the hole. A sock

bird puppet is especially fun and easy. Cut the bill from construction paper. Glue on with quick-drying household cement. Put your hand inside the sock and hold firmly until dry. Depending on the age of your children, make eyes of paper circles, or the jiggly eyes like on stuffed animals.

History

Shadow puppetry, most people agree, started in China over a thousand years ago. The Chinese made puppets from stretched donkey skins, dried sheep skin, water buffaloes, pigs, or fish. Shadow puppets are translucent figures colored in with paints. These figures are placed in front of a screen and the light passes through them. The early puppets usually had three rods or strings attached to them and were controlled by a puppeteer.

Today

All you really need is a piece of fabric hung between two chairs to create a stage, put a light behind

...Permit the children to come to Me, do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these...and He took them in his arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.

Mark 10: 14b,16 NASB

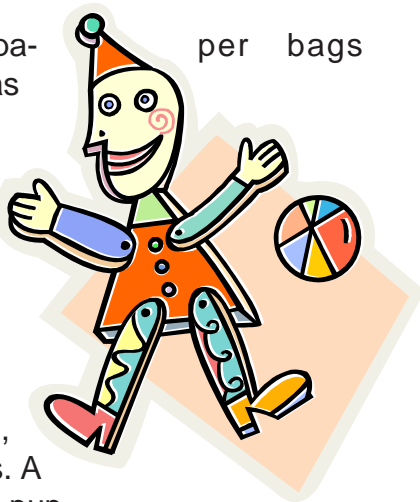


You can find patterns on the internet, for making your own finger puppets. These are from Craftsy.com

it and you and your child experiment making different shadows with your hands. If you want to get more elaborate, that is fine, but make it simple enough your child will enjoy it.

If you are looking for a craft project that can be done almost anywhere, anytime, try making personalized paper bag puppets.

All you need is small paper bags and craft supplies such as crayons and construction paper scraps, fake fur, wiggly eyes—whatever you have on hand. Turn the bag upside down so you can use the fold for the mouth. Let your child use their imagination to create a variety of animal, bird and people puppets. A fun thing to do is have a puppet-making party. After they finish, they can put on a huge puppet show. Video them giving the show and play it back to them. They will laugh and giggle and you can enjoy it many times.



Finger puppets are easy to make. Let them make a puppet for all the fingers of one hand and put on a show for you. We have learned Bible verses and stories by having the finger puppets tell the story or say the verse.

There are free patterns you can download to make different puppets. They can be elaborate or simple.

I made a set of puppets for my children by purchasing one hand puppet and using it for a pattern to observe the construction. I found pictures of what I wanted and enlarged them, cut out the fabric, and sewed it together, and decorated them with yarn manes, beards, wiggly eyes, and different things. We used them for several years to tell the Christmas story. The camels were easy, but looked impressive. The wooly looking fabric made cuddly sheep. We even made a frog puppet and used it in the manger scene! Who knows, there might have been a frog in the stable. Hand puppets are operated with hand movements and are only as elaborate as you want to make them.

Our children had a large set of plastic building pipes called Omagles®. They had interlocking clips and all kinds of things could be built from them, and then torn down to build something else. One of the things they made was a puppet stage. I made a bigger curtain for the front and one for each side with an opening large enough to slide the pipes through. That left the back open for them to sit behind and perform their puppet show. It took a small amount of time to make. A blanket over three sides of a card table makes a quick stage, also.



www.Learn-and-Do.com

It's fun to watch as they begin to learn to coordinate the puppet's mouth talking with the words they want to say or sing. Expect to watch a lot of shows.



Ice cream sticks can be used to make stick puppets. Let the children make a stick puppet to represent each member of your family. When they put on a show, it's interesting how they have the family interact. You might discover an answer to a problem you couldn't put your finger on from the mouth of a babe through a puppet show.

Making puppets is fun and kids get creative when they tell their stories. As puppeteers, they breathe life into their creations. Who knows? They might operate the next Punch and Judy (hand puppets), Howdy Doody, (marionette), Mr. Rogers, Paul Winchell and Jerry Mahoney, (ventriloquist dummy, doll like figures with moveable mouths and other options like moveable arms, heads, eyes, and eye lids), or bring to life other rod puppets like Jim Hensen's Muppets. In the United States, we've seen all of these puppeteers and their creations and they continue to entertain and educate us today. What new creation will your child entertain us with tomorrow?

On the following page, you can see some hand puppets Neoma has made over the years.

Puppet links and sites

- Teacherhelp.org
- Puppetsnow.com
- Familycrafts.about.com
- Family.go.com
- Abcteach.com
- Firstschool.ws
- Ditk-kids.com

Why make a puppet?

- It is fun for all ages
- Great rainy day activity
- Birthday party fun
- Inspires creativity
- Made from materials you have around the house

Photography Unit
Learn & Do Units

Lesson Plans
Literature
History
Hands-On

Learn

- ✦ Camera types & parts
- ✦ Digital camera usage
- ✦ Lens types & film
- ✦ Focal point & lighting

Do

- ✦ Compose photos
- ✦ Photograph children & adults
- ✦ Try special effects & more
- ✦ Create silhouettes
- ✦ Group shots

4th grade & up

Order online at: www.learn-and-do.com



Neoma's Grandchildren: David Foreman, Joseph Graham and Katie Foreman giving puppet show with hand puppets Grandma Foreman made. They made the stage.

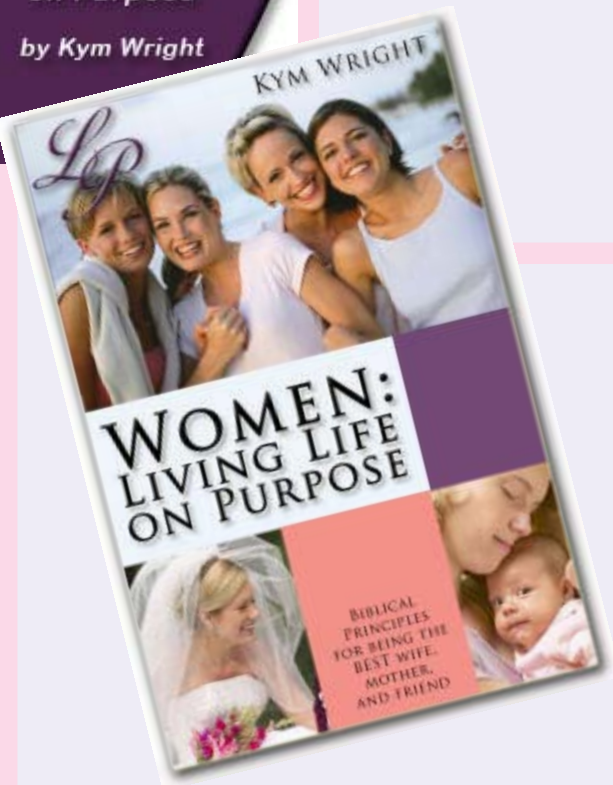
Handpuppets Neoma has made.



Lp

Women:
Living Life
on Purpose

by Kym Wright



Lp Women Living Life on Purpose

has helped me to

keep the focus
in the right place



Cecilia G

Lp Women Living Life on Purpose

I need to be reminded

to keep going
keep being faithful



M, Mother of 8



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Kym

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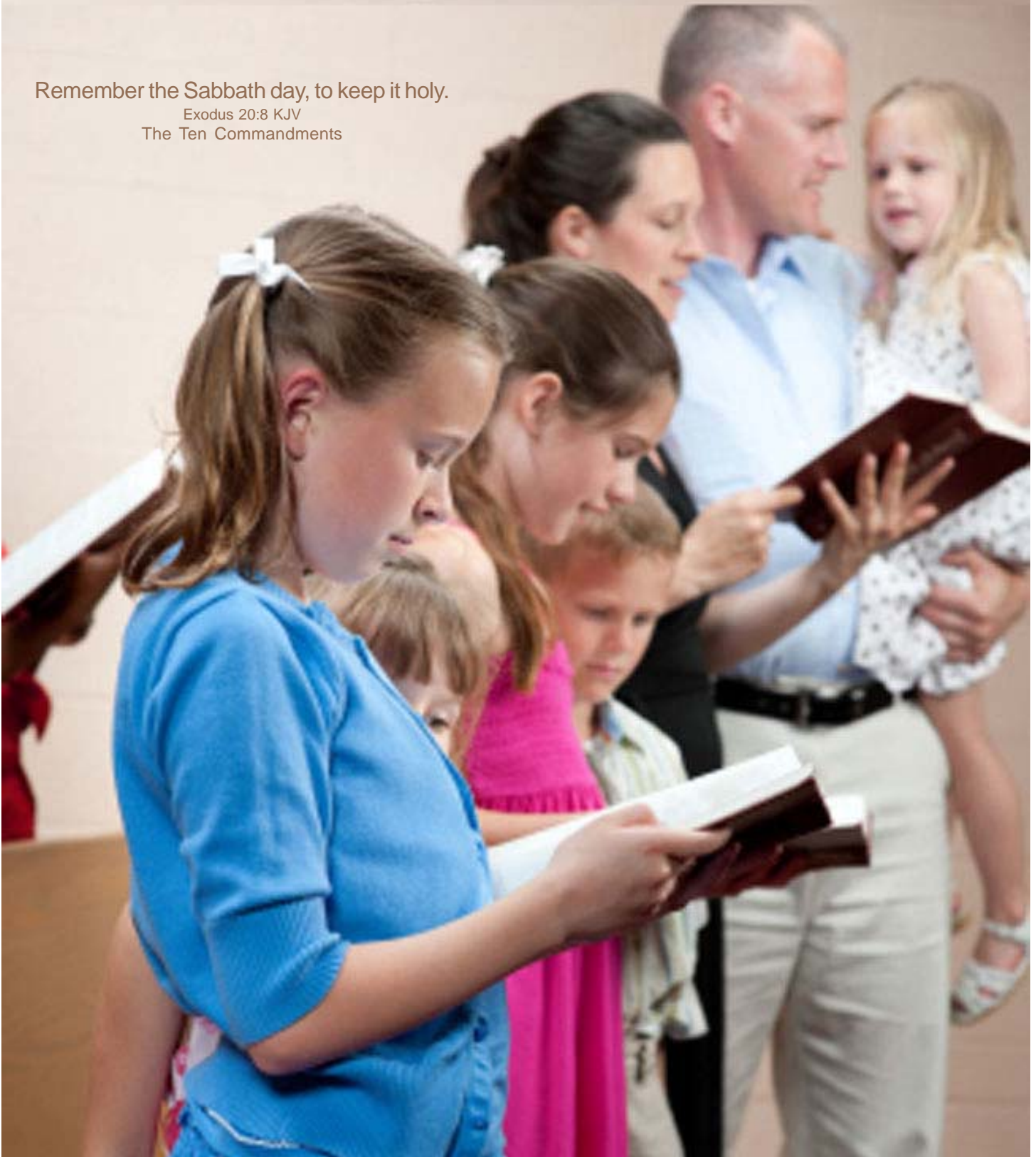


Guarding the Sabbath

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exodus 20:8 KJV

The Ten Commandments



Tammy Darling home schools her four daughters at home in Three Springs, Pennsylvania, on their 68-acre farm where they help raise bison. She is a freelance writer with many published articles.

Our demands are great, the time to fulfill them too little. And so instead of keeping the Sabbath we cram as much activity into our day as possible trying to make progress on the hamster wheel of life – and set a poor example for our kids in the process.

Few Christians truly understand or practice Sabbath as a regular part of life, and consequently, neither do their children. As parents, we bear the responsibility of teaching our children the value of observing the Sabbath through our words, and more importantly, through our actions.

The historic practice of setting aside one day a week for rest and worship has become just that – history. No longer do we have respect for the Sabbath as in times past. With the exception of the church service, to many, it's just another day.

But consider for a moment if we changed our perspective. Perhaps the Sabbath is not just another one of God's commands that seem too hard to keep but a gift just waiting to be unwrapped.



The first step to respecting the Sabbath is to discard our image of it as a time of negative rules and restrictions.

The Sabbath day is a day set apart – a holy day. This is a day in which we imitate our Creator by ceasing, as He did, from our creative efforts. We are, after all, created in His image and will not – cannot – find peace and rest unless we do as He commands – that's right, as He *commands*. The Sabbath observance is so important to God that it is one of His Ten Commandments to us. The Sabbath observance is a critical part of God's plan for how we should live. The Sabbath allows us to do three important things: rest, reflect, and refocus.

Rest The simple fact is that our bodies need physical rest from the demands of the week. How well the Lord knew this. How often we push and push our bodies until they simply say “No more” and we find ourselves forced to “rest” because we find ourselves bedridden with a cold, the flu, or worse.

For those who think the Sabbath is simply an Old Testament issue, Jesus reaffirms its importance in Mark 2:27: “The Sabbath was made for man.” Do we really think God needed a rest after creating for six days? Of

course not! The Sabbath is for our benefit. It is a *gift* to us. God wants us to rest so that we may be refreshed.¹

Reflect Genesis indicates that on the first Sabbath, God sat back and reveled in all He had completed the previous six days. Ceasing from work for one day not only gives us much needed rest but also allows for a time of reflection. It's a time to look back over the past six days and to recall God's fingerprints on the tasks completed, prayers answered, and grace bestowed. Reflecting on God's handiwork in the past week creates a gratefulness that won't come in its entirety in the midst of busyness. A day without working allows us to more clearly recognize its meaning and purpose.

Reflection also increases our faith that His hand will be with us in the week to come, and we can rest assured we won't be facing any of it alone. Knowing this, we need not spend the Sabbath day planning the upcoming week or even the next day for we know not what tomorrow holds but we do know Who holds tomorrow. Instead, this is an ideal time to intentionally reflect on the many good things He's given us, just as Paul instructs us to do in. (See sidebar.)

Refocus The Sabbath day is a day to refocus – on God and on our relationship with Him. We are able to sit back and evaluate our priorities and commitments. Is God first in our lives? Has He been given His rightful position throughout the past week or was He “shelved”? Are we over-committed? Even homeschooling isn't pleasing to God if it comes at the expense of our relationship with Him.

A break from our normal routine allows us to reacquaint ourselves with spiritual disciplines we've neglected or to start new ones. I keep a “Thank you” journal and find that the Sabbath day is the perfect time to write in it in a relaxed manner. Refocusing our vision back onto the Lord alone allows us to clearly see where we are headed and if we need a change in direction.

The Sabbath is a time to celebrate with God. It's a time to remember who we really are and what is really important. Reclaiming the Sabbath will take

effort and sacrifice. But, as I was recently told, many good things are hard and many hard things are good.

For our children to develop a respect for the Sabbath day, we must be an example. Only then can we ask the same of our children.

To act as if the world cannot get along without us for one day in seven is an arrogant display of pride that denies the sufficiency of our Maker. If we have trouble keeping the Sabbath, we need to look beyond our surface circumstances to the attitude of our hearts.

Along that same vein, parenting is not a popularity contest. Nor is there any need to keep up with the Joneses. God alone should have preeminence in our lives – and that includes our schedules.

The plethora of activity options for our children is a reflection of our cultural affluence, not their need to be well-rounded individuals. The fact is our time usage *should* look radically different than that of the world.

Children who do not get proper rest tend to be more argumentative, disobedient, forgetful, and even depressed. Guarding the Sabbath is one way our children can rest their bodies and minds, keeping them refreshed and healthy.

One very important way to guard the Sabbath is to follow the “no stores, no chores” guideline. This is hard for many families since Sunday is considered part of the weekend: a time for many to get shopping done or to catch up on household tasks.

Discuss as a family what acceptable Sunday activities are and make a list. Some families think Christian television programming is okay; others nix the TV on Sunday altogether. The important thing is to agree (although Mom and Dad have the final say) and to be consistent.

Avoiding work on the Sabbath does not mean that we cannot help another person. There's a big difference between helping a person in need and working so that we're not so far behind in what we think needs to be done. Jesus Himself said that it's

lawful to do good on the Sabbath.²

Guarding the Sabbath requires time and discipline, but may we never forget that God ordains the Sabbath for our good and for His glory. These reasons alone should be enough motivation for us to jealously guard the Sabbath.

The rhythms of the week subtly pattern the days and years of our lives. They are filled with meaning: they all reveal our priorities. By observing the Sabbath, that single day, week after week, we establish a way of life that makes a difference every day.

The Sabbath day was never meant to restrict us but to bring us freedom: freedom from compulsion, freedom from trying to control the future, freedom from routine, freedom to rest. These three R's – rest, reflect, and refocus – are only the beginning. Sabbath day observance also brings renewal, restoration, remembrance, rejuvenation, relationship, reverence, relaxation, refreshment, and rejoicing. Say “yes” to the Sabbath and begin **reaping** the many **rewards**.

1. See Exodus 23:12
2. see Matthew 12:12

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

Philippians 4:8 NAS

Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious — the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.

Phil 4:8-9 THE MESSAGE



www. **The-Mothers-Heart.com**

www. *Living-Life-on-Purpose.com*

A promotional graphic for 'Women Living Life on Purpose'. It features a DVD cover with the title 'WOMEN: LIVING LIFE ON PURPOSE' and a photo of three women. Below the cover, the title 'Women Living Life on Purpose' is written in large, stylized, cursive letters. At the bottom, the price '\$19.95' is shown next to the website 'www.Living-Life-On-Purpose.com', with a crossed-out price of '\$25.95 for one year of Mommy Primer' below it.

5 Mistakes I Made While Homeschooling



OK, admit it. Some of you avoid homeschool support group meetings.

"I always come away discouraged," one mom said when I saw her in the grocery store the day after a meeting. "Everyone else's homeschool experience sounds so perfect, and mine is such a disaster," she confessed. "What's the point in going if I feel even worse when I leave?"

Sadly, this friend is not alone.

As the support group leader of the 120 family Forest Acres Christian Educators in Columbia, South Carolina, I often encountered women who felt as she did. I learned early in my tenure as FACE's leader that the best way to encourage women is not by putting our best face forward, but by sharing our struggles with honesty and transparency.

In this spirit, I want to share some of the mistakes I made in my 17-year homeschooling journey. It is my hope and prayer that you will come away encouraged, enlightened, and better equipped to undertake the amazing adventure of homeschooling.

5 Mistakes I Made While Homeschooling

I used curriculum because it was free or cheap

We've all done it. Your friend Sally finished with her *Math is Marvelous* curriculum, didn't sell it at the used curriculum sale, and offers it to you free or at a deep discount. Compared to the expensive new curriculum you have your eye on, the deal sounds too good to pass up. After all, math is math, right? Wrong.

There are many different approaches to teaching a core subject such as mathematics, and the wise homeschooling mom does her homework before selecting one. While Sally's math curriculum might be perfect for your child, you should ask a few questions before taking it home.

Start with Sally. Ask her if she liked the curriculum. Would she wholeheartedly recommend it, or is she just trying to get rid of it? Why? Did her child like it?

Did she encounter any difficulties using it? Does it come with a teacher's manual? An answer key? Is it easy to understand and use? Is the material attractive? Does it include suggestions for incorporating hands-on learning activities?

I found an inexpensive math curriculum at a used curriculum sale one year. Talking over the purchase with a wise friend, I expounded on the merits of its teaching approach. "The only problem," I said hesitantly, "is that's it's ugly. It's drab, there are no pictures on the pages, and it looks incredibly dull."

Knowing that math was a subject my daughter and I struggled with daily, my friend wisely said, "If you think it looks dreadful, your daughter's going to think so, too." I took her advice, passed on the great bargain, and purchased a more expensive curriculum. My instincts were right – my daughter was engaged and enthusiastic toward the visually appealing textbook, and she was much more receptive to its equally strong content. Remember, a

bargain isn't a bargain if it doesn't accomplish what it's designed to do.

I skipped field trips because we had too much school to do

This is probably the dumbest mistake I've made while homeschooling. One of the reasons our family chose to homeschool was so we wouldn't be locked into a traditional classroom environment with endless textbooks and workbooks. "We can actually visit the historical places we're studying," I remember saying to a doubtful relative, "instead of just reading about them."

Skipping field trips because we have too much "school" to do goes against all we know to be true. Children retain facts and information best when they experience an event, not just hear about it. Think back to your own educational years. You probably can't recount a single lecture you heard or chapter you read, but you can recall every field trip you ever took.

The freedom to take field trips is what makes homeschooling so effective.

Of special note to mothers of high schoolers: the temptation to skip great field trip opportunities grows even stronger with the increased workload of students in the upper grades. As you write your high school student's lesson plan, try to leave at least one day a month open. This will allow you to take advantage of great learning opportunities without falling behind on bookwork.

I skipped science experiments and hands on activities

Let's face it. Science experiments take work. You have to gather the materials (some random or obscure), familiarize yourself with the instructions, and supervise your children through the process. Science experiments also have a tendency to be messy, and who wants another mess in our kitchen? I also had the tendency to be lazy and rationalized that my children would understand the concepts simply by reading the description.



There's nothing like an experiment or hands-on activity to clarify or cement a concept in a student's mind

In the same category with field trips, there's nothing like an experiment or hands-on activity to clarify or cement a concept in a student's mind. Everyone remembers the 100-insect collection they gathered in 9th grade. I can still name the parts of a flower, because I dissected one. And there's no question in my kids' minds how butter is made, because each one has shaken cream until it solidified. If I had it to do over again, I'd do as many experiments as possible, especially in those early years.

One way to make science experiments less of a burden is to meet monthly with several other families to do activities and experiments together. Each mom can be responsible for facilitating one experiment. Combine your learning time with a lunch or play time afterward and rotate homes from month to month. Before long, you'll begin to love science experiment day instead of dreading it.

Of special note to mothers of high schoolers: Science experiments are a mandatory component

of every college prep lab science course. You do not have the freedom to skip these. My daughters applied to several colleges, and the only question we ever received regarding their homeschool transcripts was a request for documentation on the lab portion of their science classes. Thankfully, we kept good records, sample lab reports, and a list of experiments.

I considered character training times an interruption to my children's education

"How was school today?" my husband asked me one day when he arrived home.

"Horrible," I responded with a scowl (or tears if it was a really bad day) "we barely got any school done. Katie said something unkind to Molly and made her cry, so we spent an hour talking about good and bad ways to use our words. Katie apologized and asked Molly to forgive her, and Molly did; now they're friends again, but it took forever to work through that.

"Then I found that instead of cleaning her room like she told me she had, Molly's been stuffing dirty laundry in the back of her closet. We had a long talk about diligence and honesty, and how we should work as unto the Lord even if we don't enjoy the tasks. I sent her back to her room to *really* clean it, which meant she didn't get any of her social studies pages read," I said as I paused for breath. "We didn't get much accomplished at all today."

"Sounds like you accomplished a lot," my wise husband said in return.

It's easy to lose sight of the main reason we choose to educate our children at home: the opportunity to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Discipleship and character training are not additions to our children's education; they are the foundations of the Christian life. The greatest "subject" we can

teach our children is how to enter into a relationship with Christ. The **s e c o n d** greatest is how to live as his disciple. If a child learns how to know and obey God, he will be **d i l i g e n t**, **d i s c i p l i n e d**, **h o n e s t**, **p o l i t e**, **k i n d**, **c o m p a s s i o n a t e**, **r e s p e c t f u l**, **h a r d w o r k i n g**, and **w i s e**. These character traits will ensure that he will not only be a successful student, but a successful person. Time spent in character training is never wasted.

I worried more than I prayed

Permit me to share my paraphrase of this oft-quoted passage on worry from Matthew 6:

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your children, what they will eat or drink; or about their bodies, what they will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father cares for them. Are your children not much more valuable than they?"

I worried more than I prayed



I sent my daughter back to her room to really clean it

“Who of you by worrying can make her homeschool life better?”

“And why do you worry about the education of your children? See how the lilies of the field do not endlessly labor over test scores or fret over unsolved fractions. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was not educated like one of these.

“If this is how God causes the grass of the field to grow, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more grow your children, O you of little faith?”

So do not worry, saying, ‘How will we pay for braces?’ or ‘What co-op should we join?’ or ‘What extra-curricular activity should we pursue?’

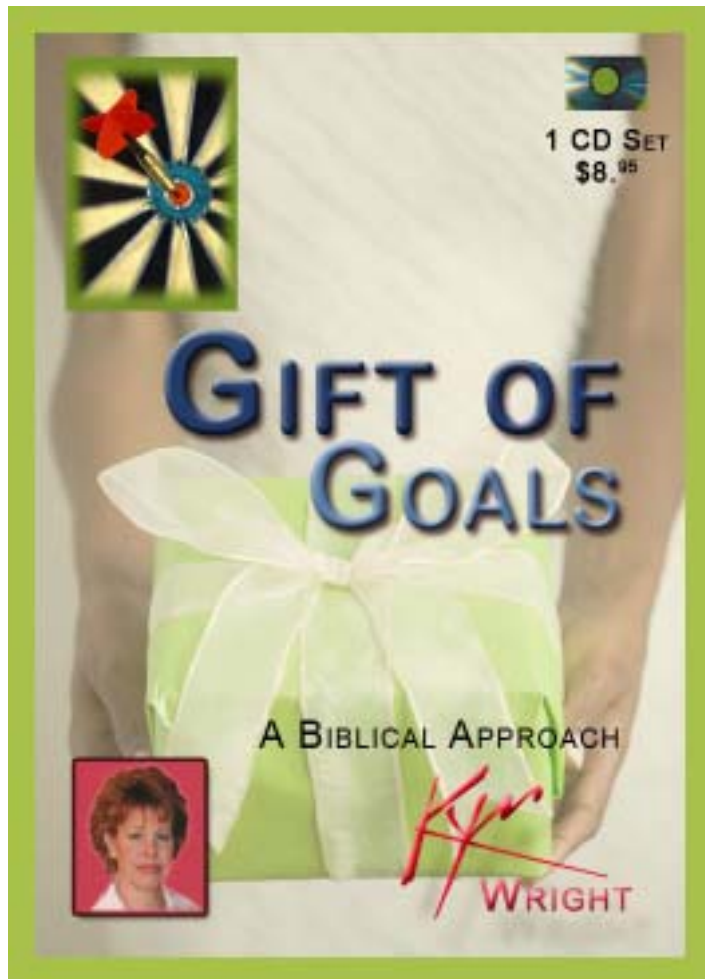
“For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

I encourage you to press on in faith, learn from my mistakes, and seek God each morning for wisdom, strength, and guidance as you undertake the most greatest of parenting adventures: homeschooling your children.

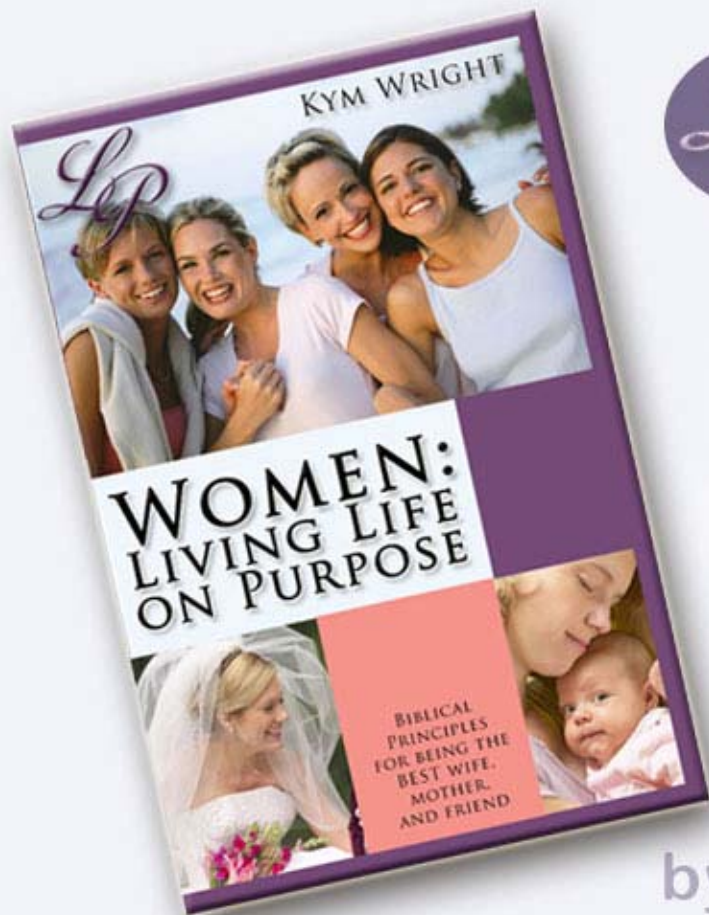
Join me in the next issue of *The Mother’s Heart* as I share “Five More Mistakes I Made in Homeschooling.” God bless you! ~Lori

Lori Hatcher is a 17-year homeschooling veteran and author of the devotional book, *Joy in the Journey ~ Encouragement for Homeschooling Moms* (www.lorihatcher.com) and the blog *Be Not Weary*. Her goal is to encourage and equip women to live in the fullness of the Christian life.



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One of the highlights of my week as a kid was taking the long trek next door to my Nana's house and accompanying her to church every Sunday. As a young child, I was allowed to attend church every Sunday morning with her because my parents did not attend regularly. As the service began my eyes would gaze in awe at the ornate stained glass windows and the twinkling lights of the candles decorating the altar. There was a magic associated with the church service and I loved attending through my teen years.

Though Nana may not have known it at the time, her willingness to take me to church shaped my spiritual journey in a positive way. If she had not exemplified her faith to me, I may not be experiencing the vibrant spiritual life I have today.

Second Timothy 1:5 says, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

Nana set the example of what faith looks like in the life of a believer. Her sweet, gentle and quiet spirit made faith attractive and attainable. And now, as a mother and a pastor's wife, I have that same responsibility to pass on my faith to my children and others.

So, how does a mother do this: pass down her faith to her children in a real and tangible way?

Here are three tips on how to increase your chances of having your children follow in your spiritual footsteps:

Live by example

We are living in an age where the Bible is becoming increasingly irrelevant to a new generation of people. Therefore, living a lifestyle of faith in spite of trials and heartaches is more effective. One of the main things that will touch the hearts of your children, and others, is living a life of love. If your children see you engaging with God in an intimate, passionate way through knowledge of the Word, practical application to your daily life, and constant communication with God, they cannot help but be attracted to that lifestyle.

Tell your story

The one thing no one can argue with is your testimony. Before the beauty of the printing press, people relied on the oral tradition of retelling the

Scriptures to their family members. Your story can bridge the gap between generations and bond you and your children together.

Sharing with your children in an open and honest way about your failures and weaknesses, and those of their ancestors, helps them relate to you as a person. Sharing your story also builds trust and intimacy.

Help your children find purpose

In Genesis 2:8, God placed Adam in the garden to manage it. Why? God could have done all of the work Himself. Yet, He allowed Adam a place in the creative process and helped him realize his purpose in life.

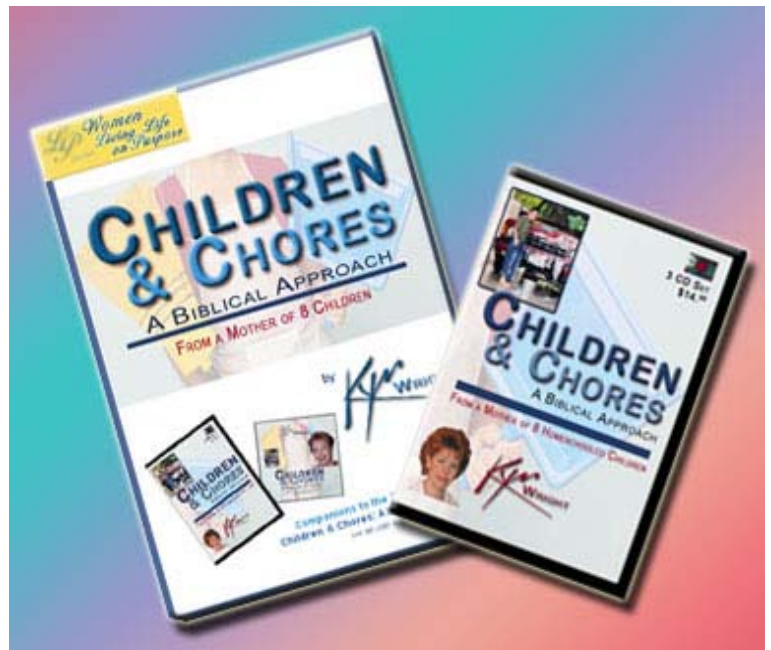
Feeling valued and worthy is an innate quality in all of us. Helping children find purpose and direction encourages them to find that value in themselves.

In a family setting, all members should serve an important function so they can feel a part of the family. Giving them specific roles in the family (such as chores) helps them find their place and see themselves as God sees them, as valued and worthy.

You may not know every Bible verse or pray with eloquence as the person next to you on Sunday morning, but an intimate, impassioned first hand relationship with Jesus may be just what your children need to see in you in order to follow in your footsteps.

As we face this New Year, why don't you spend some time thinking about what ways can you pass down your faith to your children?

Michelle S. Lazurek is a pastor's wife, a mother, an author, and a speaker. She has been published in numerous publications. You can visit her website at www.michellelazurek.com



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Marcia K. Leaser


I can't pinpoint the exact time I became a Christian. I don't recall a moment of conversion where God wrote on the wall with a finger of blood, "YE ARE SAVED." But I do remember a day that brought me to my goal of life eternal.

I was raised in the church and had learned all the important Bible verses a child is to learn. I'd seen the picture of Jesus with the little sheep and the one of Him on the cross. But not until I was much older, did I understand the true meaning of either of them.

One day, when I was thirty or so, while looking at a picture of Christ on the cross, I suddenly knew I had put Him there. I was as guilty as if I'd driven the nails myself. The moment was so real tears actually rolled down my cheeks. Turning my eyes away I tried to erase the image before me. I'd seen many pictures of Him hanging on the cross before, but I'd never before taken the blame on my shoulders.

Looking once more at the picture, it was as if I could hear Him saying, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Tears still filled my eyes, but I felt no guilt or shame. I knew He'd died for me. Unexpectedly, it was all right. I knew I was forgiven. My tears ceased as my heart filled with joy, and a wave of warmth rushed over me as I realized He wasn't the suffering savior I saw on the cross. He was the living Lord He'd promised He would be; the comforter He had died to become.

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Marcia is married with two grown daughters and five grandchildren, and is a prolific writer. Her website: www.forhismercyandgrace.com.

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a white lab coat. The person's hand is holding a white glove. The background is a blurred green field. The text "White Glove Treatment" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

White Glove Treatment

Treating Your Physicians with the Respect They've Earned

Medical Health

Michele is the author of ten books for women. Her articles and reviews have been published in Good Housekeeping, Redbook, Christianity Today, Focus on the Family and others. Michele's newest title is out: Burdens Do a Body Good: Meeting Life's Challenges with Strength (and Soul). Michele also writes a parenting column at: www.bizymoms.com



Michele Howe

During recent years, I've spent a considerable amount of time waiting. Waiting to be called into various physician's examination rooms that is. As I wait, I sometimes watch. People watch. But mostly, I read. Like everyone I know, I dislike wasting time, so I bring my work along with me and get something productive accomplished as I wait for my turn. However, there is only one thing that slows me down from working through a manuscript in record time: the people waiting around me.

All too often, I'm trying hard to concentrate but I'm hearing nothing but complaints in front of me, behind me, and on either side of me. I overhear the loud, not-so-subtle gripes as well as the just-above-a-whisper murmurings and I catch the oh-so-visible body language of people who feel inconvenienced and put out at having to wait their turn to see their physician.

I listen to the moans and groans. I observe the sighs and the heads shaking as their eyes narrow in distaste when they look at their watches for the umpteenth time.

And I wonder about those people.

- Why didn't they bring something – anything – to read or work on as they wait?
- Why do they expect to sign in and be immediately ushered into the inner sanctum even though it's obvious the waiting area is full to overflowing with other hurting people?
- Why do they feel they deserve the white glove treatment at the expense of others?

Next, I wonder what type of greeting they'll offer their physician when they *finally* – their word, not mine – enter into the examination room? By the looks on many of their faces, I'd not want to venture into such dangerous territory.

And so it goes, day in and day out in the life of our physicians. It's an unfortunate reality that our dedicated medical professionals are fighting a losing battle with some patients before they even step into the exam room to say hello.

It's no surprise that more and more of our brightest and most skilled men and women are opting to go into other medical specialty areas, such as research, rather than becoming a physician on the front lines of

health care. Being a doctor in today's world of entitlement can be hazardous to one's health and I'm not talking about contracting the random virus here and there.

We hear a lot in the media today about the ever-escalating pressures physicians face in today's turbulent times. Some of these stresses mainstream America is familiar with

but other equally important factors remain in the background partially because there isn't much doctors can do if their patients choose to not take personal responsibility for their own healthcare. The bottom line is this: Optimal quality of health and life cannot be achieved if patients are unwilling to meet their physicians halfway and partner together for a successful outcome.

So what exactly does it mean to partner with your physician? Partnering by its very definition implies equality, mutual respect, and working toward a common goal. Patients go to physicians for information, counsel, advice, and alleviation of pain/painful conditions. They come expecting their doctor to assemble his very best arsenal of knowledge, experience, and skills to diagnose, prescribe, fix, cure and heal them. And their physicians work overtime to meet every single one of these expectations.

Again, I wonder, isn't it about time that patients do their part and start valuing their physicians' commitment to them by demonstrating some simple gratitude and general courtesy? How many patients have ever put themselves in their physicians' position? Even once?



Before office hours even open at 8:00 or 9:00 AM, your physician has very likely made his rounds at whatever hospital(s) he currently has patients admitted to

you and me as patients.

Did you know that most doctors work in excess of 50 hours per week and that's the low end of the spectrum for a physician? The truer estimate is 60-70 hours a week.

Sadly, patients do more than ask.

They expect, they demand

Consider this fact: Before office hours even open at 8:00 or 9:00 AM, your physician has very likely made his rounds at whatever hospital(s) he currently has patients admitted to and generally spends about an hour attending to their special needs before seeing patients in his own office.

Next, comes the full day of examining/advising/consoling/counseling one patient after another with a brief break for lunch (if there's time) right through the late afternoon. All the while, juggling phone calls/pages/emails/texts and fielding questions from his staff, colleagues, insurance and pharmaceutical representatives. And if you think once the doors close for the day your doctor gets to go home and relax, you'd be wrong again. Your ever diligent, hardworking doctor still has to spend hours completing patient charts and other paperwork required by the government. Oh and let's not forget the endless hospital administrator meetings – before and after – his typically frenetic and exhausting workday. While we're defining workday, let's be clear that for most

Mostly, I suspect the majority of patients judge the success of their most recent doctor's appointment mainly by how long they had to wait before being seen. If I'm correct, then we all need an education about the varying and diverse hats physicians wear each and every day and how these non-negotiable additional responsibilities affect

folks “workday” is defined as 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, but not so for doctors who are on rotation at the hospital, and therefore, on call, during weekends too.

When we see the other side of medicine from the perspective of our physicians more clearly, every little complaint or grudge we were nursing about that extra fifteen minute wait seems foolish – embarrassingly so. Factor in the excessive hours, demanding physical/mental/emotional workload, stresses from hospitals to staff to patients (not taking into account personal responsibilities of family/friends/home/health concerns) and then having to face a malcontent patient. . . or a group of them. It’s too much to ask of anyone.

Sadly, patients do more than ask, they expect, they demand, and in turn, become yet another factor that drives some good physicians out of practicing medicine. . . for good. But that doesn’t have to be the case. Instead of expecting the white glove treatment, why not give it instead? Certainly, our physicians have earned it.

Each of us as patients is in a position to contribute to our physicians’ well-being and happiness. How? By adhering to what I’d like to call a “patient’s code of conduct,” which by another definition means, *a list of good behavioral guidelines to follow when working with your doctors.*

Here are a few suggestions for starters, but feel free to add some of your own. In any case, express your appreciation of your physician to him whenever you can, as often as you can, in every way that you can. Maybe, just maybe, your kindness will remind him why he wanted to go into medicine in the first place.



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Six Effective Ways to Say, “I appreciate being your patient!”

- Thank them each and every time you enter their office.
- Listen to their counsel when they give it.
- Follow their instructions after agreeing on the best course of treatment.
- Demonstrate graciousness when having to wait longer than we’d like or expected.
- Always, always see the person behind the professional demeanor.
- Give them room to have a bad day and not judge them for it, *nor speak poorly of them afterward.*

Family Stories



As I walk into the room, she is sharing one of those “fork in the road” stories that we all have. One by one, people begin contributing their own stories. Soon the room turns nostalgic and a gentleman suggests she writes down her stories for her children and grandchildren.

Christina Fox is a writer, blogger, homeschooling mom, and coffee drinker. She is a licensed mental health counselor and Bible study teacher. Married for 15 years, Christina lives in Florida with her husband and their two boys.



Christina Fox

It's Wednesday afternoon,

the day I go to my allergist's for my weekly shots. My two young sons and I walk into the waiting room where the usual group gathers. Each week the same group of us arrives for our shots and then sits the required waiting time – thirty minutes (in the case of anaphylactic shock). While it's an annoyance to sit and wait, I think all of us gathered here would rather not have a deadly reaction. So we wait.

Those seated in the waiting room are always an interesting mixture of people. There's usually a teacher, a wealthy man or woman from the Island (dropping names like rain from the sky), parents, grandparents, and a few children. Like unfortunate souls stuck in a broken elevator, those who wait here end up sharing their life stories each week.

Today when we walk in, the shot nurse is seated in the waiting room with a few other patients, sharing stories from her life. A kind, grandmotherly type, she always greets me each week, asking about my children and checks in with me about our progress in homeschooling. She takes a break from her story to give me my shots and then returns to the waiting room to resume her story.

I've missed much of it but quickly gather that she is sharing one of those "fork in the road" stories that we all have. One by one, people begin contributing their own stories. Soon the room turns nostalgic and a gentleman suggests she writes down her stories for her children and grandchildren.

I am reminded of the time my husband and I sat around the table; the dinner dishes cleared, and "interviewed" my grandfather about his stories from the war. I wrote it all down in a journal. It was these stories that inspired us to visit Normandy and the D-Day beaches last year while we were in France. When I stood on Omaha Beach, I looked out into the waters and imagined my grandfather, a young gunner on a ship, firing away at the enemy.



Passing stories down to the next generations

1. Share with your children how God brought you to faith in Him. Also share how God used the trials in your life to strengthen and stretch your faith.
2. Make a jar of questions for loved ones in your family to answer. Include questions about their faith and how they came to know Jesus.
3. Create a family conversation jar. Type up questions for everyone to answer during meal times together. Cut them into strips of paper and have each person pull out a question to answer. Include serious questions about faith as well as fun questions that get everyone talking.
4. Remind your children of their place in the story of redemption. Make a point to consistently talk about the way God is preparing them for a special role in His Kingdom.
5. When something challenging happens in your child's life, tell them a story of challenge in your own life and point to the work God has done in and through you.

Our lives are a series of stories, written by the Author of life Himself. Some chapters are a difficult read and others we like to read over and over again. As these stories are shared, they become the glue that links generations together. They give each family their unique identity and keep them from being lost in the wilderness of confusion regarding their place in this world.

One year I gave my parents a jar with 52 strips of paper in it. On each paper was a question about their childhood and young adult years. I included questions

such as "What did you remember about being when you grew up?" "What was your first car?" and "When did you come to know the Lord?" I gave them a journal for them to document their answers, asking that they return it to me the following Christmas. This journal will be passed down to future generations.



The group in the waiting room continues to reminisce. A few share stories of cherished handwritten notes from loved ones long passed. They begin to wonder aloud how stories will be passed on now people rarely write things down. Everyone agrees that they need to preserve their stories for their children.

I look at my children, seated next to me in the waiting room. They have been oblivious to the conversation around them, evidenced by their concentration on the game they are playing, sliding their fingers this way and that across the screen. I think about the stories I have told them and those I still want to pass on to them. How well do they understand how all the stories we tell them fit into God's Greater Story? Do they see their own connectedness in the story of God's redemption?

Later that night, I remind them that God is writing a story in their own lives. I tell them that even now He is preparing them for a special job in His Kingdom, one that's been selected just for them. We talk about how He has made them with particular talents and abilities to use for His glory.

God is the Great Storyteller and the Bible is His love story to us. He instructed the Israelites in the Old Testament to repeatedly tell their children His story. They were to remind one another about their deliverance from Egypt and God's provision for them. The

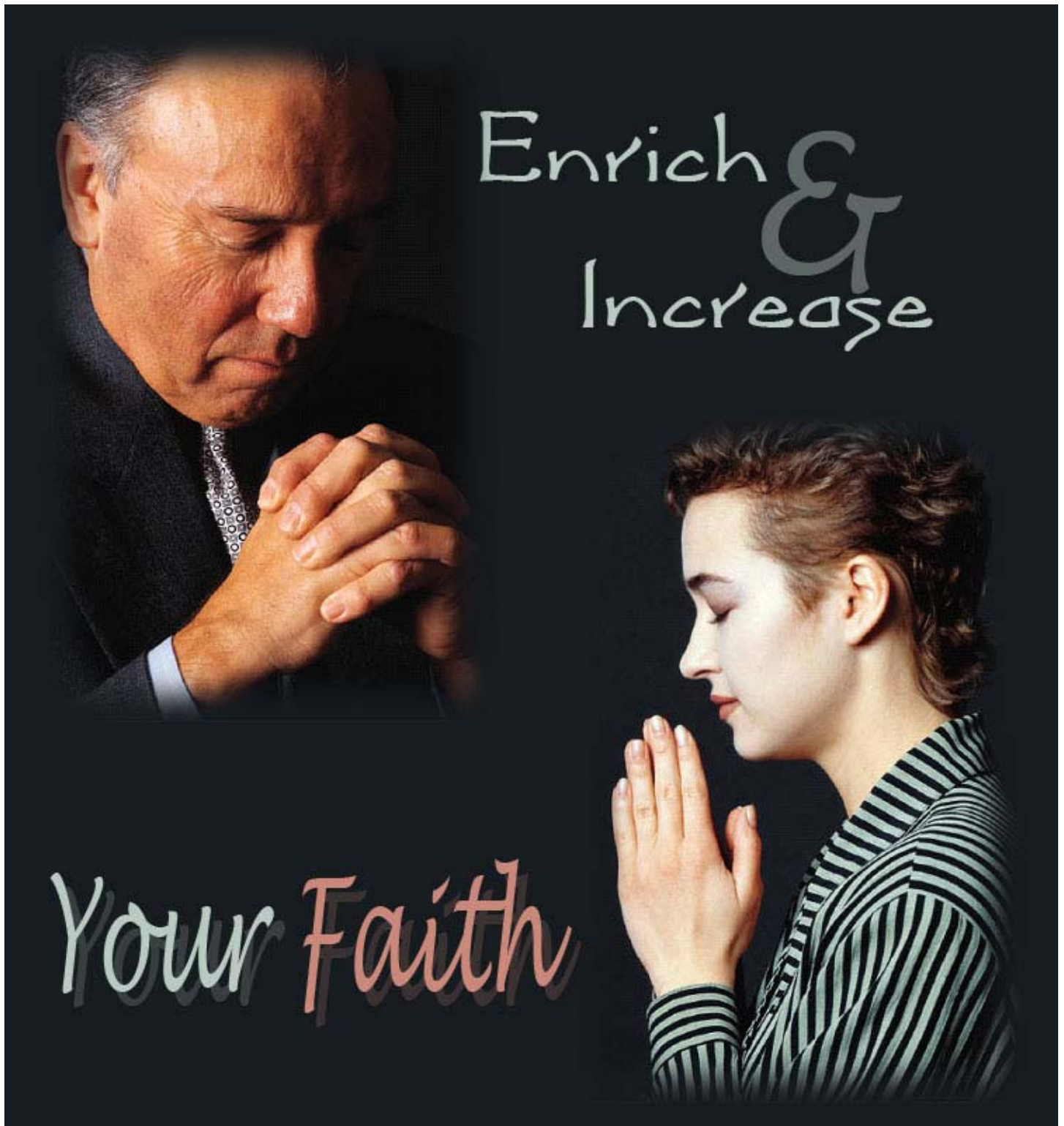
**God is the Great Storyteller &
the Bible is His love story to us**

ame is true for us. We too have been delivered from our own bondage—sin. Telling our children the stories of how God has worked in our lives helps them see His love and faithfulness.

Share your stories with your family. Pass on the ones you've heard from your own parents and grandparents. Laugh together and share sweet memories. Let them hear stories of your mistakes. And always point your children to the Greater Story and their place in it.



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Enrich &
Increase

Your Faith

*In his best-selling book, **The Power of Positive Thinking**, Norman Vincent Peale reports a conversation with a man who had been recently diagnosed with osteoma of the jaw. Doctors told him the bone tumor was growing and would not respond to any known medical treatment. He became deeply distressed and grew more despondent by the day.*



Although he did not view himself as “religious,” the man, in desperation, began to read the Bible regularly. “I found consolation and comfort,” he said. “I also became a bit more hopeful and less discouraged.” Along with increased emotional peace, he also began to experience physical improvement as a result of the Bible readings.

Over a number of weeks, the tumor became less noticeable.

“At first I thought I imagined this, then I became convinced that some change was taking place in me.” While reading yet another passage from the Bible, he experienced a “curious inward feeling of warmth and great happiness . . . From that time on my improvement was more rapid,” he stated. After several more visits with his doctors, it was determined the osteoma had completely disappeared.

As I read this, I saw two decisive acts took place in that man’s life. First, he experienced a restoration of health. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, the man experienced a deepening of his faith by turning to scripture in his time of need. The reading of scripture brought light into his darkness. Clearly, disciplined reading and study of the Bible is an effective way of increasing one’s faith. From my research and observation, I’ve discovered seven other ways to enrich and increase your faith power. Let me share them with you.

Be still

1

Before any time of private prayer don’t plunge right into praying but be still or silent for two or three minutes. In several places the Bible reminds us: “Be still and know that I am God.”¹ “Be still before the Lord.”² During that quiet time allow your body to relax. This will help calm the mind and achieve a state of stillness.

Next acknowledge that God is present with you by offering this simple prayer: “My God, You are here. My God, I am here. My God, we are here.” Then once again, sit in silence for another minute or two permitting a sense of the divine presence to grow within you.

Be kind

2

Keep your heart open to all those around you. Be kind, responding to each person with extravagant hospitality. By doing this you will make your daily life a spiritual practice of service. Work to empty yourself of your own concerns and preoccupations so that you can be open to the needs of others.

Rev. Stuart Briscoe, a pastor and author of numerous books, tells of a memorable moment of unparalleled hospitality he and his wife, Jill, received. They had flown to the Sahara region of the African continent to visit a missionary couple at a distant outpost. The climate was hot, dry and harsh. "We had never seen any place so desolate. Nothing grew," he remembers. As they entered the yard of their hosts, he noticed "a splash of green and a flash of orange." It was a tiny rose bush "clinging tenaciously to life, proudly bearing a solitary rose."

The missionaries had carefully dug out a hole, filled it with rich vegetable compost and nurtured the single plant faithfully. "This is the first flower we have produced in this desert," they explained proudly. Because Briscoe's wife was exhausted from extended ministry and suffered with chronic back pain, the missionaries insisted on bringing her breakfast in bed the following morning. When breakfast was presented, there on the tray was the solitary orange rose with a handwritten card: "Thank you for coming all this way." Briscoe's wife was moved to tears and Rev. Briscoe said: "Many messages of appreciation have been showered on us through the years, but this one sticks in our memories because the message of love was...performed in a singular, gracious, and sacrificial way."



Do for yourself

3

"Prayer must never be regarded as a labor-saving device," writes popular Bible commentator William Barclay in his book *A Spiritual Autobiography*. Some people presume on God's goodness by not utilizing the many means God provides for effective dealing with life issues.

Dr. Barclay explains: "If I am ill, if there is something wrong with my body, I need not pray for cure, unless I am prepared to take my trouble to the physician, unless I am prepared to sacrifice certain habits and pleasures, unless I am prepared to accept a certain discipline in my life. But if I do patiently and strictly and obediently carry out the regimen that is prescribed for me, then I can pray, and the prayer will put me into a condition in which the treatment will be doubly effective."

Accept & offer forgiveness

4

"This is one of the most important components of spiritual resilience," writes psychiatrist Frederic Flach, MD, in his book *Faith, Healing & Miracles*. "Forgiveness is the only way to avoid the deadly trap of bitterness and resentment, which corrode both psyche and soul."

The next time you receive a wound from another person, try using this suggestion from Dr. Flach in order to extend forgiveness more readily: "Understanding the frailty of human beings and nurturing a

capacity to empathize with their own difficulties and frustrations, even their susceptibility to evil, will help you to distance yourself from the wounds they may have inflicted upon you.”

Serve

5

This is a direct teaching of Jesus: “The greatest among you must be a servant.”³ Former President George H. W. Bush, often referred to as the “first” Bush presi-

dent, has used his fame to help raise money for civic organizations. For his charitable work, he has received many accolades. However, he says of his activity: “I think us showing up helps raise money but we don’t need to be honored, we don’t need to sit right there at that head table to be saluted for helping. I mean we’re supposed to help, you’re supposed to think of others, you’re supposed to serve others, and it doesn’t always have to be done in a way to salute us.”



An excellent example of one who practiced the way of acceptance is offered by author Arthur Gordon. He tells of a friend who was given the heart-breaking news his teenage son was going blind and that nothing could be done to prevent it. One evening as Gordon was leaving the man’s house, expressed his admiration for the father’s courage. He vividly remembers the man’s comments about the tragic circumstances: “It seems to me that we have three choices.

We can curse life for doing this to us and look for some way to express our grief and rage. Or we can grit our teeth and endure it.

Or we can accept it. The first alternative is useless. The second is sterile and exhausting. The third is the only way.”

Live faith

7

Let your mind be saturated with these words from the apostle Paul: “We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident.”⁴ A woman whose childhood was chaotic and traumatic credits her faith in God with helping her survive and emerge to establish a fulfilling life as an adult. In a letter she wrote to advice columnist, Dear Abby, the woman explained she was abused by various family members during the first 13 years of her life. “At the age of 13, my parents terminated their parental rights, giving the state permanent custody of me. I lived in foster care until I was 18.” Even caseworkers who evaluated her expected she would succumb to the statistics by becoming a welfare mother and school dropout. However, the woman graduated from high school and overcame the deep emotional scars left by the abuse. “Had it not been for my faith in God and the encouragement of good people in my life, I would not be living the normal life I’ve always dreamed of . . . I married the man of my dreams and my in-laws are some of the nicest people I’ve ever known.”

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Accept

6

There is tremendous wisdom in American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr’s serenity prayer:

God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

The ability to accept that which cannot be changed eliminates the temptation of responding to troubles with bitterness, resentment and cynicism.

So, the next time you face a major life challenge, remember to live by faith not by sight. Draw inspiration from these words of the great medieval priest Thomas A Kempis who advised: "Don't pay much attention to who is for you and who is against you. This is your major concern: that God be with you in everything you do."

1. Psalm 46:10, New International Version
2. Zechariah 2:13
3. Matthew 23:11, New Living Translation
4. 2 Corinthians 5:7

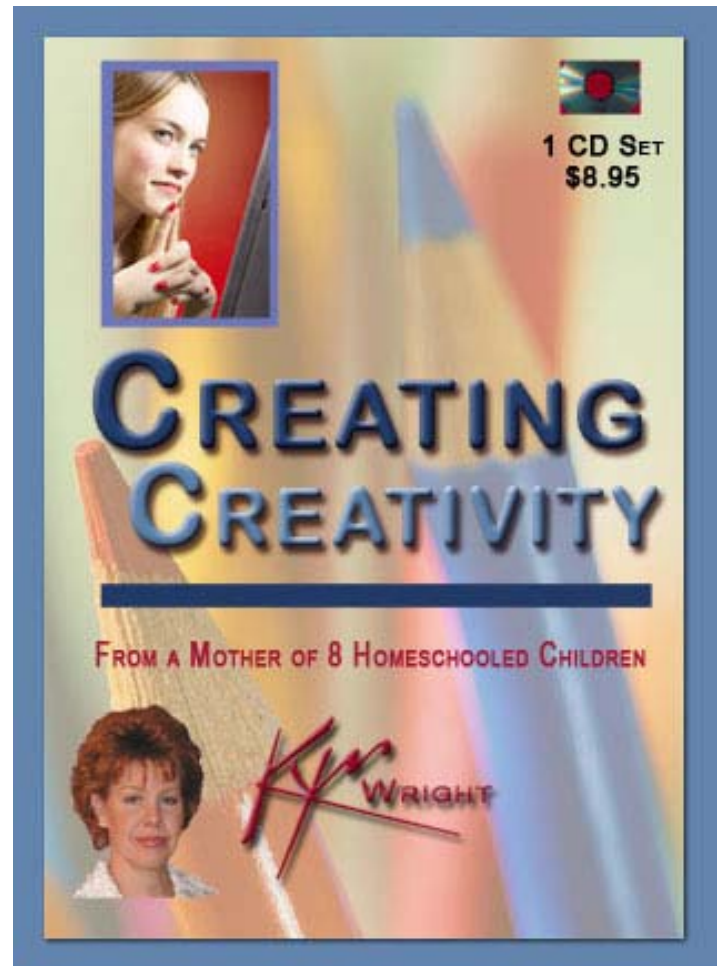
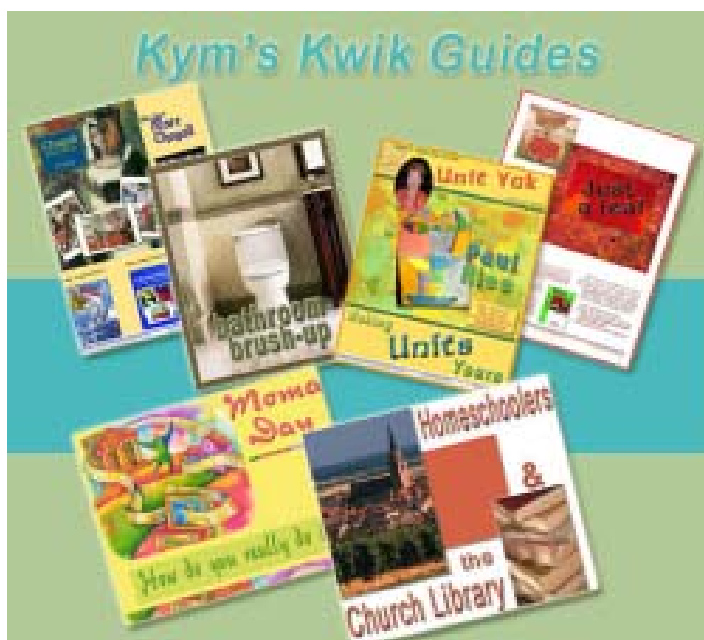
Victor M. Parachin is a minister, journalist and author of a dozen books including *Lessons for Living From The Twenty-Third Psalm*.

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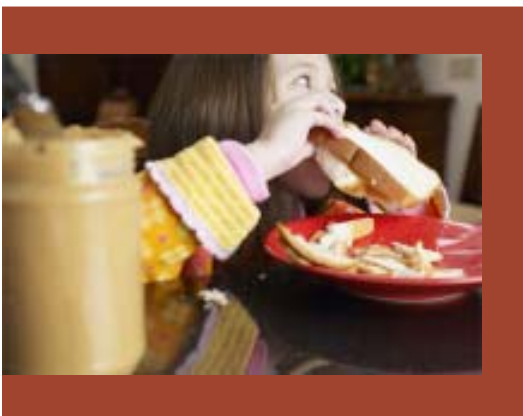


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The Peanut Butter & Jelly Station



As the warm weather permeates our bodies the little molecules in our brains whirl around wildly remembering all of last year's potlucks. Whether it was meals with friends on the back patio, a celebratory snack with the Rugby moms, the church picnic or the yearly family reunion, we recall the pleasure of calories, conversation and companionship. Well, it's that time of year again:

Potluck season!

Warm weather potlucks seem less constrictive than winter ones.

You probably can already taste Aunt Beulah's three-bean salad; Uncle Mark's stuffed pork roll or that divine rhubarb dessert.

Believe it or not there are people (mostly children) who find these culinary spreads to be a terror. They wonder what to eat, where to start, or maybe they can't remember what their mom brought. All that strange food is sensory overload. Sometimes so much so that the kids either refuse to eat or won't go to the potluck at all. Parents are often baffled. They know (well they think they remember) in past years the kids have enjoyed themselves. But there's hope!

Several years ago in an attempt to resolve the *Reluctant Children Syndrome* at our family reunion potlucks, we invented the Peanut Butter and Jelly Station. It consists of a large breadboard set at the end of a picnic table in the shade not too close to the main serving area.

On one side of the breadboard there are jars of peanut butter: chunky and smooth, organic and home-made. On the other side, jars of jellies and jams: a nice selection of family favorites in-

cluding strawberry and grape, apricot and rhubarb. Close by there are several loaves of bread, both wheat and white. Tablespoons and table knives are on the breadboard. We put out some fun napkins for the little messes that always seem to happen. Paper towels work too.

Slid between the breadboard and the picnic table is a sign sticking out announcing:

**PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY STATION:
PLEASE HELP
YOURSELF!**



While it was just a crazy thing to do because we were frustrated with the kids not enjoying themselves enough, we hit a jackpot! Kids as young as four made their own sandwiches..... on their own time. Between innings of baseball, horseshoes and volleyball games, others would also zoom in for a sandwich. Young teen girls who had been vegetarians for over a



week even enjoyed the appeal of the PBJ Station. Kids allergic to peanuts enjoyed jelly only sandwiches put together with plastic throwaway knives on paper plates. There were a fair number of adults who also helped themselves to a childhood favorite. We noticed that folks with health and eating problems also grazed through the afternoon. Certainly it was a conversation piece. People

gathered near the picnic table, but not too close to obstruct the flow of kids making sandwiches, like office folks gather around the water cooler.

Long after the macaroni and potato salads had been returned to their iced coolers, the chips had gone stale and the relish and dessert trays had lost their appeal by drooping from the heat, the PB&J Station continued to do a good business.

As the late afternoon sun started its slow descent into evening the Peanut Butter and Jelly Station remained the busiest part of the potluck.

Then came good-byes and kids stomping their feet because they didn't want to stop playing. Kids looking at a long ride home took a quick pit stop and made one last sandwich. Later we heard back: those tired kids fell asleep in the back of the car on the way home with the PBJs still in their hands.



Pamela Gilson is the mother of five adult children, whose names all begin with "J" and has assorted grandchildren. She has a 2-year certificate in ministry from Vineyard Institute of Ministry and a B.A. in English from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri.

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Building Reading Skills



ABC

Why it's Okay to "Just Memorize"



Jan Pierce

We join our preschoolers snuggled under the covers, spending countless hours reading and re-reading books, nursery rhymes, fairy tales, fables, animal stories, mini-mysteries and so much more. We enjoy reading about real-life things: snakes and birds and whales. We just love books.

As a rite of passage, it seems, there comes a time in your child's reading journey when he or she begins retelling favorite stories. Our pre-reader doesn't really know how to read the print yet, but he certainly knows the story word-for-word. And, while reading one of her favorites, she will tell you if you happen to miss a word or a page.

We, as parents, often become uncomfortable during this stage of building reading skills. We are concerned that the child is taking a shortcut to reading and maybe even cheating just a bit. As a reading teacher for many years, let me reassure you: Don't worry, as this is a normal and essential part of learning all about the complicated skill we call reading.

Reading is developmental. At an early age, as language develops, children learn sounds are parts of words and words convey meaning. As you read to your baby and later your toddler, she begins to understand print concepts such as *top* and *bottom* of pages, *left* and *right* orientation to flow of words.

Your youngster learns clumps of letters make up words and these words create an unlimited number of poems and stories. She relishes the rhythm and rhymes so prevalent in preschool picture books. He begins to expect a story to have characters who act in various ways. She learns stories have problems to solve, emotions to share and when the last page is read, there is an end to the story. All of these bits of information are essential to understanding the process of reading.

So, when your child begins to recite the book you're reading aloud, you've reached a milestone. Not only does your little pre-reader understand all of the concepts above, she now knows she can learn the storyline herself. For us, as the parents, rather than thinking of memorization as a shortcut to "real reading," think of it as a major step toward becoming an independent, fluent reader.

Thinking about it, we realize memorization of an entire story is quite a feat. Later on, when comprehension of stories becomes so important to successful reading tasks, this very ability to make sense of a story and relate it back to another person will serve as a feather in the reader's cap. He'll be able to accurately retell a story just read. She'll be able to answer comprehension questions pulled from the text.

At the same time as a child tells a story through memorization, he is beginning to understand there is one-to-one matching of written and oral words. When you read the word "cat," be sure to put your finger under that word. Soon children will be pointing and touching one word at a time as you read aloud. Take the time to point out key words after reading each page. And, after finishing the book, go back and find key words again. All of these experiences with text help unlock the necessary elements to becoming a good reader.

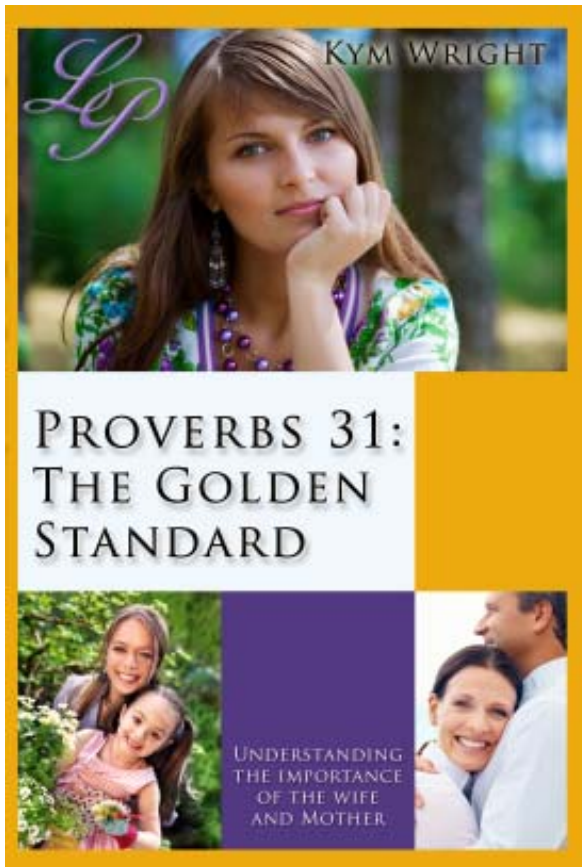
Of course there is a time to begin learning letter names and their corresponding sounds. In fact, you can work on these skills at a very early age as long as you allow the child's developmental clock to

dictate when it's time to really know them. Generally a child will recognize all 26 letters sometime around age five, but I know some children who knew their letters even before they could speak full sentences, and others who needed a little more time before mastering the whole alphabet. Many opportunities to interact with words in stories give your child a head start in learning to read.

There will come a time
in your child's reading journey
when he or she will begin
to "tell" the stories.

Once individual letters are mastered – and later their sounds are – it's time to work in earnest to decode words. Both phonics skills (sounding words) and memorization of sight words will be important. After those skills are humming along, then strategies for making meaning of words will come into play. Visual memory is a important to identify the shapes of letters. Story memory will build other

Kym's New Book!



understandings such as beginning, middle and end, characters who act in various ways, problems to be solved and maybe a lesson to be learned.

Remember that learning to read is developmental. It happens step by step. Small successes build confidence and confidence gives children the willingness to try something new, make a few mistakes and then self-correct. This is something all good readers must do. Later there will be plenty of time to build accuracy and fluency. For now the “just telling” from memory is a sign that all is well. Your child is happily traveling the road to reading.

Tips for Reading to Preschoolers

Before a story:

- Read the title and talk about it. What will this story be about?
- Take a picture walk. Who and what do you see?
- Preview the vocabulary. “I see the word *puppy*. Do you think this story is about a dog?”

During the story:

- Talk about the storyline. Make predictions. “What do you think will happen next?”
- Make note of rhymes, rhythms, special words, new words, repeated words.
- Note characters and their actions. Are they happy, sad, troubled, joyful? Why?

After the story:

- What did you like about this story?
- Can you find the word ___?
- What would you do if you were part of this story? Would you change anything?

On the following page you can read the Dolce Word List, divided by noun and non-nouns, then subdivided by grade levels.

Websites

You can print the Dolce Word list from these websites:
www.mrsperkins.com/dolch-words-all-printable.pdf
www.k12reader.com/dolch-word-list/

This website contains games children can play, to help them learn the words. www.mrcpl.org/literacy/lessons/sight/index.html

Listen and spell words on the computer:
www.netrover.com/~kingskid/dolch/List1/speak1.html

There are several ways to help our children memorize the Dolce Word List. One is to make flash-cards of the words, teaching several words per day, until they have them memorized.

Another way is to play games. Concentration is a card game in which all of the cards are laid face down on a surface and two cards are flipped face up over each turn. The object of the game is to turn over pairs of matching cards. You can easily make cards. Just use heavy cardstock or construction paper about the size of index cards (3”x5”) or smaller. Make two of each word, and place about five to six pairs of words on the table.

Once the words have been taught, have the child go through the newspaper or an appropriate magazine, finding and hi-lighting specific words.

A funny big blue dog
ran down the street
to see where he
could jump into the

Dolch List Non-Nouns

Pre-primer: a, and, away, big, blue, can, come, down, find, for, funny, go, help, here, I, in, is, it, jump, little, look, make, me, my, not, one, play, red, run, said, see, the, three, to, two, up, we, where, yellow, you

Primer: all, am, are, at, ate, be, black, brown, but, came, did, do, eat, four, get, good, have, he, into, like, must, new, no, now, on, our, out, please, pretty, ran, ride, saw, say, she, so, soon, that, there, they, this, too, under, want, was, well, went, what, white, who, will, with, yes

1st Grade: after, again, an, any, as, ask, by, could, every, fly, from, give, giving, had, has, her, him, his, how, just, know, let, live, may, of, old, once, open, over, put, round, some, stop, take, thank, them, then, think, walk, were, when

2nd Grade: always, around, because, been, before, best, both, buy, call, cold, does, don't, fast, first, five, found, gave, goes, green, its, made, many, off, or, pull, read, right, sing, sit, sleep, tell, their, these, those, upon, us, use, very, wash, which, why, wish, work, would, write, your

3rd Grade: about, better, bring, carry, clean, cut, done, draw, drink, eight, fall, far, full, got, grow, hold, hot, hurt, if, keep, kind, laugh, light, long, much, myself, never, only, own, pick, seven, shall, show, six, small, start, ten, today, together, try, warm

Dolch List Nouns

apple, baby, back, ball, bear, bed, bell, bird, birthday, boat, box, boy, bread, brother, cake, car, cat, chair, chicken, children, Christmas, coat, corn, cow, day, dog, doll, door, duck, egg, eye, farm, farmer, father, feet, fire, fish, floor, flower, game, garden, girl, good-bye, grass, ground, hand, head, hill, home, horse, house, kitty, leg, letter, man, men, milk, money, morning, mother, name, nest, night, paper, party, picture, pig, rabbit, rain, ring, robin, Santa Claus, school, seed, sheep, shoe, sister, snow, song, squirrel, stick, street, sun, table, thing, time, top, toy, tree, watch, water, way, wind, window, wood

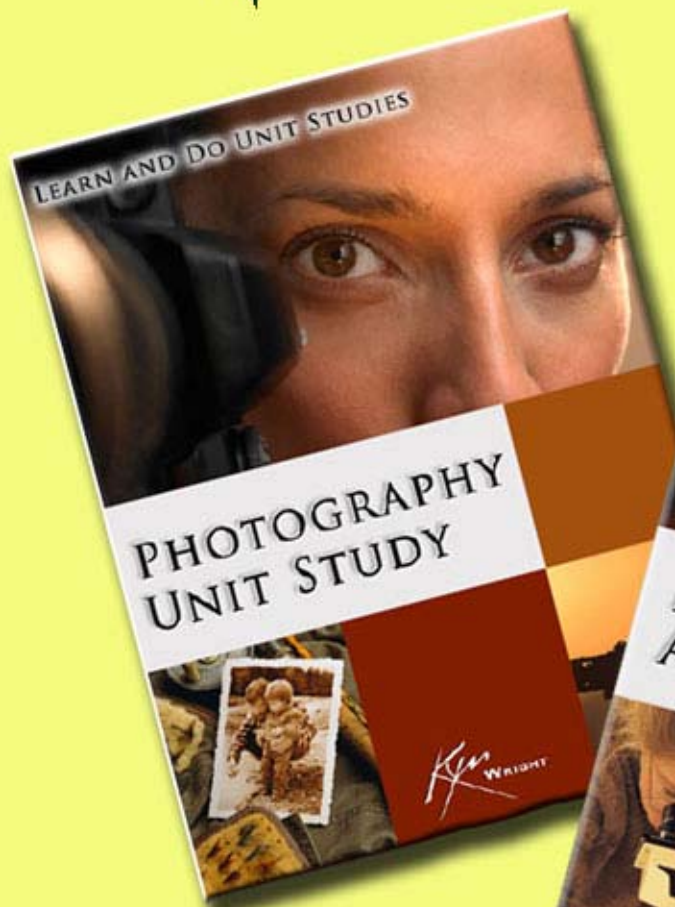
Help children plant a garden
and watch their lives blossom.





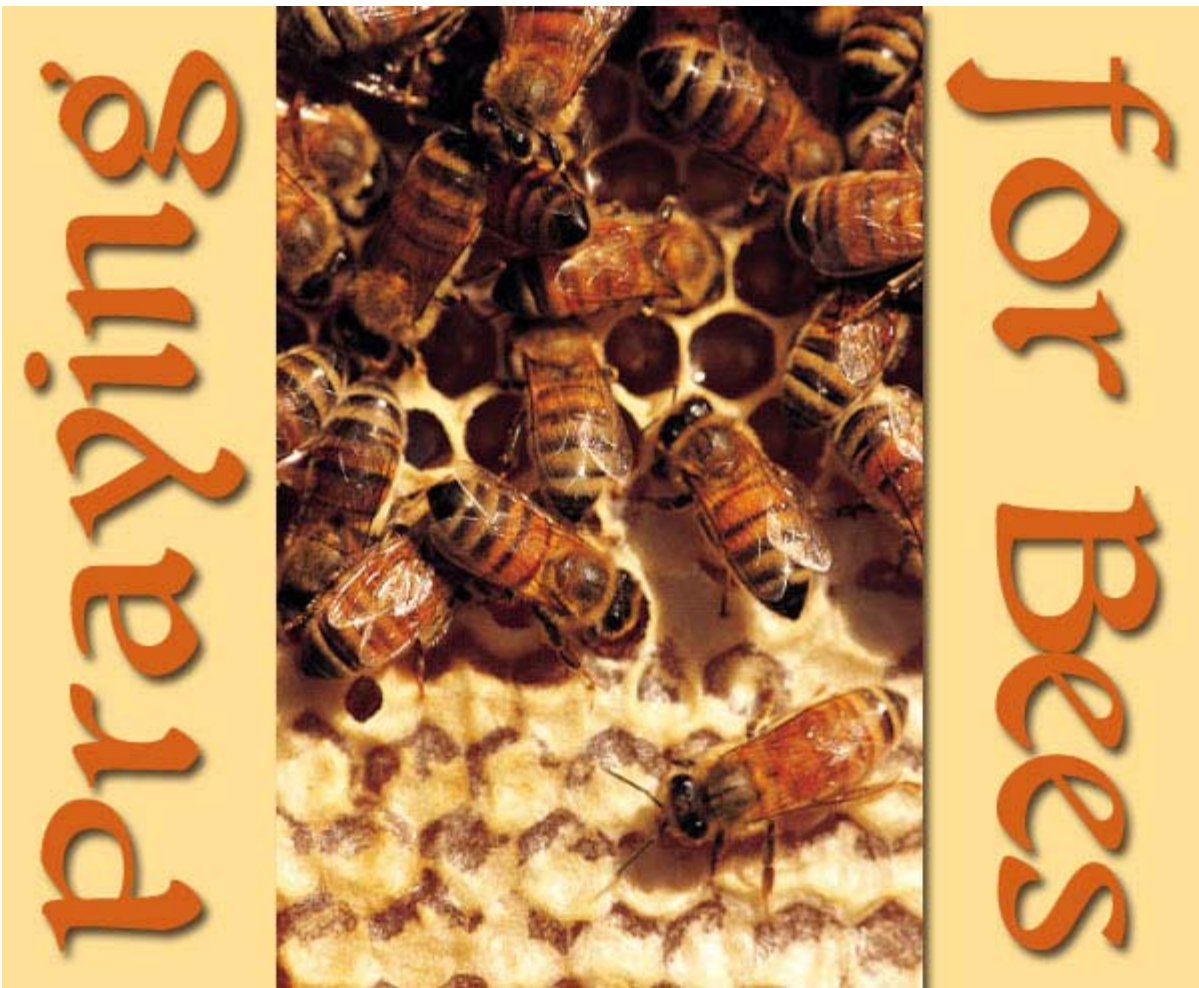
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Time and time again my daughters' spiritual wisdom amazes me. My daughters, with their child's innocence, have taught me more about the relationship of mankind to God than they will ever realize. As a woman who has studied the Bible on a collegiate level, I am humbled at being taught by children. Yet, I take the wisdom of the lesson from the source from which it came.

As humans, we are rather independent creatures. We like to be social, but do not want to rely on any means other than self in order to be sufficient. To ask for help somehow equates weakness in our culture.

The “don’t ask unless it is really important” line of thought has bled heavily into our spiritual lives as well. In our independence, we do not want to bother God with the trivial things of our life. We take charge of things ourselves, making decisions. Only when our seas become tossed do we come to God asking, “What now?” Only then do we submit to relinquishing the reins of our path and the decisions that make each day unique. But it is those small decisions that are the heart’s joy and communion with God.

It was a hot, southern July day. My twin three-year-old daughters and I were inside the house when my husband came running through the door in a panic. I knew immediately he had been hurt somehow. My husband had been outside



mowing the yard, during which, he had the most unfortunate discovery of a yellow jacket’s nest in the ground. The bees were not happy to have their home disturbed by the thundering whirlwind of the lawnmower and retaliated by a series of stings on my husband’s exposed skin. My husband, in turn, was none too pleased to have found the bee’s location.

My husband gave up mowing, showered and nursed his swelling wounds. Then he swore revenge. Our afternoon was spent with him ranting about the bees and how to get rid of them. He was on a mission. He went downstairs where he has a stash of bottle rockets. Once outside he aimed them at the entrance of the nest, and proceeded to rain havoc into the bees’ domain. Raising one eyebrow and crossing my arms in front of me I asked, “Do you really think this is going to kill them?”

“No,” he replied, “but it does make me feel better.”

At this point I gave up and allowed him to take out his, in my opinion, insanely plotted revenge against his aggressors. For quite a while I heard the whistle followed by the pop of the bottle rockets. An hour later my husband came back inside; I looked at him and smiled, "So, are we safe yet?"

"No, but I am drowning them out now."

I went to the window and looked. Sure enough the end to the garden hose was rammed down into a small opening in the ground. Water started to percolate through the surrounding ground as it became saturated with the moisture. The bees were not amused and angrily swarmed around what was their dry, undisturbed home just a few hours prior. Evening fell. Satisfied with his work, my husband settled down for the night.

The next morning the first thing my husband did was to see if the bees were still there. Honestly, this seemed to have become an obsession. Bewildered, he came in and announced defeat in yesterday's battle. The bees were still there. They still lay claim to a little patch of our yard. My husband then began to lay out his day's offensive strategy. I was more than amused and perplexed at the energy and frustration he experienced over the whole situation and I let out a small giggle. My husband was not humored by my lack of empathy.

During all this our daughters had been doing their usual questioning of, "What bees," followed by, "Where are they? We want to see." We went to a window and I pointed to where the bees were swarming. I had tried to explain to them that the bees did not need to live in our yard; they needed to live in the woods behind our house. I explained that it is unsafe for both our family and the bees for them to be in our yard, so dad had to get rid of them. They listened to my verbal thoughts and seemed to understand.

The following morning was Monday, but before my husband left for work he had to check on the bees, and yes, they were still there. My daughters and I walked out onto the deck with him as he left for the day. It was already muggy outside. My husband was

still talking about new-and-improved methods of bee annihilation for when he returned home and our daughters were still filled with questions.

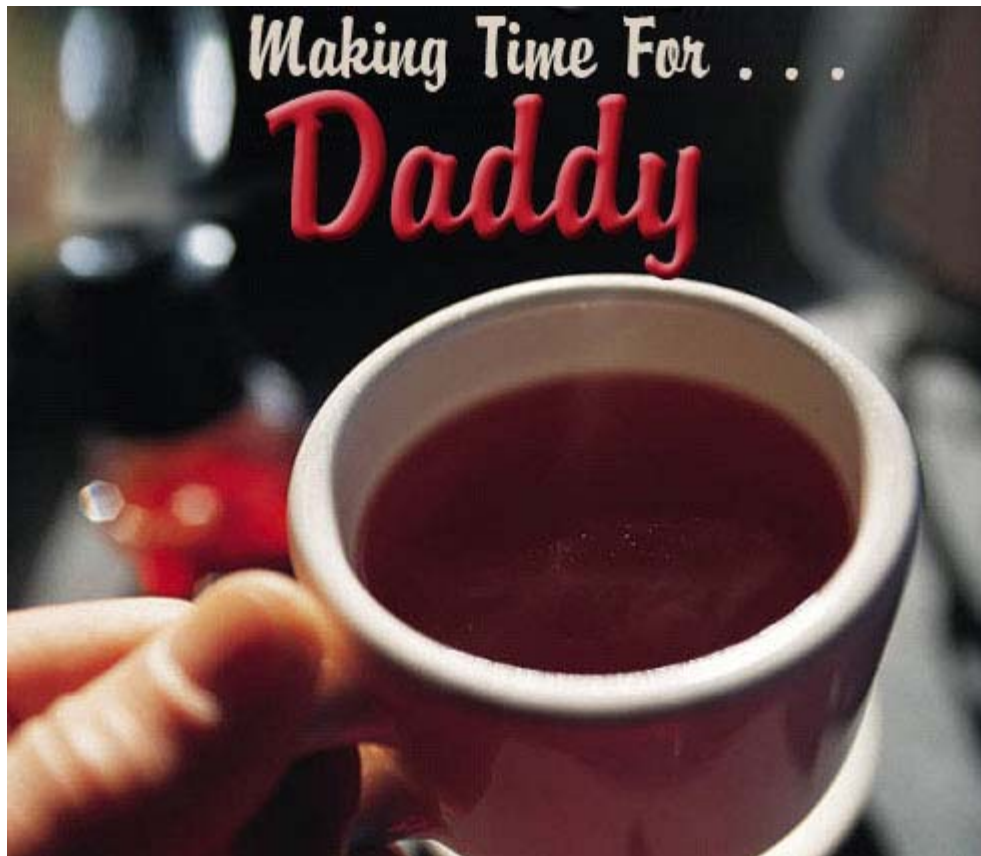
After he drove off my daughters and I were still on the deck and one of them looked up and simply said, "Maybe we should pray for the bees to move away and find a new home." My knee jerk reaction was to tell them no, that God had more important things to worry about. I wanted to tell them this was something we could handle on our own. However, not wanting to discourage my daughters' faith, I agreed that praying for the bees to find a new home would be an appropriate thing to do. The three of us sat down on our deck, and two little sets of hands held mine, while they led me in prayer. They took turns praying for the bees to find a new home in the simple yet effective words only three-year-olds can conjure up. I simply did not know what to say, and remained silent. I was confused. Could it be God would hear and honor the prayer of something as simple as bees being in our yard? Ah, to have the faith of a child. Nothing is too trite. It is so simple for them to understand that the same Creator who set the universe into motion, the same Creator who gave the stars their place in the sky, would also care about the bees in our yard. WOW! Talk about a revelation for me! I was in awe and humbled by the things they taught me.

On a hot, summer morning I was taught, not by a college professor, but by three year olds, that God can take care of *all* things. I was taught that God, and not my own abilities and resources, should be who I rely on. Not only should he be who I rely on, but God should be my first resource, not my last.

By the way, when my husband arrived home from work, he checked on the bees. They were gone.

Holly Russell is a blogger, speaker and writer. She is a stay at home mom to her four daughters. She speaks at women's events on the subject of Discovering God's Beauty.
hollydroo.wordpress.com





Spouse is busy with a more-than full-time job, plus being on boards and speaking at conferences – and his plate is greatly full. But – and this is the balancing act we all face – he wants to be involved in his children's lives.

So, as the mother in this family, I am in the unique position to create specific opportunities for Spouse to have meaningful time with our children – from the teens to the thirties – and even when they were much littler.

So, how do I accomplish this Herculean task?

I have a few tricks and tips to share: First, I watch over the household and when a child seems out of sorts, I'll text Honey, "Little Joe needs some time with you this evening, to discuss his college plans." Spouse to the rescue! This fore-warning gives him time to think about this specific child, his abilities and where he might be successful. He can ask associates about local colleges, or have his assistant do some research. Then he comes prepared to the conversation. Our kids like to call this "Going to Starbucks." They go out someplace – and it usually is Starbucks – alone with Dad, and they talk. "Life Talks" they call it. Dad listens intently, actively, and they cherish his input.

Another time it might be one of our older girls. Maybe Susie is having trouble with a guy. "He wants to be more serious than I do. He wants me to be his girlfriend, and I'm not so sure . . ." I'll pull Spouse aside when he gets home and fill him in on the goings-on. Then he makes an appointment with his precious princess to steal away for a bit of time – drinking coffee and chatting. "Is he the type of guy you'd want

to marry?" he might ask. If the answer is no, then our daughter is off the hook. If yes, then they talk further. "Are you in a position to marry now?" If not, then just be friends. And if Daddy really doesn't like the guy, his questions might not be so objective!

Another time, it might be *me* in the talking chair, and Spouse listening to my woes. He's so patient as he looks deep in my eyes, past the words and into my heart. How he hears the real problem amongst all my seemingly unrelated complaints or grievances, I never understand. But, just like my children, I'm grateful for his insight.

You see, God has gifted him with discernment. He has a good gut instinct about situations and trusts it completely. The far majority of the time, he's right on. The other half percent, he's very close. It's just his way. And we, his family, have learned to trust it, too.

So, as the wife and mother, my job might not be to find solutions for every problem that arises. And my contributions might be all behind the scenes. I've come to realize many times my part might just be to connect our children to their wise Daddy, who helps steer their lives in directions they realize they love. The more I create these special opportunities, the better life flows for the family. They get coffee in the mix of it. And Daddy gets to be their hero, once again.

*Mark, the father and husband,
surrounded by his women.
At Starbucks!*



Growing Up Kind

There comes a time in every young man's life, when he wants to try his wings, lean on Mom a little less, and make his own way in the world, including making his own decisions about his own life. And this is hard, if the young man in question has special needs. The desire is there, but sometimes the means to express it is not. Sometimes they hope to make these transitions, but the ability to care for themselves is severely lacking.

At times like these, what's a mother to do?

In our situation, this is where Spouse comes in. When our special son talks back to me in a disrespectful voice, I sidestep the head-on collision just waiting to happen. If Spouse is home, I go to him and explain the situation – and our special son knows he's in trouble. Spouse might make him apologize, then go on and do whatever I had asked. Or he might have him sit down until he can compose himself – and then apologize. Respect of the position of parenthood needs to be a foundational premise in their lives – and as they age, these special ones need to express their respect in all their verbal communications. Responses of "Yes, ma'am" and "No, sir" are clear expressions to show their heart.

Other times, when father isn't home, then I have several choices. Do I take it

Morgan, our special son, has added another chore to his life: hanging up the wet laundry on the drying rack. Many young men have problems with their thought life. If that's your son's situation, please be careful about having them handle female underthings.



head-on and explain to our son where he's being _____ (disrespectful, disobedient, or irresponsible)? Do I get him involved in something else, so we just avoid the conflict? Or does else someone need to deal with him for a while? This has been successful for us, when our son seems to focus his frustration on me – though I'm not the source of it, it seems the mother takes the brunt of their maturation process. The apron strings seem to stay attached to her, so cutting them sometimes feels like a knife in the heart.

Yet, we need to help them through this transition with as much grace as possible. At least, that's our goal. So, we dig in. We ask him questions to help him define his feelings. We pray – so much – seeking supernatural wisdom in dealing with our son and his difficulties. We keep him busy with activities, chores, work around the home, and other things.

When we look at the Bible, we read that children are to obey.* It doesn't give circumstantial privileges:

only children who are normal, only during the week, only when they aren't tired. It's all children, all the time. We do our special ones a disservice if we allow them to be disobedient, especially excusing it as a phase. It might look a bit different from the discipline we bring to our other children. We might have to make it simpler, or more stringent, or with more time-outs.

And as our special ones grow up, we need to help them take as much responsibility for their own lives as they reasonably can. Perhaps adding some new chores, or helping dad work on the cars or taking care of the lawn or animals. Finding areas where they can assist the family and achieve will help them feel useful, be a contributing member of the family, and give them boundaries to their lives. And help them be kind as they grow up.

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Ephesians 6:1-2, NAS

*Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

Colossians 3:20, NAS



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Analogy of a Friend

They laugh when we laugh
- cry when we cry - and
hurt when we hurt.

A friend walks in
when everyone else
has walked out.

We still like ourselves
when they leave.

They pray with
us- without us -
and for us.

They listen to every-
thing we say... but hear
what's on our heart.

A righteous man chooses
his friends wisely, because
he knows he'll become more
like them as time passes.

A friend says what we need
to hear... not necessarily
what we want to hear.

If we have a friend, or many
friends like this, we should be
grateful to God, because a
loyal friend is a true gift.

She corrects us with love when
we're wrong; then stands back
and lets us fix what needs fixing.

A God-given friend is one
we'll appreciate through-
out our lifetime...then
love throughout eternity.



Marcia K. Leaser

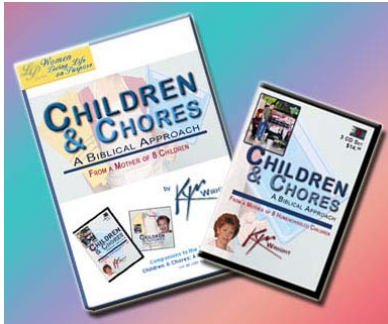


In the **Women: Living Life on Purpose Series**, we have CD sets and companion books on various topics.

In her talks, Kym casts a vision of motherhood, being a wife, organizing the house, and loving it all. She shares scripture, practical solutions, and all the warm stories she's known for. Each topic is

well researched with biblical concordances, commentaries and the Bible itself, along with information from the experts.

Come join Kym as she shares her heart for women to live life on purpose.



Children & Chores

3-CD Set & Companion Book

From a "let's enjoy ourselves and have fun" and the work not getting done, to a more organized family life, join Kym as she shares her journey in teaching her eight children how to work and choose a good attitude about it.

She talks about children's chores from a biblical perspective, casting a vision of why we want to teach our children to work. What the Bible has to say about work and training our children. Kym helps you establish the reasons to teach our children to work.

Work attitudes are discussed – ours and our offspring's – and how to create the plan with chore charts.



Family Meals

3-CD Set & Companion Book

Research shows when adults and children eat together . . . children do better in school, they have fewer behavior problems, and they like talking with the adults in their lives. Teens are less apt to smoke, use alcohol or drugs and family values and traditions are passed on.

Studies indicate that meals are more nutritious and healthful, food dollars stretch further, time is better utilized because the family only cooks one meal, and many times the family is involved in meal preparation. Are we talking about "The Waltons," or will this work for me and my family? Join Kym as she shares the vision of the

Family Meal, its importance, how to plan meals and shop for groceries with great ease, and how each family can create special times around the table, with just a bit of preparation.

Moms Mentoring Moms

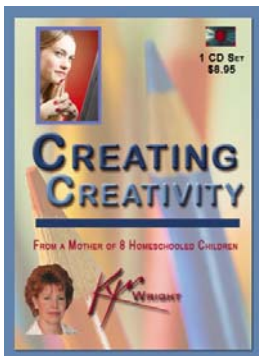


This series came about through Bible Studies Kym held in her home, for young mothers and single women. When they finished our study on Children and Chores, and on Family Meals they asked Kym to teach them a short study on Titus 2. Many call these verses the "Older women teach the younger women verses." Kym just calls them the "Moms Mentoring Moms" scriptures.

What do these verses mean? How do they apply to my life today? Can we really find practical guidance in these scriptures? We'll answer these questions and more.

Kym shares the Don't's, the Do's and the Why of Titus 2: How are we to live? If I don't drink, then how can that portion of the verse apply to me which says not to be enslaved to much wine? With a strongly biblical basis, and many of her heart-warming stories, Kym shares the very practical ways we can live out these verses in everyday life. Without being Superwoman, and with the husband and children we each have.

Come and join Kym as she shares about Moms Mentoring Moms.



Creating Creativity

1-CD Set

“An idea can turn to dust or magic, depending on the talent that rubs against it.”
~ Bill Bernbach, advertising expert

Why do we, as moms, want to invest our time and money in art projects? Especially when we already have so much on our plates. Why would we want to even delve into this expanse of art? Where the lines are blurred, and we're not even experts?

Many moms feel that they have the proverbial “2 left feet” when it comes to art. To set a foundation for learning, Kym references some of the greatest creative forces in our world: Einstein, Bill Gates, the founder of Poloroid Corporation, artists, educators, philosophers, and doctors. All agree that creativity is a vital element in life, and teaching it to our children is integral to their future success.

Join Kym as she shares ways to teach our children creativity – even if that trait is not ours. She gives ideas, resources, lists and more to help you appear more creative, and to help our children accomplish it.

Gift of Goals

1-CD Set

Research indicates those who write their goals out, 95% of them will reach their goals. The Bible gives reason to plan our lives in several places: Proverbs 29:18 “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” And Isaiah 32:8, “But the noble man devises noble plans; and by noble plans he stands.”

Planning keeps us from acting in haste – from being so spontaneous that it gets us in trouble. Or that we flit from this to that, and never settle in on any one thing. And how do we share this with our children? How do we help them live by goals, rather than just responding and reacting to life?

Join Kym as she shares her journey of the Gift of Goals: the areas to set them in, how to reassess and how often, and how to help our children dream big, and break these into smaller, bite-size pieces.



Magazine Article Writing

6-CD Set & Session Notes

Let the story inside you become a blessing to others

A course on getting published

Turn your dreams into bylines and help yourself to a bright future as a magazine writer. If you're a determined writer – experienced or not, this class will provide you with the skills you need to get published.

This course is about how to write for magazines, getting published and to broaden your scope while helping yourself to a bright future as a magazine writer. Learn to share your stories and testimony, God's blessing in your life, and encouragement to others. You will learn how to find interesting ideas and angles for articles to locate suitable markets, how to research and write query letters, article structure and submitting articles – all this and more.

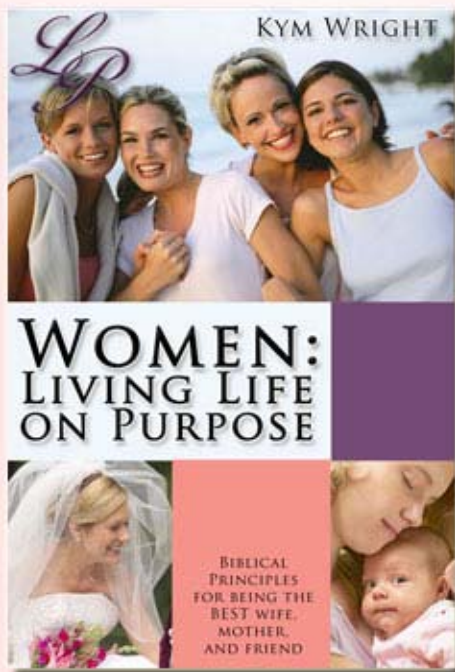


This series will jump start your career. You'll learn plenty of powerful brainstorming techniques designed to practically write every article for you: where to get ideas, how to structure your articles, how to find markets, and how to make queries and submissions. We'll take a closer look at the magazine editorial process and how you can make that work to your advantage by focusing your writing for a particular audience. You'll learn how to approach major market magazines, how to get past the slush pile, how to follow up until you have a sale and how to follow through until you have completed the assignment satisfactorily. Then we'll discuss making the most use of your time: time management, how to resell your article, and how to write a second article from the same research.

Curriculum



Women: Living Life on Purpose



The Mother's Heart Magazine



CD Sets Living Life on Purpose



Women: Living Life on Purpose: Biblical principles for being the best wife, mother, and friend. A practical guide for the godly woman in the modern world. A deep, practical, biblical **primer for motherhood**. Unique perspectives on: Practical Living Skills, Attitude & Controlled Speech, Honoring Your Husband, Leadership & Humility, Life on Schedule, Dealing with Fears, and many more chapters filled with challenge & hope! The book shares Kym's journey from business success to coming home. Learning to be a wife and mother—different from the world's standards, aligning with God's ideals. The study guide (included in the book) makes it practical & applicable to your own life: Setting up chore charts for preschoolers; Goals and plans for children; 15 ~~ges~~ of skills to teach; Age-related capabilities; How does your Sunday go?; Dealing with internal fears. This new revised edition is 200 pages and includes the study guide. www.Living-Life-on-Purpose.com

The Mother's Heart magazine: Dedicated to serving and encouraging mothers in the many facets of staying at home and raising a family. Practical and heart issues of moms and dads: child raising, husband and wife relationships, herbal healthcare, and adoption. Crafts, educational helps, trusting God for family planning, infertility and scheduling. Plus Kym shares many ~~her~~ household forms created to make life easier: library forms, chore charts, homeschooling, housekeeping, living and more. www.The-Mothers-Heart.com

Living Life on Purpose CD Series www.KymWright.com

Children & Chores - 3 CDs & Book: A foundation of work, attitudes, practical capabilities, and how to make it work at home.

Family Meals - 3 CDs & Book: Research verifies when adults and children eat together . . . children do better in school, they have fewer behavior problems, and they like talking with the adults in their lives. Teens are less apt to smoke, use alcohol or drugs and family values and traditions are passed on. Join Kym as she shares the vision of the **Family Meal**, its importance, how to plan meals and shop for groceries with great ease, and how each family can create special times around the table, with just a bit of preparation

Magazine Article Writing - 6 CDs & Notes: Let the story within become a blessing to others. Learn to write for publication.

Gift of Goals 1 CD: Research indicates of those who write their goals, 95% of them will reach their goals. Learn how to teach our children to set goals, how to reassess and how often, and to dream big, and set smaller, daily objectives to help us reach the stars.

Creating Creativity - 1 CD: Aligning with the experts and creative leaders, Kym gives ideas, resources, ~~list~~ and more to help your children learn and explore in this important imaginative process.

Moms Mentoring Moms - 1 CD: Titus 2 gives women such direction and vision for our lives, showing us how we are to relate to our families and the way we are to behave. They also give great insight into our ministry

Learn and Do Unit Studies: an easy style and a fresh approach to unit studies. A great enhancement and even more important — *FUN* for the entire family. Included are: Kym's Konstruktion Kit (lesson plans and more), writing assignments, history, literature, vocabulary, scripture references, scientific research, and plenty of **fun things to do!** Learn and Do Unit Studies are so complete — all you add is the children. www.Learn-and-Do.com

Microscope Adventure! Fun and practical lessons, using specimens found around your home. Learn scientific observation and drawing. Turn your child on to science, and build a foundation of excellence by learning how to use the tools of the trade.

Photography: Understanding and using the camera, along with how to take better pictures. Digital, instant, and other cameras are covered, and composing great pictures with people, groups, animals and things, special effects and action shots.

Botany: All about plants from the roots up: life cycles, needs, usage, differences, uniqueness, and comparisons. Microscopic to hands-on labs and flashcards. Master essential concepts such as flower parts, leaf shapes, and root types.

Birds: Incubate eggs, draw birds in the field, make bird feeders, study flight. Learn why they can fly but why can't I? What feathers are for, and how to tell a bird's diet by the beak and feet. Anatomy, migration and plenty of hands-on FUN.

Color: Color theory plus how to mix and match colors to make a pleasant color scheme — whether in artistic endeavors, in decorating, or in fashion. History, research, hands-on projects and loads of fun for teacher and student **CD of fine art**.

Library: To encourage a love of the library by learning how it works and the resources available. Library historybook anatomy, library layout and what's available at your local public library. Create a personalized reading list and library notebook.

Volunteer: Help our children give back to the community: hands-on experiences ~~take~~ part in bringing hope and healing. Group efforts or volunteering individual, learn the opportunities and rewards of volunteering.

Turtles: Is there a way to tell the age of a turtle by its shell? What do they eat and where do they live? Learn anatomy, the difference between reptiles and amphibians, what to know before buying a turtle and more. Lots of fun sheets!

Flower Arranging & Wreaths: The wonderful art of floral arrangement and crafts, along with making wreaths, all in a systematic approach. Marketing plans and getting to know the tools, successful techniques and more.

Victorian Sewing & Quilting: Quilt, bead, make sachets, Victorian pillows and more. Study colors, harmonies, and the color wheel's application to fabric.

Goats: A great study for the whole family's involvement. The main characteristics of goats, there are hands-on activities, anatomy breeds, needs and feeds. Research, practical application, marketing, cheesemaking, milking and more.

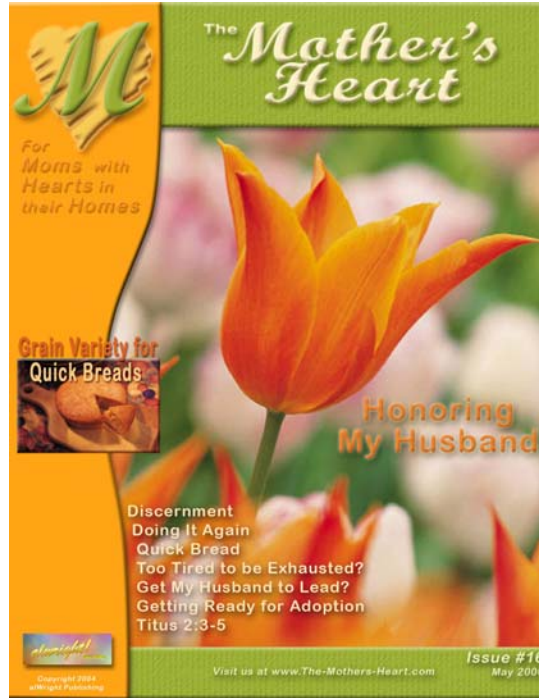
Sheep: Practical how-to's, requirements, anatomy, shearing, washing fleece and craft ideas. Breeds, needs and feeds of sheep. Learning and fun for the whole family, science, writing, websites, field trips, sources, resources, and more.

Poultry: Covers chickens, ducks, turkeys, and geese. Learn about incubating, raising, feeding and breeding. Supermarket Dissection and plenty of hands-on activities. Science, history writing, literature, websites, field trips and more.

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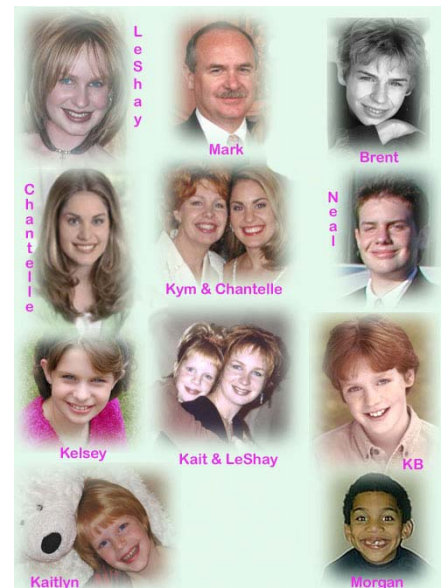
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Their Mission is to 1) honor and obey God, 2) encourage mothers that it is okay, and godly to stay home and raise these little and big ones of His, and 3) encourage the daddies in their roles as the family leader.

About Us

Mark & Kym, the editors of *The Mother's Heart Magazine*, have 8 children (7 biological, and 1 adopted). They have homeschooled since the mid-80s. Kym pens the **Learn & Do Unit Studies**, with 14 titles. She authored *Women: Living Life on Purpose*, a book helping revitalize women's view of their roles in life. Her CD series: **Women Living Life on Purpose** has 6 titles and various speaking CDs.

The Wrights had the honor of being in *Pentecostal Evangel Magazine* - Mother's Day issue. They have also been columnists and written articles for various magazines: *Homeschooling Today*, *Practical Home Schooling*, *Big Happy Family*, *Quit You Like Men*, *The Old Schoolhouse*, *Home School Digest*, *Keepers at Home*, *NZ*, *The Link* as well as various state homeschool publications. For two years Kym was the Georgia Home Education Assoc. Newsletter Editor. The Wrights have also appeared on the *700 Club*, *WRMB Radio* and in various newspapers around the country.



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Vol 1 #2: Nov '96: Life Influencers; Respect; PARENTING POWER What Pushes Your Buttons?; ADOPTION HomeStudy and Kym's Experience; Infertility... and God; Literature: Literacy or Legacy?; Rising Early; HERB 101 Natural Pregnancy; Home Hair Cutting; A Medical Couple Looks at God's Family Planning; Families ... like Quilts; The Hospitable Home; I Don't Know How You Do It!; Cows; FOOD Milk; Cheesemaking & Recipes

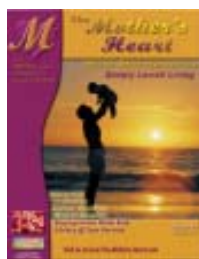


Vol 1 #3: Feb '97: Letters From Your Heart; A Joyful Mother; PARENTING POWER Obedience; Who's In Charge Anyway?; ADOPTION Consents; Breast Infections; Straight Talk; Finding the Extraordinary in Ordinary; Male's Hair Cut; Children's Chores; Choosing Contentment; HERB 101 Mommy Diagnostics; Ready for a Baby; Million Dollar Family; Dealing with Loneliness; SuperMom!

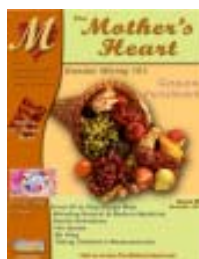


Vol 1 #4: May '97: Front Porch Swing; Country Chic!; PROVERBS 31 Her Children Rise Up and Call Her Blessed; From Your Heart; PARENTING POWER Responsibility; First Things First!; ADOPTION Birth Father's Rights; Why Adopt?; Pregnant With #10!; Learning To Trust:

Mom of 11; Mothering on Purpose; Children's Chores Pt 2; Blank Chore Chart; Internet & Heart; DECOR Cheap Dec! & Painting Verdé; HERB 101 PMS: Pre-Menstrual Syndrome: What Is It?



Vol 2 #5: Aug '97: FRONT PORCH SWING Bits 'N Pieces; MEN Behind Every Successful Mother: Survival; PARENTING POWER Discerning Vital Life Principles; MARRIAGE Mate Maintenance; ADOPTION Biracial Adoption; His Way; Infertility: Desire of My Heart; Private Decisions; Color Blind; Autumn Garden; Our Family of 14 Children; How Can We Trust God More For Family Planning?; Lavish Living; Kitchen ShortKuts; Our New Kitchen; Female's Blunt HairCut; CRAFT Garlic Bag; Pattern Notebooks; Older Siblings; HERB 101 Staying Home While Sick; UNIT YAK Library: @ Your Service, Onsite & Form; NEW UNIT Bird Unit Study.



Vol 2 #6: Nov '97: MENA Higher Education; FRONT PORCH SWING: Family Life; From Your Heart; PARENTING POWER Spanking: Corporal Punishment; MARRIAGE Wiring 101; ADOPTION Adoption Concerns; Discussing Adoption with our Children; His Queen; My King; Infertility...& God; HERB 101 Blending Natural & Modern Medicine; From Vice President to Play Dough Mom; CRAFT Scrunchies; Altering a Belted Bathrobe; Taking Children's Measurements & Forms; Birthday Form.



Vol 2 #7: Feb '98: MEN Dealing with Disappointment; FRONT PORCH SWING Family Fun; PARENTING POWER Capturing Their Heart; MARRIAGE Wiring 102; ADOPTION Open & Closed Adoption; Dominoes!; Mother's Peace; From Australia; Finding Time for Yourself; FOOD Baking

Bread & Recipes; Orange Raisin Bread; Meal Preparation; Chicken Dishes; Incubating Eggs; Shutting Down the Complaint Department.



Vol 2 #8: May '98: MEN Faith; FRONT PORCH SWING A Home Much Loved; PARENTING POWER Capturing Their Heart; CHARTING A LIFE COURSE; ADOPTION Adoption '98: Double Blessing; More Children?; HERB 101 Giving Thanks in All Things - Even Illness; EATING BETTER The

Course & Recipes; PRESCHOOL Preschool Basket; School Time-Management & Form; Journey to Contentment; DECOR Decorating Notebook; If We Listen.



Vol 3 #9: Aug '98: MEN The Dinner; FRONT PORCH SWING Catching Up; From Your Heart; PARENTING POWER Capturing Their Heart: The Harvest; CHARTING A LIFE COURSE, Pt 2; HERB 101 When Baby Dies in Your Womb; EATING BETTER Recipe Experimentation &

Recipes; The White Stuff vs the Brown Stuff & Recipes; FOOD Beef Dishes; Tips & Tricks; EDUCATION Creating Creativity; More Fun Stuff Ideas!; Once Upon A Time: Child Abuse; A Love for our Children; PROVERBS 31 Trust; "Spoil"; BOOKS Why are Good Books So Important; The Rest Can Wait; REVIEW Women: Living Life on Purpose



Vol 3 #10: Nov '98: MEN Setting Goals with Children; PARENTING POWER: Guarding Their Heart; CHARTING A LIFE COURSE, Pt 3; HERB 101 Garden of Health; EATING BETTER Making Good Better & Recipes; Faith: A Short Story; Growing In Grace; Sickness/Health; PRE-

SCHOOL Literature: Whatsoever Things are True; Schooling Many; One Man's Twaddle/ Another Man's Tweak; EDUCATION School Organization; The Wall; Committed or Obligated? NEW UNIT Botany; Joys of Staying Home; Ambassador of Motherhood



Vol 3 #11: Feb '99: FRONT PORCH SWING Moving & Change; PARENTING POWER Mighty in Spirit; CHARTING A LIFE COURSE Adolescence; Mark's Comments; EATING BETTER From White to Whole & Recipes: Unraveling the Complexities of Whole Grains & Reci-

pes; HERB 101 Longing for an Open Womb; ADOPTION Adoption Notes; EDUCATION Homeschool Organization; Connected on the 'Net; Correspondence College; Blessing & Dressing; Journal Entry; Counting the Cost; HIS WORD/MY HEART Home & Ministry



Vol 3 #12: May '99: MEN Coming Home ... Again; FRONT PORCH SWING Quiet Life; PARENTING POWER Joyful In Spirit; Children-Blessing; EATING BETTER Y2K & Beyond & Recipes; HERB 101 Hyperchilderemia; ADOPTION Interstate Adoption; Biological & Adopted

Kids; Gentle Beauty; EDUCATION Preparation & Organization: Keys to Success; SPECIAL TREASURES Homeschooling Special Needs Children; From Dean to Mom; The Professional Woman I Married; Decor Decorate Child's Space; UNIT YAK Proverbs 31 Memorization; A Word Kindly Spoken



Vol 4 #13: Aug '99: MEN Standing Watch; FRONT PORCH SWING Progress; CHARTING A LIFE COURSE Adolescence; EATING BETTER Four Food Storage Plans & Recipes; REVIEW Sue Gregg's New Book; HERB 101 Menopause; FITNESS Family Fitness Fun; PREGNANCY

Nausea Remedies; FOOD Healthy Granola; ADOPTION International Adoption; Adoption & Others; The Wait; Growing in Grace; Is the Husband Enough?; "The Waltons" Revisited; Classified Ads; Press On; Letting Go; PROVERBS 31 A Woman of Virture; G.E.R.M. Warfare!



Vol 4 #14: Nov '99: MEN Maintaining the Covering While Daddy Travels; FRONT PORCH SWING Moving, Again; PARENTING POWER I Will; Father's Blessing; Is the Husband Enough? Pt 2; EATING BETTER Grain Mills & Recipes; HERB 101 Immuno-Woes; ADOPTION Teen Birthmothers;

Wrong Reasons to Adopt; Babies Come in Many Ways; Submitting: Writing Your Story; Quilting 101; Bring Your Heart Home; Smiley Face: Duplicity in Mood; Older Mom; She Rises Before Dawn, to Pray; CREATION SCIENCE Where Do We Go From Here?



Vol 4 #15: Feb '00: MEN Equipping for Excellence; FRONT PORCH SWING Working Women; PARENTING Dat-

ing/Courtship Parameters; Settling Family Convictions; EATING BETTER Pastry Grains & Recipes; HERB 101 Healthier Children; ADOPTION Baby Grace; FITNESS Regaining Pre-Pregnancy Figure; REVIEW Managers of Their Homes; Time Management; Beginning Scrapbooking; UNIT YAK Making Units Yours; UNIT YAK Psalm 91 Memorization; Flower Arranging & Wreaths; BOOKS; Learning Takes Humility



Vol 4 #16: May '00: MEN Discernment: Helping your children discern the hand of God; FRONT PORCH SWING Doing It Again; PARENTING POWER The Family Pow-Wow; Who's In Control?; How Do I Get My Husband to Lead?; EATING BETTER Quick Bread & Recipes; HERB 101

Too Tired to be Exhausted?; ADOPTION Getting Started in Adoption; Finally ... Children; TIPS & TRICKS Moving; Foster Parenting; Building up the Dreams in a Child; Homeschooling with Preschoolers; Titus 2:4-5 What does it really mean?; Honoring My Husband; Why We Homeschool



Vol 5 #17: Aug '00: FRONT PORCH SWING The Year of the Heart; PARENTING POWER Music & Our Children; EATING BETTER Brown Rice & Recipes; HERB 101 Defeating Depression Naturally; ADOPTION Protecting Yourself; FOSTER PARENT Taking the First Step; SCIENCE

Chemistry; To Vaccinate or Not?; TIPS ON TRIPS Stretch Travel Dollar; Unequally Yoked; LifeGuard Mom; Love Letter; Chemistry; Dissection; FOOD Autism, PDD & Celiac Disease; Recipes; UNIT YAK Unit Study Answers from Authors; BOOK REVIEW Women: Living Life on Purpose



Vol 5 #18: Nov '00: MEN Shepherding; SPECIAL TREASURES Count Your Blessings; PARENTING POWER Basketball, Football & Music; Coaching Tight; EATING BETTER Thanksgiving Favorites & Recipes; HERB 101 Defeating Depression, Pt 2; Candida Yeast; ADOPTION Trusting the

Creator; An Adoption Story; FOSTER PARENT Before the First Child Comes; TIGHTWAD Re-use Trash; Shepherd's Crook; Children ... a Gift; Spiritual Housecleaning; Wright Photo Gallery

Vol 5 #19: Feb '01: FRONT PORCH SWING Serving Others; MARRIAGE Unsaved Husbands; Music for



Moms; EATING BETTER Whole Grain Crepes & Recipes; HERB 101 ADD / ADHD; Bed-Wetting; Candida Questions; Weigh Down Update; ADOPTION Loving Baby Doe; FOSTER PARENT Available Resources; TIGHTWAD Resolutions; Rising Early & Time with Husband: Praying for My Dream House; SPECIAL TREASURES Special Children & Special Moms; Tag-A-Long Meals & Recipes; Recipes; Baby Showers; BOOKS



Vol 5 #20: May '01: FRONT PORCH SWING Good-bye; PARENTING POWER An Engagement Story; PARENTING POWER Friends! Really?; EATING BETTER Pasta Salad Italian & Recipes; HERB 101 Cancer Prevention Tips; Cook Book; ADOPTION Keeping Our Arms Open; FOSTER PARENT

Becoming Your Child's Advocate; Adopting Your Foster Child; Sincerely Wondering; TIGHTWAD Frugal & Organized; Magazines; House & Garden; Women's Dressing; Breathe: A Miracle; SPECIAL TREASURES IEP: easy as PIE



Vol 6 #21: Feb 05: Some Answers: A Love Letter; E-World; FRONT PORCH SWING Catching up with the Wrights; EATING BETTER Whole Grains & Recipes: 2-Stage Process; FOOD Whole Wheat Bread & Recipes; Moms Mentoring Moms; TEENS Grace in Teen Relations; WEEKLY

WAKEUP Values; Empowering the Pastor's Wife; Adoption: ADOPTION My Spiritual Journey; ART Teaching Art at Home; UNIT YAK Making Unit Studies Yours; CREATION SCIENCE Why is it So Important?; Science Activities for Children; TEENS America's Junior Miss; Keepers at Home



Vol 6 #22: April 05: MEN Husband, Father, Protector: Destroyer of Lies; FRONT PORCH SWING Purring & Italy; EATING BETTER Dairy Dilemma & Recipes; Bread-U-Cation & Recipes; TEENS Awakening Love Too Soon; PASTOR'S WIFE The Joy of Motherhood; The Expert Enabler;

ADOPTION Finding Agreement when You Long to Adopt; ART Why Teach Art: UNIT YAK Making Unit Studies Yours Part 2; The Value of Informal Learning; TEENS Coming Out of My Shell; More Italy Photos



Vol 6 #23: June 05: MEN Pulling Back / Pulling Close; FRONT PORCH SWING Do This; EATING BETTER Whole Grain Fiber & Recipes; The Social Needs Child; TEENS Lessons from Samson & Delilah; Behind the Scenes Ministry; Bartering: An Inside Look at a Dynamic Feminine Practice;

ADOPTION Living with "No"; ART Purchasing an Art Curriculum; UNIT YAK Making Units Yours Part 3; Rewards of Volunteering: The Congressional Awards

Vol 6 #24: Aug 05: MEN Boys will be Boys; FRONT PORCH SWING President of the Social & Fitness Club; My Son is Learning to Cook!; UNIT YAK; Online Forum; The Important; EATING BETTER Coconut Oil & Recipes; FOOD Choosing Healthy Oils & Recipes; FOOD A Year of Cooking; TEENS Words & Attitudes Matter; PASTOR'S WIFE Forgiveness; PROVERBS 31 Trust; ADOPTION The Home Study; 1 Corinthians 13 for Busy Moms; ART Supplies & Materials; UNIT YAK Making Unit Studies Yours Pt 4

Vol 6 #25: Oct 05: MEN Enemy at the Gate: Overseeing your Wife in Perilous Times; FRONT PORCH SWING



Raising Boys & Girls to be Grown Men & Women; FOOD Kelsey's Recipes; FOOD Eating on the Run & Recipes; PROVERBS 31 A Woman of Virtue; TEENS The Male Hormone Question; At-Home Mom; ADOPTION The Role of Friends; ART Age Level Criteria; All About Lap Books; Books on Tape, Not

just for the Blind; Unconventional College Credit; Meeting the Needs of Homeschoolers; UNIT YAK Making Unit Studies Yours Pt 5; Weekly Wakeup with Kym Wright

Vol 6 #26: Dec 05: MEN The Worth of a Mom at Home; FRONT PORCH SWING Christmas Traditions & Holiday Baking; FOOD Sweet Holiday Memories & Recipes; PROVERBS 31 An Excellent Wife; Christmas Preparation; TEENS Sharing our Failures; To The Wonderful Friends in My Circle; PASTOR'S WIFE Seasons; ADOPTION Private vs Agency Adoption; WEEKLY WAKEUP Her Heart; ART Teaching Preschool Art; UNIT YAK Family Unity



in Studies; MINI UNIT Claude Monet; CREATION SCIENCE This Means YOU!; TEENS Making My World a Better Place

Vol 7 #27: Feb 06: Wright Family Foto; MEN Overseeing a Busy Mom's Life; FRONT PORCH SWING Catch-



ing up & Cruise; FOOD Soup Makes the Meal! & Recipes; PROVERBS 31 Spoil; BOOK REVIEW SoundBites from Heaven; TEENS Self Esteem & Real Love; ADOPTION Promises; WEEKLY WAKEUP Home Atmosphere; ART Teaching with Authority; UNIT YAK Birds; MINI UNIT van Gogh;

Creating a Vision: Gift of Goals; EDUCATION Library Organization; TEENS Finding Your Voice

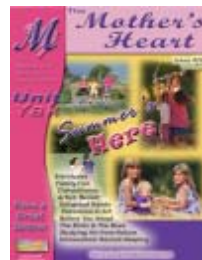
Vol 7 #28: April 06: FRONT PORCH SWING Potting



Places & Lesson Plans; Homemade Marshmallows; Unit Yak; Online Forum; Weekly Wakeup with Kym Wright; PRESCHOOL Toddlers; WEEKLY WAKEUP Training Up; Women: Living Life on Purpose; ORGANIZE Bathroom Brush-Up; FOOD Easter Traditions & Recipes; TEENS Communicating & Pursuing Purity;

PASTOR'S WIFE Pillars of Influence; PROVERBS 31 She Does Him Good; ADOPTION Support; Special Ingredient: You; EDUCATION Mini-Offices; ART Learning How to Draw; UNIT YAK Turtle 101; MINI UNIT Mary Cassatt; TEENS My Top Five

Vol 7 #29: June 06: FRONT PORCH SWING The Bread



of Life; Bread Recipes; Unit Yak; Online Forum; WEEKLY WAKEUP Comparisons; And The Garden She Grows; Healthy, Fun Bread Recipes; FOOD Mommy, I'm Hungry! & Recipes; TEENS Let's Talk Sex!: The Birds and the Bees; PROVERBS 31 Working Delighted Hands; ADOPTION A Heart Like His; Before You Adopt; EDUCATION Support for Support Groups; ART Studying from Nature; UNIT YAK Patriotism in Art; MINI UNIT Pierre-Auguste Renoir; HOME A Framework for Family Fun; EDUCATION Keeping Track: Homeschool Yearly Records; TEENS Stereotypes; REVIEW Botany Adventure!

Vol 7 #30: Aug 06: Turtle Adventure!; Living Life on Purpose Series: CDs of Kym's Talks; Bird Unit Information; FRONT PORCH SWING The Dream: Remodeling; WEEKLY WAKEUP Do It!; TEENS When Can I Date? PROVERBS 31 Merchant Ships: Bring Food from Afar; FULL QUIVER Our Faith; PASTOR'S WIFE Finding Our Place; ADOPTION Legal-Ease; Kids Quilting



101; REVIEW Victorian Sewing & Quilting; ART Evaluating Student Artwork; UNIT YAK Vote for Credit; Zoo Adventure!; MINI UNIT Carl Larsson; CREATION SCIENCE A Creation Camp; TEENS Stars in My Eyes; FOOD Super Summer Salads & Recipes

Vol 7 #31: Oct 06: Learn & Do Unit Study Questions & Answers & REVIEWS; FRONT PORCH SWING Refreshing: Mediterranean Refreshment & Cuisine; e-Couragement from Kym: Unit Yak, Weekly Wakeup, and The Mother's Journey; Women: Living Life on Purpose CD Series & Books: Children & Chores, Family Meals, Moms



Mentoring Moms; WEEKLY WAKEUP Haven for the Hurting; WEEKLY WAKEUP God's Provision; PROVERBS 31 Groceries the Wright Way; FOOD Sweet Smells of Autumn; TEENS Bridging the Generation Gap; PASTOR'S WIFE Keeping First Things First; PROVERBS 31 Rising Early - Another Side; Saying Goodbye to Your Wife; ART Studying Art History; UNIT YAK Making Units Yours: Just a Leaf; MINI UNIT Michelangelo; COLLEGE Get a Jumpstart on Life! TEENS Pageant Prep: Hair, Makeup & Tech; Pennsylvania Honeymoon: Amish Wright Fotos



Vol 7 #32: Dec 06: FRONT PORCH SWING The Merriest of Christmases; Sudoku; Wright Photos; Microscope Adventure! Q&A; Volunteer Unit Q&A: e-Couragement from Kym; UNIT YAK Introduction to Microscopes; Microscope Adventure!; REVIEW Microscope Adventure!; Letters From

around the World; Kym's Talks: Moms Mentoring Moms, Family Meals, and Children & Chores; PROVERBS 31 The Garden; HERB 101 Mommy as Healthcare Giver; PASTOR'S WIFE Finishing Strong!; A New Beginning; The Garden; A Hot Cup of Humility; INFERTILITY Make the Exchange; ART Art Journals; A Homeschool Chrismon Christmas; SPECIAL TREASURES Obtaining Services for Special Children; TEENS Prom Prep



Vol 8 #33: Feb 07: FRONT PORCH SWING Upcoming Speaking Engagements; FOOD Healthy Snacks; Preparing for Baby #8; WEEKLY WAKEUP God's Provision; Serving God through Serving Our Families; ORGANIZE Why Schedule?; WEEKLY WAKEUP Changing Our

World; ART What to Expect of Different Age Levels; UNIT YAK Family Garden Dreams; Garden Books & Tools,

Catalogs, Month-by-Month Checklist; SPECIAL TREASURES Homeschooling in the Maze of Autism; Morgan's Bread Cookbook; MINI UNIT Marc Chagall; TEENS Pageant Prep: The Box; February First Aid; Burn-Out



Vol 8 #34: April 07: FRONT PORCH SWING Simplify; WEEKLY WAKEUP Picture Perfect; Whole Wheat Bread Machine Mix and Recipes; FOOD Healthy Cinnamon Buns; Simple Survival Schedule; "I'm Bored!" Dana's Wise Mother; PASTOR'S WIFE What Pastors' Wives Wish Everyone Knew;

PASTOR'S WIFE Keeping the Love in Discipline; WEEKLY WAKEUP Imaginations in My Mind; ART Multi-Level Teaching; MINI UNIT Paul Klee; Picturing a New Code for Spelling; TEENS My Experience in Romania; TEENS Prom Prep



Vol 8 #35: June 07: FRONT PORCH SWING Catching up & photos; PROVERBS 31 Big Cook; The Homemaker's Value; Time Management: WEEKLY WAKEUP Crossfire; Punching the Clock for Moms?; Time: An Irreplaceable Commodity; Commitment to Sisterhood; SPECIAL TREASURES Train Them Up: Discipline for Special Needs Children; Crossfire; PASTOR'S WIFE Balancing Life; ART Visiting a Museum; UNIT YAK Library Science Course for Credit; The Schizophrenic Faculty; PRESCHOOL Occupying Preschoolers; GIFTED What is Giftedness? TEENS Pageant Prep: Technical; FOOD Milled Flour from Whole Grains & Recipes

discipline for Special Needs Children; Crossfire; PASTOR'S WIFE Balancing Life; ART Visiting a Museum; UNIT YAK Library Science Course for Credit; The Schizophrenic Faculty; PRESCHOOL Occupying Preschoolers; GIFTED What is Giftedness? TEENS Pageant Prep: Technical; FOOD Milled Flour from Whole Grains & Recipes



Vol 8 #36: Aug 07: FRONT PORCH SWING Kym on HSLDA sharing about Booster Shot!; Kym speaking, Chantelle singing; BOOSTER SHOT; PROVERBS 31 Keepers of the Wardrobe; EDUCATION The Best Year Ever!; The Best of Efficient vs Effective; Mothers & Sons: Journey to Manhood; WEEKLY WAKEUP In

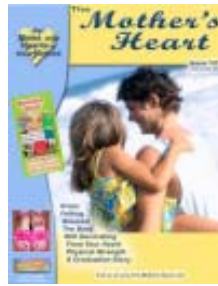
Charge of Many; ART Teaching Art in the Classroom, Pt 1; UNIT YAK Homeschoolers & the Church Library; TEENS Apprenticeships: Building up the Résumé; CREATION SCIENCE In the Beginning of Time; GIFTED Perfectionism in the Homeschooled Child; A Good Government Program? Library for the Blind

Vol 8 #37: Oct 07: FRONT PORCH SWING AFRICA: I Will Give the Nations; PASTOR'S WIFE Do I Look the



Part?; Lobby from Home; Time Management: Vision, Restraint, Peace; A Biblical Perspective of Time Management; ADD: A Neurodevelopmental Approach; WEEKLY WAKEUP Fight or Flight; WEEKLY WAKEUP Mommy Gets a Life; PRESCHOOL Little Ones Underfoot; ART Teaching Art in the Classroom, Pt 2; UNIT YAK

Writing Your Church's History; SPECIAL TREASURES Hope for Parents of Special Needs Kids; Civics: Caught not Taught; GIFTED Appropriate Challenges for the Gifted Child; Response to Criticism



Vol 9 #41 June/July 08: FRONT PORCH SWING Still Decorating: The Living Room; Felting & Machine Wrapped Cording; PROVERBS 31 Physical Strength; FOOD Kiwis & Recipes; Summer Sun Teal; TeenPact; One Mother's Discoveries; Blessed! to be in a family; UNIT YAK Here's to the Bard!: Producing

a Renaissance Play; Preparing for an Audition; Renaissance Websites



Vol 8 #38: Dec/Jan 07-08: MEN Parenting into the Twenty-Somethings; FRONT PORCH SWING Plight of Working Mothers; WEEKLY WAKEUP A Busy Year; Susanna Wesley's 16 Rules of Parenthood; The Heart of John Wesley's Journals; Books & Reviews about Susanna

Wesley; Confessions of a Penny Pincher; WEEKLY WAKEUP The Small; Let's Have a Christmas Pageant!; PRESCHOOL Prepare for the Preschool Road; Swash-buckling with the MUST-kateers; GIFTED Flexibility in the Homeschool; CREATION SCIENCE Christmas & Creation: There is a Parallel; FOOD Holiday Stress Buster: Meals & Tips & Recipes



Vol 9 #42: Oct/Nov 08: MEN Mixing Family & Work: The core of the homeschool experience; FRONT PORCH SWING Forgiveness; PROVERBS 31 Sewing for the North; FOOD Chopped Olive Salad; The Heart of Schedules; Move Where?; A Woman's Time: Joyful in Homeschooling; DEVOTIONS My

Focus: Jesus or Finances; When God Transforms Homeschooling; UNIT YAK The Bard, Pt 2: Fireside Shakespeare; Shakespeare Timeline; Civics



Vol 9 #39: Feb/March 08: WEEKLY WAKEUP Reports; FRONT PORCH SWING Our New Home; Window Treatment Worksheet; Decorating Pictures; Hope in Trying Times; WEEKLY WAKEUP Our Daniels; Nightmares; UNIT YAK Public Speaking 101; Speech Books; Speech

Checklist; Success with Handwriting & Spelling; Learning Styles: What's My Style?; Why are they so Important?; Burnt Out? Or Dancing in the Flames?; Keep from Burning Out in Kindergarten; Getting Stopped



Vol 9 #43: Dec 08: Wright Family Fotos; FRONT PORCH SWING Merry Christmas: God's Gifts to Us; FOOD Christmas Memories & Recipes; Great Gain: Moving to Alaska; Nursing Chair; ADOPTION The Journey into Infertility; MARRIAGE'S Little Kindnesses Foundation; Marriage Verses; DEVOTIONS Under

His Wings; Teaching Our Children The Planner Habit; The Shepherds had it Easy!



Vol 9 #40: April/May 08: MEN Great News! Tax-Deductible Status; FRONT PORCH SWING More Decorating Pictures; WEEKLY WAKEUP Innocent Daydreams; Socially Deprived?; Wife & Motherhood: A Biblical Perspective; UNIT YAK Catering to Caterpillars; Caterpillar Resources; Caterpillar Websites;

Go to a Convention!; SPECIAL TREASURES Down Syndrome: A Christian Neurodevelopmental Approach



Vol 10 #44: Jan/Feb 09: FRONT PORCH SWING Marching Onward! More Wright Family Fotos; DEVOTIONS A Fresh Start; WEEKLY WAKEUP Ladders to Nowheresville; MARRIAGE Becoming Two Halves of a Whole; Ella's Rules; ADOPTION The Adoption Option; ADOPTION Lay Down Your Isaac!;

SPECIAL TREASURES Finding a Special Church; UNIT YAK Putting the FUN Back into Education; Unit Study Resources; CREATION SCIENCE Studying Creation Geology; Free Geology Links Online

Vol 10 #45: Mar/April 09: FRONT PORCH SWING God's Discipline, God's Grace; WEEKLY WAKEUP Happiness; WEEKLY WAKEUP Apology; Making Time for



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Vol 10 #46: May/June 09: MEN Confronting Lies; FRONT PORCH SWING Exciting Changes; PROVERBS 31 Verse 19, Stretching Ourselves; Minor Head Trauma; UNIT YAK Whistler; WEEKLY WAKEUP A Backward Glance; MARRIAGE Spouse's Hot Buttons?; PASTOR'S WIFE Proper Care & Feeding of a Shepherd; MAKING TIME FOR . . . God; PRESCHOOL Summer Reads; SPECIAL TREASURES Teaching Our Special Ones to Cook; The 90-Day Trial

Projects: When I'm Feeling Overwhelmed; PROVERBS 31 Her Lamp Does Not Go Out at Night; Sled Crash; MARRIAGE Power Plays; Springtime Contemplation; REVIEW Booster Shot!; PRE-SCHOOL Loving Your Little Gifts from God; UNIT YAK The Great Depression; Great Depression Research Topic List; Websites; Verses for Economic Peace & God's Provision; Then & Now: Price Comparison; MINI UNIT Edgar Degas; Degas Resources & Websites; List of Works; Fast Facts & Quotes; MOVIE REVIEW Degas & The Dancer



Vol 10 #47: August 09: MEN Boys will be Boys; FRONT PORCH SWING God's Discipline, God's Grace; Wright Family Photos; WEEKLY WAKEUP Simple Adventure; MARRIAGE Social Opposites; MAKING TIME FOR . . . Spouse; PRESCHOOL Catching the Last Rays of Summer; ADOPTION The

Mystery of Adoption; SPECIAL TREASURES Special Workout; UNIT YAK Volunteering; Volunteer Organization Research Form; Volunteer Quotes; CREATION SCIENCE Visit a Science Museum; Creation Science Resource List; PASTOR'S WIFE Keepers of the House; You Never Know; The Race; MEMORIZATION: Ella's Rules; PROVERBS 31: Reaching Out to the Poor & Needy; Proverbs 31 Cross Stitch



Vol 10 #48: Oct 09: MEN Electronics Fast FRONT PORCH SWING Family Fun; Wright Family Photos WEEKLY WAKEUP I Can!; Becoming God's DEAR HELEN Getting Honey MARRIAGE Routinely Spontaneous MAKING TIME FOR . . . Family PRESCHOOL At the Pump-

kin Patch ADOPTION Infertility & Insurance; Our Angels: Mother of 100! SPECIAL TREASURES Special Chores; UNIT YAK The History of Libraries (plus FunSheets™) CREATION SCIENCE The Year of Darwin: A Christian Perspective PROVERBS 31 Clothed in Scarlet RECIPES Dog Biscuits; Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Caramel Apples



Vol 10 #49: Nov/Dec 09: FRONT PORCH SWING Sharing My Passion; Wright Family Photos; Sewing Photos; WEEKLY WAKEUP Leading Manager; DEAR HELEN Encouragement for the Journey; MARRIAGE Distressed to De-Stressed; MAKING TIME FOR . . . Friends; PRESCHOOL Enjoying the Holi-

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Vol 10 #50: Jan/Feb 10: FROM YOUR HEART Once Upon a Time FROM MY HEART Begin WEEKLY WAKEUP The Power of Prayer FRIENDS Prayer for a 1st Child PRESCHOOL J-O-Y is Love UNIT YAK Reptiles & Amphibians; Life Skills MARRIAGE Growing Together Spiritually FOOD Vegetable Recipes ADOPTION Roller Coaster; Helping Orphans PROVERBS 31 Her Husband is Known PASTOR'S WIFE Be Free SPECIAL TREASURES A Clean Room MAKING TIME FOR . . . Email

Projects: When I'm Feeling Overwhelmed; PROVERBS 31 Her Lamp Does Not Go Out at Night; Sled Crash; MARRIAGE Power Plays; Springtime Contemplation; REVIEW Booster Shot!; PRE-SCHOOL Loving Your Little Gifts from God; UNIT YAK The Great Depression; Great Depression Research Topic List; Websites; Verses for Economic Peace & God's Provision; Then & Now: Price Comparison; MINI UNIT Edgar Degas; Degas Resources & Websites; List of Works; Fast Facts & Quotes; MOVIE REVIEW Degas & The Dancer



Vol 10 #51: Mar/Apr 10: FROM MY HEART Relinquishing, Receiving, Refreshing; Wright Family Fotos WEEKLY WAKEUP Burdens FRIENDS Making Soap; Simple Laundry Soap PRESCHOOL Celebrating Easter UNIT YAK The Ant, Lesson Plans, Science; FunSheets; Mapwork MARRIAGE

No Plan B PROVERBS 31 Home Business PASTOR'S WIFE A Hidden Sin SPECIAL TREASURES Dressing Our Special Ones FOOD Back to Basics: Whole Wheat Bread

Vol 10 #52: May/June 10: FROM MY HEART Seasons, Images, Changes; Wright Wedding Fotos WEEKLY

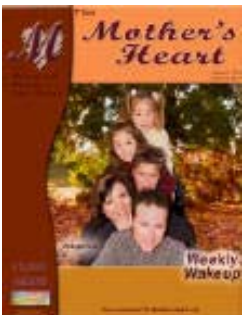


WAKEUP Ego FRIENDS A Thousand Worms PRESCHOOL Nature Study; Living Out Titus 2; HOME-SCHOOL Why I Homeschool; MARRIAGE Hearing Test ADOPTION Why Adopt? Foster Child Challenge MEDICAL HEALTH Organ Donation PROVERBS 31 She Smiles; Living from the Inside Out; Kid Quips PASTOR'S WIFE Guarding Your Covenant SPECIAL TREASURES Decorate their Room MAKING TIME FOR. . . God, with Family; A Rebel?



Vol 10 #53: Jul/Aug 10: FROM MY HEART Introducing 2 new books: **Men: Living Right on the Mark;** Introducing: **Proverbs 31: The Golden Standard;** WEEKLY WAKEUP Joining the Enemy? FRIENDS Trip to Denali PRE-SCHOOL Charlotte Mason & Your Preschooler, Pt 1; Rearranging my

Priorities MARRIAGE Being There ADOPTION Adopting Older Children; Sharing Comes Full Circle MEDICAL HEALTH Surgery; Parenting 20-Somethings. . . Still? PASTOR'S WIFE The Power of a Lie PROVERBS 31 Still Smiling HOMESCHOOL Learning as I Go SPECIAL TREASURES Meals for our Special Ones; Special Resources; Special Flours; Educating Our Special Ones MAKING TIME FOR. . . For? FOOD To Soak or Not to Soak?



Vol 10 #54: Sept/Oct 10: FRONT PORCH SWING; MEN A Knight's Quest WEEKLY WAKEUP Fun History FRIENDS The Best Date PRESCHOOL Charlotte Mason & Your Preschooler, Pt 2 MARRIAGE When We Disagree ADOPTION Power of a Dream; My Best Name MEDICAL HEALTH Shattering Choices PASTOR'S WIFE Healthy Congregation PROVERBS 31 Teaching Kindness; Strength that Carries Us HOMESCHOOL Dispelling Myths; Unleash Child's Potential SPECIAL TREASURES Find Their Passion MAKING TIME FOR. . . Volunteering FOOD To Soak or Not to Soak, Pt 2



Vol 10 #55: Nov/Dec 10: FRONT PORCH SWING Gardening WEEKLY WAKEUP Responsibility PRESCHOOL Teach Character MARRIAGE Ministering To-

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Vol 11 #56: Jan/Feb 11: FRONT PORCH SWING Moving On WEEKLY WAKEUP Rolling FRIEND Backpack Together PRESCHOOL Cooking Up Some LOVE! Recipes/Verses/Skills; Stephanie's Smile ADOPTION Adoption Cost MEDICAL HEALTH Midlife Depression MENTAL HEALTH Moving On from

Past PASTOR'S WIFE Confessions & Laughs PROVERBS 31 Grammy's Prayer Chair HOMESCHOOL Prevent Burnout! SPECIAL TREASURES Geography MAKING TIME FOR. . . Bible Study; 5 Godly Reasons to De-Clutter



Vol 11 #57: Mar/Apr 11: FRONT PORCH SWING Our New Front Porch; Family Fotos & News WEEKLY WAKEUP Role Models FRIEND Let Me Show You! PRE-SCHOOL Cleaning Your PreSchooler's Room ADOPTION Adopting Kai MARRIAGE Making Workout Work MEDICAL HEALTH Can How You Feel Really Break Your Heart? INVITING

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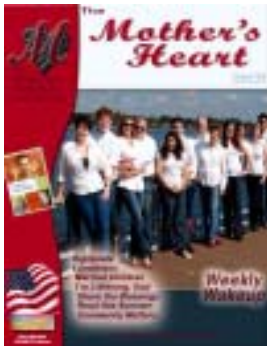
FOR New Moms Making Time for God KID QUIPS A Child's Heart HOMESCHOOL Interruption? Or Opportunity? Tips to Deter Distractions MISSIONS Cultivating a Heart for the World; Missionaries to Read About; Books SPECIAL TREASURES Backing Off REALITY CHECK Adventure vs Real Life



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Vol 12 #65: July/Aug 12: FRONT PORCH SWING Life & Gardening; Wright Fotos WEEKLY WAKEUP Signposts LESSONS LEARNED Share the Blessings; Loneliness MOTHER/DAUGHTER Letter from a Mother to a Daughter PRESCHOOL Making Music Together MAKING TIME FOR Married Children TRUSTING I'm Listening, God **READING**

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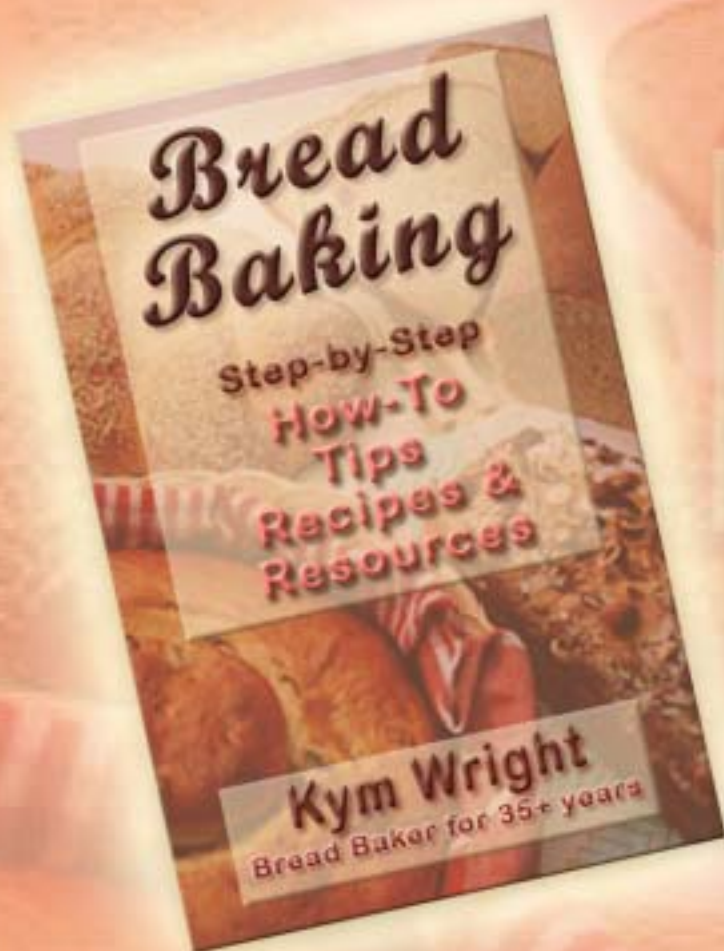
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Thanks for your eletters. I love them and get so much out of them!
Cathy P

I love your articles and look forward to them, with your encouraging and upbeat attitude about homeschooling. They usually are just what I need for what I'm dealing with that week!

Thanks so much, and keep on keeping on! (Don't become weary in well-doing....is the scripture that came to mind!)

Your ministry is awesome!

In Christ's amazing love, Mary Lou B

Kym, please know that you have been SUCH A HUGE blessing to me over the years. I have implemented a lot of what you have taught and you have truly been a wonderful Titus 2 woman in my life! Thank you so much for giving of yourself and your talents so that I – and others – may grow and serve our families better.

May our Lord hold you in the palm of His Hand and shelter you from this storm as you honor and serve Him with your life. Thank you again sooooo much!!!

Kathy



Weekly

Your newsletter has been such a source of timely encouragement and blessing to me, and therefore to my family as well. Thank you for all the effort you put into being a source of God's strength and truth for moms.

Grace and Peace, Karen M

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