



For
Moms with
Hearts in their
Homes

The Mother's Heart

Issue #74
SJani/Feb 2014

Winter Gardening?

NEW



Burnout
Giving In
Depression
The Hugger

Manners
Biographies
Compassion
Laundry Room

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.)

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

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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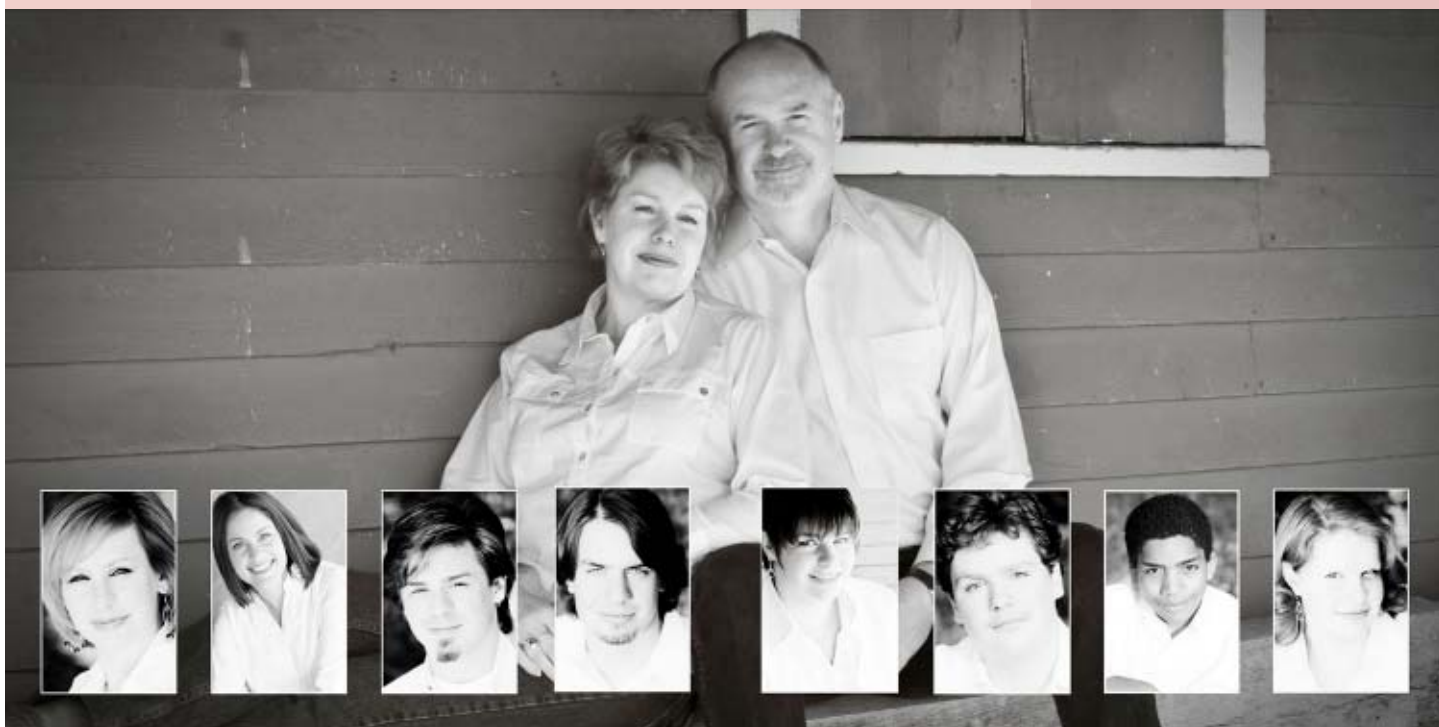
God bless,

Mark & Kym

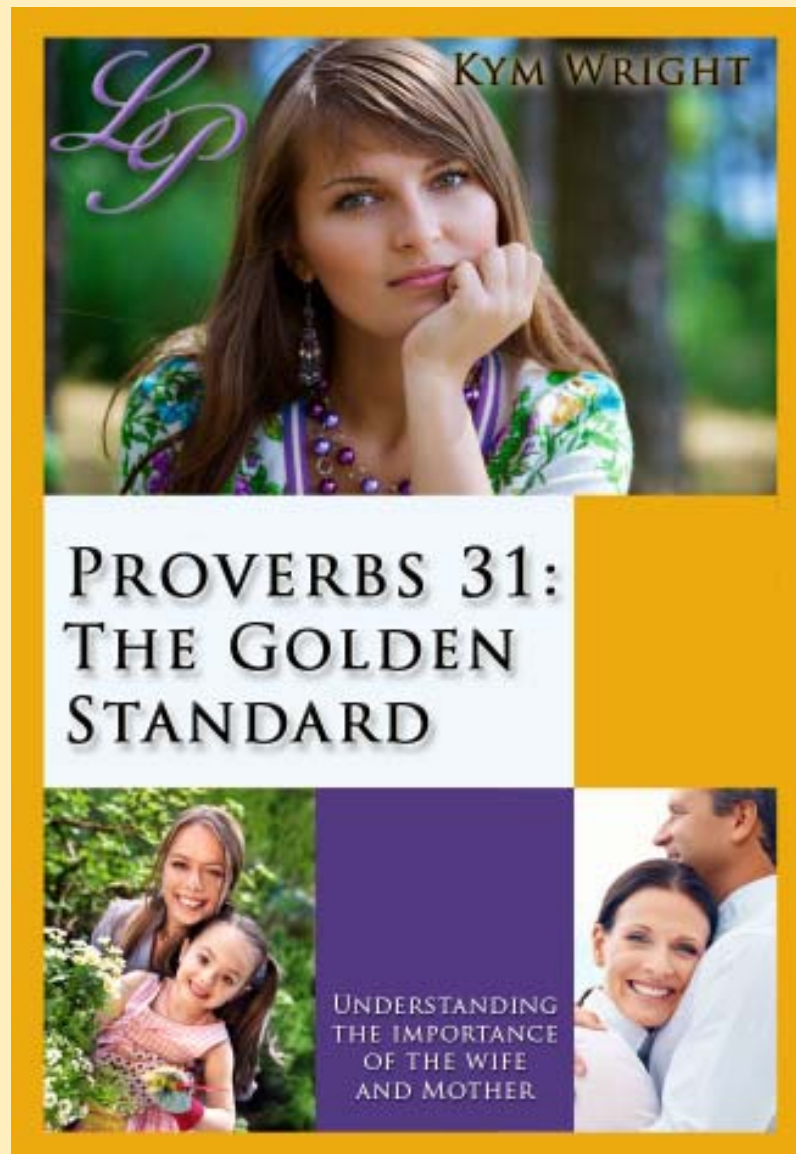


Statement of Faith: We are Christians, believing the Bible is God's Word, salvation comes through Jesus Christ alone, and that God has a wonderful plan for families as stated in His Word.

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.



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INVITING GOD IN
Weekly Wakeup with Kym Wright

Birth of a Mother 12

S o m e women cling to life-as-it-was. Keep the job. Keep the schedule. Keep the clothes, thus ushering in the goal to keep the figure. Keep the paycheck and the toys. And just add on a baby. But, it never quite works that way, or that easily.

ORGANIZATION

Making Time for ...
The Laundry Room 64



I love for life to be clean, organized, not overwhelming, and pretty. Especially in areas where I spend a lot of time. With a large family, the laundry room fits that bill. The whole point is to make this room comfortable, inviting, fun to be in, functional.

RELATIONSHIPS

Marriage's Little Kindnesses
Giving In 39

I relinquished my will and chose to trust that the Lord would lead us through Spouse. For me, our relationship took priority over my rights or what I wanted. However, I want you to know this was not a passive stance on my part. It was very pro-active.

Momming
A Mother's Intuition 84

"Mommy, I'm scared," she said again. I opened my eyes, awake. "Why?" "Because I'm different," my three-year-old daughter replied. "Come see." She pulled on my arm. I yawned, pushing back the covers.



Kindness
Cultivating Compassion 54

Stanford University researchers randomly assigned 100 adults to a nine-week compassion cultivation training program. Before and after taking the compassion course, participants completed surveys which "measured compassion for others, receiving compassion from others, and self-compassion." Participants showed large increases across all three domains. With this in mind, let's look at some ways for us to cultivate greater compassion.



Friendship
Travelling Pants 62

I try on everything and make decisions: what fits, what doesn't, and what colors aren't for me this season. Oh, yeah, and those pants I should have never bought in the first place!



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♥ Help in Homeschooling &
Teaching

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EDUCATIONAL

Loving your Little Gifts from God

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Imagining a world without manners, the implications are horrible. Good manners are ways we express caring, consideration, and respect of others. Teaching our children proper actions is also biblical.

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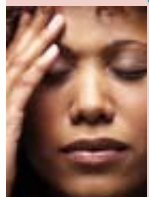
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Stand Out from the Crowd 26

From a very early age most of us were taught to be normal – to not stand out from the crowd. But what is normal anyway and who determines what normal is? I



Avoiding Burnout 20



One of the lies from the pit of hell is that a good leader has to do it all. This expectation is impossible, impractical, and a sure path to burnout. The most effective leaders are those who have a clear understanding of their calling.

Book List 23

Quotes on Prayer 23

Special Treasures

The Hugger 74

Born to love, it's in his nature: Morgan is a hugger. He has compassion. If it hurts, a hug will make it better. If you're sad, a hug will make you smile. If you're lonely, a hug lets you know he cares. But, what are the social boundaries to hugging for special ones?



Photos of The Hugger 76

Reading

Biographies

Great Reads for Children 32

Biographies meld the best of narrative writing and non-fiction with all of its intricacies. A good biography telling the life story of a human being is full of drama. Its merits often lie in real-life triumphs over hardships and dangers. Real-life dramas are at the heart of a well-written biography.

Book Lists by Age 34



HEALTH

Physical

Layering 46

A quick glance at their clothes and we three flew out the door and into the waiting warm boxy SUV. "You look like Eskimos," joked the realtor. But I noticed she had dressed like a bear and had brought along a warm blanket.

Spiritual

Making Scripture Memorable 72

We started this memorization process when they were very young. I figured if they are old enough to talk, they are old enough to memorize.



Pray Without Ceasing 42



Praying without ceasing happens best with a systematic process in engaging prayer. I'm convinced all the blessings in my family's life have come as a direct result of praying.

Nutrition

Hammered Coffee Beans 50

My girls are grown now with shopping lists of their own. They inherited some of the hereditary "shopping shark" gene. Give them a coupons and they are dangerous in any grocery store.

Mental

TV: How Much is Too Much?36

According to a doctor, television is credited with giving children poor school performance, violent behavior, obesity, and daytime sleepiness from late night viewing. Well, our family seemed to be consumed.



Depression Help 68



The depressed man or woman doesn't exhibit enthusiasm about anything, what once drove and inspired them now lays dormant and discarded.

Depression Symptoms 70

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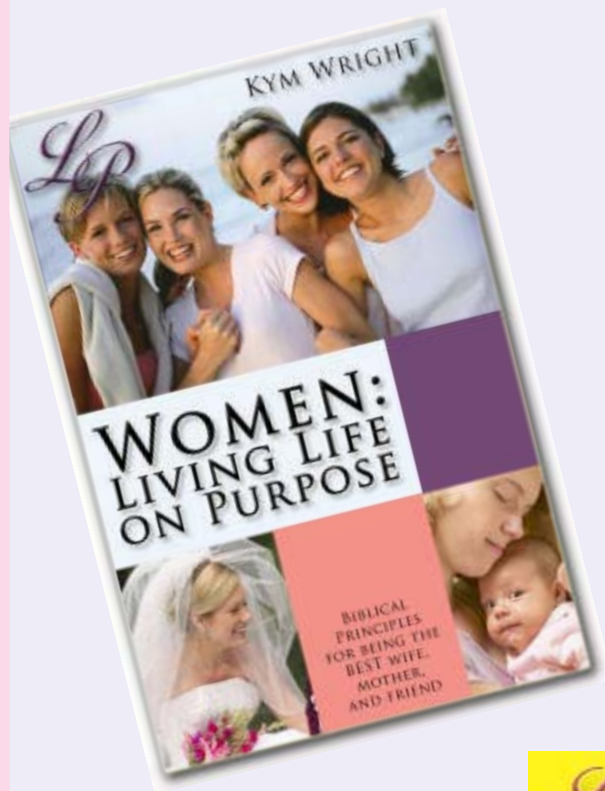
Kym & Elizabeth Hope, or Izzie-B, as we call her.

Happy New Year, Dear Ones!

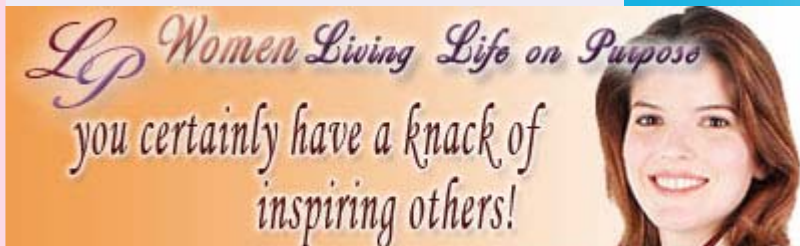
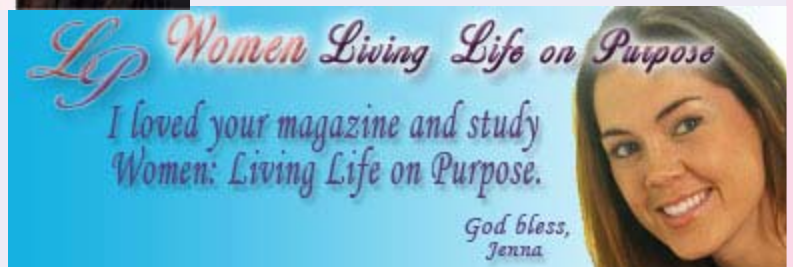
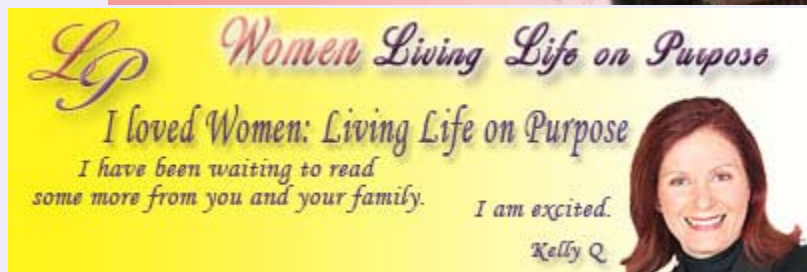
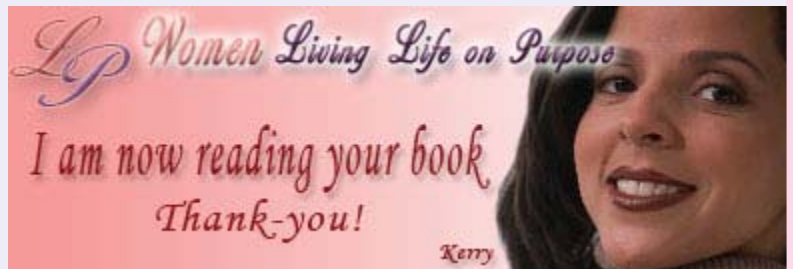
We are set with goals for the upcoming year, but the biggest news is that Chantelle is getting married. It's a cool love story.

In 2004, both Chantelle and her fiancé, Chase Marberry, were chosen as the "Top Ten Homeschoolers in America" by *Homeschooling Parent* magazine. The publication carried stories about each of the ten students, focusing on how they are impacting the homeschooling community and climate for teaching children at home.

Over the years, Chase has kept in contact with most of the Top Tens, including Chantelle. He wanted to know what they were doing, where they were, what was going on. Well, he and Chantelle struck up a dialog - first online, then texting, then talking on the phone, and finally in person. He flew from Texas to North Carolina to meet us. Then she met his family. We were all very pleased when he proposed to her on Christmas, and they scheduled the wedding for the beginning of March. Whew!



Lp Women Living Life on Purpose



So, we're planning a wedding to be held in Texas. Since his family has lived there for three generations - and our family has moved and our friends live in many states - it just made sense to marry in his hometown.

Chase is an entrepreneur, real estate agent (he sold nearly 50 homes last year), and plays the bagpipes. He even made his own kilt to wear when he plays.

So, added on to my schedule is now a wedding, caterers, make or buy me a gown, and all that goes with this. What fun!

On the homefront, a dear friend ordered the *Family Meals* CD set and book. This is what she had to say about them:

*Hi Kym,
I received the CD sets and am just Loving them! The family Meal cd's are helping me re-focus on the important and the value. I have really needed a booster shot in vision having been at it this long. The world keeps tugging and saying "time for another phase"...ah the plight of the mid-life mom, maybe you can relate. Anyways, just to say hearing you on cd is a gift of encouragement to me and I want to order the other sets as well eventually! I turn 50 next week and have a nursing 2 year old? God continue to bless and comfort you as you mourn the loss of your sweet mom.
~Christal*

What a blessing to hear from her, and we are grateful that God's work in our lives is a blessing to her and others.

Looking to the upcoming year, we are adding new voices to our magazine. We want to get back to the basics of family, mom-at-home, cooking, organization, teaching our children, babies, trusting God, faith, contentment at home, adoption. Just home- and family-oriented articles.

Joining our great array of writers is LeShay

Miller, our eldest daughter. She writes on being a new mom. With her first baby born in August 2013, she can relate to others who are going through the pregnancy and learning about adding a new person to the family.

Her husband, David Miller, is a police Sergeant. He's passionate about what he does, so he'll write on practical ideas to keep our families safe.

Clay and Dee Brasington wrote for our magazine from the very start. He is Associate Pastor and Minister of Music at First Baptist Church in Hollywood, Florida. She is Executive Assistant to the President of OneHope, Inc. Together they have taught *Marriage & Family Life Seminars* for 30-plus years.

Their seminars impacted Mark's and my marriage and family life so much, we asked them to share their wisdom with us in the pages of *The Mother's Heart* magazine. We are re-publishing their golden words of wisdom.

Other writers: Chantelle and Chase, our just-engaged daughter and son-in-love-to-be. He is a top-notch real estate agent and has agreed to teach us about his passion of buying, selling, renting, investing, and many other areas of real estate and finance.

When life settles down for her, Chantelle may join us in writing about waiting for the right one, choosing happiness as a single, and becoming a newlywed - combining two households into one.

Brent and Hannah are our longest-married children. He's our first son, she's our first daughter-in-love. Having just bought a foreclosure, they are DIYers, even more than Mark and me! They wanted gas lines for some appliances, so Brent built the lines himself and had them inspected - passing the first time! Hopefully, they'll have time to share their projects and how-to's with us.

It's going to be a great and Happy New Year!
Love from our house to yours,

Mark, Kym & Kyds



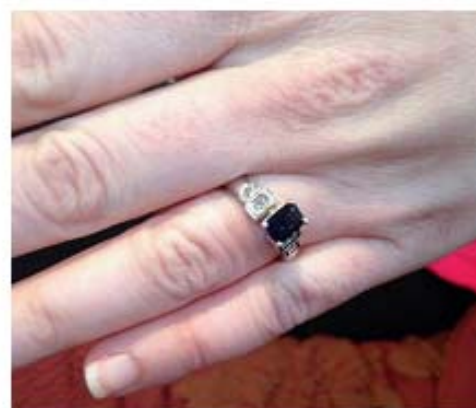
Chantelle & Chase on a submarine, while visiting his brother at West Point Naval Academy.



Chantelle & Chase, engaged! Deliriously happy. He designed her ring according to her desires: sapphire in the middle, surrounded by diamonds, set in platinum.



The proposal: on Christmas morning. Chantelle was looking under the tree for a present to give someone, so he popped down on one knee and when she turned around, he popped the question, quoting from Pride & Prejudice: "You have bewitched me, body and soul . . . Will you marry me?" Of course, I'm crying.



Herring.

Chantelle and Chase





LeShay & Elizabeth Hope (Izzie-B) dressed up for a gentle, fun Halloween party at our house.



LeShay & Elizabeth Hope (Izzie-B) dressed for Christmas.

Dave, LeShay & Izzie-B. Dave was presenting colors with the honor guard at a local high school football game.



Family foto at the cottage. Izzie-B was 16 days old.



Loving being a new mom.



Izzie-B partying in the Jumparoo while the turkey cooks!



Brent and Hannah.

Hannah grew her very curly hair out long, then had it cut and donated it to Locks of Love.

Brent and Hannah at Natural Bridge & Caverns, VA.



Brent dressed as "Where's Waldo" for Halloween.

Brent and his beautiful wife, Hannah, during Christmas.





Birth of a Mother

*The moment a child is born, the mother is also born.
She never existed before.
The woman existed, but the mother, never.
A mother is something absolutely new.*
~Rajneesh *

Joining our family, our firstborn was ready to live to the fullest. She slept well, but woke with excitement, fell asleep mid-stride, and went full blast while her eyes were open. A delightful child, she taught me how to be a mother.

I remember the day my life changed. It wasn't when I found out we were expecting. Nor was it the day she was born. It was a few weeks later when I was thinking through all these changes, and wondering just when my life would return to normal. And that's when it hit me: Never. This was the new norm. My world shifted monumentally, and I could embrace the transformation taking place. Or not.

Some women cling to life-as-it-was. Keep the job. Keep the schedule. Keep the clothes, thus ushering in the goal to keep the figure. Keep the paycheck and the toys. And just add on a baby.

But, it never quite works that way, or that easily. The old norm must give way to the new.

In business language, when we accept a new job,

we get rid of many activities. When we move from secretary to a higher position, we no longer answer every phone call, take messages for others, stock the office kitchen and business supplies. Our responsibilities increase and change. We now book appointments with clients. We go out of the office for meetings. Life changes.

As does our move from life BC (before children) to life after. We must let go of some of those former responsibilities. Something has to give, and we must make the decision what that will be. What duties will we turn over to others? Our job? Our committee meetings? Our church titles and volunteering? Or the raising of our child?

And that is the crux of being a mother: who will

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have the most influence in the life and mind of my child and children?

When my husband was but a wee child, his military father was sent on a remote tour overseas. No family could come. So, his mother packed up house and child and moved near her family, in the hills of Tennessee. Thinking she might need more in life, she decided to get a job, and went on an interview. When she came home, her father asked where she had been. "Looking for a job," she said, with near-pride. Not much for words, his questions rocked her world. "So, who do you want raising your son? Who do you want him to turn out like?"

She never took the job but stayed home and be-

came the most Proverbs 31 example I have ever known. Her home was beautiful, though it was small military housing. She sewed curtains and little touches for their abode. She painted and recovered patio furniture. She made do and made better. And my husband is the result of what became her passion: giving her heart and soul to her home and those in it.

The question we must ask is this: what type of mother will I be?

The answer will affect many generations to come.

From one mother to another,

Kym

**Rajneesh is an Indian religious leader, who has wonderful thoughts on motherhood*



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Manners Matter



Four-year-old Katie would agree with Ralph Waldo Emerson when he said,

*Manners are the
happy way
of doing things.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

When she was helping her daddy and grandma put some baby calves in the cattle chute to get their first round of immunization shots, a baby calf stepped on her foot. She put her little hands on her hips and proclaimed, "That baby calfie's mommy needs to tell it that it's not very polite to step on people's feet!" Even at the young age of four she knew manners are important and make life happier.



Imagining a world without manners, the implications are horrible.

Good manners are ways we express caring, consideration, and respect of others. Teaching our children proper actions is also biblical. "Let each of you look out not only for your own interests, but also for the interests of other." *

Our children learn about behavior largely from observation. If you don't demonstrate love and consideration in action, your child won't either. The basic language of manners is "please," "thank you," "you are welcome," and "well done." When we use these words, we put others at ease. We let them know we appreciate them and we care enough about them to give them our full consideration. We do them a great service when we model the usage of these words for our children. The learning place is in the home and especially eating together as a family. This is the foundation place where manners and concern for others is learned. Training at mealtimes makes for more pleasant times when you are eating out or have company, and is more enjoyable for other diners, too.

An easy way to begin is for your children to help prepare for the meal and set the table properly; they are never too young to learn. Explain proper table manners as you eat, but take your time in teaching

them. Perhaps one manner a week until all are learned. (See sidebar.)

The earlier your child begins using silverware properly, the more natural it will be for him. Use silverware working from outside in: first on left is salad fork, on right soup spoon, closest to inside is the main fork and knife. An easy way for your child to remember placement is to make a "B" and a "D" with their hands: bread plate on left and drink on right. At the top of the plate is the dessert spoon and fork. While they eat they do not put their elbows on the table, they keep the hand not being used to eat with in their lap, chew food quietly with their mouth closed, and ask to be excused when finished.

You probably won't set the table and eat so elaborately all the time, but it is a confidence booster for your child to have that knowledge if needed.

Have age appropriate expectations. Your 2-year-old will not be able to sit as quietly as a 6-year-old. Make learning manners fun. Be positive, not negative. When a child is chewing with his mouth shut, ask, "Who is eating quietly?" This will focus on a good trait and reinforce it while encouraging the child in the process. Praise your child for using good manners. It's better to ignore or pay little attention to whining or less-than-ideal behavior. Many of these atten-

...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

tion-getting tactics will be naturally outgrown or diminish in time.

When our granddaughter Katie was three, she came home with grandma. She was about asleep when she got out of the car and walked right into a rose bush, scratching herself. With tears rolling down her cheeks, she said, "That bush wasn't very friendly."

The world is a friendlier place when people use good manners. At the heart of good manners is a respect for oneself and others.

So it would seem that teaching your kids good manners has significant implications. It's worth noting, too, that good manners modeled in the home can go a long way toward teaching them. In other words, rather than nagging about manners, just do them, then your kids learn that good manners are "just the way it's done."

Be patient and be as consistent as possible. Training anyone to put another's welfare ahead of their own takes time, but the rewards in good behavior and joy in living are well worth the effort.

• *Philippians 2:4 (NKJV)*

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 in December.



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Ideas for Activities to Help your Child Learn Proper Manners

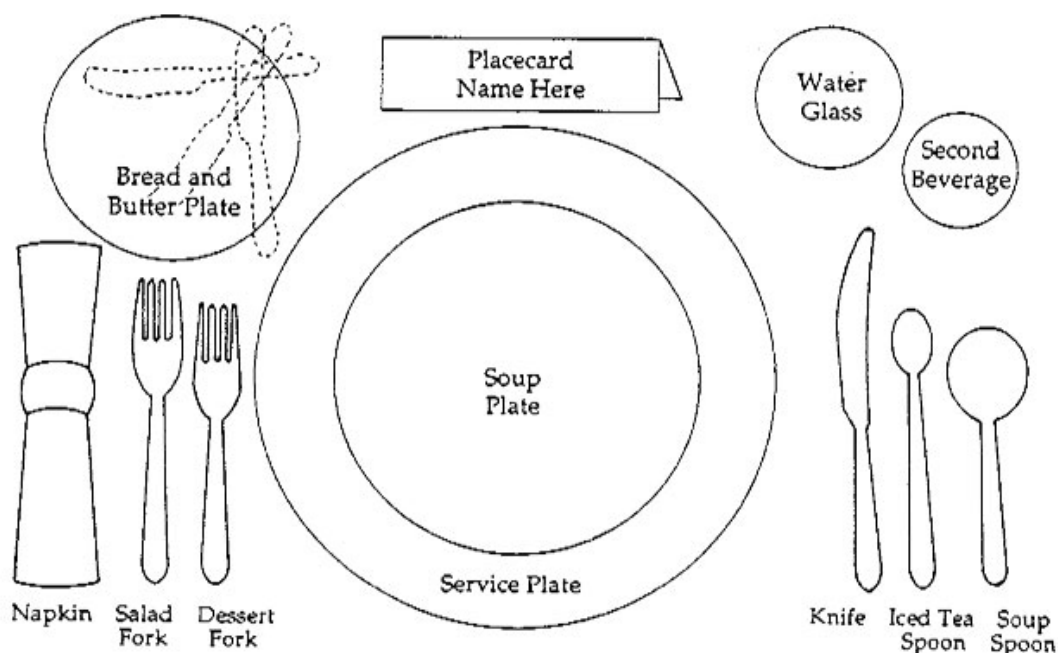
1. **Tea Party.** Set up a small table with fancy dishes and food. Compete for those using the best manners. Video it and let the children watch afterwards for an effective way to actually see themselves in action.
2. **Sticker Chart.** Pick a few manners, write them down on a chart and give him stickers when he behaves in the desired manner. A fun outing or a little toy could be the motivation for earning a certain amount of stickers.
3. **Playing with Puppets.** One puppet could be polite and one not. For instance, one grabs the food from another's plate. Have the other puppet respond, or ask you child what should be the proper action. If you don't have puppets, role play different situations and ask your child how they would handle it.
4. **Rewards.** Reward your child when he demonstrates appropriate table manners. When he uses phrases like, "Please" and "Thank you," he should be rewarded. Or if he passes food

nicely to others, doesn't take more food than he eats, places napkin on lap, or chews with his mouth closed, a simple reward should be given. It could be a toy, dessert, sticker, pencil or coloring book. If you take away previous awards when inappropriate behavior, you discourage poor manners. When he displays positive table behavior again, he can gain the rewards back.

Some Manners to Teach & Learn

- Sit up straight.
- Put your feet in front of you.
- Take your napkin and unfold it in your lap.
- Wait until the food is passed, take what you will eat and pass it on.
- Don't talk with your mouth full.
- Chew quietly with mouth closed.
- Don't interrupt others.
- No elbows on the table during a meal.
- Unused hand stays in lap during meals.
- Ask to be excused when the meal is finished.

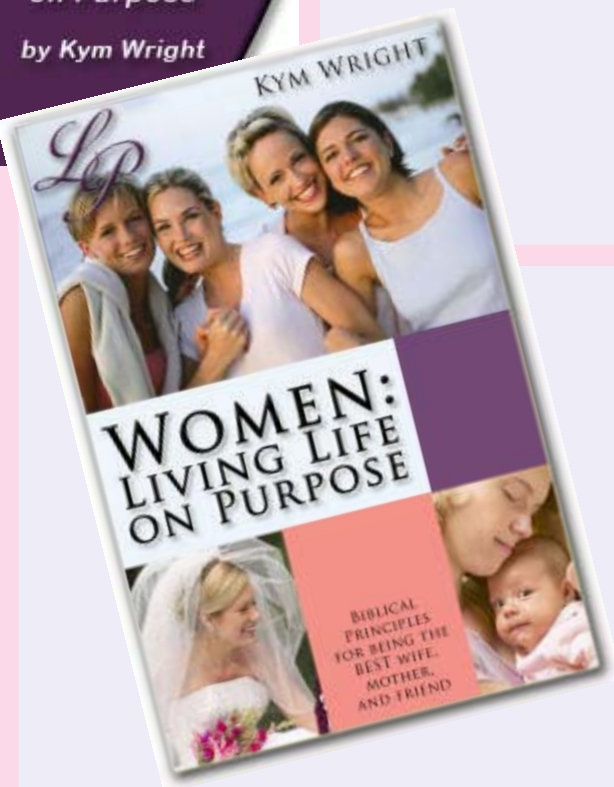
Teach Children How to Set a Table



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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Let her words encourage your heart
and renew your vision

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Neoma's Family Learns Manners



*Brice enjoys home-grown corn-on-the-cob.
Picnics don't count as elaborate dining,
but happy times around the table are teachable moments
when love reaches out to others around us.*



Another idea is to teach children how to fold napkins into interesting and pretty shapes. Check out your local library for books, or look at these websites for instructions:

www.napkinfoldingguide.com

www.fold-a-napkin.com

www.origami-instructions.com/napkin-folding-origami.html

www.delish.com/recipes/napkin-folding



Carter learns to use silverware before he is two.

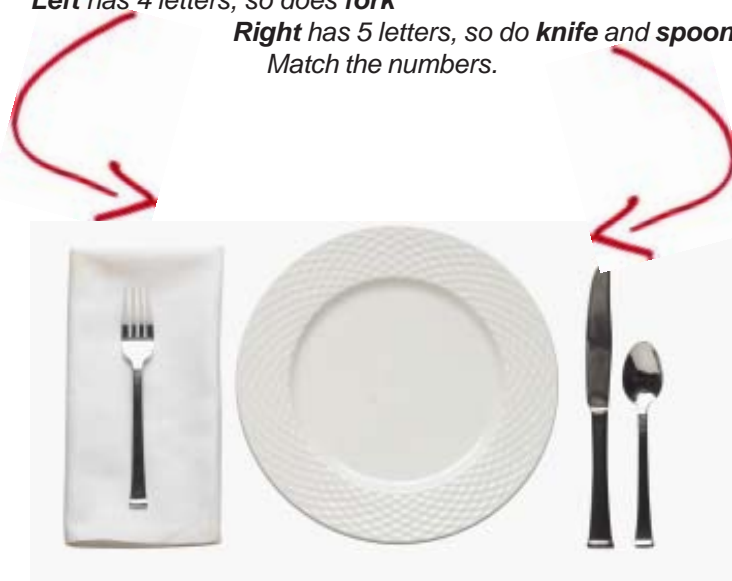
For younger children, teach them to set a simple table.

For readers, tell them:

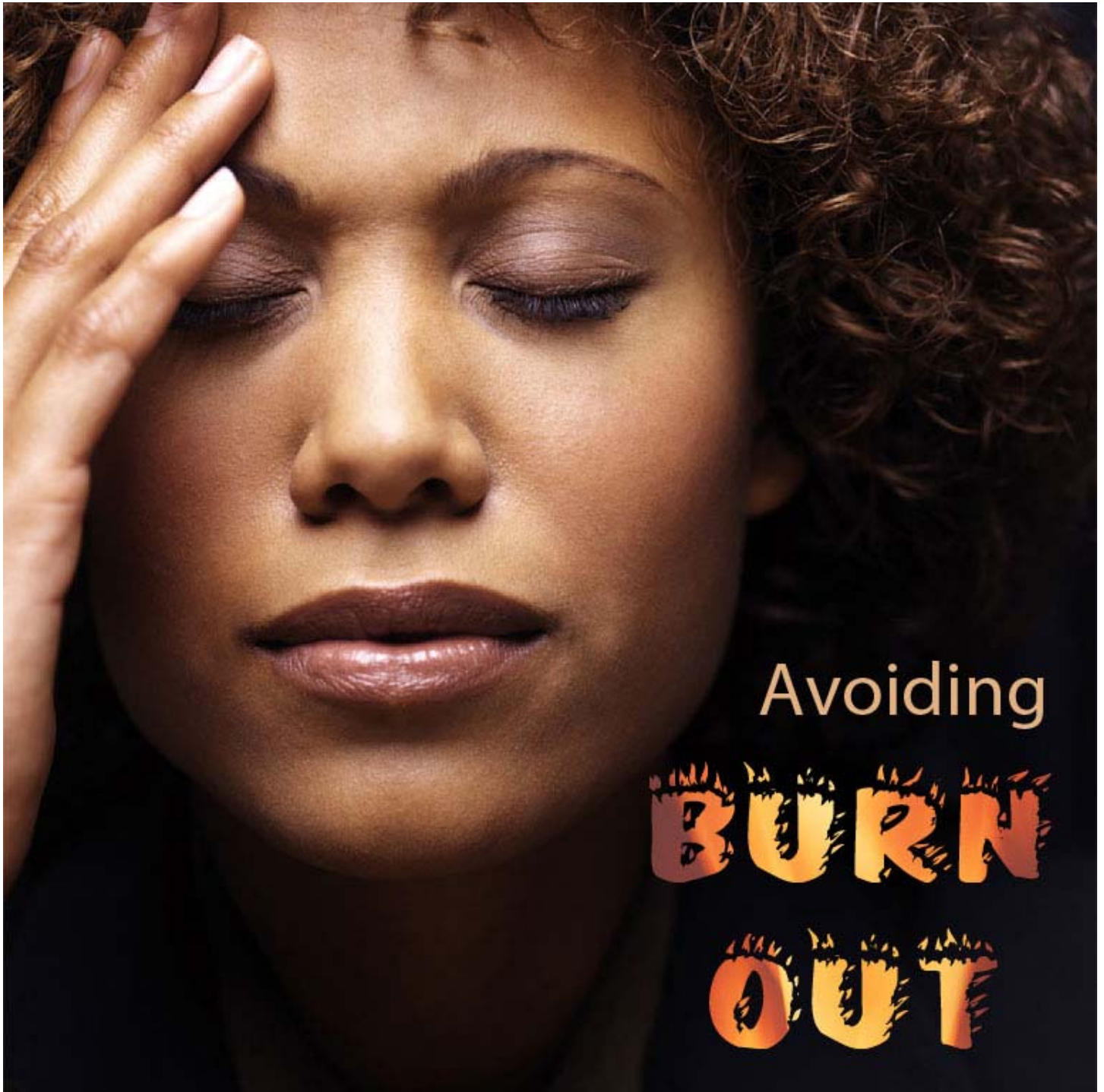
Left has 4 letters, so does **fork**

Right has 5 letters, so do **knife** and **spoon**

Match the numbers.



Lessons for Leaders



Lori Hatcher

Lori is an author, blogger, and women's ministry speaker. A homeschool mom for 17 years, she's the author of the devotional book, Joy in the Journey – Encouragement for Homeschooling Moms. You'll find her pondering the marvelous and the mundane on her blog, Hungry for God. . . Starving for Time (www.lorihatcher.com).



Remember how, when you were little, your mother would say, "We don't talk about that in public"? Usually her comments referred to hygiene issues or the fact that she and your dad had a fight the night before and for some reason you felt compelled to share it with the neighbors. As leaders in the homeschool movement, our churches, or in our homes, we often feel as though there's an unspoken rule prohibiting us from talking about certain things. Burnout is one of them. We mistakenly believe leaders shouldn't struggle.

Not only is this unrealistic, but when we fail to talk about issues like burnout, they simmer like an unattended pot of grits on the back of the stove until they boil dry, scorching our pans and possibly our homes in the process. When we burn out, either as a leader, an educator, a wife, a mother, or a church member, people and ministries suffer. For our examples, I'm going to apply my suggestions and observations to those who serve as leaders in the homeschool community, but the principles apply to whatever leadership role in which you find yourself.

Let's discuss three ways to prevent burnout.

Delegate instead of dictate

One of the lies from the pit of hell is that a good leader has to do it all. This expectation is impossible, impractical, and a sure path to burnout. The most effective leaders are those who have a clear understanding of their calling, are able to motivate others to come alongside them, and can effectively match personnel with positions to form a team.

Once you've identified God's calling for this season of your homeschooling life, you'll have a clear sense of the role you are to play. In the early days of my homeschool journey, I served as the newsletter coordinator of our homeschool support group. Later I was the group's leader. God never called me to fill both roles at the same time. And there are some seasons God sets apart as times of rest.

A productive leader is one who recognizes her greatest contribution to an organization is not to fill all the job descriptions, but to equip others to fulfill their individual roles. Lest you misunderstand, one who delegates doesn't just sit back and watch others work – that's a dictator. Delegation involves identifying your members' interests, passions, and giftedness, matching them with appropriate areas of service, and providing the training and resources they need to accomplish a goal.

This is an effective way to handle many of the suggestions we receive for field trips, special events, and programs. Suppose Fran and her children are physical fitness enthusiasts and propose that the support group hold a field day. A leader who is well versed in the skill of delegation will thank Fran for her idea, affirm the importance of physical fitness, and say, “I’d be glad to propose your idea to the leadership board. If the board approves the idea, are you willing to head it up?” How Fran responds will tell you whether this is truly a passion for her or just a passing idea she’d like someone else to make happen.

To avoid burnout, a good leader *delegates*.

Decide what’s important

Just like a clear sense of God’s calling keeps you on target in your leadership role, so a mission statement helps your group remain focused on God’s purposes. It’s crucial that your support group, committee, or team develop a mission statement to clearly identify its purpose. When I led our homeschool support group, defining our purpose gave us a valuable plumb line for decision making. Ideally a mission statement can describe a group’s purpose in one or two sentences.

My support group’s purpose is to “encourage and equip parents in providing a quality Christian education for their children.” This mission statement clearly determines what our priorities are. Because we are committed to encourage and equip *parents* to provide a quality Christian education for their children, our focus is on parents, not children.

To this end, we provide monthly moms’ meetings, connect parents with resources and services, and facilitate activities which enable parents to better educate their children. We do *not* sponsor co-öps, regular classes, or extensive field trips. If *parents* would like to facilitate these activities, they are more than welcome to, but it is not the responsibility of the group. Deciding what is most important to your group (or ministry or family) and limiting your activities to only those which directly support your purpose will help your leaders and members avoid burnout.

Nourish yourself

The nature of leadership involves self-sacrifice, but sometimes we carry it too far. With rare exception, caring for the needs of others shouldn’t come at the expense of caring for ourselves. If we don’t nourish our bodies, minds, and souls regularly, we attempt to draw water from a dry well, and everyone suffers.

Here are three important ways to nourish yourself:

1. **Regular physical exercise**, even as little as 15 minutes a day can lower blood pressure and stress, increase energy levels, and prevent depression. If your children are young, put them in a stroller and go for a walk in the neighborhood. It’s amazing how much simple exercise and a change of scenery can alter moods for the better. On inclement days, popping in a fun exercise DVD for a mid-morning break can get us moving. Even tiny children enjoy swaying to happy praise music.
2. **Regular mental exercise** stimulates our thinking, stretches our imaginations, and sharpens our skills. A wise mentor once told me she keeps three books going at all times: one spiritual, one academic, and one fun. She scatters them in different rooms of the house and picks them up when she has a few moments during the day. She always has one in the car to read while waiting for a child, one on her nightstand, and yes, one in the bathroom. Even though she seldom has long segments of uninterrupted time, she still manages to read several books a year.
3. **Regular spiritual exercise** increases our wisdom, builds our character, and grows our faith. Prayer and Bible reading are the pillars of a healthy spiritual life, and I would be hesitant to homeschool without them. Like Peter, when we keep our eyes on Jesus, we can walk on the waves and do impossible things. When we take our eyes off him, those same waves can threaten to drown us.*

Over the years, I’ve had times of prayer in the middle of the night with a nursing baby, in the car

during a child's swim practice, or during their quiet reading or nap times.

I hate to say it, but sometimes when we're in the trenches of parenting and homeschooling, the only way to have time for prayer and Bible reading is to get up earlier than anyone else in our household. Prayer warrior Becky Tirabassi once said, "I'd rather be sleep deprived than God deprived." Even 15 minutes a day at the start of our days will give us direction, encouragement, and wisdom.

Nourishing ourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually will help prevent burnout.

Always be cultivating your replacements

This doesn't mean being ready to quit at any moment. It means using our leadership opportunities as a chance to mentor and train others. No leader is indispensable, and any well-run organization should be fully capable of carrying on when a leader moves, resigns, or retires. Each person should have an assistant who is learning her job description and assuming increasing responsibility so when the time comes, leadership transition happens seamlessly. Cultivating our replacements is another great way to share the load and avoid burnout.

Take the long view on service

As Christian leaders in the homeschool movement, we must remember two things about our service:

- 1. We are working for something far greater than our support groups.** As we enable and equip families to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, we're not just helping build strong families; we are advancing the Kingdom of God. The same is true about the service we extend in our churches and homes. As we influence and equip others to know and love the Lord, we are partnering with God to accomplish his work in the world.
- 2. Our labor does not go unnoticed.** Whether our group members thank us, give us gift certificates

at the end of the year, or recognize us at the annual banquet, the One who really matters sees every hour we've served and every afternoon we've spent organizing a field trip. He sees the hours of school we've lost while mediating squabbles between members. He sees the 10 times we've mentally written our letter of resignation and the 10 times we've torn it up. He sees it all. And He accepts it as service to Himself.

I'm convinced that Hebrews 6:10 was written for every homeschooling mother, field trip coordinator, and support group leader.

God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

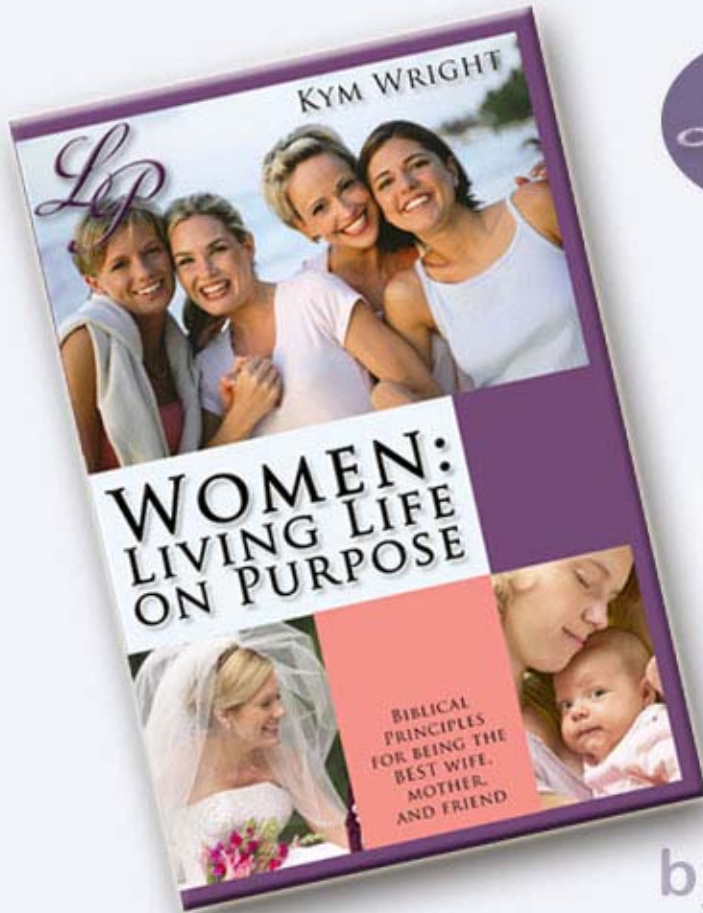
May you claim this promise today. God bless you as you press on in faith!

* See Matthew 14:23-32

Great Books for Mental & Spiritual Exercise
Love and Respect (Marriage) by Emerson Eggerichs
Respectable Sins (Christian Living) by Jerry Bridges
Do Hard Things by Alex and Brett Harris
I Am Last by Jeremy Kingsley
Safely Home (Fiction) by Randy Alcorn
My Utmost for His Highest (Devotional) by Oswald Chambers
31 Days of Praise (Devotional) by Ruth Myers

Quotes on Prayer

Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure. ~ D. L. Moody
I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach. ~ Charles Spurgeon
Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness. ~ Martin Luther,
I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.
~Abraham Lincoln



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Standing Out



From the Crowd

As homeschoolers we are labeled many things but *normal* is not one of them. Turns out, that's a good thing. So if your friends, family, or neighbors have branded you abnormal, rejoice! Let me tell you why.

for thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

Deuteronomy 14:2

And the Lord hath avouched thee this day to be his peculiar people, as he hath promised thee, and that thou shouldest keep all his commandments;

Deuteronomy 26:18

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Titus 2:14

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1 Peter 2:9



We are all born as separate and distinct creative individuals. We're not *supposed* to look like others or do what they do. If that were the case, the duplicates – us – wouldn't be necessary. *Normal* according to Webster's means "conforming, adhering to, or constituting a usual or typical pattern." When you think

about it with that in mind, *normal* doesn't really sound all that enticing after all does it?

From a very early age most of us were taught to be *normal* – to not stand out from the crowd. But what is normal anyway and who determines what normal is? It seems to me the world dictates to us what normal is, but nowhere does God call us to be normal. Instead, here are a few things the Bible has to say on the subject:

- *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*¹
- *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*²
- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*³
- *For it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*⁴

Sadly, our society does not reward or appreciate unique individuals. For that very reason we are condemned and ridiculed for daring to teach our own children instead of leaving their education to the professionals.

God doesn't want us to go along with the crowd. He created us as unique individuals with various skills, talents, and purposes. It's impossible to follow God's will if we are following someone else's will. Romans 12:2 in the Living Bible says it this way: "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think."

God has a habit of doing great things with people who aren't afraid to go against the grain. For instance, going against the grain got the woman with the issue of blood healed; it got Zacchaeus an invitation to dine with Jesus; it got Daniel divine protection from a den of lions.

If you do a quick history check, you will find the real achievers in this world rarely do anything *normally*. Monuments are never erected to normal people. Even Jesus avoided selecting normal people for His disciples, instead choosing those least likely to succeed: outcasts, and other misfits. Those who have overcome great challenges in this life, such as sudden blindness or losing a limb often discover a valuable truth that many people never realize: normal is really not anything worth aspiring to.

We must trust God always has our best interests at heart. And sometimes that means we have to go against the grain and do the hard thing instead of following the crowd. If an observer could tell no difference between your family and the non-believers next door, you would be considered normal. But is that what we're really after?

Our being different is not a "we're better than you" repulsively arrogant attitude. Instead, it's recognition of the holy life God has called us to. Being salt and light means we will be different from those around us. It is the *salt* and *light* we possess through Christ which makes us unique and distinctive.

For many people, the idea of homeschooling is a foreign concept. How can an ordinary mother, with no credentials, possibly hope to give her child a good education? My question to them is: Why is the school environment more suitable to producing well-rounded children than the home environment is?

Upon learning I am a homeschooling mother, I have on more than one occasion been treated with all the suspicion and doubt with which one would greet an eccentric new neighbor. A librarian once thought I was lying about my daughter's age ("She's tall for her age.") and why she wasn't

in school in the middle of the afternoon ("We homeschool."). And an elderly man at WalMart drilled my five-year-old with educational questions until I put a stop to it.

I know a few people who are absolutely amazed I would *willingly* choose to stay at home with my children every day and teach them. They say they can't wait for the school year to begin so their children are out of the house and gone all day. I find that very sad. We are so blessed to be able to be with our children and to watch them learn and grow. Never again do I want to be concerned about being normal in the world's eyes. I have been given an incredible gift in homeschooling, and I intend to enjoy every minute of it.

As far as my background goes, I attended public school, and during my latter high school years I lived with a "don't rock the boat" mentality. I had fallen in with the popular (and wrong!) crowd, and by my se-



Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think.

nior year I wanted out. Knowing them as I did, I was sure it wasn't a good idea to tell them I no longer wanted to be a part of their group. Outright rejection did not sit well with them. And so I just went through the school year making excuses why I couldn't do some things with them, all the while just waiting for graduation to come when we would all go our separate ways.

You see, I was too afraid to go against the grain. I wish I had though; I know I missed out on some good Christian relationships because of it. I would have liked to be more like Peter; he didn't just rock the boat, he got off the boat and walked on water. Now that's standing out from the crowd and refusing to be *normal*.

If I am *abnormal* because I train my children to treat others with respect, to serve others, and to pursue a relationship with the Lord, then that's a label I'll joyfully accept. I *want* to raise children who stand apart from the crowd, who will stand when no one else is standing, and speak up when everyone else is silent.

Regardless of how the world chooses to define me, my goal will remain the same – to raise children who *do* stand out from the crowd.

The Bible tells us specifically we are *not* to be conformed to the patterns of this world.⁵ Jesus calls us to walk the narrow path few will find.⁶ This sounds far from the normal, broad path the world walks.

When we're doing exactly what God has called us to do, does it really matter if the world accuses us of being weird? I care much more that my children remain true to their God, their faith, their families, and their calling.

Just because we don't fit inside the box society tries to squeeze us into doesn't mean that there's something wrong with us. Boxes are constricting, suffocating, and limiting. I'd rather be like Peter and walk on water, even if I do sometimes fail.

Because we know who we are in Christ we don't have to take a cookie-cutter approach to life. And as

homeschoolers, we have the freedom to tailor each of our children's education to his or her unique personalities and needs. If abnormal means rejecting the one-size-fits-all institutional education philosophy – then I'm all for it.

As homeschoolers, we will always have our share of skeptics and curious onlookers. They will inevitably ask the "What about socialization?" question, all the while looking at us like we're a bunch of circus freaks.

And all of their questions sometimes lead to our own: Am I doing the right thing? Am I ruining my children by homeschooling them? And some variation of this chestnut: Is it really worth homeschooling if we're just going to be ridiculed all the time? Let me reassure you – the answers to those questions are yes, no, and yes, respectively.

We should not want for our children to be considered normal, for if they are they will have nothing to offer the world. Only when we stand out from the crowd can we make a difference in a dark world desperately in need of God's light.

Greatness comes from individual creative expression. Success can only be realized as we shun normality and embrace the person God created us to be.

1. 1 Peter 2:9
2. Romans 12:2
3. 2 Corinthians 5:17
4. 1 Peter 1:16
5. See Romans 12:2
6. see Matthew 7:13-14

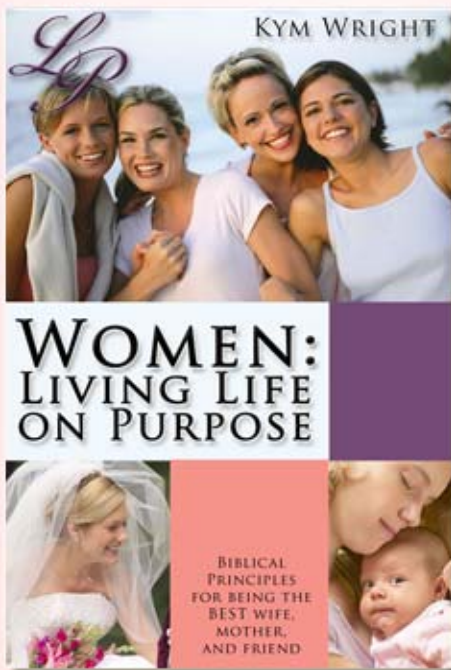


Tammy Darling home schools her four daughters at home in Three Springs, Pennsylvania, on their 68-acre farm where they help raise bison. She is a freelance writer with many published articles.

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Biographies



Great Reads for Children



It used to be children's literature was all about fiction

We started early readers out with nursery rhymes, moved on to fairy tales and folk tales, then picture books and finally on to the very prestigious chapter books. There wasn't a non-fiction book in sight. Then educators began to realize that much, if not most of adult reading is about real things. We read street signs and contracts, we fill out job applications and follow directions to assemble our new play structures. Teachers began asking school librarians to order books about animals, machines, space and how car engines work. Publishers got on board and began to print good non-fiction books about everything real in the world. And biographies and autobiographies were written on thousands of interesting and important people from all around the world. Finally, there began to be a balance for children in their reading choices. They developed a taste for both fiction and non-fiction. And, as a bonus, struggling readers, especially boys, began reading for pleasure.

Once non-fiction books became readily available, then reading strategies for non-fiction material had to be taught. In a fiction story the words just keep coming. But in non-fiction it's important to know about illustrations, captions, headings, indexes, maps, blow-ups of pictures, labels and much more. There is an art to reading non-fiction. It's a doorway into the real world.

Biographies meld the best of narrative writing and non-fiction with all of its intricacies. A good biography telling the life story of a human being is full of drama. Its merits often lie in real-life triumphs over poverty or the hardships and dangers of war, in hard decisions that made all the difference, or the courage to face adversity. Real-life dramas are at the heart of a well-written biography.

In addition to the interest of a real-life story, when children read a biography they're learning about positive character traits they may incorporate into their own lives one day. They're getting a sense of history and timelines. They're beginning to understand what the world was like in a given place and at a given time. They will learn that life is not static, that the world is ever-changing. Biographies are wonderful for developing the skills of reading comprehension. The story is motivating – the reader wants to understand and stays engaged. He wants to know what happens next in the character's life and she wants to understand why the main character lived in a particular way.

Another plus in choosing to read biographies is the broad array of choices. Select from the lives of kings and queens, explorers, scientists, great artists, sports figures, Native American chiefs—the list goes on and on. There are biographical series written about both historical and contemporary figures. Name any topic you can imagine and there is a leading figure whose life story will influence readers.

Biographies lend themselves to publication in sets or series. Thus you will find such offerings as the **Young Patriot Series** in American History, or the **Blue Banner Biography Series** by Anne Graham Gaines on current world figures. Certain authors such as David Adler are well-known for their biographies written for children. **The Lifetime Series** by Thameside Press in the UK has a wonderful series of world figures such as Nelson Mandela and Anne Frank. Heinemann has published a series on famous artists with titles such as **The Life and Work of Mary Cassatt**, and Rourke has a series called **People Who Made a Difference**. Other series tell the life stories of authors, scientists, astronauts, poets and playwrights and virtually any group of people in which your child may develop an interest.

One way to whet your child's appetite for biographies is to track their current interests or their current courses of study and then supply just the right title for the time. If they are learning to use the microscope in Biology class they may be interested in the life of Van Loewenhock or Madame Curie. If they are studying about India in geography they may be interested in reading about Mother Teresa and her work with the poor and dying of Calcutta. If they take a fancy to the American Civil War, then a biography of one of the leading generals is the right choice.

No need for history to be a dull course filled with endless memorization of dates and places. Bring the character and his or her life alive with a biography written at the appropriate reading level for your child. Look at these biography series to search for the perfect title for your young reader or browse your local library or bookstore for the right book.

Early Readers

- ◆ **Let's Read About Series** by Scholastic with biographies on such characters as Cesar Chavez and Pocahontas.
- ◆ **The Childhood of Famous Americans Series** by Aladdin with biographies of Daniel Boone and Helen Keller and many others.
- ◆ **Picture Book Biographies** by David Adler. These lovely books combine pictures and easy text to tell the stories of people such as Sojourner Truth and Thomas Jefferson.

Middle Grade Readers

- ◆ **The Who Was Series** by Grosset and Dunlap has titles such as Who was Thomas Edison and Who Was Leonardo da Vinci. Written for grades 3-7
- ◆ **Legends in Sports** by Matt Christopher tells the life stories of sports legends such as Michael Jordan, LeBron James along with Peyton and Eli Manning. For grades 3-5
- ◆ **The Time for Kids Biography Series** by Harper Collins are for children 6-10 and tell the stories of historic characters such as Clara Barton and Jesse Owens.

Tweens and Teens

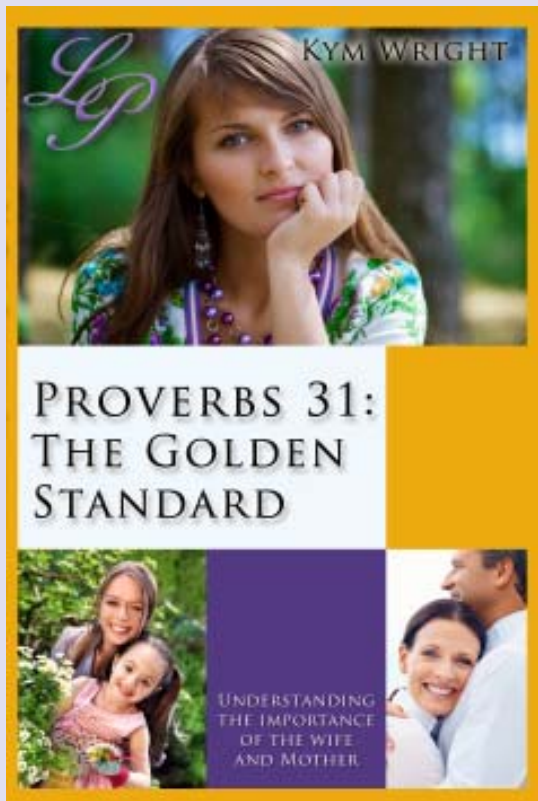
- ◆ **Biography for Beginners** studies the lives of famous philosophers, mathematicians and scientists such as Marx, Foucault, Heidegger and more.
- ◆ **DK Biography Series** are written for ages ten and older and chronicle the lives of historic figures such as Albert Einstein, Mahatma Gandhi and Marie Curie.
- ◆ **The Avisson Young Adult Series** tells the stories of interesting Americans such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Audie Murphy.



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TV

**How
much
is
too
much**

Don't watch life ... live it!

by Daphne Miller, MD, CNN.com

In an article by Dr. Daphne Miller, she questions the habits of parents who let their children watch much television. Declaring the harm most television does to our children, she amazingly encourages parents to remove this distraction from their children's lives, or limit it to viewing less TV per day.

According to this doctor, television is credited with giving children poor school performance, violent behavior, obesity, and daytime sleepiness from late night viewing.

Well, our family seemed to be consumed. From no television when we lived "out on the farm," to turning on the videos to babysit our special needs child, I was allowing more into our lives than I admitted or wanted. At that time, we didn't get TV channels, but did have an array of videos we watched.

Mark, my husband, was raised with the television continually on as background noise. I was raised in foreign countries during a time when these places had no TV access. Hence, Mark has a high tolerance for television viewing. I have very little.

So, how do we, as moms, as dads, as couples, come to grips with this little box which has invaded our lives? How do we heed the doctor's advice, honor our spouses, and help our children become healthy citizens when they grow up?

Television is credited with giving children

- poor school performance
- violent behavior
- obesity
- daytime sleepiness from late night viewing

Well, **we are once again choosing to live life on purpose.** To decide what we want for our family. To settle our convictions on what we value. What will help the children know God more and find His purpose for their lives?

What helps them become the best people they can become?

As I mulled over these questions, I sought out my husband as a sounding board. I sat in his office and confessed to my beloved, "I like my children more when they aren't influenced by what's on the tube,

even if it's videos." He nodded, absorbing the information.

"I'm a better mom when they are kinder to each other. And they aren't as kind when they have gadgets to play, and they are watching others' lives and not living their own." He listened, assimilating this data.

"When they're in the same room, watching the TV, they aren't interacting. They aren't sharing. They aren't living with each other. They're merely existing!" Having analyzed my input, he smiled. I do have a flair for the dramatic.

But, he saw my point, and heard my heart. He, who is gone for the majority of each day, was sensing I needed his assistance. I needed his wisdom to give me a solution. His backing when there was possible mutiny from the underlings.

And, my hero, my Knight in Shining Armor, came through. And with such a simple idea. He suggested we take a month off of viewing. Perhaps a family movie once a week. But, turn off the videos. No more Game Boys®. Let the computer games sit, except for the educational ones for help with their school.

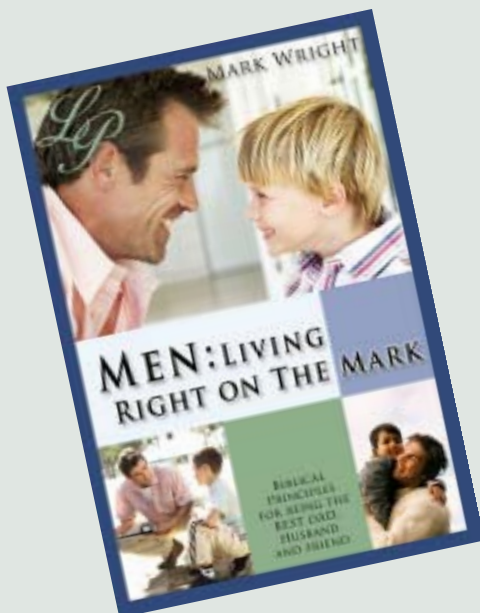
So, we had a family council, including the youngest to the oldest – all were invited. We wanted to share

our hearts and thoughts with them, get their feedback, and come to a corporate decision – hopefully, the one we had planned.

We talked, we discussed, and went back and forth. I shared the doctor's article with them, and they really listened. There wasn't any real negotiation – they all agreed to try it for a while. A month. On the calendar.

So we began. And you know what? The children are loving it. Mark and I are enjoying it. We sit around the fireplace, reading, knitting, playing chess and checkers. The children are reading more, and reading to each other. And, surprisingly, I'm reading more, too. And we're all talking to each other in greater amounts. Interacting. Learning once again to live kindly with siblings, and with parents. And we have added a daily workout program early in the mornings, before Mark's commute to work and our schedule begins. Benefits all around.

How long will our visual media fast last? I don't know, but with the dividends I've seen in just one week, I'm voting for a starvation diet. We are choosing to take responsibility for our time and lives and not just watch other people's sagas on the tube. We want to live the life we imagine and make our own dreams come true.



Helping Men
become
the Man
they long to be

18

Marriage's Little Kindnesses

Giving In

“

I remember it so well: the week I learned to Give In. We had three little children and I wanted more, but Spouse was quite content. Two little girls and a boy – who could argue with him? I didn't want to argue, but I really believed God had a better plan for us – a plan which included us trusting Him for the size of our family, the number of children we were to have.

”





Having been wed for thirty years to the same man, I have learned a little bit about this union we call marriage. My parents taught Marriage Enrichment courses, and our family was witness to many husband/wife teams rejoining forces, gaining new perspectives and appreciation for their spouse and the vows they spoke before God and friends. And we saw many families restored.

But to understand the whole situation, you must first comprehend my view of life – back then. I liked getting my way. And I liked making my own decisions. Not the best way to be as a wife or mother – but it was the way things were.

As the discussion grew . . . more animated, shall I say . . . we were digging in our heels. We were both right in our own minds. And that's where it could have stayed – and become a hindrance to our relationship, our marriage, and our family. Instead, I chose a different path: Giving In.

Not giving up. I still cared deeply about the subject, still cared about the outcome, and still believed I was right. Yet I wanted to make decisions based not just for the sake of making peace, but for making us grow together and become more *one*. Making decisions by Giving In was one way I showed I cared more about Spouse and me – and chose to believe God could change hearts: Mine or His.

During that memorable week, I relinquished my willful mindset and told my husband so. "Honey," I said, "I know we're having a hard time coming to agreement on this issue." He nodded. "I also know you are a man of great wisdom." He was surprised.

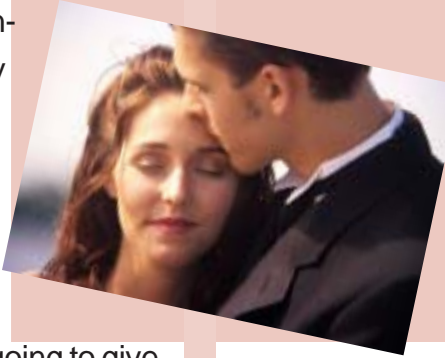
"And I'm just going to trust that God is going to give you the wisdom to lead this family and us in this area."

Spouse asked for some books on the subject we were discussing, and said he'd pray about it. And he did. For a whole week he read, thought, prayed and sought the Lord for wisdom. At the end of the week he had an answer: God would choose the size of our family.

But, I was at peace with either way he decided, because I relinquished my will and chose to trust that the Lord would lead us through Spouse. For me, our relationship took priority over my rights or what I wanted.

However, I want you to know this was not a passive stance on my part. It was very pro-active. I prayed a lot: for Spouse, for the Lord to reveal His will to us, for my heart to be accepting, for our family and any future children God chose to give us. And I was also choosing to think good thoughts: about myself and my desires, about Spouse and his wishes, and that God is bigger than the both of us!

In the ensuing years, this has been a pattern I've followed in many situations. In moving to new states, buying new homes, finances, raising our children, or even taking a different route driving to the store. I had to realize my husband is very smart, and he can make wise decisions – he really doesn't need my input to have a good life. Yet, as I've chosen to let him lead, he asks for my thoughts more readily. I guess he



doesn't feel so much pressure to perform, but rather has a feeling of *us* or *we*. We're in this together to make the best life for us and our children.

When we come to a crossroad in life, we both ask some pertinent questions:

- *Is there a biblical command or exhortation about this topic?*
- *What do we sense the Lord is saying?*
- *Which decision/direction is best for the relationship?*
- *Which direction will help our family more?*
- *Does one of us feel more strongly about this topic?*

Considering and answering these types of questions have helped us become a stronger force and have a more solid foundation.

If I'd known that *Giving In* would make such a big difference in our marriage, our faith, our home life, and our children's lives – I might have chosen it sooner and more often!



PRAY Without Ceasing





My church cringed when they heard their youth would travel on our bus. That green monster – notorious for breaking down – had seen better days. Those of us who traveled that bus accepted the fact we would go kaput at least once. Then came Charman. She believed in “praying without ceasing.”

Charman said, “Don’t worry about that Brother Danny. I will lay hands on that bus and pray for it.” She did and that was the only trip that bus kept running. Charman knew ways to implement the godly admonition to pray without ceasing and it reaped a windfall. Her insights are worth sharing.

1

Prepare Yourself Physically

Quality rest physically prepares us to pray. Exhaustion robs us of energy and willingness to engage God in conversation. Charman never lacked for energy. Her vivacious spirit oozed with restful energy. Prayer flowed from her heart unhindered by distracting fatigue.

Secure a good night’s sleep, a minimum of eight hours. Include exercise in your day. Use it to clear your mind. Pray as you exercise.

2

Prepare Yourself Mentally

Think on godly things. Use personal pronouns and pray the Psalms. Before you encounter God in personal communication through prayer, feed your mind. “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”¹ Cluttered minds yield un-wielding mind focus. Feeding it spiritually opens up channels for unimpeded prayer petitions. Charman understood this mind preparation.

“Wherever our mind goes, our emotions and actions are certainly to follow,”² so says Lou Perez, an Assembly of God Evangelist. Minds distracted from the spiritual will not be aware of praying without ceasing – limiting any possibility of it happening.

3

Prepare Yourself Emotionally

Visualize the depth of God’s love. See Ephesians Chapter 1 and meditate on how God has blessed us; Pray prayers with emotion – recognizing that genuine emotions in our prayers come the more we practice at their delivery.

Charman’s prayers dripped with emotion. Though our church was a little laid-back for emotional display, one had to admire Charman for the depth of her emotion. She allowed God to stir and move her with outpourings of tears, unbelievable empathy, and an emotional connection to the right kind of prayer needed at the moment.

4

Prepare Yourself Spiritually

Remove any trace of sin through confession. Psalm 66:18 says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Sin will kill, not only attempts at praying without ceasing but praying, period. Charman had a knack for addressing sin first. Confession graced her time with the Lord.

Though by no means perfect, she understood her flawed state and prepared her heart to commune with the Lord. "Who shall ascend the Holy hill of Zion; who shall stand in His holy place; he who clean hands and a pure heart?"³ Charman understood the futility of praying with an unclean and impure heart.

5

Begin Slowly

Start your day by praying every four hours for a week. Move to on-the-hour for two weeks. Go to every thirty minutes for three weeks; 15 minutes for four weeks.

Praying without ceasing happens best with a systematic process in engaging prayer. Is it possible to pray every 15 minutes? Yes, but not immediately. Time spent in intimacy with the Creator makes your heart more aware of God's presence. This closeness does not come over night. Once you become immersed in the knowledge of God, your spirit is more apt to commune with Him as you go from room to room, home to work, and circumstance-to-circumstance.

Charman's prayer time challenged her faith when her husband died and daughter was mangled after a Sunday morning car wreck. Her established prayer walk took her through this difficult time.

6

Think Spontaneously

Say your prayer while you are walking (with eyes open of course); while you are driving; while at the doctor's office, and in other idle times. Charman's walk with the Lord defies description but one word helps: spon-

taneous. You have heard, "As the Spirit moves me," – that is Charman.

Sensitivity to when prayer is needed describes people who know how to pray without ceasing. Intouch Christians with God's heart enables them to know when prayer is required when the rest of us are clueless. They don't think about it, they just pray.

7

Act Courageously

Praying bold prayers yields bold results. Those results motivate us in continuing this prayer journey. Charman was like one other person in my life – Doc Allen, my father-in-law.

If you wanted specific prayer about something that would bring results, you would want to ask Doc to pray.

I'm convinced all the blessings in my family's life have come as a direct result of Doc's praying. Every night at 10:00 P.M. with the television shut down, his family read scripture and stooped to their knees in prayer. In the thirty-five years I've known Doc, that's been his practice. Charman and Doc's praying brought bold results – courageous in their request to God.

8

Request Specifically

Same as acting courageously. Specific prayer requests result in specific answers – encouraging us to pray more. Thorough research reveals more prayers have affirmative answers when they entail specific re-

quests. Pray generally and watch prayer go unheeded.

Charman could have prayed, "Lord, bless our youth trip," but instead she prayed, "Lord, please keep this bus from breaking down." She knew a key ingredient for securing spiritual results was arriving on time and safely on our bus. Her courageous and specific prayer brought a positive outcome – encouraging the rest of us to pray more.

9

Thank God Profusely

A thankful heart yields more reasons to pray. Charman thanked God. Her gratitude manifested itself through daily expressions. As prayer results become more common and thanks follows each answer, our proclivity to pray more is encouraged.

Get in a habit. Automatically thank God daily, hourly, and by the minute. By thanking God, you are praying – praying without ceasing.

10

Forgive Slip-Ups

Function under grace by recognizing you will fail. Don't brow beat yourself but pick yourself up and continue on your journey. Charman's spontaneity sometimes caused her slip-ups – quickly expressing her opinion when prayer was called for.

Attempting to pray without ceasing under a works or law mentality is counterproductive. You will fail. Sometimes you won't feel like praying. During those times, tell God. And when you do, you pray. Allow God's grace to minister to your heart during down times and recommit to praying without ceasing.

As you prepare yourself physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually – while going slow, thinking spontaneously, acting courageously, requesting specifically, thanking God profusely, and forgiving slip-ups, continuous prayer becomes possible. Charman's life proves it works and it will for you.

1. Philippians 4:8
2. Lou Perez, *The Mind is a Battleground*, Pentecostal Evangel, August 19, 1990
3. Psalm 24:3

Danny Von Kanel is a freelance writer and minister from Franklinton, Louisiana. He is married with two grown boys and five grandchildren. His third book, Building Your Life by the Owner's: The Positive Approach to Building Your Life God's Way is now available at 4RV Publishing.



Color Adventure covers the following topics in great detail - and fun!

Color wheel

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Warm & Cool colors

Neutrals

Black & White

Tints & Shades

Intensity

Local Color

Color Illusions

and the color schemes:

- **Monochromatic**
- **Analogous**
- **Complementary**
- **Triadic**
- **Analogous**
- **Achromatic**
- **Polychromatic, and**
- **Patriotic.**

Layering



Ray, my real estate guy, gave me a ring on the phone the other afternoon. "I'll be by to pick you up in half an hour so we can go look at that property and stuff. Then we will shoot straight south and look at those other two locations. I'm bringing my new pick-up because it is the safest and most comfortable on those old icy roads." Right! Ray just liked the heated seats. But he claimed it was part of his real estate business needs.

Ah, Ray always thought of everything. "Oh," he said as sort of an afterthought, "It's really windy out, so the winter cold will get ya!" Then in his most 'parent-like' voice he said, "Better dress warm!" I assured him I would. But he repeated himself, "I mean it, you 'best' dress warm."

In my head I am thinking he must believe I am an idiot. Really I know how to dress for winter: how to layer my clothes! "See you soon Ray. Bye!"

As I started to dress I chuckled remembering years before when I was so emphatic about dressing warm with my little daughter Jeny. She was just three and her older sister, Jodi, just eight. It had started as a wildly cold raw winter day. The clouds almost made it seem like the sun hadn't come up at all. I was going out to look at a piece of open land with a realtor that day. Always up for a little adventure, Jeny and Jodi were coming along. The weather was so windy and mean; I considered canceling for a better day. But a decision needed to be made soon. I cautioned the girls several times. "Make sure you dress warm. You need to layer your clothes." I had set out winter things but they had found other clothes they liked better.

A quick glance at their clothes and we three flew out the door and into the waiting warm boxy SUV. "You look like Eskimos," joked the realtor. But I noticed she had dressed like a bear and had brought along a warm blanket.

It was over an hour to the property site. When we finally got there, the wind had worked itself into a frenzy. We could only tolerate being outside for a few moments as the bitter mountain wind chaffed our faces and blew through our clothes with a vengeance. I got the girls back in the vehicle quickly. Turning to the realtor I told her the property wasn't what I wanted. We then scrambled back inside out of breath. Being outside had been all the time I needed to decide the property was too isolated for our needs. What if the wind blew like that all the time?

On the way back I watched for a public restroom. It had been quite a while and the girls, mostly Jeny, were really squirming. Finally we found a restaurant. I took the girls in.

Jeny was having trouble getting out of her clothes quickly. As I helped her out of her mittens, scarf, hat and jacket I was impressed with how well she had followed by directions about layering: that was until we got to the three pairs of underwear. "Why" I asked my beautiful little girl, "do you have on three pairs of underwear?"

With all the disdain a small child could muster, she answered, "Well, Mom, you *said* we had to layer!" I immediately gave up any idea of trying to explain myself. We just took off the extra clothes, made her comfortable and then headed back out through the wind into the warm vehicle for the drive home.

Now some thirty years later I am going to look at some more land on a cold, windy winter day. Jeny isn't along but I am going to layer coat-hoodie-sweater-two pairs of socks....but just one pair of underwear. Remember Ray has heated seats.

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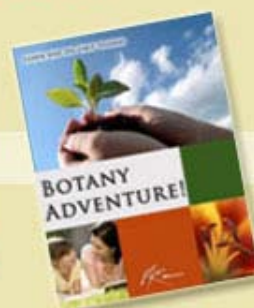
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- I've heard of hibernation, but what is estivation?
- Is a softshell turtle an mistake of nature?
- And can all turtles swim in the ocean?
- With a passion for turtles, what type of career could I have?
- What do I need to know before I buy a turtle for a pet?
- And what about turtle anatomy?
- Just how are they put together?

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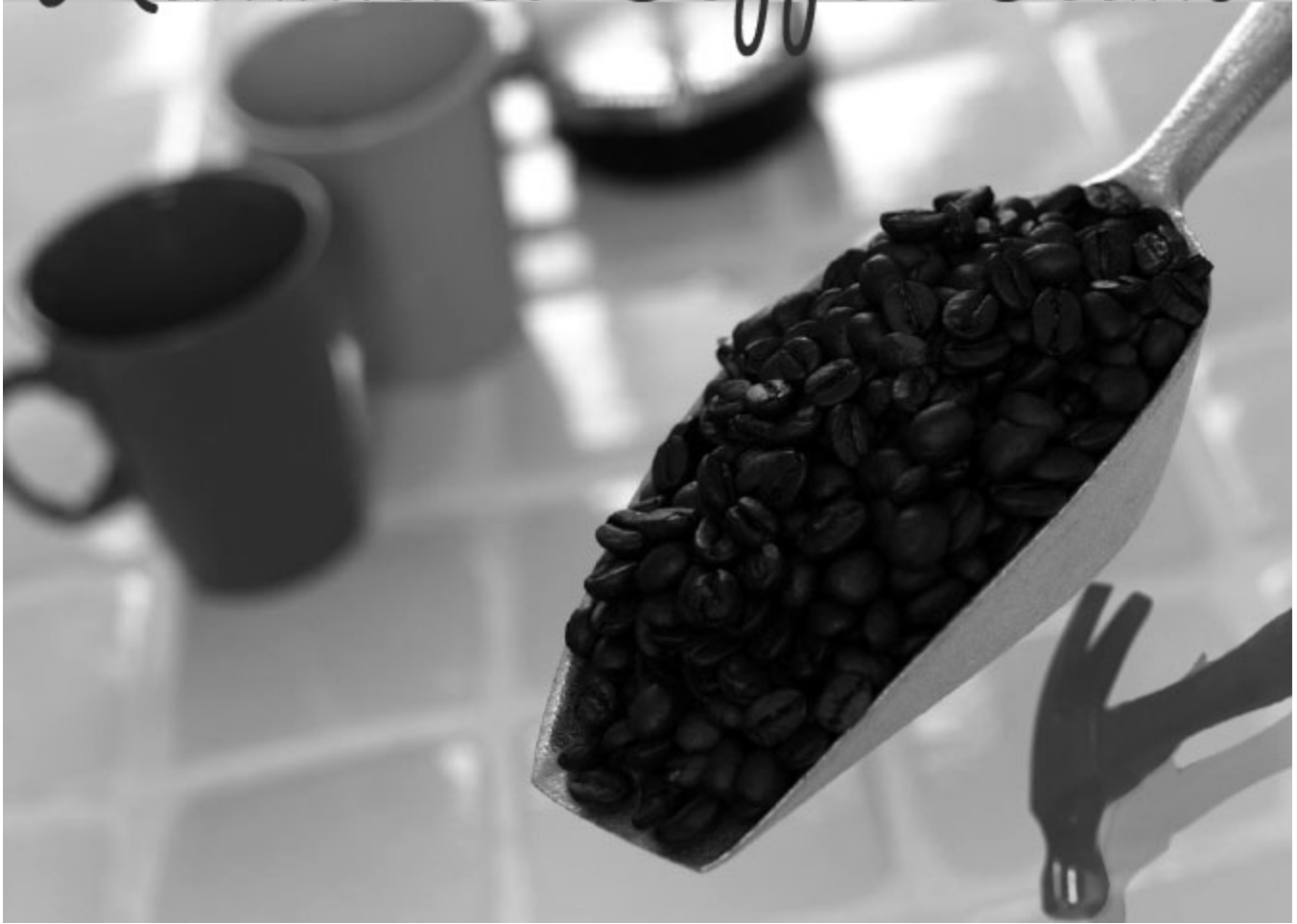
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Hammered Coffee Beans



Perhaps you pride yourself in being a “shark” at the grocery store. I do! I may spend \$25.00 but saved \$38.00. Yes, for me, grocery shopping is a cheap form of entertainment.



My best (or maybe worst) story is the week one fall several years ago when I bought \$ 800.00 in groceries, but paid only \$125.00 including tax. It took me three trips to the grocery store, up most of those nights shopping. I had lots of coupons in those days. The 24-hour store was offering triple the value of each coupon.

Shark Shopper Rules

- don't buy stuff just because you have a coupon
- take a list
- avoid distractions
- don't go hungry

The \$125.00 also included gas for 3 round trips to the grocery store 50 miles away and breakfast for my five children at a fast food place because I was too tired to cook by the end of the week. I recouped much of the money when I sent in the package rebates offered on a lot of those products. With the help of my two daughters Jeny and Jodi, we organized where everything would go: there was so much! Yes, it was a cozy winter.

My girls are grown now with shopping lists of their own. They inherited some of the hereditary "shopping shark" gene from their grandmother, as did I. Give them a few coupons and they are dangerous in any grocery store. Grandma was very good at fashion deals for her granddaughters too.

But there are rules of the shopping game. Sometimes, for whatever reason, you find yourself in a grocery store when you don't belong there. You might be in a hurry, just need a few things or be too tired to shop. Or you are breaking all the rules of "shark shopping" like don't buy stuff just because you have a coupon, take a list, avoid distractions, and don't go hungry.

Whatever the reason, I broke the rules. I was tired, hungry, in a hurry and without a list. I just wanted some coffee. This particular store had a less expensive brand of coffee bean I liked. I could grind it right in the store because we had no coffee grinder at home.

Then the trouble started: Once in the store, I went right to the coffee display. The store grinder was broken. They didn't have my brand or

even my second choice. What's more, coffee had gone up a buck a pound. Actually the price increase was on a 12-ounce bag. Confused I circled around and picked up a few things I didn't need while I thought about what to do. ... I bought pretzels and sour cream because I was hungry, spices because they appeared to be on close-out, carrots because I wasn't eating enough vegetables. It was cold and dark outside. I wanted to get home. Coming back to the coffee display and I looked through my choices again. Quickly I grabbed a 12-ounce package of the ground coffee and zoomed to the checkout. "Paper or plastic", the clerk said, as I threw her a wad of cash. I spent too much money but at least I could go home and have a hot cup of coffee.with my pretzels, carrots, spices, and sour cream.

I rushed the groceries and myself into the house and began to make coffee....filter, water, plastic measuring spoon, and opened the bag of coffee.... **beans?**

That's right coffee beans. I had picked up the wrong coffee getting beans instead of ground coffee.

What happened? By the time I realized how serious my situation was, the store



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was, of course, closed. I didn't want to go out for a cup of coffee. What was I to do?

Then a thought came to me. Where was my hammer? Sparing some of the awful details of that first night of hammered coffee, let me share with you the most practical way to get your coffee from bean into brewed without a grinder. In a plastic or waxed paper sack pour beans until sack is about $\frac{1}{4}$ full. It is easier if the sack is clear so you can see what you are attempting. With the right wrist action and a steady tempo, you will shatter each bean with a medium smack. Actually you can shatter a number of beans at the same time. Don't hammer too hard because you will pound a hole in the sack rendering it useless. Don't pound too soft because you will have to hit the same bean several times rendering a hole in the sack. This is very critical if you only have one sack.

It is wise to place your bean hammering sack in something like a sided cookie tray or metal baking pan to catch any flying beans which are coming through the holes you hammered in the sack while trying to smack the beans into ground coffee. When the coffee appears to be in a "ground-like" condition measure what you need and brew like *normal*. Whatever that is! This works for regular or decaf beans.

Oh, yes, I almost forgot to mention coffee is best hammered on the floor: kitchen floor, concrete garage floor or even basement floor. It is rather noisy so maybe the concrete front stoop would attract neighborhood's attention.

You can hammer as long as you can stand the noise, and then put the excess in the freezer. That way you don't have to hammer every time you make coffee. This is particularly important if company or adult offspring are around. You will find frozen coffee tastes as good as fresh hammered.

And fresh hammered coffee tastes better than fresh ground, if for no other reason than you had to work so hard to get it ready to brew.

Eventually I was found out. Folks laughed at me because I hammered my coffee beans. "That's just too funny," they said. But they never offered to help!

Others just thought I was making a joke. But in the dark of night when they come home with a sack of coffee beans they thought was ground



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coffee.....they will be glad I told them they can hammer their coffee beans till they are ready to brew.

Friends have even suggested maybe I should just stick to coffee that comes already ground in a can. Yes, I can get it with a coupon instead of buying that fancy bagged stuff.

"No," I assure them, "hammered coffee is an art form."

Cultivating *Compassion*



At ten thirty in the evening, a woman working was working alone at a gas and convenience store. Though normally quiet at that time, she had a line of people waiting to pay for purchases. In the line was a man, obviously becoming impatient. As she rang up his purchases, he began to berate her for "being so slow" and for the store not having more people at the registers. The woman, upset at his tone and demeanor, made an error ringing up his purchase. She had to do it a second time which only further agitated the customer who said: "Can't you do your job properly? Hurry up so I can get home!" The woman concluded the sale and gave the man his change. As he left, he looked back at her shouting: "You're a useless employee. In the morning I'm going to call the manager and get you fired."

A few moments later, another customer came in. He had been sitting in the car of the man who was angry and saw what transpired. That man made a small purchase and, at the register, said to the distraught woman: "I am really sorry about him and can make no excuse for his behavior. I'm making this small purchase so he doesn't know what I'm doing but here is a 'tip' for your service this evening." He gave the astonished woman a fifty dollar bill and left quietly.

While that true story is sad, it is still worth taking a closer look at. Why is the first man so clearly calloused and cruel while the second man is clearly compassionate and kind? What is it about people which takes them over to the dark side or strengthens their resolve to remain firmly centered as benevolent and charitable individuals?

Stated simply, **compassion is a choice** just as being unkind is a choice. In fact, recent research indicates compassion is a skill which can be consciously developed. Stanford University researchers randomly assigned 100 adults to a nine-week compassion cultivation training program. Before and after taking the compassion course, participants completed surveys which "measured compassion for others, receiving compassion from others, and self-compassion." Participants showed large increases across all three domains. With this in mind, let's look at some ways for us to cultivate greater compassion and, through it, make our world a kinder, gentler place.

Stated simply,

**compassion
is a choice**

Live out the Golden Rule.

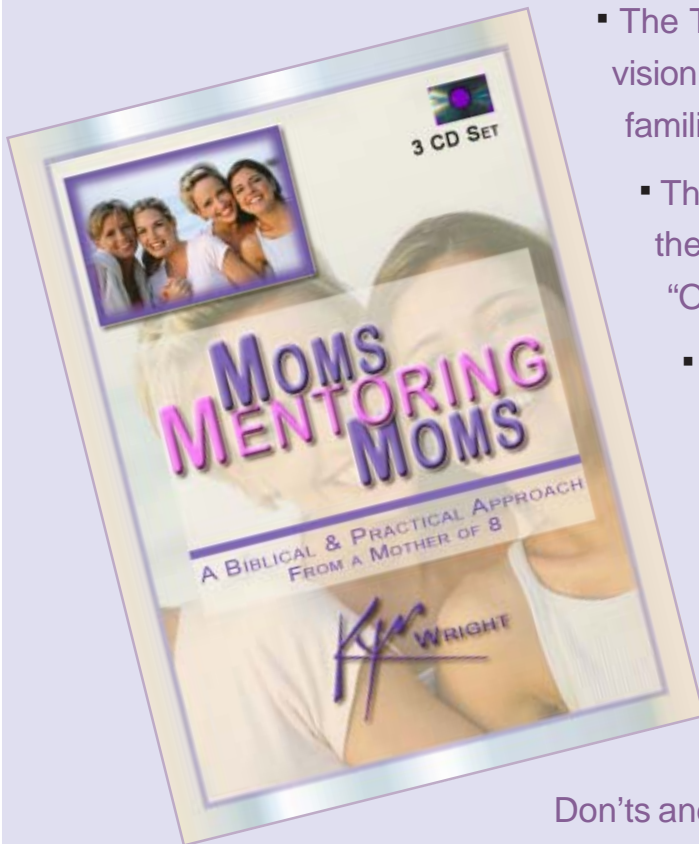
This compassion principle is taught by Jesus: "in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."¹ A powerful example of living out the Golden Rule is related by Joel Osteen, an author and minister. He tells of traveling overseas with his father to a third-world country. Their plane stopped on a small island "in the middle of nowhere" to refuel. They had an hour at the airport which was simply a small handmade structure with a thatched roof. Osteen sat down on one of the two benches and noticed his father talking to "a bedraggled looking guy who looked to be about my age." His father listened and talked with the young man for the entire hour. When it was announced the plane was ready for takeoff, Osteen saw his father pull out his wallet and give the young man money. Back on the plane, Osteen asked his father what had transpired. His father's eyes teared as he told Osteen that the young man had been heading home back to the United States but had run out of money. He'd been on that island several weeks, stranded, broke and all alone. "All I could think about was *What if that was one of my sons? What if that was you? What if that was one of my daughters? How I would want somebody to help one of my children.* So I gave him enough money to get home."

Overcome hindrances. Sometimes compassion is blocked because we are angry or because we don't understand or we simply fail to see the larger

MOMS MENTORING MOMS

Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior,
not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,
that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands,
to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home,
kind, being subject to their own husbands,
that the word of God may not be dishonored.

Titus 2:3-5, NAS



- The Titus 2 verses give us 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. This is the portion of Scripture that sparks us to label it the “Older Women Teach the Younger Women” verses.
- But I’ve always just referred to it as *Moms Mentoring Moms*, since that’s really what it’s all about.
- This is where those of us older moms, or those with more experience, are encouraged, instructed and warned to act in certain ways and to teach these things to those younger than ourselves.
- These verses basically tell us the Do’s, the Don’ts and Why of it.

- How do we live this?
- How can we practically reach out to other women and share?
- What do we share?
- In Titus, we learn our roles as younger and older women . . .

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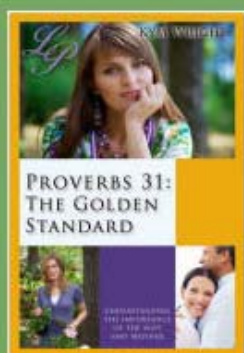
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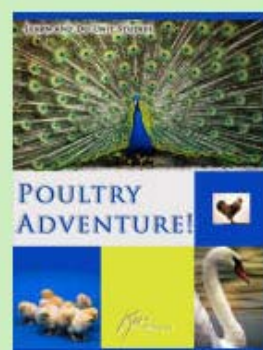


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picture. Try to recognize a deterrent and understand it as an emotional weakness which creates negativity in you. Then, overcome it. This is what the Bible refers to as being “transformed by the renewal of your mind.”²

A woman tells of boarding a subway after spending the day with friends. She was feeling very good and settled comfortably into her seat. A few stops later a young teen boarded her car. He was carrying a CD player with “loud, jarring music screeching from it.” She found herself becoming very angry, hoping someone would tell him to turn it down or off. Nobody did, so she sat there “allowing myself to get angrier by the minute.” Then, to her credit she intentionally began to try to think differently about the boy. “He was 14 or 15, very thin and his skin was badly marked with acne. His clothes were faded and worn. He looked neglected. Perhaps the music he listened to was providing him with one of the few pleasures in his life,” she thought. Quickly, she was able to overcome her anger, replacing it with kind, compassionate thoughts about the youth and his music.

Respond readily. When you see a need, when you see an opportunity to help, respond readily. Compassion delayed is compassion denied. That may be what Quaker Christian William Penn had in mind when he wrote: “If there is any kindness I can show, any good thing I can do to any fellow human being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.”

Nancy Graham Perry, a writer and editor tells of a time when she was the recipient of such prompt compassion. Recently graduated from college, she secured a job as a marketing trainee with a large corporation. Far from family and friends, she says “I was scared and homesick.” That changed when another employee and her husband “welcomed me into their home, hosting me for a couple of weeks while I searched for an apartment. Though she barely knew me, she acted like a protective older sister, offering wisdom, moral support – and food.” To this day, Graham Perry has never forgotten that woman’s compassion and hospitality.

Hold back judging. Try to view people and situations without coming to a conclusion or reaching a judgment. Apply the teaching of Jesus to “judge not.”³ This simple action will greatly increase your ability to be more compassionate. In her book, *Start Where You Are*, author Pema Chodron tells of being on a retreat with a small group of eight women. The hide-away time had created feelings of calm and serenity for her until she saw that someone in the group had left dirty dishes on the counter. “I started to get really angry. *Who would leave such a mess?* There was only one woman of our group of eight who would leave such a mess. *Who did she think was going to wash these dishes?*” were the thoughts churning in her mind. At the beginning of the retreat, they all wrote

*His clothes were faded and worn.
He looked neglected.
Perhaps the music he listened to
was providing him with one of
the few pleasures in his life.*

their names on pieces of tape which were put on the dishes and silverware. So, Pema Chodron picked up the dirty plate to see the name on it and

was shocked to see it was “Pema” and the name on the cup was the same. That incident was a powerful teaching moment for Chodron, reminding her to hold back judging.

Go beyond the minimal. This concept of compassion is sometimes referred to as “going the second mile,” a teaching of Jesus.⁴ An example is offered by author Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. A couple was speaking to an elderly male friend who was in excruciating back pain. The woman asked if there was any medication which could bring him relief. “There is but it costs \$60 dollars and I can’t afford it,” he said. That evening the woman gave the man a check for a thousand dollars suggesting he immediately go and buy the medicine. When her husband asked about the large gift, she explained: “If he is in such pain and still not buying that medication, it must mean that he lacks money for other things as well.”

Expand compassion to all creatures. St. Francis of Assisi said of animals: “Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission – to be of service to them whenever they require it.” Be certain

your compassion is not limited only to other people but expands and embraces all creatures.

While driving on a busy Texas inter-state, a woman saw on the side of the road, a dog covered in mud looking confused and frightened. Despite the heavy traffic, the woman stopped, carefully made her way to the dog and coaxed it into her vehicle. Then, she took the dog to a vet for a quick checkup. The dog was in good health. Next, she photographed the dog and posted a picture online hoping to find its owner. It didn't take long before the dog, named Delilah, was reunited with her family. It turns out she dug her way out of the yard. The woman, pleased with how it all worked out said: "It makes me feel great. I'm really happy that I was able to reach out and save this dog when a lot of people drove by and didn't even think to save an animal. I would do it again and again. The joy that it brought that family and that dog to be reunited – priceless."


In conclusion, though compassion is a choice, it can also become a habit as we diligently practice it in our daily live, watching for opportunities to fshare the pain and joy of others, and to bring more love and caring to their lives.

1. Matthew 7:12, NIV
2. Romans 12:2
3. Matthew 7:1
4. Matthew 5:42

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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Kym WRIGHT
MOTHER OF 8



Hi Kym, I received the CD sets and am just Loving them! The family Meal cd's are helping me re-focus on the important and the value. I have really needed a booster shot in vision having been at it this long. The world keeps tugging and saying "time for another phase"...ah the plight of the mid-life mom, maybe you can relate. Anyways, just to say hearing you on cd is a gift of encouragement to me and I want to order the other sets as well eventually! ~Christal

Making Payments

My son often “pays” for things he wants around the house, such as some juice or a cookie, with a kiss.

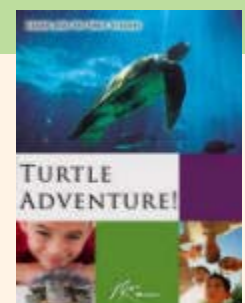
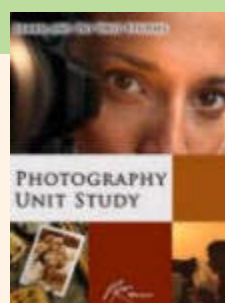
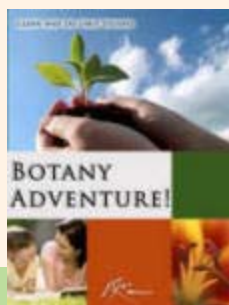
One day while we were at the store, I told him that if he behaved the whole time I would allow him to pick a treat. He obeyed and he chose some candy and held it tightly while we waited in the checkout line. When it was our turn I told him he had to let go so we could pay for it. He still held it tightly, but he looked at the cashier and puckered up.



First published in Parentlife May 2009.

Learn and Do Units by K Wright

Hands-on
Fun
Science
Vocab
Writing
Literature
History



Floral Adventure!



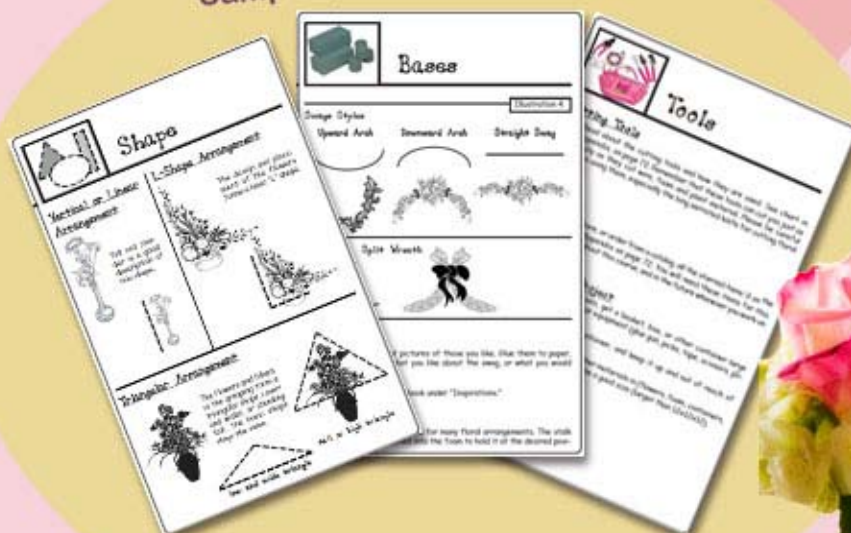
Learn

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Design & inspiration

Do

Practice arranging
Make bows & loops
Dry & preserve
Marketing plan

Sample pages



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There's a sack on my stoop. Wonder where it came from? There are pants — pants in a paper sack. Who knows who started it this time? It's spontaneous combustion. The reason changes, the season changes: Wham, there are 'traveling pants' on your doorstep in a paper sack - and you never really know who started it.

Traveling pants! Better than a boutique next door and a whole lot cheaper.

This time I am probably 3rd or 4th on the list as the pants sack is pretty full. A few phone calls later and I found out my sack began with Lynda across town. When I called to thank her she used words like thrift stores, yard sales and friends: not necessarily in that order. Lynda is just one of my friends involved in this ring of pants. Our group has casual guidelines like: clean pants, in good shape and if you take pants out, please add some back in so the pants sack can continue to travel. You don't even have to know the other women.

I have to wait until the rest of the house is in their bunny slippers before I dive into the sack. Like any other kind of shopping it takes time to assess because they have to fit just right. I have to think what goes with them and what I will eliminate from my closet if I am adding some more clothes to my wardrobe.

Finding several pants in the sack I just can't live without, I tour my own walk-in closet for a few things I might want to add to the bag before it goes out tomorrow to another girlfriend's door.

This is a brutal assignment! I pull out every piece of clothing with two legs: short pants and long pants, dress pants and blue jeans, elastic waist pants and Dockers: pants with front, side and back zippers. There is a mound of pants on the bed.

I try on everything and make decisions: what fits, what doesn't, and what colors aren't for me this season. Oh, yeah, and those pants I should have never bought in the first place!

There are three stacks on the bed now: the dis-

cards for charity, the pants for the traveling sack (it's okay to leave the tags on) and those to hang back in my closet.

Really, this assignment is best done late at night when no one is around; this makes you a 'no non-sense' shopper. None of this, "I can take in, let it out, add a cuff, wear it when I lose 20 pounds or buy something else to go with it." Being tired makes you more realistic. Then there is no hesitation! Really you will never miss it.

The success of traveling pants is speed. Don't leave the sack around as long as you would a rented DVD or library book. Make your selections, add a few things and out the door.

But if you have a teenage girl (daughter, niece, granddaughter, neighbor) she might want to dip into the sack when you aren't looking, so leave it around for a day or two longer before you drop it on another girlfriend's porch.

Don't worry about style, color or size when adding to the sack; those things just work themselves out.

If you are reading this and you have never heard of a 'traveling pants' ring, it is a sure sign you should start one. Pants get tired and bent out of shape just hanging around in your closet. If you aren't wearing them, it is time for that plethora of pants to hit the road. Now!


Traveling pants! Better than a boutique next door and a whole lot cheaper.



Making Time for . . .



The Laundry Room

- 
- I love for life to be clean, organized, not overwhelming, and pretty.
 - Especially in areas where I spend a lot of time.
 - With a large family, the laundry room fits that bill.
 - So, when decorating, cleaning and organizing this room, where do I start?

The first point to consider is the **purpose of the room**. What is it or will it be used for? Is it for laundry only? Some use this space serve as a multitude of purposes. Ideas include a mudroom to store backpacks, sports equipment, shoes, coats, boots. Or you might consider using it as a greenhouse and starting your seedlings there, repotting houseplants, and making flower arrangements. It could also house your hobbies and the supplies which go with your fun pursuits. Others need the space as a food pantry.

The list is endless, so it's really a necessity to hammer out the finer points of the use of this space.

Then we can move on to **what this room needs to house**. You will probably put a washer in there. Do you use a dryer? How about drying racks for air drying lingerie, socks, and other stretchy items. Consider if you need a place for dirty clothes and clean ones. Perhaps a swing-arm curtain rod would work for your hang-up clothes - to dry or to hang while still warm from the dryer to discourage wrinkles.

Fabric-lined baskets make a nicely organized space. You could use those or a hamper or drawers to hold them clean or dirty clothes.

Detergent and fabric softeners will need a place. And it's a natural area to store cleaning supplies. Where will coat hangers go? If you will iron clothes in this room, will you keep an ironing board in there? Where will you store it? Do you want it hidden or in the upright position, ready for use?

If the room is becoming too full, you might consider what can be moved to another location. For example, you might put sports equipment in the garage or under a bed. Or food storage can go in an entry closet or another place tucked out of sight.

The best place to **store** something is **at the point of use**. A good illustration of this is to have the laundry detergent near the washing machine - so you can reach it easily. Ours is stored in a small metal tub painted with a rooster and country scene. The functional can also be pretty.

Another example is to keep the dryer sheets near the dryer. Or coat hangers on the rod. Laundry baskets could be put on a shelf near the washer, to hold dirty laundry. And decide if you need a ladder to reach anything. They come in all heights and ease of usage: fold-up, ones on rollers, short, tall - whatever you desire.

The last point to consider is **how to make the room pretty**. Decide on a color scheme by looking at the items the rooms must house. What color are your washer and dryer? Do you use canisters with a colorful design? You can use these as the basis of the colors you decorate with. Remember, it's easy to change the color of paint, but harder to change the color of tile, machinery, artwork, and the like. So, choose the paint color last, so it matches or coordinates well.



If there is space, the laundry room is a natural storage place for cleaning supplies.

Painted walls, tiled or covered floor, or colored machines help coordinate the overall look.

If there's a window or two in your laundry room, do you want curtains or some sort of window treatment? Make it pretty, whimsical, elegant, or whatever your decorating style. Some questions to consider in defining the colors to use:

- Is there a **color scheme** already set that I can work with? (colored machines, painted walls, patterned floor tile)
- Does the **window need curtains** or some sort of window treatment such as blinds, a screen, a shade or shutters?

Laundry Room Window Treatment Ideas



- Do I want to **stencil** on the walls, floors, ceiling or cabinets? Or add other painted scenes?
- Do the cabinets or walls need a **new coat of paint**?
- Is this room an **extension of another room**, such as a kitchen, hallway, or family room? Should the décor match or coordinate?

After everything is painted and put in place, look at the space and consider some final touches. Ask yourself if there is any way to organize things so it looks more streamlined and less cluttered?

- How about tall shelves with laundry baskets to store clean and dirty clothes? We use metal shelves on rollers, with large laundry baskets to hold dirty clothes. We separate them according to color, then weight. Though jeans are dark, I wash them separately, since they take so long to dry.



- Is the room large enough to hold

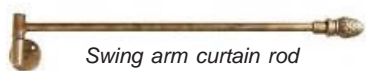


a table and chairs for sitting and folding clothes? If the space is small, perhaps just a bistro table and one chair would fit.

- It's nice to have cabinets in which to store supplies. If your room doesn't have them built in, you might contemplate using a piece of furniture with shelves built in. This could be an armoire, antique, modern structure, or something from the thrift store that you clean and paint.



- Where will you hang your clothes to dry?



Swing arm curtain rod

Hanging from the curtain rod in the nearby

bathroom? Or can you install a large dowel in the room? Would a swing-arm curtain rod work

well? These are handy because they can be pushed back against the wall when not in use - so they take up less space. You can even hang a quilt, fabric piece, apron or towel from the rod when not in use. Just another way to make the room pretty.



- If you are a visual person, clutter might bring confusion. Think about making or buying fabric covers for visible items: cover your detergent box with fabric, make a matching cover for your tissue box.

- Perhaps a rug for floor to help make the room look cozier. They are nice to walk on. Match them to the overall color scheme.



The whole point is to make this room comfortable, inviting, fun to

be in, and functional – pretty in our own eyes. Then it will take a routine, sometimes dull activity, and make it a bit more fun – in serving our families, in serving our Lord.



Depression Help



Michele is the author of ten books for women and has published over 1200 articles, reviews, and curriculum to more than 100 different publications. After having undergone four shoulder surgeries, Michele saw the need for her latest women's inspirational health-related book coauthored with her orthopedic surgeon, titled, *Burdens Do a Body Good*.

Michele Howe



Experts consult; then move on. Friends and family keep at it.

Edward T. Welch
in *Depression: A Stubborn Darkness*

Much has been written on the topic of depression, some worthy of the press received, others not. Sadly, many of the newsworthy articles on this issue pose more questions than they answer. It seems everyone has an expert opinion on the whys and reasons for suffering from this debilitating problem. While not everyone would agree on why a person gets depressed, or even how much of the experience is physically- versus emotionally-driven, one aspect of this condition is pretty clear: The one who is depressed isn't the same person he/she once was...and while recognizing this fact, the depressed individual frequently pushes away those closest to them during those times when their need for support is greatest. This paradox alone can be frustrating to loved ones and friends of the depressed person for a variety of reasons.

The now depressed man or woman doesn't exhibit enthusiasm about anything, what once drove and inspired them now lays dormant and discarded. There used to be a "give and take" to the relationship which is now overwhelmingly one-sided. Dr. Welch's observation that, "...we all shift back and forth between our roles as physician and patient," is especially telling as caring people continue to give without getting anything in return. It is the tenacious soul who perseveres despite repeated perceptions of rejection by their depressed friend.

For those who seek to support and encourage a depressed loved one, Dr. Welch cautions these helpers that they will experience resistance and it will be hard at times to continue pursuing a loving relationship. "Sometimes you will grow weary in loving. We all do. You will genuinely love, but it will seem fruitless or irrelevant. It won't seem to matter to the depressed person. But know this: **your love makes a difference**. That doesn't mean one concerted push to love will snap anyone out of depression. By itself, your love will not change anyone."

For the depressed, time can stand still, for those observing their emotionally distraught friend, time doesn't pass quickly enough. They reason that time in abundance has already been spent in this "phase" and they become impatient for life to get back to normal. While no one can predict how long a depressive season will endure, Dr. Welch recommends the following suggestions to gently promote healthy life patterns.

- Encourage daily structure that includes regular times for eating/exercising/sleeping.
- Set up a simple schedule to accomplishing one new specific task each day.
- Offer accountability; check in daily with the depressed person.
- Learn to discern the appropriate moments to in-

interrupt faulty speech or thinking patterns and speak the truth.

- Reassure your suffering friend that you are in it for the duration.

In close, Welch encourages continued efforts by saying, "...depressed people, like all of us, are aware of kindness and love that is willing to sacrifice. Love always leaves its mark."

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, symptoms of depression may include the following:

- Difficulty concentrating, remembering details, and making decisions
- Fatigue and decreased energy

- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, and/or helplessness
- Feelings of hopelessness and/or pessimism
- Insomnia, early-morning wakefulness, or excessive sleeping
- Irritability, restlessness
- Loss of interest in activities or hobbies once pleasurable, including sex
- Overeating or appetite loss
- Persistent aches or pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive problems that do not ease even with treatment
- Persistent sad, anxious, or "empty" feelings
- Thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts

Go on a



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 - Scripture
 - Vocabulary words
 - Field trip ideas
 - Writing assignments
- Science experiments
- Resource lists

Bird Adventure!



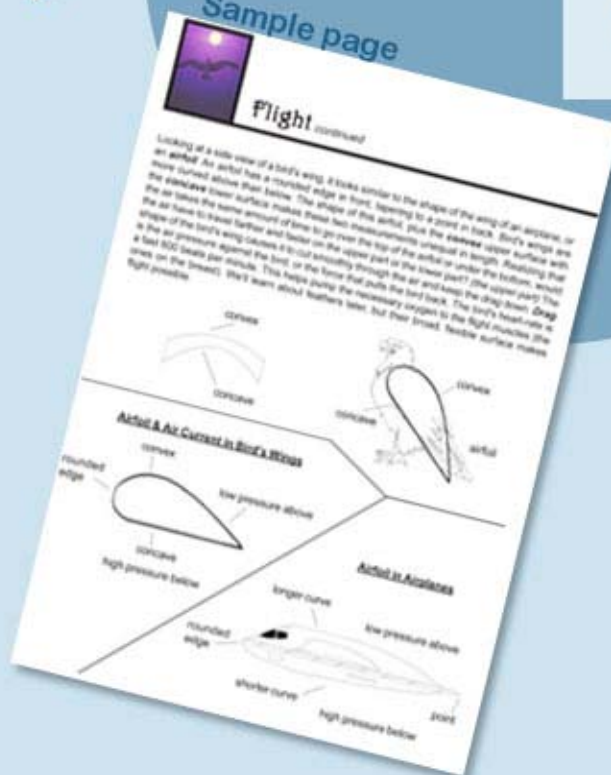
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Bird identification
Types of beaks & feet
Anatomy
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Sample page



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Making Scripture Memorable



Looking for ways to help my children memorize scripture, I canvassed friends on their methods. How has it worked best for your family? Which verses did you learn? Did you work by theme, by importance, by simplicity, or something else?

A pivotal moment was when one of my dearest friends shared that her parents would punish her by making her memorize scripture passages for whatever her transgression. The problem they didn't foresee is this only turned her away from God. In her heart, she felt like her parents were forcing the Bible on her. So, when she was old enough to make her own decisions, she ran as far away from God as she could.

This set me on a path to find ways we can teach our children how the Bible wants us to live without it being a negative experience. This is something I wanted to do in my own household. I didn't want to be overbearing, yet I know the foundational undergirding of living my life by scripture: finding out what the Bible says on any given subject, and learning to believe it.

So, with my children, I found myself quoting scripture to make a point – the Bible became the final authority in my life and I wanted it to be the same for them. This certainly isn't a bad thing, but it's the negative attitudes accompanying it which make the difference. When a child is being punished they don't want to hear you "spouting verses" – especially teenagers. It needs to be shared in a relational way, not dictatorially.

In order to lay a foundation in their lives, I began to teach our children certain scriptures and discussed their meaning before there was any hint of a problem in their lives.

Exodus 20:15 says, "Thou shalt not steal." We discussed stealing with the children so when they are faced with any opportunity for taking something not their own, they will already know the truth. And as parents, we prayed for them daily for the Holy Spirit to bring these truths to their minds when needed – in the middle of the temptation.

We started this memorization process when they were very young. I figured if they are old enough to talk, they are old enough to memorize. For our family, I made a list of subjects appropriate to their age and helped them memorize verses one-by-one. It's my prayer this will help deter problems in the future. The basis for my hope?

Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

Ruth O'Neil has been writing for over 20 years. She has been published in dozens of publications, as well as publishing a children's cookbook. She homeschools her children and in her "spare time" enjoys cooking, scrapbooking, and quilting.



The Hugger





*A hug is like a boomerang -
you get it back right away.*

Bil Keane, cartoonist

Born to love, it's in his nature: Morgan is a hugger. He has compassion. If it hurts, a hug will make it better. If you're sad, a hug will make you smile. If you're lonely, a hug lets you know he cares.

Someone points a camera to shoot a picture, and he grabs whoever is nearby. Sometimes, to the dismay of his older brother! Or the surprise of his sisters. Or the cat. He simply was put on this earth to love and hug.

But, the problem came when he began puberty. He liked the girls a bit too much. He wanted to hug them. A lot. He liked the softness of their skin. The smell of their perfume. And we had to help him have guidelines for touching.

No hugging the girls, only handshakes.
No hugging strangers. It makes them feel
funny.
No hugging more than once.
Short hugs.

And we thought that was that. Then, my girls mentioned that we might want to teach him not to hug other men. Some might get wrong ideas about him – or they might have attractions to him. So, we made one rule to cover it all:

Hug family only. Side hugs or handshakes
with others.

This seemed to help Morgan find the boundaries he needed. His compassion is intact. His physical touchiness has limits. And he's still *The Hugger* in the family.

See Morgan's hugging pictures on the next page.

*I will not play tug o' war.
I'd rather play hug o' war.
Where everyone hugs instead of tugs,
Where everyone giggles and rolls on the rug,
Where everyone kisses, and everyone grins,
and everyone cuddles, and everyone wins.*
Shel Silverstein, cartoonist

*And if you see me,
smile and maybe give me a hug.
That's important to me too.*
Jim Valvano,
American college basketball coach & broadcaster

You can't give a hug without getting a hug.

A hug is two hearts erapped in arms.

*A kiss without a hug is like a flower without the
fragrance.*

*A hug is a smile with arms, a laugh with a stron-
ger grip.*

~Terri Guillemets

*The best gift you can give is a hug: one size fits
all and no one ever minds if you return it.*



Morgan hugging the Chick-Fil-A cow.



Hugging his brother and mother.



Hugging his grandmother.



Hugging the cat.

Hugging his brother-in-law.



Hugging our room steward on a cruise.



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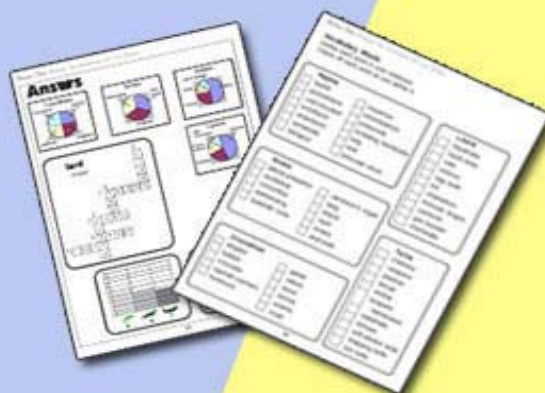
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Garage Sales



Locating *The Best*

This column is dedicated to these sales and making them work for you. How to find the best ones. What is pre-planning and what should be on my list? How do I hold a bang-up sale myself? And what advice should I know to I invite my friends for a group sale? How do I price my treasures to sell fast, first, or for good money? And how do I set up my things to help sales? We'll talk about everything Garage Sales and you'll have the inside scoop on just exactly how to buy and sell well – and everything in between. So let's talk about the best ways to find yard sales in your area and online.

**See Online
Safety informa-
tion in boxed sec-
tion on page 81.**

June, a relative of mine, is an avid Garage Saler. She *knows* this stuff. She can locate the best garage sales, find the neatest bargains, negotiate or haggle for a great price, and then give wonderful Christmas gifts! From her I've learned the art of the Garage Sale.

June took these sales very seriously. She bought antiques and furniture for her home. Fabric for clothes, curtains and to reupholster furniture finds. Bricks to make a walkway from her house to her shed, where she kept many of her great *GS Finds*. Kitchen gadgets and appliances were her thing, too. And we inherited many from her – when she found a new one for a great price. And she could find the best sales.



On the other hand, my mother-in-law liked garage sales, but it wasn't a passion. She enjoyed it while she was there, but could take them or leave

them. Interestingly, you can find local sales, neighborhood ones, bargain buys held by local churches or other organizations. Then there are city-wide, regional, or national sales. Whichever category of *GS Shopper* you fall into, and no matter what type you are looking for, there are ways to find the best sales for you.

**Garage Sale book
list is on page 82.**

Garage sales, yard sales, estate sales - they are all the same type of sale: people selling items they no longer want, from a house or yard. Estate sales seem to be the "high end," implying the whole estate of someone who has passed on is being sold and you can find some wonderful useful items, at a greatly reduced price. Quality, quantity and value are the differences between garage and estate sales. Quality - the items are used, but with more years of service left; antiques and modern items. Quantity - you can find whole collections of items. Value - you'll pay more than at a garage sale, but less than retail.

Local Newspaper

In the Classified section there is typically an area dedicated to garage sales. People place ads telling when and where their sale will be. They might also list some of the items being sold.

If there is a collective group holding sales either together or simultaneously, next to each other – these are great finds. You can literally hop from one bargain table to the next looking for finds. These might also be listed in the newspaper. Look for the local “What’s Happening” section of your newspaper for a feature article on upcoming sales. Sometimes organizations or groups use the media to spread the word through articles about their sale. Many of these are annual events, so people save their treasures-to-sell all year – and you can find great prices on wonderful items.

Note the ones nearest you and those in the nicest sections of town. These will be your targets. If you are computer savvy, or if your cell phone or GPS have this capability, you can save yourself time by planning your route. Put in each of the addresses and sort them by: closest to furthest away, or vice versa. Or you can list them by the swankiest area of town and down. Or by the time they open, so you can hit the ones that open earliest first.

Posts & Ads

You might also find flyers posted on telephone poles or on bulletin boards at your local grocery store. If you can’t copy the information, or rip off the pre-written info tabs, then take a picture of the poster with your cell phone or camera. Many times these sales are more last-minute and couldn’t get into the newspaper. Take the number or address and add these to your list, again arranging by your set criteria.

Online

There are quite a few websites dedicated to buying and selling things: eBay, Amazon.com, Facebook local yard sales. While you can find some

great things there, our discussion will be limited to the more hands-on, face-to-face sales.



Craigslist is a great place to buy and sell. It can be local or not. Just beware (see sidebar). To use Craigslist to best advantage, go to the website then find your local area. Click on the “Garage Sale” link under the “For Sale” category to find what’s happening in your area. It’s easy to narrow your garage sale search by filtering what you are looking for, as well as the price you’d like to pay. Exploring and searching on the site will help you become better acquainted with it.

www.craigslist.com



KwikSwap is similar to Craigslist, but on a subscription basis on yahoo groups. Every time someone posts a listing, it is put on a virtual bulletin board and typically sent out to every member of the list.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KwikSwap/>



FreeCycle is an email list you join in order to receive emails about free stuff being given away (or wanted) in your area.

www.freecycle.org



Facebook often has garage sale pages for your area. Just be aware that your information may become public to everyone on that list. Since we limit who can see our pages (family and close friends), this isn’t something we opt to do. A good way to be involved in these sales pages is to create a different facebook page for yourself, separate from your personal account, with no personal information on it.

www.facebook.com



On **Garage Sales Tracker** sellers can post ads for their sales. Then searchers can browse these listings for sales in their

local area. Posting and browsing are both free on this site. You can also locate consignment stores and flea markets to buy or sell.

www.garagesalestracker.com



Yard Sale Treasure Map is a cool and convenient way to map your Craigslist garage sale postings with Google map. You can map out the sales you want to visit. **Yard Sale Treasure Map** is a cool and convenient way to map your Craigslist garage sale postings with Google map. You can map out the sales you want to visit.

www.yardsaletreasuremap.com



Yard Sale Search is a website dedicated to helping people find yard sales in all 50 states. This is helpful when you're out of town and would like to do a little shopping. You can also post your garage sale here to give you more and further exposure. To use this site, you can filter your sale search by area, keyword and date. **Yard Sale Search** is a website dedicated to helping people find yard sales in all 50 states. This is helpful when you're out of town and would like to do a little shopping. You can also post your garage sale here to give you more and further exposure. To use this site, you can filter your sale search by area, keyword and date.

www.yardsalesearch.com



GSale is similar to Yard Sale Treasure Map. You can plot and plan your garage sale by location, with directions you can easily print for navigation. Put in your location and click on the ads of interest. Then click the "Add to Trip Planner" button and these locations will be plotted on a map with driving directions to get you to the sales quickly and efficiently. **GSale** is similar to Yard Sale Treasure Map. You can plot and plan your garage sale by location, with directions you can easily print for navigation. Put

Internet Safety

Craigslist, KwikSwap and other online websites are becoming increasingly popular ways to get rid of old things, or getting things you really want – virtual garage sales. The biggest difference is that once you reach agreement on price-for-product, you have to meet and exchange money-for-item. To do this safely, there are some guidelines you can follow.

- * The most important caution is to meet in a **public place**: library, mall, parking lot with lots of traffic. This gives you a bit of safety in numbers. If the person doesn't want to meet in public, proceed with caution.
- * If the item is such that you can't meet in a public place, then **take someone with you**. Our two, very large teen sons usually accompany me if Spouse can't. Also, I like to **text the address** to someone so they'll know where I am or should be.
- * **Don't invite them to your house**. You don't know them or their character, and you expose yourself needlessly.
- * Remember to keep your private stuff private: **don't post address or phone numbers** on these sites. Ask them to respond to the ad online, or email you with questions. Craigslist protects your privacy with an email service through them.
- * With all of the stories about people being scammed, protect yourself further by **dealing only in cash**. This prevents fake checks or money orders. Also, **never wire money or send it ahead**. Just don't.
- * Another caution: **ask for a demonstration**. If it's mechanical, ask them to show you how it works. Electrical items need a plug, so meet where there's a hook-up. Most libraries have private meeting or study rooms. Let the librarian know what you're doing, so they can keep an eye out for anything unsavory.

When picking up or delivering an item, use common sense: if you feel unsafe, don't stop.

in your location and click on the ads of interest. Then click the AddtoTripPlanner button and these locations will be plotted on a map with driving directions to get you to the sales quickly and efficiently.

<http://gsale.com/>

Garage Sale Books

Backyard Money Machine: How to Organize and Operate a Successful Garage Sale by L. R. Schmeltz



Secondhand Chic: Finding Fabulous Fashion at Consignment, Vintage, and Thrift Shops by Christa Weil and Barbara Vine



I Brake for Yard Sales: And Flea Markets, Thrift Shops, Auctions, and the Occasional Dumpster by Lara Spencer and Kathy Griffin

Trash or Treasure Guide of Buyers: How and Where to Easily Sell Collectibles, Antiques and Other Treasures Found around Your House and Neighborhood by Tony Hyman

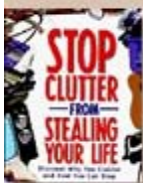


Books by Mary Randolph Carter - including:

Big City Junk
American Junk
Garden Junk
Kitchen Junk

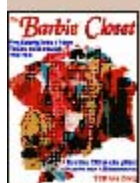


Garage Sale Manual and Price Guide by Harry L. Rinker and Dana G. Morykan



Stop Clutter from Stealing Your Life: Discover Why You Clutter and How You Can Stop by Mike Nelson

Warman's Flea Market Price Guide by Ellen Schroy



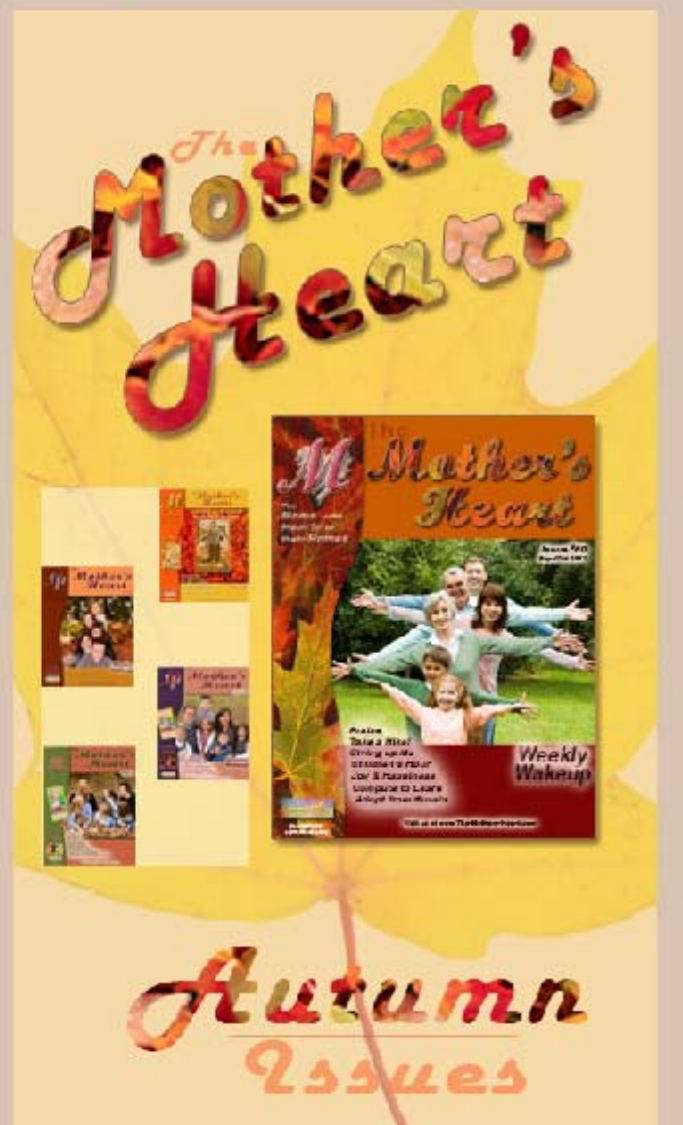
The Barbie Closet: Price Guide for Barbie & Friends Fashions and Accessories, 1959-1970 by Patricia Long

The Official eBay Guide to Buying, Selling and Collecting Just About Anything by Laura Fisher, Michael Kaiser, and Pierre Omidyar Founder



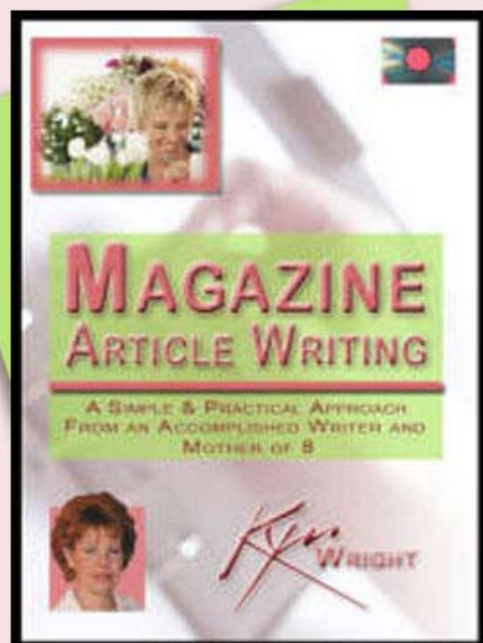
The Complete Tightwad Gazette by Amy Dacyczyn

The Fearless Shopper by Linda Borrus



Magazine Writing

by *Kyr* WRIGHT

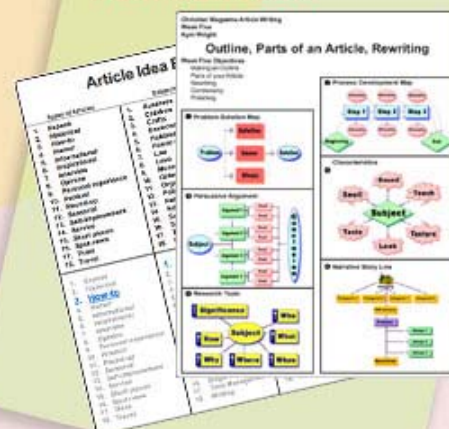


Let the story inside you
become a blessing to others

 In this 6-CD set
you'll learn how to get published.

- ♦ Interesting ideas and angles for articles
 - ♦ Suitable markets for articles
 - ♦ Match your ideas to markets
 - ♦ Ways to research articles
 - ♦ Irresistible query letters
- ♦ Market your ideas or articles
 - ♦ Structure your articles
 - ♦ Submit your articles
 - ♦ Copyright laws
 - ♦ Get published

Sample pages
from handouts



www.Learn-and-Do.com

A young girl with a pink flower headband is holding a round mirror. The mirror reflects a face that appears to be a different person, possibly her mother, creating a visual metaphor for the article's theme of maternal intuition.

A Mother's Intuition

A detailed illustration of a pink flower with white petals and a yellow center, positioned on the left side of the text block.

I'm different," she insisted.

"I know," I said.

"I've known since before you were born."



"Mommy."

I felt the weight of her small form press against me as I lay in bed early one morning. "Mommy, I'm scared," she said, digging under the blankets and pulling my arm around her slim waist. Slowly I blinked.

"Mommy, I'm scared," she said again.

I opened my eyes, awake. "Why?"

"Because I'm different," my three-year-old daughter replied. "Come see." She pulled on my arm. I yawned and pushed back the covers.

She led me across the hall to the bathroom, and stretching her arms high, she waited for me to lift her. Together, we turned and looked at the mirror. I had known this day would come.

"See." She pointed towards the mirror and the swelled hump of deep purple flesh connected between her nose and upper lip, the size of an adult thumbprint. However, unlike a thumbprint, this mark rose and puffed up like an overripe strawberry.

I pulled her hand down, hugged her, and turned away. "No! No!" she screamed. "Look!"

I paused and looked back at her in the mirror. "I know," I said. "I've known since before you were born."

"But do you see?" Her little lip quivered.

We'd watched Veggie Tales the night before and all I could think of to respond was to say, "God made you special and He loves you very much." And I added, "So do I. I love you just the way He made you."

All the while I spoke, my heart ached.

Her little voice whimpered, "I'm scared. I'm different."

"We're all different," I tried to explain, but she insisted on being held in front of that mirror. She had to compare our faces, to convince me she was unique. But I already knew.

I remembered an incident when I was six months pregnant. While waiting in line at the grocery store, a small child ducked her head around a man standing ahead of me. The little girl's father, a morbidly obese man, gripped his stacked cart next in line at the checkout.

But it wasn't the girl's father who drew my attention and caused me to gasp. It was the child's face. Large red welts, like small volcanic eruptions of angry red flesh, bubbled from her hairline and raked down her forehead to her plump little cheeks.

I tried not to stare.

For a moment, I wondered what it would be like to have a child who was different from the rest. I couldn't imagine having a child such as that. Yet, as that image crossed my mind and my eyes fell to the little girl's chubby face, I felt as if I'd just volunteered.

It struck my heart like lightning splitting a tree.

I rubbed my hand over the swell of my belly. I knew



Teach our children
to and how to
set & accomplish their
goals

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.

So, 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 goals
in, how to re-assess and how often, and how to help our children dream big dreams,
and to break these big dreams into smaller, bite-size pieces - to accomplish their
heart's desires - and reach higher than they ever thought possible.

Help your children learn to live the life they dream.

**Order “Gift of Goals”
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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 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, lists 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.

www.KymWright.com

then that my child would have a similar disfiguration to that child's.

An unsettled feeling — a mother's intuition—washed over me.

The little girl giggled and danced around her father's legs.

I tried to dismiss the thought from my mind. How could I possibly think such a thing about my own unborn child? I watched the father lift that little girl into his cart and walk away.

I tried to shake the feeling as I stepped up next in line. But deep inside, I knew.

A mother always knows.

Finally, I held my daughter in my arms for the first time. Then I saw it. My baby girl had a tiny red-blistered dot at the peak of her cupid's bow on her upper lip. In the far corner of my hospital room, my nurses stood whispering. I heard the words "cleft lip" and "the doctor will be in shortly."

My husband and I cuddled close, with my daughter resting in my arms, as the doctor explained. They called it a Hemangioma.

By the time she was three months old, that little red blister had spread and grown obstructing the right side of her nose. Almost weekly, we went to visit the doctor.

I was thankful for the winter months soon after her birth so I could cover her with a blanket and avoid the questions and stares I so often encountered.

I was angry, for a long time after her birth. How could God have done this to my child? He created my daughter. He designed her for His purpose. He gave her blue eyes and long brown hair. Yet, he also gave her that mark.

I think back, often, to that little girl in the grocery store. It was that memory of how her father kept her at his side that allowed me to gaze upon my daughter with a new perspective.

That father didn't hide his child away from others to see.

Nor was I protecting mine by keeping her from

the world.

"He has made everything beautiful in its time." I clung to that verse from Ecclesiastes.

I took off the blanket, looked past the stares, and ignored the comments.

Now, I gazed upon this beautiful little girl that God has given me.

From that morning on, we began each day by gazing in the mirror. We'd take turns pointing out all the ways we were different, like a freckle, a birthmark, or the shapes of our nose.

And then one day, we just stopped looking in the mirror.



Susan Lower is a devoted wife and mother of three. Find out how she combines her faith and family at www.susanlower.com

Let it Snow!

Make some homemade hot chocolate and serve with a sprinkling of marshmallows and lots of love!





CHAPTERS

- Count Your Blessings:
Parenting a Child with Autism
- Special Moms
- Hope for Parents of Special Needs Kids
- Train Them Up:
Practical and Godly Discipline
- Down Syndrome:
A Christian Neurodevelopmental Approach
- Hope and Help for Autism
- Autism: A Neurodevelopmental Approach
- Homeschooling Special Needs Children
- IEP - Easy as P-I-E
- Teaching Our Special Ones
- Obtaining Special Services
- Various Options
- A Good Government Program?
- Using Flashcards for more than math!
- Teaching Geography
- Special Treasures and Chores
- Teaching our Treasures
How to Clean Their Rooms
- Decorate their Room!
- Dressing a Special One
- Cooking for our Special Treasures
- Teaching our Special Ones to Cook
- Special Workout
- Finding Their Passion
- Bedwetting
- Special Helpers
- Routine
- Candida Yeast
- ADD: A Neurodevelopmental Approach
- Hyperbaric Chamber
- Special Church

- ♥ **Encouragement**
- ♥ **Information from Moms of Special Ones**
- ♥ **Advice from Professionals & Therapists**
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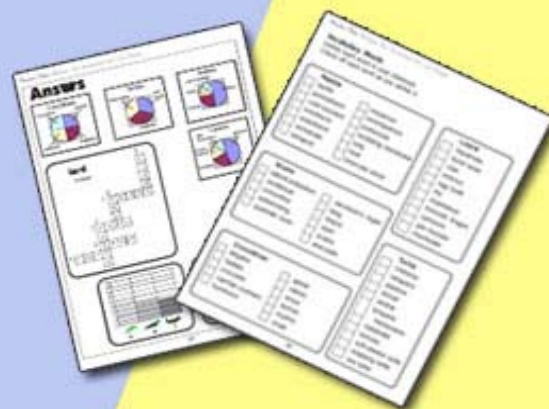
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- ♦ And how a Textbook Mom uses Units



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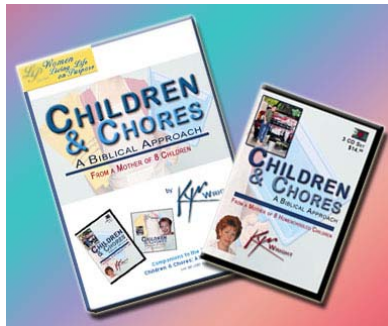


In the **Women: Living Life on Purpose Series**, we have CD sets and companion books on various topics.

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.



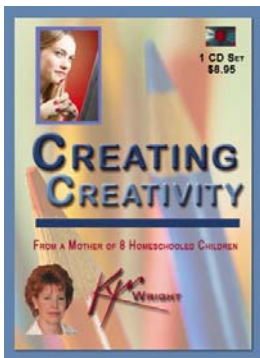
Moms Mentoring Moms

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.

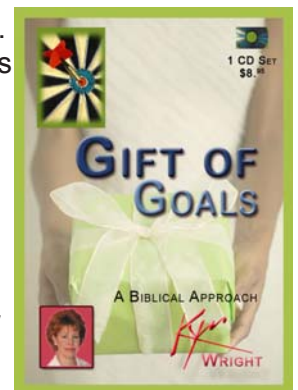
Gift of Goals

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.

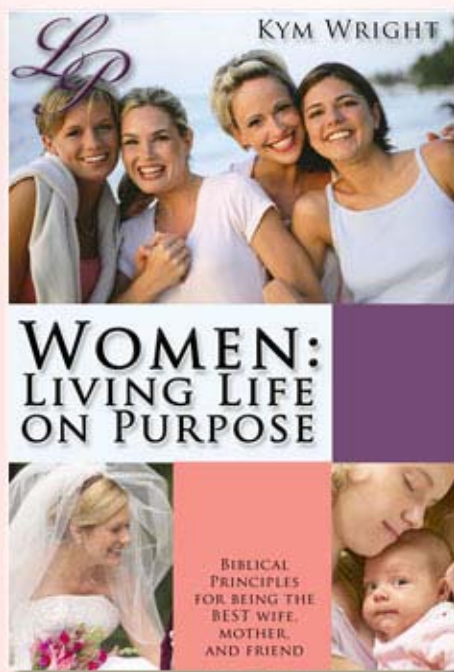
This course is about how to write for magazines, getting published and to broaden your scope while helping yourself to a bright future as a magazine writer. Learn to share your stories and testimony, God's blessing in your life, and encouragement to others. You will learn how to find interesting ideas 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 ~~gas~~ ^{pages} 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

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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.

For moms with hearts in their home

Top caliber writers
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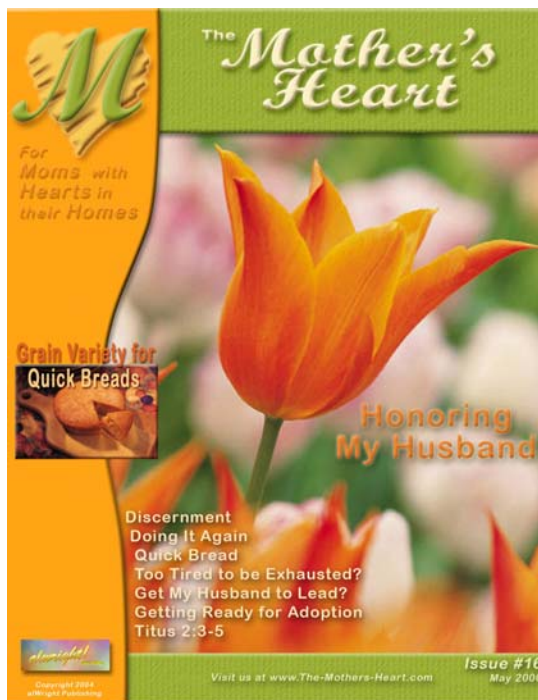
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The Mother's Heart
PO Box 275
Tobaccoville, NC 27050

Published by Mark & Kym Wright



The Mother's Heart Magazine is dedicated to serving and encouraging mothers in the many facets of staying at home and raising a family. It deals with practical and heart issues of moms - and dads. There are columns on child raising, husband and wife relationships, herbal healthcare, and adoption. Regular features include crafts, educational helps, trusting God for family planning, infertility and scheduling. Plus Kym shares many of her household forms created to make life easier: children's measurement forms, library form, chore charts, homeschooling, cleaning and more.

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.



The *Mother's Heart* Magazine



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back issues**

**For Moms with
Hearts in their Homes**

- ◆ Encouragement
- ◆ Practical tips
- ◆ Biblical foundation
- ◆ Organizational ideas
- ◆ Homeschool help
- ◆ Lots of fun



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Vol 1 #1: Aug '96: Letters From Your Heart; Coming Home (Kym's journey from business to staying home); PARENTING POWER The Foundation; ADOPTION Thinking about Adoption; TEENS Passing On Harvard; Life on Schedule; HERB 101 Becoming the Family Herbalist; Keeping up with

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

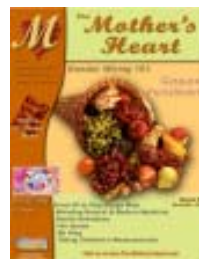
Vol 1 #3: Feb '97: Letters From Your Heart; A Joyful Mother; PARENTING POWER Obedience; Who's In Charge Anyway?; ADOPTION Consents; Breast Infections; Straight Talk; Finding the Extraordinary in Ordinary; Male's Hair Cut; Children's Chores; Choosing Contentment; HERB 101

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?



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.



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 #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

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;

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 Inter-

state 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 Virtue; 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?



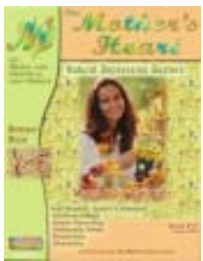
Vol 4 #15: Feb '00: MEN Equipping for Excellence; FRONT PORCH SWING Working Women; PARENTING Dat-

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 & Celaic 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

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



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 #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;



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-

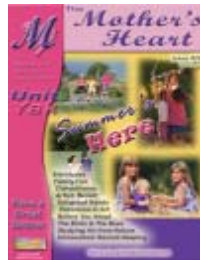


ing up & Cruise; FOOD Soup Makes the Meal! & Recipes; PROVERBS 31 Spoil; BOOK REVIEW SoundBites from Heaven; TEENS Self Esteem & Real Love; ADOPTION Promises; WEEKLY WAKEUP Home Atmosphere; ART Teaching with Authority; UNIT YAK Birds; MINI UNIT van Gogh; Creating a Vision: Gift of Goals; EDUCATION Library 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; On-



line 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!



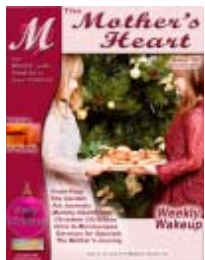
Vol 7 #30: Aug 06: Turtle Adventure!; Living Life on Purpose Series: CDs of Kym's Talks; Bird Unit Information; FRONT PORCH SWING The Dream: Remodeling; WEEKLY WAKEUP Do It!; TEENS When Can I Date? PROVERBS 31 Merchant Ships: Bring Food from Afar; FULL QUIVER Our Faith; PASTOR'S WIFE Finding Our Place;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

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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 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 #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 #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 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 Tea!; 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 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 #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 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



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



Shepherd; MAKING TIME FOR . . . God; PRESCHOOL Summer Reads; SPECIAL TREASURES Teaching Our Special Ones to Cook; The 90-Day Trial



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



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 #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

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

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



days; SPECIAL TREASURES Flashcards; CREATION SCIENCE Holiday Focus; PASTOR'S WIFE Pastor's Heart; PROVERBS 31: Fine Purple Linen; COOKING Delicious Holiday Rolls; TEENS Waiting for Mr. Right; While I'm Waiting: A Teen Girl's View on Dating vs. Courtship; A Holiday Focus



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



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/Jun 10: FROM MY HEART Seasons, Images, Changes; Wright Wedding Fotos WEEKLY

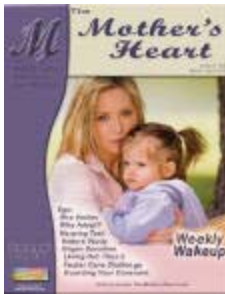
Vol 10 #49: Nov/Dec 09: FRONT PORCH SWING Sharing My Passion; Wright Family Photos; Sewing Photos; WEEKLY WAKEUP Leading Manager; DEAR HELEN Encouragement for the Journey; MARRIAGE Distressed to De-Stressed; MAKING TIME FOR . . . Friends; PRESCHOOL Enjoying the Holi-

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 Reci-

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

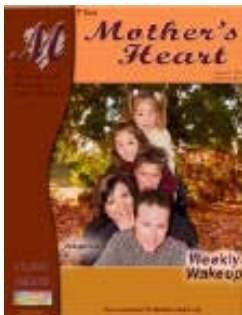


WAKEUP Ego FRIENDS A Thousand Worms PRESCHOOL Nature Study; Living Out Titus 2; HOMESCHOOL Why I Homeschool; MARRIAGE Hearing Test ADOPTION Why Adopt? Foster Child Challenge MEDICAL HEALTH Organ Donation PROVERBS 31 She Smiles; Living from the Inside Out; Kid Quips PASTOR'S WIFE Guarding Your Covenant 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 PRESCHOOL 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

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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! PRESCHOOL 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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Vol 11 #58: May/June 11: FRONT PORCH SWING Spring & Normal Life; Remodeling Pix WEEKLY WAKEUP Counsel FRIEND A New Season PRESCHOOL Spending Time with Your PreSchooler ADOPTION Bring It Home! MARRIAGE His 'n Hers Hobbies MEDICAL HEALTH 10 Things I Learned in the OR BEING HOME Exodus

14 Challenge PASTOR'S WIFE Your Life Message PROVERBS 31 Blessed Wife HOMESCHOOL Helpful

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Vol 11 #59: July/Aug 11: FRONT PORCH SWING Heirloom Life WEEKLY WAKEUP Show Off! FRIEND I Thought She was Dead! PRESCHOOL Simple Summer Fun ADOPTION Attachment in Adoption MARRIAGE The Art of Dating Your Spouse MEDICAL HEALTH Q&A with a Surgeon BEING HOME Lost & Found: Time with God & Friends; Anne Ortlund

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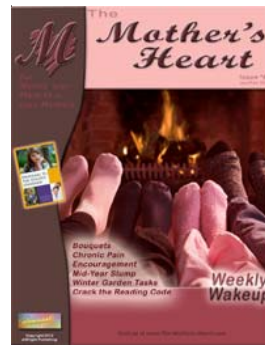
Vol 11 #60: Sep/Oct 11: FRONT PORCH SWING Rewards of Honoring God's Word WEEKLY WAKEUP Joy & Happiness FRIEND Spurring Us On PRESCHOOL The Children's Hour; Good Bedtime Reads ADOPTION Adopting from Russia BEING HOME Giving Up Me PASTOR'S WIFE Grace for the Fallen PROVERBS 31 Praise HOMESCHOOL

Enjoying the Journey SPECIAL TREASURES Computing to Learn MOMMING Bumps Don't Hurt Anymore PUZZLES Plants in the Bible



Vol 11 #61: Nov/Dec 11: FRONT PORCH SWING Celebrating Family Life WEEKLY WAKEUP Get Out of Bed! FRIEND Russian River Bed PRESCHOOL Sharing Your Preschooler ADOPTION Transracial Adoption BEING HOME Growing a Thankful Family PASTOR'S WIFE What Henry Said HOLIDAYS Create a Holiday Atmosphere; Christmas Pageant! KID QUIPS

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Vol 12 #62: Jan/Feb 12: FRONT PORCH SWING Happy Holidays; Wright Photos WEEKLY WAKEUP Bouquets FRIEND The Lesson of the Turtle PRESCHOOL Using Words; Check Your Message; Affirmation READING Crack the Code; Home Reading & Writing Center; Beginning Reader Activities MAKING

TIME FOR Gardens; Zones; DIY: Seed Tape; Supplies; Books; Put Food By MEDICAL HEALTH Chronic Pain; Loving those in pain; What *not* to say KID QUIPS From the Mouth of Babies; A Song in my Heart HOMESCHOOL Overcome the Mid-Year Slump! SPECIAL TREASURES When Things Just Aren't Working



Vol 12 #63: Mar/Apr 12: FRONT PORCH SWING Beginnings, Endings & Growth; Wright Family Fotos; Personalized Seed Packets WEEKLY WAKEUP Paycheck FRIEND Choose Joy?; Simple Sourdough Starter; Sourdough Blueberry Bread PRESCHOOL Gardening with Preschoolers; Having Fun IN-

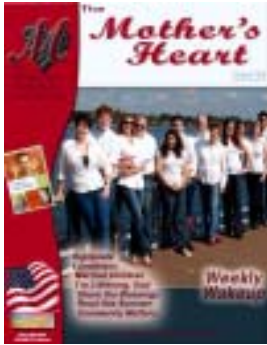
VITING GOD IN Free to Be You & Me MAKING TIME FOR New Moms Making Time for God KID QUIPS A Child's Heart HOMESCHOOL Interruption? Or Opportunity? Tips to Deter Distractions MISSIONS Cultivating a Heart for the World; Missionaries to Read About; Books SPECIAL TREASURES Backing Off REALITY CHECK Adventure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



Vol 12 #64: May/June 12: FRONT PORCH SWING The Gift of Family; Wright Family Fotos; Special Treasures Book WEEKLY WAKEUP Busy Bees PRESCHOOL Role Modeling ADOPTION ENCOURAGEMENT Spiritual Orphan MOM HUMOR I Want to Be Popular! MOMMING A Silly Sort of Stress MEDICAL

HEALTH Pre-Surgery Jitters MAKING TIME FOR Decorating; Painting Supplies; Paint Types; Room Design Worksheet; Window Treatment Design Worksheet HOMESCHOOL Instilling Biblical Self-

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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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Vol 12 #66: Sep/Oct 12: FRONT PORCH SWING Harvest, Tools & Closet, Wright Fotos WEEKLY WAKEUP Beginnings LESSONS LEARNED Power Broker PRESCHOOL Attitudes are Catching MAKING TIME FOR Reading & Learning MOMMING Nathan's 1st Teacher; Mother Teresa of S Ca SAFETY Keeping Our Children Safe

HOMESCHOOL Preparing for Departure; Tom 10 Things to Teach our Children SPECIAL TREASURES Special Creativity CIVICS Vote for Credit; Lobby from Home; Caught, *Not* Taught; Biblical Civics

Behold, children are a gift of the Lord;
The fruit of the womb is a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
So are the children of one's youth.
How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them;
They shall not be ashamed,
When they speak with their enemies in the gate.

Psalm 127:3-5

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Homeschooling; Top 10 Things to Teach Our Children CHRISTMAS Jesus' Birth from Different Views KIDS QUIPS The Not-So-Nice List



Vol 13 #68:Jan/Feb 13: FRONT PORCH SWING Happy New Year! Organizing Prayer Life; Wright Fotos WEEKLY WAKEUP Women's Lib PRE-SCHOOL Let's Play a Game! MOMMING The Best Mom I Can Be! FRIENDS Ways to Pay It Forward HOMESCHOOL Build a Harmonious Home; Children & Stewardship; Reading: Bedtime

Stories & More OUR CHILDREN Chronicle Your Child's Spiritual Journey HEALTH Lifestyle Affects Health GARDEN Frosty Herbs FOOD Slammin' Jammin' Pancakes



Vol 13 #69 Mar/Apr 13: FRONT PORCH SWING Happy Spring! Our House WEEKLY WAKEUP Breakfast FAITH Praying for Bees; Living Lord; Enrich & Increase Faith; Pass on Our Faith FAMILY Family Stories PRE-SCHOOL Puppet Art MAKING TIME FOR Daddy! FRIENDS Analogy of a Friend HOMESCHOOL Guarding Sabbath; 5 Mistakes of Homeschooling HEALTH White Glove Treatment READING Building Skills SPECIAL TREASURES Growing Up Kind FOOD The PB&J Station



Vol 13 #70 May/June 13: FRONT PORCH SWING Family Vaca; Maternity Clothes WEEKLY WAKEUP Excuses LESSONS LEARNED Complaining 101 PRESCHOOL Encourage Creativity MAKING TIME FOR Gardening &

Projects; Kids' Collections FRIENDS When to Let Go HOMESCHOOL Healthy Marriage; 5 More Homeschool Mistakes GARDEN Garden Expansion; 3 Sisters Gardens; Strawberry Pyramids READING Improve Comprehension MOTHER'S DAY Flower Power G E N - ERATIONS Thank You Notes



Vol 13 #71 July/Aug 13: FRONT PORCH SWING I Love Summer! Garden & Project Pix WEEKLY WAKEUP Dreams LESSONS LEARNED UnPlugged Family Fun PRE-SCHOOL Dress-Up! FAITH UnAnswered Prayer MAKING TIME FOR Family Projects HOMESCHOOL Communication; Why Home is Place to

Learn MONEY Teaching Kids SPECIAL TREASURES My Hero! HEALTH Organ Donation FOOD Adding Veggies to Breakfast GARDEN Your Own Victory Garden GRANDMOTHER Broken Glass MARRIAGE Ultimate Calling HOME Clothesline KIDS QUIPS Playdough; No Sense FUN Baby Shower

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Cooking with Preschoolers

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Role Models

What to Know Before Homeschooling

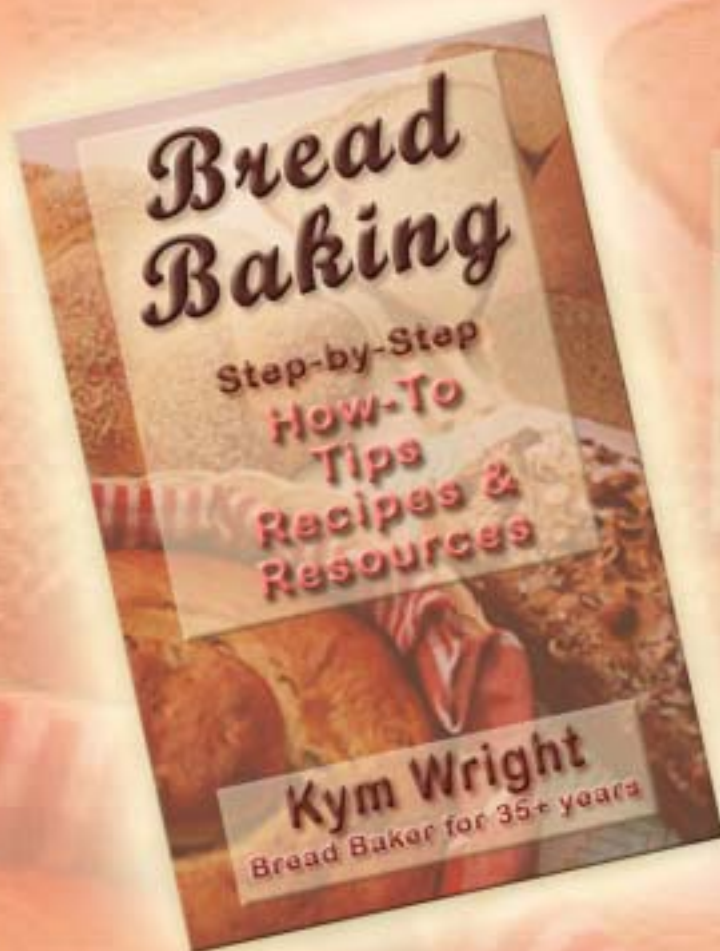
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Care-Giver

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We appreciate the WW's
very much! —Suzanne



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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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