

Bonded Together

The publication of the Above Rubies Conferences
Issue #15, March 2002

“WILL WORK FOR FOOD”

“I have been young, and now am old: Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendents begging bread.” Psalm 37:25

We've all seen the man standing on the side of the road with his sign. There are the guilty pangs of how can I help, especially when there's a "God Bless You" at the bottom. Gary even has a running joke with me when we need to make a major purchase that I better go get out my cardboard sign and find a street corner. But haven't we all wondered at times, "Lord, how can we possibly provide for all these children?" The enormous magnitude of what we have actually committed to taking on can make our heads hurt. And if we believe what God says than how do we explain the fact that there are many Christian families who at one time or another need assistance from family, the church, or the government? Are they somehow outside of the will of God if they are not financially sufficient? Why is He allowing this in their lives when they've committed their way to Him? Thankfully God does not require us to have all the answers. Just as when we tell non-believers about Jesus and they immediately ask, "What about the pygmies in Africa?" likewise we need not explain everyone else's stories to others that ask how we can possibly Trust God to provide for our family. What if we are the ones in that situation? Has God forsaken us? Why, why, why? Our lives are full of questions from the cradle to the grave. And just as He told Paul, sometimes our only answer is "My grace is sufficient for you." Only God truly knows why any of us are where we are at or been or why. We must continue to put our faith and trust and lives into His Mighty Grip and hold onto Him for the future of our families. And through it all we can agree with the Psalmist:

*“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints!
There is no want to those that fear Him. The young lions lack and suffer hunger;
But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.” Psalm 34:8-10*

Above Rubies Camps 2002

DAD'S RETREAT-APRIL 12-14. PINE VALLEY

BIBLE CONFERENCE CENTER. This will be an awesome time for the men with Colin Campbell and special speakers on other topics. **Please register as soon as possible.** Call Gary and Trish Evans (909) 681-4858 or gtkdz@empirenet.com for more information on all camps listed here.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FAMILY

CAMP/MOTHER'S RETREAT-AUGUST 23-25.

PINE VALLEY BIBLE CONFERENCE CENTER.

Bring your whole family to enjoy teaching from Colin and Nancy Campbell and fellowship with other families or come with other moms and room together.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RETREAT/FAMILY

CAMP-SEPTEMBER 27-29. CAMP CHINQUAPIN,

PINECREST. Located 40 minutes east of Sonora, 2 ½ hours southeast of Sacramento. All mothers and families are welcome. Colin and Nancy will both be speaking. Great prices! And I hear, great food as well ☺

Come join us. These camps are a blessing to all who attend!



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Bonded Together is published 3-4 times a year by Trish Evans, with careful, scrutinizing proofreading by Gary Evans. Its purpose is:

- To glorify God through encouraging parents in raising their families for Jesus Christ and retreat coordinators in ministry.
- To support the ministry of **Above Rubies** magazine and Colin and Nancy Campbell through the publishing of **Above Rubies** retreat information
- To have a forum where mothers (and dads, too!) can share their experiences, joys, struggles and ask for help and prayer from others.

The opinions expressed in **Bonded Together** are those of the individual writers and not necessarily those of Nancy Campbell or **Above Rubies** magazine (or even the editor for that matter ☺).

Suggested donation for **Bonded Together** is \$7 per year to Trish Evans. To submit articles, birth announcements, recipes, etc. email: gtkdz@empirenet.com or P.O. Box 381, Norco, Ca 92680

PUTTING ON A RETREAT FOR THE LORD IS NO **Big Easy**

By Angela Decoteau

Wow! I can't believe we actually made it through all the planning and implementing of our very first Above Rubies family retreat. After our first ever Ladies Retreat here in southern Louisiana during the spring of 2001 Jane and I decided that should we ever do another Above Rubies function it would be a family retreat so the husbands could be blessed, too. So we started in early summer planning and gathering garage sale items. The only retreat center that can handle our numbers requires a \$10/person deposit, which adds up to \$20/room (double occupancy) we reserve. Since there is no church in the area that embraces the pro-family ideals of the Campbell's, we have to come up with the money on our own. A garage sale is just the thing. It takes virtually no money outlay to put on and people are willing to de-junk when they know they are supporting a worthy cause.

There were a few problems this time however because, first off, we didn't have anything to sell since Jane and I had sold most of our belongings in the last garage sale, and second, Jane found out she was expecting her eighth child. Anticipating the possibility of complications that would quickly cause her to be immobile, we gathered as much as we could from our own homes and a few friends. Two weeks later we had two or three tables worth of junk. This amounted to only a small collection compared to the mountainous treasures we had heaped up the year before. But with Jane's condition deteriorating quickly we decided on a date and time one-week away.

"Lord", we prayed, "this is your garage sale and your retreat. We've done what we can. You have to do the rest and no matter what we sell we'll put it towards the retreat."

How shocked we were when donations of clothes and furniture, books and baby things began to come in. We had enough to fill 10 tables and the largest clothes rack you ever saw. The overflow was stacked and packed in boxes and on the floor of Jane's large carport. It was wall to wall stuff. Now I have to say that many people brought some nice things but most of the donations were old broken items and miscellaneous things that others couldn't sell at their garage sales. If you've ever done garage sales you know that if it doesn't sell the first time it generally won't sell the second. So came our second big miracle when people came to purchase all that stuff. It was amazing. A pregnant woman came and bought all of the maternity clothes; they were exactly her size. Another bought pictures that were sitting in a garbage can because we thought they wouldn't sell. And so it went. People came all day long searching for and finding exactly what they had been looking for. Our girls sold snowballs too and had a wonderful time at it. When the smoke cleared we had \$650 to put toward the retreat.

Jane called the retreat center to reserve a place but found that the ideal weekends were already booked. We knew God wanted another retreat so we took the only weekend available in the spring; Feb 15-17. Nearly the same weekend as the 2001 retreat. Would God give us another beautiful weekend in February- the all time rainiest and coldest month in Louisiana? No matter how hard we tried to arrange schedules, February would have to be it. Since this was the Lord's doing from the beginning we decided to trust Him. In early July Jane sent the money.

The months that followed were filled with personal challenges for Jane and I. After suffering with intense, immobilizing leg pains Jane gave birth to a very healthy boy in November and with his arrival Jane regained her mobility. Right after the Sept. 11th incident I was hit with another shock -my son and his girlfriend would be married soon and that I would be a grandmother. A small wedding was put together with a few family members attending, then a shower, and the challenge of learning to be an in-law. By the time the holidays were upon us Jane

and I realized we hadn't done a thing to prepare for the retreat. Then in January Jane's nephew was killed in a sudden car accident and her van needed extensive repairs. Prayer became our meat during those times of sorrow and difficulty and more and more we have come to realize that in the most difficult of times- when we finally rely fully upon the Lord- He is freed to do mighty things.

It was right after December that I decided to do some remodeling in one room of the house. I would give this to my daughter as part of her Christmas present. I never realized at the time what an important role that remodeling would have on our February retreat. Because of the difficulties and risks involved in the early part of the renovation, the girls ran the household while I spent hours sanding, plastering, and taping. To fill the quiet times alone I began to pray for the families that needed to come to an AR retreat and for those who had already signed up. **Now if you think that this type of retreat is only a physical battle, you are wrong. The enemy doesn't want families to be strong in the Lord, and to raise hoards of Godly people, and he will do what he can to discourage it.**

I must add here that along with the requirement of a sizable deposit, Tall Timbers also has a rule that a deposit can not be reimbursed if the depositor decides to cancel in less than 90 days of the scheduled event. By early January we had 8 couples signed up. Since all the garage sale money went to the deposit we had very little money to help with copies and mail outs, also, there would not be enough money from the conference fees to pay for Nancy and Colin's airfare. Nevertheless, Jane and I were undaunted. We prayed individually in the wee waking hours of the morning and I prayed as I sanded and painted. Then the people began to call. From Texas a family wanted to come. A local family wanted to know if there was still room. Wives, who would only come with their husbands called, "pray for us, I really want him to come" they'd plead. So it went until we had 21 families registered (including mine and Jane's) with 19 of the husbands! Even my son, who doesn't belong to a church, and his wife decided to come.

Jane and I began to feel a twinge of anxiety when we counted 52 children under the age of 12. With 106 souls looking to us for activities and direction we knew we had to get busy. Jackie Thelen and Trish helped to calm our fears and gave us lots of tips and advice. Jane and I encouraged ourselves with reminders that this was God's doing -He had already wrot a number of miracles- and He would surely see us through. So Jane and I and our children put our heads together for ideas. We worked hard during those last two weeks and particularly prayed for good weather.

That February weekend with its clear sunny days and crisp cool nights was even more beautiful than that of the year before. All of the children got along well and had a wonderful time. The older children helped care for the younger ones during sessions and during free times and, as Jackie and Trish had said, it all worked out. Nancy and Colin's message was so inspiring and encouraging that many families not only want to have another retreat, but are also willing to do what ever it takes to help bring it about. What is most inspiring to Jane and I is that the men were especially touched. **Men who had no idea of their roles in the family came away empowered by Colin's fatherly like advice and encouragement to take on their proper place as the leaders of their households.**

Despite all of the miracles we had witnessed during this year's adventure the greatest of all happened after the retreat. During the two weeks following the retreat we discovered that over half of the attendees and their families came down with a very bad case of the flu, including all 10 members of Jane's family. How grateful we are that we were forced to have the retreat in February instead of when we wanted it-in early March, because then everyone would have had the flu!
~Angela Decoteau

Editor's .02- The fact that so many of them got sick afterwards is just the continual saga of the spiritual battle that we have engaged in. What better way to defeat and deflate a family that had just gotten pumped up in Jesus than to put them flat on their backs with illness. Thank you Jesus for this awesome retreat and for these families who seek to follow You!

The Ravings Of a Lunatic

Working Fringe

By Gary Evans

This is the first in a three part series for the men, their life at work, working as a believer, working for both Christian and non-Christian bosses, and how to be and how to witness while at work.

For the guys, our home life is greatly impacted by our work life, our "home" away from home. Some of us might see our co-workers more than our own families.

In **Chapter 6 of 1st Timothy**, Paul encourages servants, **"To count their masters (bosses) worth of all honor, that the name of God and His Word not be blasphemed. And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved."**

"Back in the day" when Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, inked these lines, most of the working stiffs in the known world were slaves. There were no paid vacations, sick leave, 401K's and IRA's, and the only offshore accounts were places of exile like John the Apostle experienced at Patmos. Not the upgrade the timeshare operator promised the beloved saint.

We as believers need not just to talk the talk at work, but sometimes zip the zipper and kick some serious rear in our form of "tent making". If we are to honor our boss, and also our Lord, we should be doing an hour's work for an hour's pay. When we are asked to fulfill a task, complete a project, find ways to make the job safer, faster, cost less, we should be giving our all, and then some.

Colossians Ch 3, VS 23 states: ***And whatsoever ye do, do [it] heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.***

Unfortunately, far too often the lack of hard work and professionalism put in by believers on the job causes hardened hearts by the worldly workers around us.

More than once have I been around the guys and the slam session against a known believer begins. Some of these non-believers rant and rave about the lack of work ethic the fellow saint exhibits, but are incensed about the time spent "witnessing" on the job.

It is true that men would rather dwell in darkness than hear the Word of God. Mind you some folks might claim it persecution, and I agree, sometimes there is, but if you open yourself to it by not doing your job to the best of your abilities, who is fooling who?

Two examples. First is the guy who was instrumental in prodding me to read the Bible before I was saved. An extremely talented individual, could research information, put on safety meetings, speak in public on any subject with passion.

However, when work needed to be done, he was often found doing something else. Many times the other guys cruising to a job location would see his truck parked along side the Christian Bookstore along a major highway in the morning.

Three or four hours later when the crew was heading back the other way, his truck was still there. He no longer works for the company. He left on his own accord, but he found the grass wasn't greener elsewhere. At this new place they made him work, held him accountable. When he tried to get his old job back, they wouldn't hire him. Not a great witness there.

Second guy: Another field worker, with different job title and responsibilities, active in a small church, wife involved in running the children's church. During the swing shift, it could be counted on not to be able to see this guy for most of the night once or twice a week because he was "serving the Lord". The work truck would be parked in front of the church for hours on end. This included Sunday mornings or Sunday nights when he would disappear. He happened to be the soundman, but for some reason could not train someone to run the soundboard when he was supposed to be working.

I called him on the radio late one night. He answered. I asked him if he was all right. He replied that he was, and asked what was up. I told him that I had not had any door alarms all evening, and was concerned for him, even though I knew he was parked at the church. The guilty sounding response was a "Yeah, I know..."

I even conspired to steal the truck from where he had it parked. Another employee was going to help me. The most senior guy at the work location, however, got cold feet and told us we shouldn't do it. Could you imagine the look on that guy's face when he came out of church and the work truck was gone? How do you explain that one to the boss.... We would have conveniently left it at a work place close to the church, just to leave a message to him. Later after I left that place, the senior guy told me that we should have done it.

If I am grieved by hearing and seeing this go on, how much more the Lord and His Spirit? It motivates me to work all the harder, so that when I get a chance to share, there is credibility to what I have to say that goes along with what I have put out...

It seems to be a universal given. The non-believers will give you a hard time now and then in front of the guys, use the "excuse me for my French", but if you have walked the walk before talking the talk, when they have some problem, guess who is the first person they will come to when no one else is around and they need some "advice from the man upstairs"? You know it.

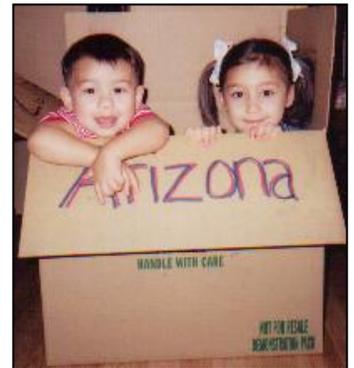
My friend Larry's boss nails him with, **"So what would a Christian do in this situation?"** But he has seen Larry kick some major rear at work, and realizes that Larry has backed up his right to talk by the way he works. I will have some other examples later on about good and bad dealings with bosses. ~Gary

PRAYERS FOR THE "MOVERS" AND THE SHAKERS

~For Greg and Moira Bell and family who have moved to Virginia

~For Mason and Julie Lee and family who are now residing in Arizona

~For Andrew and Carrie Redman and family who moved to Georgia
Doran and Aviel Lee



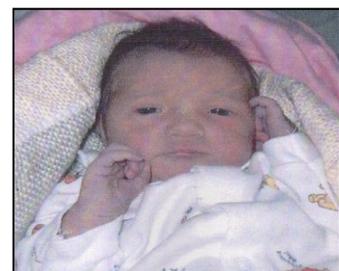
Lambs Sent from On High

Hannah Ruth Holman blessed her family by coming as a direct answer to prayer on Rosh Hashana, September 18, 2001. She joins parents Paul and Sherilyn and big brothers, **Daniel-7, Michael-5, and Joshua-2.**

Daniel Lukachick was born on November 20, 2001. He was 8lbs 10 oz. Welcomed by his parents Jane and Mark Lukachick and siblings **Joy-15, Anna-12, Dave- 11, Grace-8, Andrew-7, Mary Jane- 4, Joseph-3**

Chiara Therese Ennis

entered the world on January 13, 2002 at 6:46 p.m. at her home. She weighed 7lbs 10 oz. and was 20 ½" Robert and Kimberly's other treasures are **Malachi-6, Josiah-5, Kateri-2 ½**



James Thomas Sullivan

7lbs 13 oz. Born February 20, 2002 at 4:27 a.m. Mom and Dad are so Blessed! Yes, I had a Pain free childbirth again! "I can do all things through Christ, which strengthens me," Phil.4: 13. A brother for **Sean-13, Megan-11, Isla-7, Michael-5, Samuel-3, and Olivia-2.** In Christ, Helen and Michael Sullivan.

Nathan Nai-en Tsai It is with great delight that we announce the birth of our son...Nathan Nai-en Tsai, born Feb. 28, 2002 (2:25am) at 7lbs 8 oz. His name means "gift" (Nathan) and "one who is kind" (Nai-en). Little Nathan was in a hurry to see the world... his labour lasted slightly under an hour. Good thing God had already scheduled our doctor to be at the hospital that evening, because it was already 2 a.m. when we arrived there. Everyone is well. We praise God for this precious gift. Thank you for all your prayers. Blessings, Jack & Grace and **Ezra-6 3/4, Peter-nearly 5, Daniel-3 1/2, Samuel-almost 2.**

*As for our **Family Camp March 15-17...** we have 97 people registered (18 families, including the Campbell's). Praise the Lord. Please continue to pray for us.*

Angelique Constantina Krawczyk was born on September 25, 2001 and weighed 8lbs 1 oz. As with all of our children, there is always something different to talk about with each birth. This one started out quite boring. Some labor pains, then more consistent, but, the indications were back labor. Bummer. But, we'd been down that path before, so we went off to the hospital knowing what to expect. That was, until the nurse told us that even though we were only 5 days until the due date, there was no labor activity going on. Absolutely none. Dilation was to ZERO! However, the pains continued and were attributed to dehydration, until it was remembered Laurie had passed 2 kidney stones earlier in this pregnancy. Just to be safe, they performed an ultrasound, and discovered the surprise information: we weren't having 1 child. We were having quintuplets! One girl, and 4 HUGE kidney stones (we won't count the little ones). They decided to keep us (Tom and the kidney stones) and get Angel out!

We were admitted and Laurie was induced in the morning. Labor progressed slowly and painlessly (thanks to medication for the stones), but was "blocked" from progressing in the delivery process. After a short while, we were led to pray and have the "blockage" removed that was keeping Angel from coming. The word spoken to us as we prayed was that we were about to see a portion of what it was that God had prepared for us. At the very moment we prayed these words, Angel dropped and were it not for Laurie holding back, laying on here side, waiting for the medical staff to participate, Angel would have dropped right out. In our prayer, Laurie dilated from 4 to 10 and Angel completely dropped down (and almost out!), in our only 5 minutes of prayer! Talk about God hearing AND listening, AND ANSWERING!! Angel joins her siblings **Rachael-8, Matthew-7, Jeffrey-5, Derek-3, and Benjamin-1 1/2.**

The story wouldn't be complete without the follow-up on Angel's "friends". A week after delivering Angel, Laurie went in for what was supposed to be at least two treatments to shatter the kidney stones for easy passage. God once again was faithful in answering prayer. The very next day after the treatment, Laurie felt great. A follow-up ultrasound indicated ALL of the stones, big and small, had been obliterated! The doctor could not believe it. As of this date, Angel is doing great and is by far our most "angelic" baby!! The kidney stones are no where to be seen!! ~Tom Krawczyk

Eran David Sherman I had the privilege of attending my 49th grandchild's birth. Rebekah and Ben Sherman labored 42 hours at home, traversing the 750 sq. ft. home, squatting by the piano, walking many miles from room to room, taking three or four (I lost count) baths, having every and all 2 to 5 minute apart labor contractions swathed in next to boiling water on her back and finally, standing up and holding on to Ben, little Eran David Sherman blossomed into the world midst tears of joy and thanksgiving to our God of life. Arit, the sweet Israeli friend of Beka present for the birth also, said, "I could do that," as she decided her next birth would be without anesthesia. Rejoice with us, **Sally Ott**

God's Timing is Always Perfect

By Vyckie Bennett

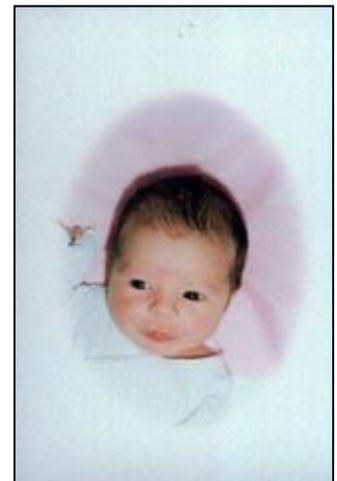
The Lord recently showed me very clearly that He knows exactly what He's doing in respect to the timing of our babies' births. I wanted to share this testimony with other mothers as an encouragement - sometimes we think our babies come too close together or else too far apart - but I have learned that God's Timing is Always Perfect and we can trust in Him to plan our families perfectly.

Although I've always had an abundant supply of milk, I only nursed my first three children for a short time before giving up and switching to the bottle. Breastfeeding was too messy; my clothes and bedding were always soaked. I didn't know how to feed my babies discreetly so it was very inconvenient for me to take the babies out in public. I didn't like being the only one who could get up and feed the baby in the middle of the night and had bought into the modern idea that husbands should share this responsibility equally. Plus, I could get formula for free through the WIC program.

I didn't realize until later that because of my own selfish and immature attitude towards my babies, their health suffered considerably due to my decision not to breastfeed. Two of the girls were hospitalized for failure to thrive - they could not tolerate formula and eventually had to be fed goat's milk. The girls had chronic stomach pain. They were thin and pale with dark circles under their eyes. They were slow learners and had difficulty concentrating. **Every time we took them out in public (which, unfortunately, was often) they would catch colds, flu, or something worse. All of these problems could have been avoided if I had continued to breastfeed.**

While pregnant with our fourth baby, Hazelle, I became determined to nurse in order to provide our baby with the maximum health benefits of breastmilk. I read several books on breastfeeding, talked extensively with our midwife about the various problems I'd encountered in the past, and joined the local Le Leche League group for support from other breastfeeding moms. I also read *"Breastfeeding and Natural Child Spacing: How Natural Mothering Spaces Babies"* by Sheila Kippley. In her book, Kippley advocates what she termed "ecological breastfeeding" - meaning no bottles, no pacifiers, night nursing (baby sleeps with mom), limited time away from baby. In other words, nurse the baby round-the-clock and mom will not ovulate - thus the added breastfeeding benefit of natural child spacing. I filed this information away in the back of my brain although I was not terribly interested in natural child spacing since this pregnancy was the result of my husband, Warren's vasectomy reversal and we were looking forward to having a large family.

My first three deliveries were all by c-section - all unnecessary. I was completely uneducated about childbirth and frightened into allowing



the obstetricians to take the fast and easy (for them) route. With our first reversal baby I was determined to have no more c-sections so we chose a lay midwife and were planning a home delivery. Despite all my efforts, I ended up transferring to the hospital after 24 hours of unproductive labor and was given a fourth cesarean. I was terribly disappointed! Due to the traumatic nature of the delivery my faith was very weak. **I could not understand why God would allow me to see how unnecessary those first three c-sections were and learn so much about natural childbirth only for me to end up at a hospital full of hostile doctors and nurses who seemed determined to punish me for being so bold as to attempt a homebirth after three cesareans.**

Although I knew that our decision to trust the Lord with our "family planning" was right, I was not in any hurry to get pregnant again. I knew that in all likelihood, I would be having all future babies via cesarean and I was quite devastated by that knowledge. All of the sudden, Sheila Kippley's book became very important to me. My midwife also encouraged me in "ecologically breastfeeding" baby Hazelle - she showed me how to nurse in bed so that I did not lose a lot of sleep, we gave no pacifiers, and did not introduce solids until Hazelle was ready to eat table foods on her own at about one year of age. By nursing Hazelle "round the clock" in this manner, my cycles did not return until I quit nursing at 17 months - by that time I'd had time to heal both physically & emotionally and was feeling ready for another baby.

It didn't take long! Within two months, we were expecting our fifth child. I was very optimistic and felt I had the Lord's assurance that this would be a healthy pregnancy resulting in a natural delivery. On June 20, 1998 - only minutes short of being a Father's Day gift, our first son, Kent "Andrew" was born at home with no complications! Praise God! I'm still high from the sense of accomplishment and triumph which the Lord has given me!

I'd had such a wonderful breastfeeding experience with Hazelle. **Since Warren & I were both convinced of all the benefits of ecological breastfeeding - not only for health, but for the child's emotional security resulting in a more contented baby, convenience of not losing sleep with the baby in our bed, bonding of mother & child, less mess, less expense, etc. - we naturally assumed that I would nurse Andrew exclusively for an extended period.** However, when Andrew was 10 months old I began having difficulties. Whenever I would nurse the baby, I would get sores and it felt as though Andrew was grinding his teeth while he nursed. The midwife thought he might not be latching on properly so I tried repositioning him. I nursed him in the football hold position and that seemed to help for a couple of days, but then the sores returned. I called the local La Leche League leader who, after doing extensive research, told me that according to everything she knew it is impossible for a baby to bite while nursing because the tongue would be in the way. "Well, he's obviously found a way to do it," I complained, "because I'm bleeding." The LLL leader called others in the League, I also talked to a hospital lactation consultant, another midwife, as well as all the other breastfeeding mothers I knew, and finally a naturopathic doctor, but to no avail. I could not find a solution, so I began pumping my milk and feeding it to Andrew in a sippy cup.

At that time, Andrew had not seriously begun eating solids and it was very difficult for him to make the transition. Since he had been sleeping with me and nursing through the night, we now had to train him to sleep in a playpen because I could no longer nurse him. I continued to pump, but Andrew was not drinking much of my milk and was having trouble adjusting to solid foods. Friends supplied us with goat's milk, but he did not really drink that either. Poor guy! He was so hungry - and he just wanted his Mommy so badly!

One night, as I was sitting on the floor in the bedroom preparing to use the electric pump, Andrew crawled up on my lap - he had lost about three pounds and was obviously miserable - I couldn't resist nursing my little babe! As he nursed, the expression on Andrew's face was of pure bliss - he relaxed for the first time in a month and when he finished he was smiling. But I was bleeding again! **"Dear Lord! Please show me what is wrong! Why can't I nurse my baby?!"** I prayed. **But the Lord gave me no solution. I felt that God was deliberately withholding understanding from me for some reason that I could not tell.** By the time Andrew was 12 months old he was eating normally and beginning to gain back the weight he had lost - I quit pumping milk for him though he had quit drinking it much earlier.

Two months later, we were expecting our sixth child. This came as no surprise as it seemed to be a pattern with me that I never had a cycle while breastfeeding, but within two months of weaning I would get pregnant. One day in late October 1999, when I was about three months along, Andrew pulled a cup of scalding hot coffee down on himself. I

heard him scream and then saw him jumping up and down, tearing at his clothes. I quickly pulled his t-shirt off and when I did, his skin came off too! I rushed him to the hospital where he spent a week with 2nd and 3rd degree burns covering 25% of his body. The poor little guy was in such terrible pain that it took four shots of morphine in the emergency room just to make him reasonably comfortable. I stayed with Andrew in the pediatric ward for the entire week - not leaving him for more than a few minutes at a time. **How I wished that I could nurse my little boy to comfort him! At that time, I was completely distressed by the fact that I had been forced to quit nursing him so early - yes, I was glad for the new baby that was coming - but couldn't the Lord have waited to send this blessing? Would a few more months have made such a big difference? "Why, Lord? Why did I have to stop nursing**

Andrew?"

Our fifth daughter, Lydia Jean was born on May 6, 2000 after a short and easy delivery. We again practiced ecological breastfeeding - Lydia fit in so easily with our family and was a very contented, easy-going baby. Then at six months, I began to get the sores again - this time I knew that the baby was not biting me because Lydia did not yet have any teeth! I called the LLL leader and it did not take long for us to figure out the reason for the sores - yeast! Of course! It was so obvious - I battled Candida constantly and my babies always had thrush. This condition was easily treated and I could continue nursing. Why couldn't I see that with Andrew?!! Since the solution to my breastfeeding problem was so easily identified, I could only believe that the Lord had blinded me and all those that I had consulted with when I was getting the sores with Andrew. I had no idea why, but there could be no other explanation.

The day after Thanksgiving 2001, my grandmother was hospitalized - at first we thought she may have suffered a mild stroke, but a CAT Scan revealed that she had Stage IV lung cancer which had spread to her brain. Grandma was given a life expectancy of about three months and was admitted to St. Joseph's nursing home. I visited Grandma every day, often taking the children along. Lydia Jean was 19 months old at that time and was very popular with all the nursing home residents. **Although Grandma had expressed concern to find out that I was pregnant "AGAIN" with Lydia, she was always so delighted to see the baby, calling her "Grandma's Sweetheart!"**

The Lord has blessed Lydia with exceptional verbal ability - she started talking at 9 months and speaks very clearly and precisely. By the time Grandma entered the nursing home, Lydia was talking in full sentences - which was so cute in a baby so young! At the nursing home, Lydia quickly learned to pronounce the names of all of Grandma's new friends, "Hello, Margaret!" "I love you, Lorraine!" "Merry Christmas, Helen!" Hearing their names spoken by such a precious little babe always thrilled the ladies and, of course, Grandma was oh so proud of her great-granddaughter. **Grandma told me to be sure and bring Lydia to visit during meal times when all the residents were gathered in the cafeteria so everyone could enjoy Grandma's Sweetheart.**

In December, I often dressed Lydia in her Christmas outfit when we went to visit Grandma - she wore a red velvet dress and I put pigtails in her hair with red & green curling ribbons and jingle bells - so adorable! Our oldest daughter, Angel would take Lydia from room to room visiting the elderly, making lots of friends and bringing Christmas joy to all. Grandma's condition quickly worsened and she was in a great deal of pain. St. Joe's was a decent place when she could do much of her own care, but as she became more dependent on others for her daily care - dressing, eating, going to the toilet - it became apparent that Grandma needed almost constant care which the nursing home could not provide. One day, the aides left Grandma sitting too long in a chair after giving her Milk of Magnesia - Grandma tried her best to wait, but ended up making a huge mess which was very humiliating for her. Each day she was becoming more discouraged and depressed. **During this time, Lydia brought joy and humor to an otherwise dreary situation. One evening, Lydia tripped over Grandma's serving tray and fell on her bottom. "Ow! Lydia hurt her buns!" she exclaimed very clearly - this really set Grandma to laughing! As she picked herself up off the floor, Lydia very sweetly looked to Mom for comfort, "You kiss it, Mommy!" Grandma laughed at that until she cried!**

Near Christmas it became apparent that Grandma could no longer tolerate the nursing home - she so hated the place that she was becoming combative and threatening suicide, "I'm getting out of here one way or the other!" After much consultation regarding her wishes, we decided to bring Grandma home to our house the day after Christmas. She was still reluctant to "be a burden" to our family, but after much reassurance that we were more than willing to care for her, Grandma gratefully accepted our offer to live with our family.

On her first night in our home, Grandma was visibly more relaxed. She was relieved as we settled her for the night in a regular twin bed (she had bruised herself terribly on the rails of the hospital bed) and shut out all the lights so she could sleep in a darkened room (the lights at the nursing home had kept her from sleeping well for nearly a month). I asked Grandma if she wanted the door closed to keep the children out, but she insisted that she wanted her "little angels" to come in and out of her room whenever they wished. Because of the difficulty in getting Grandma into our small bathroom (Grandma had lost all use of her left side and had to be carried), we purchased some disposable undergarments for her. Grandma greatly appreciated not having to get up to use the toilet and joked with us about her new "diapers." That evening, as we were tucking Grandma into bed, Lydia repeated the conversation that she had heard earlier, "Grandma has diapers!"

"That's right!" Grandma laughed. I offered her a drink of juice from a spill-proof cup with a straw. "That's Grandma's bottle!" Lydia exclaimed - by now Grandma was holding her sides with laughter. "Put Grandma in a playpen!" Lydia's innocent remark sent Grandma into hysterics and she again laughed until she cried - as was so common when Grandma and Lydia were together.

"Yes, Sweetheart - your Grandma's like a little baby now. I've got my diaper and my bottle - now I need a playpen!"

Grandma went to sleep contented that evening after receiving hugs & kisses and lots of "I love you's" from her six great-grandchildren. On Friday morning, Grandma's body began to shut down and she lost her ability to swallow, so was not able to eat or even take sips of water from that point on. She was in much pain that we were able to manage as best as we could with the help of the Hospice nurses.

On Saturday, my mother, brother, and sister, along with their families were all gathered to see Grandma - we shared a meal and cried together. Grandma had been unresponsive and unable to speak all day, but that evening Lydia Jean went into her room and said "Hi, Grandma!" Grandma smiled and reached her hand out. Then Lydia said, "I love you, Grandma!" and Grandma, as best she could, said, "I love you too!" - it was a very touching moment for all of us. Grandma's last words were to her Sweetheart. After that, she was only able to grunt or groan, her eyes glazed over, and we all speculated as to whether Grandma's spirit was still with us, or had she already passed on to be with Jesus?

Charlene Elizabeth Gibbs passed away in her sleep on Wednesday, January 2, 2002. It was our privilege to care for Grandma in our home before she died. Because the cancer spread so rapidly, Grandma suffered much pain that caused her depression and anxiety. We were only able to relieve so much of her discomfort with pain medicine, repositioning, an egg crate mattress, extra blankets when she was too cold and cool washcloths on her forehead when she was feverish, back and leg massages, Blistex and glisterin swabs, etc. **But I believe the greatest comfort and joy came from Grandma's Sweetheart - Lydia Jean. The Lord sent His precious gift - our little Lydia - at just the right time to cheer her great-grandmother during her final days on this earth. Now I clearly understand why God did not reveal the solution for my breastfeeding difficulties with Andrew. Only He could know the perfect timing for the arrival of Grandma's Sweetheart.** Yes, the Lord could have over-ridden my body's lactational amenorrhea and blessed us with Lydia while I was still nursing Andrew - but I have found that He most often works within the natural processes which He has established in His creation. Lydia Jean, now 21 months old, continues to receive the majority of her nutrition from breastfeeding - my cycles have not yet returned. I trust that in His timing, Lydia will wean and I pray that God will bless us with another precious babe. This is a lesson I pray we never forget - **God's Timing is Always Perfect and we can trust in Him to plan our families perfectly.** ~ *Vyckie Bennett* vyckieb@kdsi.net

Adventures of a Teen Crusader

By Meghan Hamilton

Here we are again for another Adventure in the Life of Meghan! Now I can add this to my list which already consists of preaching to the Crutches Guy, and talking to an insane man with donut all over his face at nearly midnight. This morning Isaac woke me up at 9:40. **"Meg, are you going to take me to work? I have to be there at 10."**

Arrgh. It is a twenty-minute drive. I had no time to get dressed, so I just ran to the car in my pajamas and we were off. I should have taken the time to grab a coat, it was FREEZING outside and my scanty PJ's weren't providing much warmth. I drove Isaac to work and hopped on the freeway to rush back home. That's when I saw it: a car with its hazard lights on, stopped on the median of the highway. I have this thing I do when I see cars in distress. I look at the people in the car, and if there is a guy I don't stop, but if it is a woman I do. This is probably wicked of me, I will ask God later. On with the tale.

As I drove by at 55, I looked at the driver of the car, and I looked again to make sure. Yup, she was a middle-aged woman, stuck on the side of the road in freezing weather. I knew that I should stop, but I said to Jesus, "Lord, do you want me to go back and help them? If so, tell me." I was having serious doubts, seeing as I was in my PJ's. I glanced at the car next to me as I'm getting off at my exit, and there on the bumper...it says, **"AUSTRALIA"!!** A sign! **"O.K. Lord, I'll do it."** I made up my mind to go back. I looked over at the bumper sticker again. "Austria". I still think it was a sign from God. I took a left turn and got on the frontage road going the other way, and drove about two city blocks. I took the overpass and got back onto the freeway going the way I originally was going, only to find that I had not gone far enough back, and I couldn't get over to the median soon enough. I glanced over at the woman in the car...she was looking nervously in her rear view mirror. Sigh.

I got off the freeway AGAIN and made an even larger loop. I was praying, **"Looooord, I'm in my scanties! And I don't have any shoes on! Do You really want me to get out and run along the freeway looking like this?"** He reminded me that when David danced before Him, he exposed himself to everyone. Also, I thought, I would want someone to stop and help me, even if they were in their PJ's. And what if it was Jesus in that car? Would I stop to help, even though I was in my pajamas? Of course. So why wouldn't I help this poor stranded woman? I was resolved again to help her, and when I got on the freeway I successfully pulled over behind her with my own hazard lights on. Leaving my heater running, I sprinted over to her car, careful not to step on anything with my bare feet. She rolled her window down.

AAaugggghh!! It wasn't a middle-aged woman at all! It was a teenage guy (he was kind of scary looking, too. He had yellow, golden eyes) **Le shock! Le shock!** I composed myself (yeah, right. Standing there barefooted in my pajamas in the cold on the freeway, I "composed" myself.) and yelled over the traffic, **"DO YOU NEED HELP?"** He looked calmly up, and said, "No. I'm waiting for AAA. Thanks though." As I drove away (after saying, "O.K. bye") I told Jesus, "This is not funny." I could almost feel Him laughing. Arrgh. **"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'" Matt. 25:40 ~ Mags**

No More Daisy Chains

By Pat Wesolowski

Our world is falling apart. The United Nations is gaining power daily, seeking to empower a one-world government. America has become a deprived country that is in deep debt, heading towards a more socialistic society each day. Americans have been brainwashed to believe that the government should be the provider of our education, our health care, our retirement, and our financial welfare. We have been duped into believing that the government can take care of our daily and our personal needs, and that we can trust them with everything from birth control to child care to elderly care. Governments derive their power from the consent of those who are governed. We have given our government, whether purposefully or not, our consent to continue on in this destructive path.

Samuel Bloomenfeld says that if we want to reclaim America then the answer is simple: get our children out of the public schools. Why is that? Because if you win the youth, you win the nation. Our schools have an agenda and the fact that they are successfully accomplishing this agenda is evident when you talk to teens today. The average high school graduate has no ambition and is apathetic. If they have any concern, it is directed towards self or to protecting the earth. They have been exposed to bad language, sexual situations, and violence so often

that they are immune to it. It becomes an accepted part of life. Many Americans expect handouts and are quick to blame, and sue, anyone who makes life hard for them. They are the champions of the minorities, yet are quick to accuse Christians of hate and bigotry. What are we, as Christians living in America, to do about this?

Amy Carmichael, a missionary to India, once had a dream where she was sitting in a circle on the grass with other missionaries making daisy chains. In the background she could hear blood-curdling screams. She left the circle to check out the screaming only to find masses of people blindly walking over a cliff into a pit of fire. She tried to yell at them, warning them of the danger. She tried to hold them back, but her single efforts were useless. Amy ran back to the group and said, "Quick. Get up. We have to form a human chain and stop these people from falling off the cliff." The head missionary rebuked Amy, telling her that her job was to make daisy chains and that she had better sit back down with the group and finish making daisy chains.

Have we been duped into making daisy chains? Let's give this some thought. What were we taught was the most important achievement to accomplish in order to be successful? Most of us were told that our success hinged on getting a college education. How much time and money did we spend sitting in classes being taught information that we will never need or use? Contrary to what the world expects us to believe, birth is not the only prerequisite to college. Having a college degree is not a guaranteed ticket to success. Many college graduates are having trouble finding jobs that pay more than minimum wage while at the same time there are those who are making \$50,000 plus a year who do not even have a college degree. Also, are you aware of how many Christian children reject their faith during the first semester of college?

At the Summit Ministries camp at Bryan College Jeff Myers tells heartbreaking stories of teens who were not prepared for the many challenges to their faith that they faced in college. **Mothers who were sure their children had been so well grounded in their faith that they could face anything (children who were homeschooled their entire life) were shocked to find their children falling hook, line and sinker for humanistic views. How many 18-year-olds are ready to live on campus, virtually without any supervision, and attend classes where the professors are doing their best to strip each student of their faith in God?** We have been brainwashed to believe that at age 18 our children instantly become mature, responsible, logical thinking, adults who are strong in their faith and able to withstand any deluge of propaganda. If this were true then the statistics of children forsaking their faith at college would be much lower.

Why are we even sending our daughters to college? Attending college does little to prepare a woman to be a better wife and mother. We have been led to believe that it is important that a woman have something to fall back on, just in case. Just in case of what? Divorce?

Unacceptable and definitely not something for which we should be planning. If something should happen that leaves a woman without a husband to provide, will God not provide? Can she not later learn the skills necessary to earn money? Scripture mandates that we take care of our sisters in these situations. Is college the best use of our time, or are we making more daisy chains?

We have also been brainwashed to believe that dating is a natural process required to find the best mate for marriage. Dating is more of a preparation for divorce then it is a tool for finding the right mate. Children as young as 12 and 13 date! Dating encourages physical and emotional relationships with children who, many times, do not even have marriage in mind. The purpose for dating should be to find a mate for marriage. **If your child is not old enough to consider getting married, then why should he/she be dating?**

What are the alternatives to dating? In homeschool circles the buzzwords are "courting" and "betrothal." I am afraid that it is all a game of semantics with many different definitions and interpretations of such. Parents should be praying for the future spouse of their children, teaching the children how to trust God with finding their mate, and encouraging them to let the parents be a part of this process. If the

parents and children are in agreement that God can find the best mate for them, and if the children are truly seeking God's best in this matter, then trusting the parent's guidance in this process should be welcomed.

What is the acceptable age of marriage? Now days it is much older than it has been in years past. Why is that? The primary reason people wait to get married is because they want to have everything perfectly lined up in their life before marriage. Finish school, get a good job, be ready to finance a family. There is no perfect age for marriage and some young adults are definitely ready before others, but marriages have a much better chance of surviving if the child goes from the parents home to the marriage without a period in between of independent living. **The Bible says "leave your mother and father and cleave to your wife." That statement presupposes that the man is still with his parents until marriage.** If we are preparing our children for marriage, particularly our girls, then marrying at a younger age will ensure a greater chance of a stable marriage because moving from one authoritative relationship to another is easier to adjust to without a period of independent living.

Let's talk about divorce. Do you realize how high the divorce rate zooms when women who are married work outside the home? Did you know that the rate of divorce among Christians is as high as the rate among non-Christians? Divorce has become so accepted among Christians that many churches offer special Sunday School classes for the divorced. God hates divorce. We are to be married 'til death do us part. We are surrounded by many Christians these days who have been through a divorce.

We want to be careful to forgive, and not to condemn, but our actions should not be interpreted as acceptance. Time Magazine featured a review last year of a secular book in which the author came to the conclusion that in most cases a bad marriage was better for the children than divorce. We should be teaching our children that divorce is not an option. Unfortunately, with no-fault divorce laws there is little one can do when their spouse insists on divorce. However, that person can remain true to their vow and not remarry as long their spouse is living.

After marriage we are told that we should not have children immediately. After all, we need time to ourselves. Besides, children are expensive, aren't they? Wouldn't a responsible Christian couple plan and prepare before having children? How do Christian couples plan their families? They use birth control until the 'best time' arrives to have a predetermined number of children. Although most Christians are anti-abortion, few realize that in addition to the IUD, birth control pills will abort a baby as well. **That's right, the pill will cause a conceived baby to be aborted by disturbing the lining of the womb to such a degree that the fertilized egg cannot attach to the lining, thereby sloughing it off. The pill is supposed to prevent fertilization, but it often doesn't. Is this common knowledge? Hardly.** But it is true. In fact, a pro-choice proponent, speaking at a rally in Louisiana defending abortions said that if you are going to outlaw abortions, then you need to outlaw the pill as well. Those of us who look upon each and every birth as a gift from God, believing the scriptures that call children a blessing, are made to look ignorant for leaving our family planning in God's hands. Do you want to take part in restoring America to the Christian foundation on which it was built? If so, then consider having as many children as God blesses you with. **If every Christian couple has six children who become Christians and, in turn, those children have six children, then in just 40 years America would be 90% Christian. And that's without evangelism!**

Let me ask you another question on this subject before moving on. Are there any blessings offered to you from God (other than children) where your response is, "No, don't bless me now. I can't handle this blessing yet." or "That's enough God, you've already blessed me enough. I don't need any more blessings."? Why do we consider children to be burdens rather than blessings? Even if they were burdens, God promises not to put us in any situation that we cannot, without His help, handle. Matthew chapter six is His promise of food, clothing and shelter. What is the better choice? To have two children showered with material blessings, or to be receptive to God's desire to bless you with many children, trusting Him to provide their basic needs?

A common concern regarding large families is the question of financing a child's college education. It is not the responsibility of the parent to finance a child's higher education. By the time a child is old enough to attend college, and if he chooses to do so, then he should be capable of earning the money required. **Where is it written that every child who chooses to go to college has to begin at age 18 and attend without a break until graduation?** This should not be an issue in deciding how many children to have. If our children are going in the direction God is leading, then God will provide. Besides, it's a misnomer that raising a large family is expensive. Certainly there are more mouths to feed, bodies to clothe, and clothes to wash, but with a little creativity, ingenuity and willingness to shop thrift stores and yard sales, the cost of living for a large family is not unaffordable. This is particularly true if you have a home business that can make good use of these built in laborers!

We get married and we have children, certainly we aren't still being brainwashed? Absolutely, and in many areas. Do you take your children to every well baby check up suggested? I took my children to these check ups for years before I realized that it was not the best idea in the world to take a well baby to a place full of illness. My well baby often became ill soon after these visits. Do you vaccinate your child with every recommended vaccination? **Are you aware of how many deaths and illnesses are related to vaccinations? I know a nurse who injected an 18-month-old with the vaccinations recommended for a child his age and he was dead within 48 hours. There has also been research that shows a possible connection to vaccinations and mental disorders such as autism.**

In spite of the uneasy feeling I felt every time I signed a waiver release I had my first five children inoculated, and even continued with the recommended shots after they had negative reactions to the shots. I did not realize that I had an option. I did wonder why the physicians were vaccinating against illnesses that we easily survived such as measles, mumps, and the chicken pox. Many of the modern day vaccinations are designed for children who are exposed to sexually transmitted diseases, hepatitis and other illnesses to which our children will probably never be exposed. We are the parents. For the time being our children are still our charges and we can research and determine for ourselves what is best for our children. There are several books that have been written espousing the dangers of vaccinations. I suggest you take time to look into this matter.

Are your children on behavior modifying drugs? Are you being advised by professionals to have your child tested and treated for disorders that you previously thought they would grow out of in time? **We have been led to believe that someone with a lot of initials after their name may know better than we do how to take care of our children. I am not against seeking the advice of professionals, but I do hate to see parents going against their natural instincts because someone else convinces them otherwise.**

Most Christians are determined to discipline their children in order to build their character. Is that one of your goals? It should be. It is scriptural. However, if our discipline and training does not deal with issues of the heart, then we are wasting our time and are, instead, teaching behavior modification (or manipulation). Are you teaching your child the importance of learning God's word? Do they know the plan of salvation? Have they accepted Christ as their savior? Do they know that every choice they make either pleases God or it doesn't? Are you teaching them verses that deal with kindness and compassion, obedience and wisdom? **Nothing is more important than teaching your child the word of God.**

You have decided to homeschool. You are wise to homeschool, but are you homeschooling wisely? What is your mission? Do you have goals or do you find that your days are spent performing daily acts of trivia? This, my friend, is an area where I think we need to spend some time in thought and prayer, rethinking our goals as homeschool parents. Most of us have been made to believe that a certain number of hours every day need to be spent in rigid schoolwork. Some of us put less emphasis on structure than others, but most of us would agree that educating our children is important. I agree, to a certain extent. Why have we accepted so quickly the virtues of teaching our children certain subjects at certain ages? Have we not seen that emulating a failing

Are there any blessings offered to you from God (other than children) where your response is, "No, don't bless me now. I can't handle this blessing yet." or "That's enough God, you've already blessed me enough. I don't need any more blessings."? Why do we consider children to be burdens rather than blessings?

system is not a good idea? **How many of you remember the facts you were taught via text book learning? In contrast, how many of you remember learning something that you still retain today because it was of interest to you?**

Life is full of learning opportunities. There are so many opportunities to learn every day, in the course of our day, without actually planning for those events that if we just seized the moments as they arrive then our children will learn real life lessons. Lessons that will be preparing them for life. Do not misunderstand. I believe that reading, writing, research and mathematics are important skills to hone. However, these subjects can be taught naturally during the course of the day without having the pressure of accomplishing a certain number of hours of 'school work' every day.

Many mothers believe they have to put their life on hold while they educate their children.

This is not so. **Your children should be an extension of yourself and your interests. Do you like to sew? Garden? Ride horses? Quilt? By all means, continue doing what you enjoy and involve your children.** Almost every subject imagined can be taught in a natural setting, without textbooks. A child surrounded by books and reading will eventually learn to read. Phonic lessons can easily be included as you read to your little ones. We have been made to feel terrible if our children are not reading proficiently by a certain age, yet when they are adults the age at which they learned to read is irrelevant. Math is another subject that is easily included in our daily lives. Not only is math necessary in cooking, sewing, and gardening, but there are numerous games that teach addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in a fun and enjoyable manner.

Allowing children to learn in a natural setting better prepares them for life then forcing them to learn facts that seem meaningless and useless. Grocery shopping alone is a great teacher of both math and geography. During your shopping trips have the children estimate the total cost of the groceries. Let them weigh the produce and find the heaviest item (a five-pound bag of potatoes often has more than five pounds). When you return from the grocery store and as you are putting up the groceries, mark on a map where each item was produced. Taking advantage of teaching opportunities during a natural setting such as grocery shopping better prepares your child for adulthood than assigning worksheets in a workbook that teaches the same information.

Few would argue that American children lead fairly spoiled lives with little work required of them. **The best way to prepare your children to be responsible mature adults is to require them to work hard every day.** Some families have farms, large gardens, or other projects that require many hours of work. Involve your children. If you do not have enough work available to fill their days, then create work. Start a building project, refinish some furniture, rebuild a car, begin a home business, sign up your children as apprentices, or encourage them to volunteer to help others who are shorthanded. If our children were to spend a week working on a dairy farm (starting early and working long hours), they would gain a great appreciation for free time and work that is not as physically demanding. A great way to help your children discover their strengths (and weaknesses), their talents and their interests is to expose them to all kinds of work.

Are you too busy 'doing school' to minister to others? Our lives should be an example of servant hood and ministry. Think about this. Why did God leave us here after we became Christians? Spiritually speaking, there is only one thing we can do here on earth that we cannot do in heaven. What is that? Sharing our faith. In heaven there will be no need to witness to others, yet here on earth that is our mission. Nothing is more important than that. I do not believe there is any reference in scripture to jewels being added to our crown for the amount of information we glean. In fact, 2 Timothy 3:5-7 says that people "will have a form of godliness, but deny its power. They are the kind who worm their way into our homes and gain control over weak-willed women, always learning but never coming to acknowledge the truth." If you spent your days reading books about men and women of God, studying the scriptures, and learning lessons of life as they are presented daily, you will find there is not only much less stress, but what is taught naturally will be better retained.

We have also been made to believe that teaching politics to our children is taboo. Nothing could be further from the truth. **What better**

way to have an impact on the direction of our country then to raise children with knowledge of government? Consider subscribing to a magazine such as World or The New American so you can keep your child abreast of current events. Don't stop there. Get involved politically and include your children. Help out with the campaigns of godly men. Keep abreast of legislation and write to your Senators and Congressmen. Did you know that a legislator's vote is swayed by as few as 500 responses to an issue? As your children get older have them participate in programs such as Teen Pact and Summit Ministries.

Are your afternoons spent running to extra-curricular activities such as ballet, baseball, gymnastics, soccer, etc.? Why are you doing this? At one time my four oldest children were on competitive gymnastic teams. I had always wanted to be a gymnast as a child, but never had the opportunity and for that reason I was going to make sure my children had the opportunities that I did not have. My husband always wanted to play ball as a child, but was not allowed, so our boys played ball. We were running ourselves ragged and evening meals together became scarce. **Are sports evil? No. But is this the best use of our time and are the lessons learned ones that prepare our children for life and/or the furthering of God's kingdom? Or are we making more daisy chains?** There is no sin in having fun. We all need down time, but are these hectic schedules adding enough positive benefits to negate the disruption to our family time? On the other hand, if our children are being taught to establish relationships with unsaved so that these events could be used as a way to minister to others, then we are discussing something entirely different. But that is rarely the motivation for being involved in activities outside of the home.

When you stop to think about it, it is all a matter of attitude. **Do we face each day with a 'What can I do for God today?' or do we begin each day praying for the strength to make it through another day.** Think about Amy's dream. Many of you may have considered making changes to your children's schedule, but you feel pressured by others to continue on as you have been (sit down and make those daisy chains). If you decide to begin teaching your children in a more natural setting, and should you start putting more emphasis on ministry and learning God's word, you will have opposition. Some of the most unsupportive and cruel remarks made to me were made by Christians. Do what is best for your family. **Consider this: if you found out that your child only had six months to live, would you make changes in how you spent your time with him? In making these changes you would probably not care what others thought about the decisions you made.**

Let's talk about dads now. Where are the dads? Before the Industrial Revolution fathers were an ever-present part of the family. Many were farmers who, though they worked long hours, had an integral part in raising their children. Since the Industrial Revolution most dads work away from the home, delegating almost every responsibility to the wife. She becomes the teacher, the disciplinarian, the spiritual leader, the financial manager, and the chauffeur. This is in addition to being the maid, the cook, and the comforter. **As submissive as she is to dad's authority as the leader, an absentee father is no replacement for dad at home. Studies have shown that the average father spends less than six minutes per day with each child. How are our boys going to be taught to be effective men of God without a man teaching them? Our children need a father to protect them, provide for them, and teach them, by example, how to live godly lives.**

Most women would agree that it would be nice to have their husbands home more often, but you think that you cannot afford such an option. That is not true. Many families could afford to have dad home more often if living expenses were reduced. Besides, there are options other than having a father work outside of the home 40-60 hours a week. There is a book on the bestseller list that is worth taking the time to read. Though a secular book, it has a lot of information that we should learn and teach to our children. Written by Robert T. Kiyosaki, it is called **Rich Dad, Poor Dad**. This book tells you how to succeed financially without being a part of the rat race. What is more important than raising your children in a godly manner with dad involved?

Remember, your children are with you for a few short years. More than likely you will live another 20 years or more after they are grown, married and out of them home. Do some research and see if you cannot find a way for dad to return to the home. Think about another occupation if there is no other way. Consider self-employment. How about having a home business that includes the participation of the entire family?

Before you make changes, go to God in prayer and ask for wisdom. If you feel led to make changes, but your spouse does not share the same vision then turn the matter over to God. If you are the wife, then you are to be submissive to your husband's desires, with

a good attitude. You can, however, ask him if he would be open to reading something that presents another point of view. If he is willing, then find articles or books that present the information you want him to consider. Most important is prayer. Pray without ceasing. Pray for your children. Pray for your spouse. Pray for your family. Life on earth is short. Let's make what is eternal our priority and forget about the daisy chains. H. G. Wells said, **"If there is no God, nothing matters; if there is a God, nothing else matters."**

Pat Wesolowski is a stay at home, homeschooling mom of 9 children. She and her husband, Don, have been homeschooling over 16 years. Pat has written various curricula for homeschoolers, co-edits a newsletter entitled BIG Ideas/Small Budget, has been interviewed on national radio, has had articles published in various magazines and took part in the filming of the video series entitled, "How to Homeschool: K-3." She loves to speak to homeschoolers and may be willing to come to your neck of the woods. Contact her at: bisb@juno.com

What Are We Telling



It's that time again. You find yourself blessedly pregnant and excited to tell the world about it. The problem: the world isn't as excited to receive your news as you are to deliver it. So what do you do? Here are a few suggestions from some other folks just like you facing the same scenario.

I have just announced to all my siblings that we are expecting #10. Our parents had ten children and we are all thankful for it. So I wasn't expecting to be challenged from my siblings. I got this message from my oldest brother, who is a labor & delivery nurse across the country (and an excellent one at that) and thought I'd share my response to him.

"I am sure you appreciate some of the medical risks you encounter; what I feel mixed about is how the birth of another child will impact your ability to be the kind of parent/teacher you'd like to be to the rest of the Lass children."

Thank you for your honesty and concerns. Yes, I'm aware of the risks: being 43 by the time of delivery, having had nine children, having children from almost nine to almost eleven pounds, and having had a molar pregnancy. My two ultrasounds have shown no molar growth, for which we're very thankful. I am also grateful for nine uncomplicated vaginal deliveries, no medicine except Pitocin, no pain medications, episiotomies, tears, or stitches, no hemorrhages, no postpartum depression, and many other blessings of God's grace.

I also am grateful for my fertility and do not take it for granted. It is a precious and amazing gift of God which some are not granted and which will be taken from me in a very short time. Of course I am constantly aware of my responsibilities to the rest of the Lass children. Here are some of my perspectives.

The best gift I can give to my children (and my most important responsibility) is to introduce them to the Savior. This is what they need for this life and for all eternity. My daily prayer focuses on this most important part of their lives.

The next is most important gift is to model a stable, loving marriage. This reinforces their understanding of their relationship to the Lord (according to Scripture, husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, and wives are to respect, love and submit to their husbands as the church does to Christ). It also gives them security and hope for their own future marriages.

The third best gift I can give my children is siblings. I trust God to know who, when and how many He wants to provide, and my role is to welcome any child He graciously gives. (Jesus says, "Whoever welcomes a little child in My name welcomes Me.") Though many of our children have been conceived at times that humanly were "inconvenient", we know that God is the One who opens and closes the womb, and we are always grateful in retrospect that we trusted Him rather than our own wisdom to "schedule" our children.

We know from our own birth family that the addition of a new family member doesn't reduce the love for the previous children. (I have heard of the illustration of lighting one candle with the flame of another. The first flame is not diminished by being shared.) If the Lord in His wisdom gives us a special-needs child (ill, handicapped, etc.), He will also provide the strength, patience and love we will need. As always, our adequacy is not in ourselves, but in Him. Though of course I never wish to be widowed, God's faithfulness to our mother and our great-great-grandmother Steegmuller (widowed with thirteen children) are a reminder to me that He can be trusted even in the most difficult of circumstances.

I know that this world says my responsibility is to teach academics (or put them in a school and have someone else do it!), provide extracurricular activities and opportunities, comforts, diversions, amusements, etc., not to mention financing for COLLEGE! But as I study and meditate on the Word of God, I come up with a very different list. What our children need is to learn obedience, gratitude, humility, self-denial, and love for God and others. The addition of a tenth child will in no way hinder them in this lifelong pilgrimage.

I do not take lightly my responsibility to teach my children in many areas, including "The Three R's". We are commanded to "love the Lord...with all our minds..." which means diligence in learning. Though I am rather "laid back" compared to many homeschoolers, every day holds many learning experiences. I pray that Paul and I are models to our children of lifelong learners, studying, reading, discussing, etc., rather than communicating (as some parts of our society's educational system seem to imply) that you have to learn X amount of things by the age of X and that the diploma or degree is the final goal of education. Even with my relatively unstructured homeschooling, Suzanna and Julie have excelled at New Covenant, which is possibly the most difficult high school in town. I didn't ruin them for life!

I don't want this to sound defensive. I am aware that I fall short in every area of life, especially in my parenting. I know my failures better than anyone else does. But I do not want to lose the joy that is God-given and appropriate in light of His blessing of another eternal soul He has allowed me to bring into the world by giving in to fears, be they medical, financial, family, or any other variety.

Again, I appreciate your loving concern for me and my nine oldest children, and am confident of your love for my tenth. I am very grateful for your honesty and am open to a continuation of this discussion if you are interested.

Keep rejoicing in God's blessings! Eileen Lass, LassWord@aol.com

From Coco, "This is such a familiar topic. We had some real trouble with my dad after we announced my pregnancy over Christmas. I decided to just be frank with him and wrote him a letter explaining our convictions. He received it surprisingly well and has been real sweet about the baby ever since. He is not a Christian, but attends Catholic Church, but does not accept all of their doctrines."

Hi Dad,

Joe and I understand that some family members might be having a hard time accepting our unusual approach to family life. This is understandable and to be expected, but we trust God to help our loved ones accept His plan for our family.

The Lord has again, asked us to hold his hand in the miracle of creating new life, and we are blessed to be chosen. He has assured us of His provision, and engraved love for this child in our hearts. Each member of the family has been given a part to play in this child's life. There are no bystanders...God has a purpose for every influence upon this child. Also, we know that God had a reason for taking some of our children very early and although we grieve the loss, we cherish the hope of holding those precious children someday as we behold the very face of our Savior.

We are all answering different callings. Some are foreign missionaries, some are ministering in churches, domestic missions, or serving quietly in their homes and communities. Joe and I have been called to serve God by pouring our minds, bodies and souls into raising up the next generation. The Lord has called us to train our children in godliness and groom them for His service, and to spare no effort to guide them in Jesus' footsteps. This is humble, quiet work, and can, at times, be unrewarding in an earthly sense, but we are honored that our lives are being used by God according to His purpose

and blessed by the love He is showering us with through these children.

A while ago, I got up early to find Helen curled up with her Bible open in her lap with her eyes closed and her lips moving silently in prayer. She was so engrossed in her fellowship with God, that she didn't realize I had entered the room, so I slipped away quietly and entered into my own prayers of gratitude. I remembered the scripture, "there is no greater joy than to see that my children walk rightly with the Lord".

To the rest of the world, it may look like we are just having a lot of kids and teaching them at home, but to the Almighty who has set us apart for this service, we are training a small contingent of soldiers for His army. We don't know what His plans are for each of our children, but He is daily instructing us in the direction of their basic training. Like Matthew the tax collector, we have been tapped on the shoulder and asked to follow. Both Joe and I have been led out of the darkness of sin and self-serving and given new life. It was a free gift and we did nothing to deserve it. He set our feet on solid ground and asked us to build a family there. The errors and hurts of our pasts are no mistake either. God has used it all to groom us to be the parents that He has selected for these children. Something awesome is happening here, and I hope that you, Daddy, can see it too.

Love, Coco

coco@longorama.com

...Telling your church about your convictions

I am sure that most people on this digest have experienced in some way or another the feeling of distaste about other Christian's beliefs about children. I can't honestly say I have THE answer, but I have appreciated several folks on here who have pointed out that the truth is the truth, and that it doesn't change depending on a 'word' from God that doesn't line up with the bible. God is the same yesterday, today and forever, he doesn't change, but we might finally tune in to what he's saying. I must say though that I very much believe that what we believe here is the truth, not a relative truth, and I don't think that you can live a life like this with peace and victory without believing that it is the truth.

So in saying that I would be assuming that there are a lot of Christians who are deceived, but when you are deceived you don't know you are, so to get angry with people when they honestly don't seem to see it doesn't make much sense. The bible says to approach people gently and pray that God might grant them repentance and open their eyes.

Please remember that a lot of people are very familiar with 'us', and call us legalistic and off the track, extremists etc. etc. who take the bible 'too literally' It's quite funny for me to read the articles that speak about these weird people and then to suddenly realize 'OH MY, they are talking about ME LOL!!!!' You see I know me and how normal I am, and harmless to boot, but when I see me through their eyes I see this really off beat person.

I have gone through and spoken to my church, after finding out about some slandering that was going on about me and some other SAHM's by the pastor's wife and her friends even though they have never even gotten to know us at all. It was not a pleasant experience, they have not been sorry, and most of us have ended up leaving the church, particularly 4 or 5 homeschoolers with lots of children.

Be prepared that if you go, even if they agree with you in principle they will want to know what exactly it is that you want from them? You need to have a good answer as you can't say that they need to ban people from using contraception from the pulpit.

If you do confront this be prepared for a denial on their part that they believe that children aren't a blessing, they honestly do what they do in ignorance. People also think that you are trying to introduce new and strange doctrine into their church, or that you are alternative living, or ex-catholic (no offense to Catholics) You need to think about all the arguments people have with quiverfull thinking and very calmly provide a lot of bible support in a constructive way. If a pastor has older children they will often fail to see the relevance to them, and think you are trying to push a 'pet doctrine' on everybody. It can often make you feel rejected personally.

All the best whatever you choose, just remember to keep your eyes on your path, speak if you get the opportunity, but be careful of going after people as you may be hurt by the responses they give you. When

you have more than 5 you won't be able to stop people wanting to talk to you about it and you'll often be too busy to stop and talk about it as much as you would like. I am now having my seventh and it is the main topic of any conversation with anyone unless they of course are the parents of many children and realize that we are normal just like them. Bless you, Tammy A Hitchens, tam@hitcho.com.au (Australia)

What Does God Promise?

By Kimberly Eddy

Many times during the last 10 years of physical problems, I have sought answers. Now, I had problems before I got saved, mostly having do to with the tendons in my leg (which I now know was from undiagnosed Lupus), endometriosis, etc. and other such things. But, I dealt with them in my B.C. years by staying drunk and high. (Praise God for the Blood of Jesus!)...so, really, I didn't notice them as much before that...and probably made them worse by my "solution". Anyhow...there are several things that would run through my mind. How can God be sovereign and loving, and a healer all at once, if I am sick? If I am sick, why not kill me and get it over with? I would think things like, OK, so maybe God doesn't heal...or maybe He isn't sovereign over my circumstances medically...or maybe he doesn't Love me! Oh no!!!

For a while, I even considered it my punishment for being on drugs. A while later I was being counseled by those ever helpful folks at the church that we had been going to (that is past tense ☺), that I must have sin in my life that is not repented for. I couldn't think of anything, not that I am perfect, but because I have learned to **run boldly to the throne of Grace** as soon as I transgress (*Hebrews 4:12*). And on and on go the Job's counselors...(those are non-rhetorical questions as I don't feel that way NOW, thankfully)...

But, I realized after a while, that maybe the fibro and lupus are part of God's perfect will. No, God doesn't enjoy seeing me in pain, and no He's not a sadist (I had wondered that at times...), but rather he knows what we need. When I am flared up, what do I do quite a bit? I cry out to God for help, for strength, for pain relief, for Him to be my **"very present help in time of trouble"**. I call on the name of Jesus, which is **"a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and are safe."**

Proverbs 18:10. So, obviously God sees the fibro as being good for my spiritual life at least for now. It keeps me praying. Once as I was crying out, "Lord, help! I can't do this!" I heard the still small voice of God say, "Good! Now you're catching on!" So, sometimes it is as Paul said, a thorn in our flesh to keep us praying, and dependant on the Lord.

I was discussing chronic illness with someone once, and specifically the fact that some people, **some churches in fact, consider "health, wealth and prosperity" to be a sort of "stamp of approval" from the Lord that you are in His will.** She said that looking at someone who is not walking in all the same convictions we are, or who is walking disobediently to God's Word, and saying, **"Lord, what am I doing wrong? What is sister so-and-so doing right, that I am sick, and she is healthy?"** This is forbidden when Solomon counseled...(Prov. 23:17 KJV) **"Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long."**

But what does God promise us? His provision, I am learning (He keeps testing me, and I think I am almost in the 50th percentile ☺). This is promised to us, but isn't always what we want, or in the form we want it in. When I am praying for relief, I am meaning, **HEAL ME RIGHT NOW!** But for what? So I don't need to pray so much to get through the day? Now why would God do that?!!!

God promises, **"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly."** *Psa 84:11*. When He is withholding something, either it is not a good thing (no matter what we think---after all He is all knowing not us!), or we are not walking uprightly. Sometimes it can be a good thing, but the wrong timing on it. There we prayed for specific things, and it didn't happen, though we were "sure" it was a good thing, but then, we found out later, that God was protecting us by saying no! (like not letting your children do something they think would be fun, but we know from experience as being dangerous). **So, if God has not healed me, then it must not be a good thing.** That is, if I know that I am walking in His will, and have kept short accounts in the sin department (i.e., when I do fail-not talking blatant, purposeful sin here-going to His throne of Grace, and repenting).

Also, I recently read while reading through the Bible this year, and this really stood out at me, and I noticed it afresh. **"And the LORD thy**

God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee." *Deu 7:22*. Maybe I'm all wet here, but this really speaks volumes of our Christian walks and areas of struggle. When we get saved, or enter a new area of growth, it isn't all at once. We want it to be all at once! But, if it happened all at once, pride, sloth, or other "beasties" may increase upon our souls, and hurt our spiritual walks.

So the Lord puts out those "enemies" of our soul out little by little, in bite sized portions we receive victory in different areas, in portions we can HANDLE that victory based on where we are in Christ. Example, when I got saved, I was instantly delivered of drugs. Snap of the fingers instant! I automatically knew certain things were wrong, and I was given the strength to resist temptation in areas that were weak points instantly (that proved to me even more that Christianity was real!). God didn't touch my godless rock music, or my immodest clothes. My tongue was tamed to a degree (I stopped using a certain naughty word at least), and I was still a feminist, among other things. The Christians around me at the time knew enough to not go near any of those areas directly, but trusted God to deal with me. They would just smile, tell me to pray, read the Word, worship the Lord, and trust him to work out the kinks in my life. Slowly, one day, I really hated the rock music. I couldn't listen to it. A few years later, I realized I shouldn't be walking around dressed "like that". God is still working on the tongue (it is a long-term project that we work on a few months out of each year☺).

I am a stay home mom with five children and I submit to my husband, so the feminism slowly was leached out of me, too. God doesn't expect us to be instantly in line with His word. I believe His grace comes into play, and he transforms us into His image as we seek Him, read His word, pray, etc. **"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."** *2 Cor 3:18 NIV*. So, basically, it is the opinion of this believer, that God doesn't promise healing the way we consider healing, but in all things He is with us, doing what is needed in our lives at that time in our lives.

He is the God who **"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"** *Isa 46:10*. I think that applies to our lives too. To see His perfect will accomplished in our lives, He will set up different things to cause us to pray more, to seek Him more, to reconsider lifestyle decisions, etc.

I believe that depression can be physical, spiritual, emotional, or all of the above. I believe that His provision is the same there. For me, I have had to learned this: **"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."** *2 Cor 10:4-5*

That is hard to do. Physically, the pull at times is to be depressed, or to focus on pain, or to do the three alarm pity party thing. It is HARD to bring to captivity EVERY THOUGHT. But, God is teaching me in this area through the depression, and the idea that happiness, blessing, rejoicing, praise, thanksgiving...those are all choices, regardless of how I feel. ~Kim Eddy

THIS EXPLAINS EVERYTHING!

HONG KONG (*Reuters Fri Feb 1*) - Hong Kong people are more likely to catch the flu because they **talk too much and are too loud**, a university professor said Friday. **"When you talk too much and too loudly, you are traumatizing your throat,"** said Thomas Chan, a professor at the department of medicine and therapeutics at Hong Kong's Chinese University.

Since the noise level in tiny, crowded Hong Kong is relatively high, people tend to shout in order to be heard, he said. Chan also said people who keep their mouths open longer increase the chance of the flu virus attacking the throat and airways.

Air pollution and a hectic social life are also risk factors for the flu, he added. **"If you work long hours, you are likely to spend the rest of your waking hours socializing as it helps you to relax and that means you are unlikely to have enough sleep. This will reduce your immunity,"** said Chan

Editors note: NOW I understand why we sick all the time! Ancient Hong Kong Secret, eh?(That's "ay" for our Canadian readers ☺)



THE GERM THEORY

By Sharon Gilbert

I was taught that a person catches an infectious disease by coming into contact with someone who already has it. I have since learned that this may not necessarily be the case in every instance. There are times when a person can come down with an illness, and not be able to recall being exposed to a sick person. What happens is that the problem can actually originate in the human body. It seems that normal bodily flora has the ability to metamorphose. A harmless form of bacteria may change to a dangerous form. This can happen in someone with an impaired immune system.

In his book, RAW EATING, A.T. Hovannessian says, "in only 50% of all cases of scarlet fever and 15% of diphtheria can direct contact be established." Dr. Lorraine Day, in her video, DRUGS DON'T CURE DISEASE, tells about Florence Nightingale's experiences in hospitals in the 1800's. She says that she saw infectious disease arise in the bodies of patients where there had been no previous exposure and then it would spread through the ward. In RAW EATING, A.T. Hovannessian quotes eminent Soviet scientist, I.V. Davydovsky: **"In the light of contemporary data on the changeability of bacteria we must regard the postulate that pathogenic bacteria may be produced from so-called non-pathogenic bacteria as quite close to reality. Thus, the bacilli of typhoid, paratyphoid and dysentery may originate from the intestinal bacilli; the real bacilli of diphtheria may develop from false bacilli. Such metamorphoses may take place in all varieties of cocci, in anaerobes, in the bacilli of plague and tuberculosis and in other microorganisms."**

I read something interesting in regard to the danger of e-coli bacteria in beef. Cattle are normally fed on a grain diet because it tends to fatten them up. The resulting acid condition of the body causes the harmless e-coli, which is normally present, to metamorphose into the dangerous form of e-coli. This doesn't cause the cattle to be sick but can make us sick. It was further found that if the grain-fed cattle were allowed to return to a more natural diet (allowing them to graze for their food) the bacteria would once again return to the harmless form within one week. If I were not a vegetarian, I'd definitely go out of my way to purchase the pasture-fed beef knowing this bit of information.

Remember, in order to keep your immune system up and running, eat lots of RAW fruits and vegetables and stay away from the sugar because it suppresses the immune system. ~Sharon

Pesticides on Food!

Ladies, I can not believe what they can do to our "fresh" fruit!!! I bought some oranges on sale 10 pounds for 4 dollars about 3 weeks ago. Today I was throwing

away the netting and in very small print it says that it was injected for freshness with Phenylphenol, Thiabendazole, and Imazalil. I looked them up on the internet and phenylphenol says, "are known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity" Thiabendazole is known to cause birth defects and reproductive toxicity. Imazalil is known to cause cancer as well.

Ummmm, HUH!!! They can inject this into my fruit!!! I will never buy fruit from the store again! At least not without thoroughly checking the labels. One of the co-ops in town gets in fresh organic fruit. I think I will look into that. Now I know those pesticides probably didn't cause my miscarriage. But it is still sooo scary. I wouldn't completely dismiss that possibility. Any way, Check those labels, ladies. Your reproductive health is at risk! ~

Brandy Roy

Is Rhogam Necessary?

Those of us who are RH negative would never dream of not getting "that shot," even if we have given up all other medical interventions relating to birth and avoiding vaccines for our children. But new information is coming out that it is possible for some women to not only not need rhogam, but actually change their blood and become RH positive! (See the *Unhindered Living* web site article referenced at the end). Blood mixing is not something that normally occurs in birth. Medical interventions such as cesareans, abortions, amniocentesis and other invasive procedures are what causes blood mixing.



Alternative health practitioners are discovering that many mothers of children with Autism, PDD, ADD, etc., are Rh Negative and were given a RHOGAM shot during pregnancy. Rhogam contains higher levels of mercury than most vaccines. It is dangerous. If you are RH negative and are uncomfortable with not having rhogam after a birth then only allow mercury-FREE Rhogam. WinRho SD, a thimerosal-free Canadian product, is now distributed in the U.S. by Univax Biologics Inc, 12280 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville MD 20852, Phone: 301-770-3099. Bay-Rho is made by Bayer and is slightly cheaper than Win-Rho. It is also thimerisol free.

From Mothering Magazine/March April 2001 "Mercury in Your Vaccines: Exclusive report on the Second International Vaccine Conference" by Stephanie Cave, MD"Cave also questioned the Rhogam given to Rh-negative pregnant mothers. "When we started looking at the mothers in our practice, I realized that we probably have a majority of Rh-negative mothers. The rhogam shot has a huge dose of mercury in it, especially for a fetus in the gestational stages with brain development," said Cave.

In 1990 and 1991, the Hepatitis B vaccine had 12.5 micrograms of Mercury per dose, which is 25 times the EPA's "safe" level. Cave cited a study in the May 2000

Journal of Pediatrics that measured levels of mercury in newborns before and after the hepatitis B vaccine. Researchers found mercury in newborns before the vaccine was given.

"So we are going back to look at prenatal sources, through fish, and amalgam fillings in the mother's mouth," said Cave. "Mercury poisoning and autism have nearly identical symptoms: self-injurious behavior, social withdrawal, lack of eye contact, lack of eye contact, lack of facial expression, hyper-sensitivity to noise and touch, and repetitive behaviors." ALSO: from same article, quoting...What About Mercury? Getting Thimerosal Out of Vaccines by Lisa Regan.... "Noting that the EPA safe limit for mercury exposure is .1 micrograms per kilo per day, Cave said, "The mercury has left it's mark in the brains and immune systems of these children....The body gets rid of mercury by secreting bile, but an infant does not produce bile at this age. In the hepatitis B vaccine alone, we are giving 12.5 mcg at birth, 12.5 mcg at a month, 50 mcg at two months, 50 mcg at four months, and 62 mcg at 6 months, and if you do your math, we're giving a load of mercury to these children before they can make bile and can get rid of it."

In a study (Dr. William Walsh, Ph.D. of the Pfeiffer Center) of 503 children with autism, ALL but four showed a Metallothionein (MT) Dysfunction. The lack of MT signifies the inability to metabolize mercury out of the body. Even though MT deficiency may be constant in the gene pool, what has changed....is the introduction of mercury-containing vaccines. As the number and timing of these vaccines have increased so too has the rate of autism. Some children simply cannot tolerate this load of mercury and by the current autism estimates running around 1 in 145...."some" children means MANY!

Prenatal Rhogam: A Complicated Choice at:

<http://www.unhinderedliving.com>

Titus 2 Birthing Curriculum, PARENT VACCINE INFORMATION PACKET

<http://www.geocities.com/titus2birthing/VacRefuse.html>

Eating Healthy on a Budget

By Kimberly Eddy

I have been trying to eat healthier since developing Fibromyalgia and being diagnosed with Lupus (well, one doc thinks I do, one says I don't....the test comes back different each time they do it---but that's another story!), and prior to that I had eaten strict Vegan for a while but then the cost of it got to be too much for us. But, I wanted to eat healthier, and eat more whole grains and fresh fruits and veggies because of the seriousness of the fibromyalgia.

For grains, I had to look around, and I found a place that I get them in bulk. It is hard to find a place to buy in bulk from (it seems they don't spend so much on advertising), and this place is down four back roads, and

out in the middle of now where, down a dirt road. I would have never found it, but I asked around at Homeschool groups and a Seventh Day Adventist friend too, and finally found them (it is run by the Mennonites). I get wheat berries for 17 cents a pound, whereas, I get them for 1.69 a pound in the health food store. Great prices on brown rice too. With my crew, buying those little bags of brown rice that you get at the grocery store was something of a joke. I mean, I needed one or two complete bags for a MEAL! So that helped.

Secondly, when I lived in the city, I shopped Farmer's Markets, and bought my stuff in bulk from farmers I befriended. They would save me a bushel of beets, for example (I am anemic, so I do beet and carrot juice a lot), and that helped. As I now live on 3/4 acre, I have a 1/4 acre garden, and I have 4 rows of carrots, for juicing (I store them in a root cellar-type storage in the basement with an open window, and they mostly retain their freshness and their nutrients that way, and this past year, I successfully stored them IN THE GROUND, and they stayed even fresher. I covered them over with hay).

September is the month for us to de-tox and do big time juicing because I have the stuff available. In the fall, I buy several pumpkins (this year we grew them). We love to eat pumpkin and squashes. We have a neighbor, who gives us a bushel of pears each year. My in laws have an apple tree (ours aren't doing much yet), and we get a couple of bushels of apples free from them. We have 112 strawberry plants, and although I didn't get many this year (as the children who were sent to pick them, ate while they picked), we get a yield of 1-2 quarts a day for the month of June (when they did bring them to me ☺). We also got 1-2 quarts a day for all of July on Raspberries.

I also grow my lettuces/salad stuff nearly year round in cold frames in the garden, and I brush off the snow, lift the lid, and pick salad in December (except when there are serious storms, ice, and the nasty stuff we experienced this past January!). We eat a fresh salad for nearly every lunch and dinner!

Sprouting would also help, too. Sprouting seeds are not too terribly expensive, and get a variety (We love the radish sprouts!). You can have fresh veggies any time. They are good in salads and in sandwiches, and in the case of mung bean sprouts, in stir-fries. Strawberries can grow in pots, tomatoes can grow in pots, carrots can grow in deep window boxes (8-10 inches deep), ditto for beets, etc, if you have no land to garden on.

Canning, though not considered the "best" for health, can be healthier, if you are growing your own organic veggies, and you are mindful of additives (store bought canned goods are loaded with additives). We can lots of salsa and tomato sauces, pickled beets, pumpkin, and even some homemade soups so that my husband can take them to work (with variety, not simply "leftovers"). I grow my own herbs also and make some of my own herbal preparations.

I also barter. I will do garment repairs for folks if they give me, for example, access to their almond tree and walnut tree. I have a few folks that let me go over and harvest in the fall all of their hazelnuts

(filberts). I have someone that lets us have chestnuts off their tree too, because they didn't even know it was a chestnut tree. As she said, "Wouldn't know what to do with that stuff anyways--just gets in the grass, and messes up the lawn". Living in the country helps, but maybe there is someone in the countryside around you that you can develop such arrangements with...just ask around, and pray that the Lord would open that door for you. It would be like "expanding your territory", right?

It would be impossible for us, due to budget limits, to eat perfectly year round, and I have had to learn to overcome "nutritional extremism" (for lack of better word), and not be so "all or nothing" in how I eat.

Every little bit helps in eating better!!! And small changes (for me anyways) last longer than radical swinging back and forth. (a good book on that topic is "Nourishing Traditions" sold at most health food stores, and I am sure amazon.com has it).

When I saw a Naturopathic Doctor for my fibro/lupus situation, and the large pre-cancerous tumors that frequently invade my uterus, ovaries and cervix, one of the things she advised me was to overcome my self-deprivation tendencies when it came to diet. I would work myself up on quitting coffee (which I have been addicted to since conception—my birth mother admits to drinking up to 5 pots a day while pregnant). I also finished off my daddy's coffee each morn since I was about 2 or 3. I would really psyche myself up about it. Then she told me that if I remember to take the supplements she had for me for morning, and to juice, and I still wanted my coffee, I could reward myself with one or two cups. That freed me because I am not just addicted to caffeine, but I love coffee period.

And, some of the other suggestions, such as extended juice fasts, would be impossible for a mom of many little ones to do! We need our energy, and if you have too long neglected your health, the ensuing healing crises that would follow a de-tox would make it very difficult for you to be a Joyful Mother of Children (Ps. 113:9).

In closing, I would have to say, what has been a great help to me, is thinking about how the Lord designed and packaged foods, times and seasons. God is a logical God, who does everything for a reason. Look at food, honestly. I love nuts, but when I consider how they are packaged (in hard shells, as opposed to those 16 oz pre-shelled packages at the Grocery stores!), and I see that God didn't intend for me to gorge on those. It would take too much time to shell them, and shelling them for later only ensures a rancid product. And yet, the way the Lord packaged fruits and vegetables would make it seem that they are to be eaten in abundance.

God likewise designed us to have seasons in our eating habits. The Bible speaks of days for feasting, and days for fasting, and then there were everyday days. In 21st Century America, we have 7 feasting days a week, by reason of how we eat. When I try to explain to people how we eat, and how to save money on groceries, I feel almost like I have to give them cooking lessons, to learn

how to think beyond "slab of meat, blob of starch, scoop of veggies, and an iceberg lettuce salad" as being "dinner" (tonight, for example, we had hummous, tabouleh--using parsley growing in a hanging pot in the window, and homemade pita bread). Normally that is a "summer" meal, because of the ingredients, but my 3 year old was bugging me for some hummus. I try to cook in season foods, because they are both cheaper and fresher. The key here is to have balance in all things! ~**Kimberly Eddy**



The Lord has finally opened a door for us to go to Austria (that's the one in the Alps ladies ☺), and, we need to raise about \$800.00 a month support. As part of our "support" I am selling two booklets we have written. The first is about 25 pages, and is called, "Thriving on One Income", offering tips for saving money, and also offering encouragement for those all-too familiar times when the family budget doesn't balance, and God's mighty faithfulness comes shining through. This booklet will sell for \$5.

The second booklet is written for couples who are struggling with pornography and adultery in their marriage. My husband and I wrote this together, as an encouragement and resource to couples who are working towards restoration. This booklet is also \$5. Another book of mine is nearly done. It is a gardening resource geared specifically towards homeschooling moms of many! It should be done by the end of April or May, and if you are interested or know anyone who might be, please pass that info along. It will be about 150 pages (I think....), and will sell for about \$12.00 (I think....), but just email me for more information!
Kimbereddy@tds.net

Also as part of our missions-mindedness, our 2700 sq. foot, 6-bedroom house, full of bookshelves and lots of pre-planted perennial herbs, fruits, and vines, is also going on the market. Perfect for your growing family, and located about an hour out of the Detroit, Flint or Saginaw areas, in rural Michigan. If the right family is out there, we may even consider "rent" or "rent to own", but we prefer to sell.