

# ABOVE RUBIES

[www.aboverubies.org](http://www.aboverubies.org)

Issue number: Seventy-one

Strengthening Families Across The World



## In this Issue:

Computers and Children

Life Education

Morning Sickness

The Family Charge

Nursing Baby Stories

Staying in Love

Wayward Children

To receive weekly  
**encouragement,**

send a blank email to  
[subscribers-on@aboverubies.org](mailto:subscribers-on@aboverubies.org)

# From Our Home to Yours

We have now embarked on a new venture in life. After raising our six children and being blessed with 34 grandchildren, we have started again! On the 26 March Colin brought home three of our four children from Liberia, West Africa—John, Psalmody and Sapphire, all 16 years of age. They bring life and joy to our family and we love them dearly. Of course, it is a challenge for them and a challenge for us as they learn to become part of a family, something they have never really experienced before. But this is God's heart for



Our new daughters—Sapphire, Mercy and Psalmody.

John on the left—a big smile as he arrives at the Nashville airport. Reunion with his special friend, Jabin, Serene's son.

all children—to grow up in a family. The family is where God planned for children to be trained and nurtured in His love and His ways.

Life doesn't get boring around this place. We hardly had time to settle the new children when another drama occurred. Monday evening we welcomed the children; Tuesday night Serene was rushed to Women's Centennial hospital in Nashville because of hemorrhaging. She was only 33 weeks along in her pregnancy. They tried to stop the labor but were not successful. Wednesday morning I had to leave the children to be with Serene as she labored to give birth. God was good and she had a beautiful natural birth, and although a premature baby, Shepherd Colin weighed 5 lbs. 11 oz. He was in the NICU for two weeks but is now doing very well. Shepherd is their eleventh child and she is only 30 years! No, she didn't start that young—six are adopted from Liberia.

Selah and Kula (her two eldest adopted daughters) held the fort while Serene

was in the hospital. They kept the home spic and span, cooked all the meals and carefully watched over the younger children. They are amazing girls.

Evangeline gave birth to a little girl (their ninth baby) on the 19 April. We are still waiting for them to tell us the name!

Greeting Psalmody as she arrives from Liberia.



Hope we know by next issue! She had a very quick and wonderful birth and has been bursting with energy ever since. The girls were both due to have their babies in May so I kept that month free from all speaking engagements. Instead, they both birthed in April! Babies come when they are ready!

Our third adopted daughter, Mercy (15 years), arrived from Liberia on the 24 May. She is now my baby of ten children!

Six new children in the last couple of months! What joy! It is hard to express the blessing I feel. At any time of the day I can look around and see one or more of my beautiful children or grandchildren whom I love so very much. There is certainly no greater reward than children. No wonder Psalm 127 says, "Happy, happy is the man that has his quiver full of them." Yes, that's right. The Hebrew word for "blessed" in this passage is a word that is only used in the plural. It could be translated, "doubly happy" or "happy happy." The more children we have, the more joy we experience!



Welcome to my Above Rubies office. The phone doesn't stop ringing and the grandchildren are all around. Chalice, Vision, Cedar and Engedi Allison all clamber on Nanny.

It is not always bubbly joy. Parenting is a challenge. Life is a challenge. It's hard work. But as we face the challenges, seek God's wisdom and pour out love even when we don't feeling like loving, we reap the rewards of joy.

Love is an amazing thing. It is a God thing. When we love, it releases the feelings of love. Love begets love. On the other hand, hate is a negative thing. Hate begets hate. As mothers, we have the power to release the power of love or hate in our homes. One writer says, "If a little bit of love isn't effective, increase the dose." The remedy for the ineffectiveness of a little love is to pour out more love. A Chinese saying says, "Don't try to put out the fire of a load of hay with a cup of water!" Sometimes you have to pour out buckets of love.

Instead of easing up and making life easier for ourselves, we are busier than ever. And life is fuller than ever. With our lovely Above Rubies helpers living with us too, there are never less than 10 people sitting at our table (and many times there are more).



John working with his dad.

Different praise music pours out of every room—John’s room, our girls’ room and our helpers’ room! The home is filled with the praises of the Lord. Forget the quiet! But we couldn’t be happier!

The last weekend was an exciting one for our new children. Psalmody celebrated her birthday with a sleep-over with her new female cousins and friends (John went out to the bush with his male cousins!) Psalmody planned her menu and cooked it all herself—African food of course!

Life is full of celebrations at our home. Monday, being Memorial Day we enjoyed a barbecue out on our lawn with family and friends. I lost count of how many people were with us, but we did have 14 Liberian children who now have families they can call their own. It was a great time of fun and fellowship and the evening ended with dancing and singing to African music.

Tonight is another party. My sweet *Above Rubies* helpers are putting on a Middle Eastern meal to celebrate my birthday. I won’t tell you how old I am!

You will notice the DVD series, **RECLAIMING GODS’ PLAN FOR WOMEN** advertised on the back cover. Through these DVDs, I can come into your home and talk to you in the privacy of your living room. There are four different messages for you to listen to. You may even like to invite some women into your home or your church to have a day seminar. Or you could make it a weekly event for a month. You could invite women into your home to watch one message on DVD, then have a pot-luck meal together to fellowship with one another and discuss and talk about the message. You could do this for four weeks to hear the four messages. For only \$30.00 you could influence and bless so many women! What an opportunity. Overseas readers can order by International PayPal.

Angela Decoteau writes: “Looking for a simple way to share Nancy’s teaching with Louisiana ladies, some friends and I decided to use the DVD, *Reclaiming God’s Plan for Women*. In a few days we had reserved a space at the local church and invited ladies. A small fee covered our costs, lunch, and Nancy’s book, *The Power of Motherhood*. A few weeks later, eager mothers and daughters gathered to hear God’s Plan for them. They came from all



Rashida (Evangeline’s daughter) and Meadow (Pearl’s daughter) in the *Above Rubies* office, pretending to be Nana! (my grandchildren call me Nana or Nanny).

around the state. We had an enjoyable day visiting, eating, and learning together. Many ladies expressed their excitement about having the opportunity to hear this teaching. It was the easiest conference we have ever organized!”

And now we also have a special series on DVD for the men, called **21ST CENTURY PATRIARCHS!** My husband, Colin, is the speaker. All men will be inspired and challenged. Once again, these four DVD’s can be used for personal encouragement, but also for men’s groups



Advertised on page 25

Our sweet *Above Rubies* helpers who are currently helping me in the office—Ellen and Sarah Wyman, Julie Dick, Lauren Torres and Emilee Rowland. This photograph was taken on our deck which wraps around this big tree. We positioned our home in this spot so we could build the deck around the tree. Lauren has been our photographer while with us and most of the photographs in this editorial and Serene’s article were taken by her.

pregnant I was not going to let this child get in the way of my social or work life. My husband and I wanted to be sure that this child did not cramp our style or dictate any major changes to our way of life. We knew we would love our child but I was certainly not going to be one of these weak women who gave up her life for her family. I viewed that type of women as a push over. I don’t know what it was, (probably the prayers of my parents and mother-in-law) but my husband and I had a HUGE change of heart over the nine months of our pregnancy. I did the biggest 180 degree turn in history. God has continued to work on me and I am now a proud stay-at-home mom who loves the gift of my precious little girl and every minute we spend together. My husband and I have found a new fulfilling life, no longer in our social nights out in Dallas, but nights spent making soup and muffins with our daughter in her play kitchen!”

“Every time I bring out an *Above Rubies*, its words bring soothing caresses to my soul.”

### ABOVE RUBIES

PO BOX 681687  
FRANKLIN, TN 37068-1687 USA  
Ph: (877) 729-9861 (9am - 4pm Mon-Fri)

Web site: [www.aboverubies.org](http://www.aboverubies.org)

*Above Rubies* is a magazine to encourage women in their high calling as wives, mothers and homemakers. Its purpose is to uphold and strengthen family life and to raise the standard of God’s truth in the nation. The name has been chosen from Proverbs 31:10 AMP, “A capable, intelligent and virtuous woman, who is he who can find her? She is far more precious than jewels and her value is far ABOVE RUBIES or pearls.”

EDITRESS: Nancy Campbell  
GRAPHICS: Duane Dominy, Dominy & Associates, [duanead@excite.com](mailto:duanead@excite.com)  
PRINTING: Printed by McQuiddy Printing, USA  
COVERPHOTO: Sister and brother: Annalise (4) and Josiah (2.5) Saladine, Perth, Australia.

## From Our Home to Yours *cont.*

"I love *Above Rubies*, although I have to admit that it grew on me gradually. At first it seemed so radical, but I guess I have become radical myself! Now my sister, my friend and I always call each other excitedly when we receive our copies. I am jealous if they get their magazine a day before me. It has served to change all our hearts toward children."

"Reading the stories about your children, their adoptions and philosophy on families is so encouraging, challenging, inspiring, and refreshing!"

May God's love fill your heart and your home.

NANCY CAMPBELL  
Primm Springs, Tennessee, USA



Meet Duane Dominy, his wife Catherine and their children, Alexandria, Anna and Aaron. Duane has been doing the design and layout for *Above Rubies* for the last few years—14 issues so far.

## My Favorite Fruit!

What is your favorite fruit? I think I love every fruit that God has created, but there is one that is my all time favorite. The first time I discovered it was when my husband and I went as missionaries to the Philippine Islands away back in 1963! Maybe some of you weren't even born then!

While there we were introduced to mangosteen. It is called "the Queen of fruits". The mangosteen has white segments, protected in a hard purple shell. These white segments are unbelievably delicious. I used to feel as though I was in heaven when I ate them.

Colin and I have also spent time ministering in Malaysia and Singapore. Each time we go I hope it is mangosteen season so I can taste a little bit of heaven again.

Recently I came across a health supplement made from the mangosteen. Because it is my favorite fruit I was immediately interested. I ate mangosteen because of the divine taste and had no idea of the wonderful health benefits.

Although this mouth-watering fruit contains many nutrients, a Canadian man found that the outer purple covering called the pericarp has been used (by grinding and making a paste) for all types of diseases and ailments. This pericarp is bitter and is not delicious like the segments inside, but they have created a formula that combines all parts of the mangosteen with a few other berries and fruits to make a delectable juice. They named the juice XanGo, combining XANthones with manGOsteen.

The pericarp of the mangosteen contains over 40 xanthonones, which are the



most powerful antioxidants yet discovered on our planet. Scientists have found 200 xanthonones in existence...mostly in non-edible forms, and the mangosteen pericarp contains over 40 of these. XanGo is approximately 85% whole mangosteen and the remaining

ingredients of the juice are a combination of other pure fruits, added to enhance the flavor and remove the bitterness.

Because it is my favorite fruit, and now discovering that it is such a powerful antioxidant, I have started to take it. I thought I'd let you know about it too. It's easy to take and your children will love it too. You only have to take 1-2 ounces per day to boost your immune system and for health maintenance. It's too valuable to simply drink for the enjoyment.

One father tells the story of his son, who at eight months was diagnosed with failure to thrive. At 10 months he contracted RSV and had to use a nebulizer with steroid breathing treatments for a month. At 15 months, he had a febrile seizure which resulted in a drop in white blood cells, thus needing blood transfusions. With no improvements, a bone marrow tap proved that he was not producing any neutrophil cells, or baby white blood cells. His immune system was devastated to the point of needing Neupogen injections 1-3 times a week, costing \$250 each. He also developed high level food allergies and eczema. Doctors diagnosed celiac disease and eczema.

Then they discovered mangosteen

juice. The white blood cell count rose to an acceptable level. No more food allergies and the eczema disappeared. His hematologist said, "Keep on giving him that juice!"

Jason Haks tells about his little boy who was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. He had no eye contact, no ability to play with toys or interact with his sister, no ability to look directly at the TV. He could not obey instructions or be potty trained, and was too weak to walk much, due to weak muscle tone.

Discovering the mangosteen juice, Jason began giving it to his son. There was immediate improvement in speech and social interaction. Beginning on a biomedical approach to Adam's autism, they added enzymes, certain vitamins and minerals to a diet, and Adam continued to improve. Now he plays with toys, his sister, focuses on TV, engages in interaction with eye contact. He is vigorous and energetic, riding his bike tirelessly around the backyard. Jason says, "The mangosteen juice has been an integral part of his recovery, and we believe it will continue to be the cornerstone of his recovery in the future!"

You will not find XanGo in retail stores. It is sold through independent distributors only. I have joined up to be able to purchase it at a cheaper price. However, I don't have time to be involved selling it to others, but if you and your family would like to be blessed by this amazing product you can contact Linda Lang, Tara Ritz or Florence Hamel. Preferably email at [Powerfuljuice@aol.com](mailto:Powerfuljuice@aol.com) or phone Linda at 615-414-4403 or Tara at 612-799-9013.

Don't forget to tell them you read about it in *Above Rubies*. This will help you and me!

NANCY CAMPBELL



# COMPUTERS & children

Computers can be great tools for our children to use, especially if used in great educational ways! When my children were young, I got sucked into buying a lot of "educational software". We had the *Jumpstart Preschool* program and *Reader Rabbit* preschool programs etc. My children loved them and I'm sure they learned some from them. But, they can be very addictive and I found my children needing that entertainment stimulation in their computer time. It became hard to control the use of it and was often more like entertainment than education.

While reading a book by Steve Maxwell called *Preparing Sons*, I read his suggestion to limit computer use to things that are truly educational. We cut out entertaining educational programs and allowed our children to use the standard computer programs that come on the machine—the Microsoft Paint program, Home Publishing program, and Word program. The results have been GREAT!

My eight year old has just finished writing his second book on the computer. Both of them are his own made-up *Curious George* books. He uses our Home Publishing program and inserts pictures he gets from the clip art or off the web. His last story was 12 pages long with a decent story line and plenty of illustrations.

He also has gotten quite good at using the paint program. He knows how to open a picture in it, edit the picture, save it and re-insert it into his program. You go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), click on Images and type in the word for your picture. Of course, as a parent you need to be right there to watch for inappropriate items through the internet or have really good internet filters.

After getting the picture off the web, he opened it in the paint program and "painted in" *Curious George* onto the horse he got off the web. Then he inserted

it into his "book". Why go through tons of workbooks and Language Arts programs when he learns more by this kind of schooling? He not only learns computing skills, but story telling, spelling, typing and layout skills! He now wants to save his dollars to buy his own computer as we all fight over computer time here.

One of my four year old twin boys also loves the computer. He LOVES drawing on the paint program and typing on *Microsoft Word*. He recently taught himself his numbers up to 100 (by counting and following along in a Bible the chapter headings). Then I found him typing the numbers up to 100 (minus the spaces) and typing the alphabet from A to Z. This taught him his capital letters as the keyboard is in capitals. He was also trying to type the alphabet backwards one day. Now, he asks us how to spell words for him to type on the program. He'll probably teach himself to read!

I don't share this to brag, but to encourage parents to limit the time their children use "entertainment" type programs on the computer and get them to do real computing.

Encourage your children to learn to type. Use a home publishing program for them to make cards, newsletters, stories etc. Let them do "art" on the paint program. Let them insert digital camera pictures onto papers to print out. These are all great skills for them to learn. I have *Paint Shop Pro* which is a fairly complicated program for working with images. I recently decided I should assign my son the task of learning all the different things that can be done with this program. Then he can teach ME how to use the program better!

With doing all this work they have to print out TONS of stuff! It can get expensive to print so much stuff which makes me grateful for our business as we refill all our own ink cartridges.

MELANIE CHRISTENSON  
Mason, Wisconsin, USA  
[melanie@encoreink.com](mailto:melanie@encoreink.com)

The Christenson website for ink refills is  
[www.encoreink.com](http://www.encoreink.com)

On this website, Melanie also lists a free typing program on the Homeschool/Family section.



I'm surrounded by my children at the big table covered in bright tie-dyed African fabric in our study. The computer at the desk prompts our daughter Peace, age 12; "Sass...never sass your parents", as she works through her spelling drill work. Maura (also 12) sits daydreaming out the window instead of reading her open science book, and Heretta (15) waits patiently for me to check her science lesson and meanwhile watches over Peace's shoulder.

Caleb (10) and Lawson (12) work away at their math lessons at the big table. Hannah works at a nearby lap-top taking care of *Children Concerned* e-mails. Nikki's off checking that both sets of washer/dryers are still running. Thomas is writing a letter in the quiet of his room. Charlea's finished with her lessons and is off playing with the three little ones. Rachel's hard at work tending to *Children Concerned* tasks, as well.

Let's see—that accounts for 13 of the children; Jack (21) Jordan (18) Chelsea (17) are out mowing lawns and Ethan (15) is working with my husband, Tom.

This is the scene on any average morning at our home. It's nearly 10am...the dishwasher hums away, the kitchen is cleaned up and the evening meal defrosting on the countertop (lunch will be leftovers), bathrooms and bedrooms are tidied and the day's work is written upon a dry-erase board. Each child is assigned work equal to their abilities; roughly one-hour's worth.

Soon we will gather in the living room to read God's Word and pray. Currently we are working our way through Revelation. The children read one to three verses depending upon their abilities as we go around the room. We give this about 45 minutes; then pray. Afterward, I read aloud a chapter of a book. Today I'm starting an old favorite, *Appointment in Jerusalem*. (The phone rings, but we leave it go to the answering machine.)

11:30 am—reading time is finished. The children wrap up their lessons and most have begun their housework from the dry-erase board for the day. With so many able-bodied children to do the work, we can keep the house running! One very helpful resource in training workers is a Kent Hovind video entitled, "How to Make Money and Spend it God's Way". (I say it should've been called, "A Mother's Sneaky Way of Teaching Children to Become #1

Workers"!)

Let's face it; teaching is training. What my children learn (educationally speaking) doesn't matter as much as HOW they learn. My children will pick up my attitude easily. If my thinking is, "How can I get the best for them?" but I fail to teach them to lay down their lives—then I cannot complain when I see my children as self-centered adults who care little for others.

## Curriculum

Many home-educating years ago, I remember lamenting over which curriculum to use with my precious little ones. They were blossoming into eager learners and I desired to give them ALL I COULD as any good parent would. When I sought the Lord in prayer, asking Him what He would have me teach them, He asked me a question. "Candy, what if all your sons turn out like your husband and all your daughters become JUST LIKE YOU?" Suddenly, what to teach was of little importance!

My focus became less about my children's education and more about becoming the person I was in Christ. I became more concerned with living in a way that would bring honor to my Lord. They were watching how I was handling situations, and would model my behavior. I needed to focus on what mattered to God, and I knew I needed to turn my thoughts more to loving and supporting my dear hus-

band, also. The best thing we parents can give our children is a good marriage! It will bless their lives far more than anything else we could provide, aside from salvation.

## Life's Stages

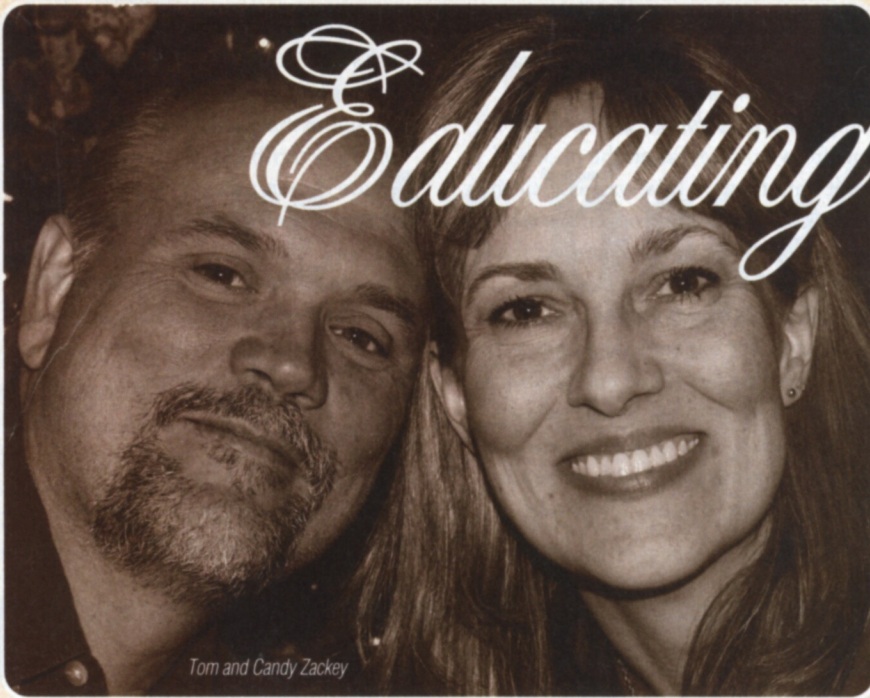
There are seasons to our lives—these may last weeks, months or even years. Our life seems to ebb and flow every other year depending upon a pregnancy or new baby, or an adoption. It seemed to be the pattern that every other year we would have a terrific year of advances in our children's education and the in-between year we'd simply maintain. We'd keep in sight our overall goals and remind ourselves that Home Education is a lifestyle.

There are days we get behind in the house and I call a strike on the lessons. Laundry gets messed up, we can't find things, office supplies can no longer be found! Meals in the freezer are eaten up and a big cooking day needs to be scheduled again. This is LIFE. Sometimes cleaning and creating order is more necessary than lessons. It is education; life education.

It comes down to the question, what really matters to us? What are our goals for our children's future? Do I want them to be geniuses but live in disarray or possibly forsake their faith? That may sound extreme, but we must remember that what we do today will become the pattern for the future!



The 17 Zackey children:  
Jack (21), Rachel (19), Jordan (18),  
Chelsea (18), Ethan (16), Heretta (16),  
Hannah (16), Nicole (15), Thomas, Jr. (13),  
Maura (13), Peace (12), Clay (12), Caleb (11),  
Charlea (9), Hawa (9), Olivia (5) and Cecilia (3)



Tom and Candy Zackey

# for Life!

## Flexibility

Many a Sunday evening I've gone to bed with grand plans for the upcoming week. What educational heights we were going to hit! Where we would go and how the children would be able to get so much out of it—only to awaken Monday morning to sick little ones or maybe I didn't even make it through the night myself having been up with a small baby. Through it all I learned what was needful that week!

When I was pregnant every other year, so sick, unable to do much for them or myself, they took care of me! This would last four to five months each pregnancy. I would lament, "Oh! I'm unable to be the wife/mother everybody needs! Their education is suffering. They have to take care of the house and each other and ME!"

But my fears were all unfounded! No one complained (other than me) about them having to care for the little ones or Mom. My eight year old daughter learned to cook simple meals. The six year old became an expert at caring for her toddler brother! The three year old and the toddler learned to play well together, and no one was the worse for my lack of involvement! We'd actually come out of it stronger as a family! Yes, we had some catching up to do in the house and lessons once I was on my feet again—but a child can accomplish a lot in three to six months time!

Whenever I meet with the beautiful mothers at *Above Rubies* retreats, I am asked, "How do you do what you outlined in the *'The Life of a Queen'* in #64 *Above Rubies*? I do not have it all figured out, I just know what works for the Zackeys. What the Lord has revealed to me, works for us. He'll have a plan for you, too, as you seek Him.

## What to do

Figure out what your overall goals are. Keep the Big Picture in sight. For instance, one goal may be that the children have a good working knowledge of Scripture. Well, then, are you making Bible time? Will it be a subject of great importance, and how often will you have instruction in the Word? What about Scripture memory? If you want your children to memorize God's word, you must apply yourself to helping them ENJOY memorizing each day!

We assign a chapter of Scripture to the entire family for the month. We discuss together which one to do, and then DO IT! I break it down into four parts and require they meet the weekly goal by a particular day. I always tie a privilege to the accomplishment.

Don't require things that are drudgery (other than math). I remember a friend (back in the early years when we all attended Home Education support groups) asking a home educating father, who happened to be a school teacher, how

she should best direct her son. He responded with a startling question, "What do you love to do?" As he wisely explained, our children will love to do what we have a passion for. Do you love playing guitar? If so, you will be able to REALLY teach your children to play, or pass on the desire to want to excel!

I LOVE to read great literature! I always make time to read to them and discuss symbolism, foreshadowing, etc. and talk through the book when we've finished reading. All my children love reading. In fact, several of them have gone on to study great works, beyond what I ever sought out.

What I don't love or excel at (like Geography), I find creative solutions for. In the case of Geography, I put the US map and the world map under a see-through plastic tablecloth at the dining table. The children loved it! They would quiz each other on the capitals of countries and US states and learned all about where everything was in the world.

## State Requirements

We have always had a good district to work with, even when we lived in Florida. Here in New York we are required to provide a list of syllabi at the start of each year telling what teaching materials we will use, and provide quarterly reports and annual assessments for each child on Home Instruction.

That may sound daunting, but we've made it simple! I write out an IHIP (Individualized Home Instruction Plan) for each child. Really, I just use the same one for each grade and change the child's name. It spells out the minimum to meet state requirements in each subject. I count the housework as learning time, as well as any time spent reading aloud. I call it "Applied Studies".

Our older children are allowed to work at a desk in their room. They appreciate the quieter atmosphere. They take their IHIP and break it down into goals for themselves and we meet to check over their progress weekly.

But then we do more! Meeting the

State requirements doesn't take all our time; we also keep a list of what we want to learn, what we want to study, where we want to go (field trips), etc. Some years its following an interest in studying about the blind, dinosaurs, African wars, explorers, ice skating, sign language, quilting, sewing, nature, etc.

## Contentment and Focus

But even in the hard times, when "extras" are not part of what we're doing; we must stay the course of what's important. Loving each other and keeping things together are goals as well!

At the end of the year, what do you want your children to remember? I know

what I don't want them to remember. I don't want them to think back and say, "Mom was always too busy for us. The computer and everybody else took her time from us. She was on the phone..." I don't want them to have wasted their time on the computer or in front of the television either! Some years we have set the goals to be "learning to get along with each other" above any educational accomplishments. For our younger adopted children; their first year home was, "learning to play and adapt to our family" as they had so much to take in changing cultures and never having played with manipulatives like blocks or dolls. Those were important goals.

Adoption has taught me a lot about what's important. Our African children have come with gaps in their education, some more than others. Rather than say, "Oh! How terrible! They're so far behind!" we have chosen rather to see the blessing. What an opportunity to spend quality time with these, my children, which I have not raised until now. Helping them fill in their learning gaps strengthens our bonds with each other and makes them confident in their abilities! What joy!

**CANDY ZACKEY**  
Akron, New York, USA  
MomCandy@childrenconcerned.org  
www.childrenconcerned.org

"We will not find God in our homes unless we stop and pray there." —Margaret Hebblethwaite

# The Rhythm OF WOMANHOOD

A friend called me recently who was struggling with heavy, erratic cycles. How could she cope and still mother her five young children? I encouraged her that the *Above Rubies* ministry taught me many years ago that embracing motherhood means embracing all the seasons of our childbearing years: PMS, the "heavy" days, pregnancy, postpartum, as well as menopause.

I've learned to mimic the Hebrew women in their original cultural norm of living separately from others while they cycle. I "bow out" of my normal workload for the first few days of my cycle. The Lord has given me many creative ways to implement this principle in our modern culture: planning a simple lunch the night before heavy days, taking the children to a park or indoor play place while I rest, and planning travel, birthday parties, etc., during my fertile phase.

One of the 10 commandments involves a weekly Sabbath, or time to rest. With small children, there are months when I welcome those first few "heavy" days, as my Sabbaths aren't always as restful as I wish. My children and I almost look forward to it now. Sometimes we check out wholesome movies from the library and snuggle in my bed while I

cooperate with my body's efforts to purify itself.

My cycles have been almost debilitating for as long as I can remember. I was diagnosed with stage 3 endometriosis and treated with laser surgery when my husband and I were engaged, although the doctor explained to us that it would probably grow back. When I asked what might prohibit its return, he informed me that the disease could become dormant if I stayed pregnant or nursing until I was "through with my family." Eight children and 15 years later, I've just had a diagnostic laparoscopy and ovarian cyst removal. At my post-operative checkup, I was shown photographs of my "clean pelvis". My womb, ovaries, and tubes were completely void of any evidence that I ever had this "career woman's disease."

God is so faithful. I always interpreted I Timothy 2:15's "Women will be saved in childbearing" to mean that having children saved me from character flaws like selfishness, immaturity, laziness, etc. I



realize now that it also means that God will preserve my body from abnormalities that are a direct result of not embracing children during my childbearing years.

When well-meaning people find out that we trust the Lord for the children He wants to give us, they express concern for the health of my womb. "Oh, that's dangerous," they say. My experience proves the opposite. Childbearing has brought healing to my womb.

**CHACE SIMMONS**  
Grand Prairie, Texas, USA  
chacesimmons@sbcglobal.net

*Shane and Chace's children are: Abbie (12), Emma (11), Jackson (9), Libby (7), Ruby (6), Ethan (4), Josephine (2), and baby Tate (4 months).*



# MORNING SICKNESS

With my very first pregnancy I was diagnosed with Hyperemesis gravidarum. The medical definition: excessive vomiting in pregnancy. Hyper means "over"; emesis means "vomiting"; gravidarum means "pregnant state." My definition: excessive, severe, extreme, exhausting, continuous nausea and vomiting in pregnancy. I've had severe morning sickness with all seven of my healthy children and with one that died at three months prenatal.

Throwing up throughout the morning, afternoon and evening was exhausting. I was admitted to the hospital several times for dehydration. I was hungry, but not able to eat; thirsty but unable to drink. I was so miserable from nausea one time that I cried out to God to not live! I'm glad he didn't say yes to that prayer!

Despite the misery and challenges each pregnancy brings, every time I see the blessing of a new precious child being born, all my suffering is momentarily forgotten. I can even say, "Let's do it again." I don't like labor and morning sickness is ten times worse, but for the rest of my life, I experience infinitely greater rewards and joy from being around my children.

During the last few pregnancies, I have been blessed to have some godly women look after me. This hasn't always been the case. When I was pregnant for the first time, we moved to a small town where I didn't know anyone. It was during this time I started formulating a "How to Help" list. I've added to it over the years as I've experienced different situations. To the right are a few things I have learned:

## WENDY SHAW

Yosemite National Park, California, USA  
shawfamily1@sti.net

*Kevin and Wendy Shaw are blessed with seven children, Chase (13), Holly (11), Macy (9), Justus (6), Elley (4), Amy (2,) and Lilly (6 weeks).*

If you are suffering from morning sickness or would like to help those who are, check out Wendy's website: [www.mymorningsickness.com](http://www.mymorningsickness.com)



## HOW TO HELP A MOM COPE WITH MORNING SICKNESS

1. Help with the duties and responsibilities that she is unable to do. Offer to do specific jobs—meals for her family, laundry, dishes, child-care, or the bathroom.
2. Give her a card of encouragement. A small token of kindness can go a long way to encourage her.
3. If talking with someone is a good distraction for her, call or visit her often. The days and nights go by very slowly.
4. Send flowers or something pretty to look at. Beautiful things can be uplifting to see, especially if she is grounded to one part of the house for most of the day.
5. Read to her. Write her a poem. Sing, if she wants you to. It's nice for her to know that she is remembered as she feels the world is going on without her.
6. Be aware. Her nose is extremely sensitive. Don't come near her if you have the slightest scent of cologne, aftershave, perfume, fabric softener, smoke, etc. on you.
7. Use encouraging words and tender comments. Pray with her. This can be an emotionally trying experience and all conversations need to be optimistic, focusing on the positive.
8. Humor can be a welcome addition to her day. A funny book, movie, or even a joke may bring a smile. Making her laugh can be a much needed relief.
9. Be supportive. Even though you cannot truly relate (it's real and miserable) try to understand how she feels! Let her cry.
10. Change her bedding, towels, throw-up bowl. I know it may be gross! But...if you want to know how to help!



# MY JOURNEY OF INFERTILITY

Month after month I sobbed on the bathroom floor. "Why, why, why?" was all I could ask. I poured out my heart to God, begging Him for answers that only He could give. I pleaded and wailed, made bargains and asked questions. There were no answers, no revelations from God... only quietness.

I had just started my cycle, as I had like clockwork for the past eleven years. My husband held me as I cried. He had no answers either.

Everything reminded me that I could not conceive. I would go to the store and see only bubbly infants cooing to their mommas. Maternity clothes beckoned at me from the racks, knowing that I could not buy them again this month. The infant section was not an area I could go into without crying. I skipped the diaper and baby food isles at the grocery store.

It was no easier at church. Most of my friends and family members were expecting. People made suggestions and comments that broke my heart and sent me spiraling into a dark depression. "Just let go and let God...give it to Him." "Why don't you adopt?" "You should be thankful for the two children you already have instead of fretting over the ones you can't have."

Why didn't anyone care about me and the hurt I was feeling? Why couldn't they be a bit more sensitive with their words? Why wasn't anyone reaching out to me? I was allowing my inability to conceive to rule my life and emotions, affecting all the relationships around me. Sadly, this infertility was a product of my own doing, which only added to my depression.

I fell in "love" in 1991 with a cute boy in my class, Joel. Not long after we started dating I became pregnant. Devastated, we considered abortion. After a series of miraculous events I was not able to abort this baby. I delivered Dakota in October 1992, got married February 1995 and later gave birth to Kennedy in November 1995. Both these children were born before I was 19 years old.

I had never planned on having children. I started college part time and began seeking employment. My husband joined

the military and we moved overseas. Because the military was paying for it and others recommended it, we joined the ranks of many who cut off their fertility willingly by having a vasectomy. That was 1996. I enjoyed the freedom the sterilization offered us by not having to worry about an "accident" each month. My husband and I were just 19 years old at the time.

Several years later, we moved back to the United States. A neighbor invited us to a drama at her church. We attended and, that night, both my husband and I gave our lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. We promptly found a church and began serving in any capacity we could.

I began to long for more children. I begged the Lord for a miracle. I pleaded with God, reminding Him that we had no knowledge of Him when we had the vasectomy, so why should we be held accountable for something we did in such ignorance? I cried and looked for answers to my problem. I soon heard of a procedure that reversed the vasectomy resulting in restoring fertility to a couple. I was elated! I begged my husband to check into it. He did. The base where we were stationed did reversals. Praise God! My husband had the necessary medical appointments and put his name on the waiting list.

Months later, after waiting what seemed to be an eternity, we checked with the hospital to see where we were on the list. A mistake had taken place and we were never on the list in the first place. Crushed, I asked my husband to start over, but he had received orders sending us back overseas.

God worked mightily. In 2002, Joel was able to have the reversal done in a military hospital in Europe. Each detail was orchestrated by God alone. This reversal gave me hope. I was sure we would be expecting a baby shortly. How could we not after such a moving of the Lord on our behalf? I bought an armload of maternity clothes, knowing I would need them soon.

Month after month went by with no positive pregnancy tests. My heart plummeted into depression. Wasn't I being



obedient? If so, why wasn't God blessing? Where was this baby I was sure we would have? Why wasn't God answering my prayers? I reached out to other women who were suffering with infertility. I found comfort in knowing I was not alone, but none of us could really give the other what we so desired—a baby.

My husband had testing done. We discovered that the reversal was unsuccessful and we would not be able to conceive. I still prayed and asked the Lord to change the outcome. Almost four years went by as I charted temperatures, using ovulation predictor kits—and praying. Months went by. They turned into years.

In the beginning of 2006, upon returning to the United States, we decided to have the reversal done again. Once again I felt hopeful. Six months flew by and we still had not conceived. This time I started to feel peace in whatever the Lord was doing in our lives. I began to see the two children I had as blessings and slowly began letting go of the dream I had for more children. I realized that I needed to adjust my desires to God's desires, rather than manipulating Him into letting me have my way. Sure, I still wanted to get pregnant, but I was willing to give up what I wanted and embrace what God wanted, which was much better anyway.

Slowly, my heart turned towards the subject of adoption. This was not an option for me before. My husband and children were ready to adopt, but I was holding back, hoping against hope that I could get pregnant. I began reading stories of families who adopted successfully. Ever so quietly, God prepared my heart to accept another woman's child as my own.

My husband and I called an adoption counselor and began the process. Homestudy, applications, profiles—they

filled my world for a short period of time. I had gone from being disinterested in the adoption process to wholeheartedly excited and ready to bring a baby into our home!

All I could think of was the baby God would bless us with through adoption. Three months almost to the day, after meeting our adoption counselor, we brought Isabella into our lives. I was at the hospital the day she was born. I met her birthmother and thanked her for choosing to give life and blessing me with her child. I assured her that Isabella would be taken care of and loved. The birthmother held onto the sweet little bundle for a time and then asked me if I would like to hold her. My heart skipped a beat. I accepted the little girl into my arms and my heart. Two days later, Isabella was released from the

hospital to me.

As I look at my precious daughter, I realize this was the baby that I spent years praying for. This was the child God had in mind for me. I can thank and praise God for my years of infertility, for without them I would not have adopted this sweet child. Infertility has allowed me the chance to see God working in my life. As the song says, how can I know God can solve my problems if I never have them? I have witnessed Romans 8:28 in action, seeing God work good from all things, including my mistakes.

Do I still hope to conceive another child? Of course I do. However, I have decided to embrace the gifts God gives me, even if they are not wrapped and delivered in the manner I want them to be.

**JESSICA DECKER**  
Sanford, North Carolina, USA  
jnjdecker@yahoo.com

*Joel (her first and only love since high school) and Jessica's children are Dakota (14), Kennedy (11) and Isabella.*



I grew up on fairy tales. What little girl doesn't love the stories about a beautiful young maiden being rescued and whisked away by a handsome Prince Charming? These stories always ended with the happy young couple marrying and starting a life together.

In today's society, "happily ever after" comes after the house is bought, his and her cars grace the driveway and two careers compete for the time and affection the Prince and Princess have for each other. What has happened? Where in the story did the Princess decide that she was no longer joyful scurrying about her home, taking pride in a job well done?

I was speaking with an internet friend recently and she said that a message I had posted upset her. It was about a lovely home where the woman participates in the home activities that make a house a home. She argued with me that it's not that men aren't programmed to do these jobs; it's that they are lazy and choose not to—a popular opinion.

If you have a microwave and a toaster in your kitchen, which one do you use to make toast? The microwave? No, you realize that it will not toast your bread evenly; it will simply make it hot. Yet I doubt any woman would stand in her kitchen and argue that the microwave should be making her toast. No, it simply does not work that way.

# Happily Ever After?

It is the same for man and woman. We are created for different jobs. There is nothing demeaning about managing a home. It is not a lowly calling to stay home to cook, clean, decorate, sew, sing, rock babies, read, and rejoice! Our homes are a haven for our husbands. We can and we should take up this calling with rejoicing in our hearts. We are not men, we are womb-men! How incredible to be so blessed!

Is it a radical idea that long after the Prince and the Princess said "I do" that the Princess continued in her home, putting on her apron every morning and singing as she went about her daily duties. Do we really think Cinderella traded in her broom for a briefcase? I think not! I think in the heart of hearts of most women, we want to take care of our family. We want to create a lovely home for our husband to rest his head at the end of a long day. Our struggle comes not from within, but from outside influences telling us we should be pursuing something more valuable, something "worthwhile".

We are told we should be getting out of the house, getting "involved" and most of the time that means being separate from our family and our home. The most important thing you will ever do will be done within the walls of your home! You are called for something spectacular. You are a wife and a mother. An occupation to be praised!

Long after the honeymoon, I am still at home, proudly donning my apron, holding my broom and rocking my babies. I spend my days investing in the most precious of all resources: my God, my husband and my children! I have the freedom to be everything God called me to be. Who could ask for more?

**MELISSA COFFEY**  
Rio Rancho, New Mexico, USA  
coffeybeanfamily@msn.net

*Jamie and Melissa are blessed with five precious lambs, Kyle (9), Calla (7), Cassidy (5), Elijah (3) and new baby born as I send this magazine to the printers.*

# Will he know the Difference?



"Will he know the difference?" he asked. "Please don't tell him, Mommy."

It was a precious moment. My 11 year old son, Isaiah, and Shepherd Colin, our little miracle baby (born at 33 weeks gestation) and I were sitting on the oversized rocking chair together, staring at our beautiful new gift of life. All the ten children had loved seeing the baby grow in my tummy and reveled in the times when they saw him kicking and rolling around. It was enshrouded in mystery. We didn't find out the gender of our baby until he was born as the children enjoyed the competition between the two teams. We had five girls and five boys and the new arrival would be the makings of the winning team.

It was amazing to think that this was the darling baby we had grown to love and anticipate during my pregnancy. We were both enraptured with Shepherd's gorgeous little face when Isaiah said something that caught me off guard.

"Is he going to know, Mommy?"

"Know what?" I asked.

"Are you going to tell him, Mommy?"

"Tell him what?" I said. He was so earnest with his questions. He kept enquiring and didn't answer mine.

"But will he know the difference?" he asked again.

"What difference?" He still didn't answer but kept talking, taken up with the notions turning in his head.

"Maybe, Mommy, he won't notice, because I have always been here since he came into the world."

I started to see through the fog of what was on his mind.

"Mommy, where will he think that I get my dark skin? He continued questioning.

"He will think you got your beautiful dark skin the same place he got his light skin—from God and the heart of His creativity. It is boring for everyone to be the same as one another. I am so glad we have different colors in our family because God has different colors amongst His children."

Isaiah had told me in the past that he did not like the word "adoption" when referring to himself. It made him feel too new and different. I now knew exactly what was on his mind.

"Isaiah," I said, "I don't see any difference between you and baby Shep. You may look different, but that is the fun part. Vision looks nothing like Mommy or Daddy with his flaming red hair, green eyes and turned up nose. I don't love my children because they look like me. I love them because they are

mine. Whether you became mine by adoption or pregnancy doesn't matter to me.

Adoption and pregnancy are just words, words that have the same outcome, words for the way you arrived and became mine. Whether someone took the bus, rode in a car, went by ship or flew in a plane—it's all minor transportation details.

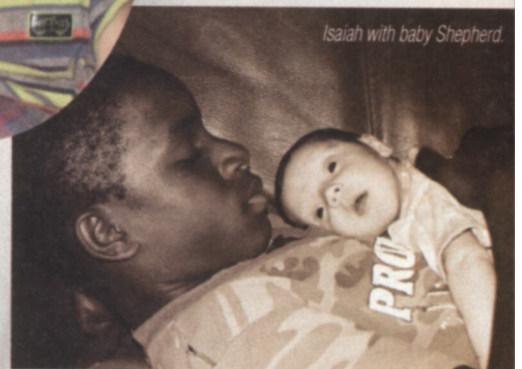
"Isaiah, before the beginning of time, God planned for you to be my precious child, to love, train and hold in my heart forever. He decided this for Shepherd too. You are both equally mine and equally adored. Whether you grew in my tummy or inside my heart, it doesn't matter to me.

"Shepherd grew in my womb for almost nine months but you grew in my heart for nine months. To get you here in my arms was a long and rocky process. My daily thoughts were weaved with longing prayers for you. My heart swelled, grew and beat for you. My heart was pregnant with you. It held a bulging love that kept growing until it burst open and the dream of you became a reality when I first saw your face. All that matters to me is that you are mine. All eleven of my beautiful gifts from God are equally anticipated and celebrated. God wrapped some of you up differently. But the wrapping doesn't matter, does it? It is the gift you care about.

"To answer your question, Baby Shep will know no difference. He will only know that he has a cool, good-looking muscularly African brother that he will look up to and want



Isaiah with baby Shepherd.





*Selah with baby Shepherd.*

to be like. The fact that you were adopted, Isaiah, is a minor detail."

Isaiah gave the baby a gentle, but fervent hug, and ran off to play with a new spring in his step and the excitement of a new brother to love.

When I am grocery shopping, or out and about in town, and a well-meaning on-looker sees my crowd trailing behind and ask if I run a youth group or am a nanny of many, I say, "No, these are all my children."

Sometimes they ask, "But which ones are *really* yours? I am sure you know my answer, "They are *all* mine, and there is no difference."

**SERENE ALLISON**  
Primm Springs, Tennessee, USA

*Samuel and Serene are blessed with eleven children so far—Selah (16), Jabin (16), Kula (15), Isaiah (11), Arden (9), Chalice (7), Cherish (7), Cedar (4), Engedi (3), Vision (2) and Shepherd Colin (2 months).*

**"Prayer begins  
where  
human capacity ends."**

—Marian Anderson

# Who do you Follow?

What is carnal mothering? I think it is when we focus more on the teachings of so-called parenting experts than God. It looks something like this: "I am of William Sears; I am of James Dobson; I am of Gary Ezzo; and I am of [insert favorite parenting teacher here]" etc.

Remember what Paul wrote to the Corinthians? "For ye are yet carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." (1 Corinthians 3:3-9)

*God stepped in and brought me to a place, both spiritually and physically, where I had to rely solely on Him.*

This is exactly where I was until recently. I have bounced around nearly every parenting philosophy in my quest to learn how to be a Godly mother. I started off in the Attachment Parenting (AP) group. In fact, I still would be considered an AP Mother since I practice a lot of AP principles. I checked out non-punitive discipline (aka Grace Based Discipline/Positive Discipline). When that didn't work, I checked out others.

However, when I found myself with the varying situations a mother finds herself in each day, I realized there was a problem when I started to think what the parenting gurus would do, rather than turning to God and asking Him what I should do. Sometimes I'd just rather deal with a Moses than hear from God direct.

Fortunately, God stepped in and brought me to a place, both spiritually and physically, where I had to rely solely on Him. God moved our family to a more remote location, which greatly reduced my online time. I am no longer within walking distance to the local library where I access the internet.

I started to pray for vision in my mothering. Not only did God give me a vision, but showed me how to implement it. Early on in my mothering I was led astray by teaching which focused on "ages and stages" (e.g. "terrible two's" etc.). I became apathetic in prayer for my children thinking everything was "just a phase". Now I pray about everything and I'm seeing beautiful fruit as a result.

The ideas keep coming, as God pours them into my mind, for keeping house, toilet training, homeschooling and child training, etc.

God still continues to use others in mothering/parenting ministries to encourage, teach, and inspire me. The *Above Rubies* magazine is a main one. I often find the articles in each issue deal with exactly

what is happening in my life at the time.

However, I used to use Titus 2 as an excuse to continue in my carnal mothering. Now I use it as my measuring stick. When I hear/read mothering advice, I check it against the qualities in Titus 2 and ask myself, does it make me love my husband and children? Does it make me want to be sober, discreet, chaste, a keeper at home, good, and obedient to my husband? If it doesn't measure up, I disregard it.

Since the Lord has freed me from trying to measure up to the parenting gurus, I no longer feel overwhelmed, or in a constant state of "What do I do". As a result, I am calmer, less grumpy, and more joyful. And the best thing is I am really starting to enjoy my children.

**DONNA NEUMANN**  
Lihue, Hawaii, USA  
mamadomain@yahoo.com

*Richard and Donna are blessed with Abigail (4) and Faith (2).*

# The Family Charge

As we prayed for our nation in a corporate prayer meeting recently, the words, "Take Charge" came to my mind. Take charge of what? God shows us this clearly from the beginning of creation. In the first chapter of the Bible He gives a charge. What is this charge? It is the first words God ever spoke to the ears of man, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion..."

To whom did God speak these words? Was it to the leader of a nation? Was it to a certain political party? Was it to the ministers and pastors of churches? No. It was to a man and wife and the children God would give them. It was a family charge.

As we see our nation turning away from God to humanistic philosophies and our political parties becoming more and more liberal we despair for righteousness to rule in the nation. However, I believe we must take our focus off trusting in a certain leader or a certain political party. We must come back to where God started. And that is with the family! God told a family to take charge of the earth.

marriage strong. We must put aside selfishness, independence and our own agenda and commit to help our husbands fulfill the charge God has given us. To fulfill this world-encompassing Genesis command we cannot be anything else than positive, uplifting, committed and encouraging supporters!

God uses the word "help meet" to describe His plan for wives. The word *meet* is the Hebrew word *neged* and means 'part opposite, counterpart, mate, in front of.' In other words, she is opposite to man, but fits him perfectly like a glove. The word *help* is the Hebrew word *ezer* which means 'helper, to come to the aid of.' The amazing thing is that it is the same Hebrew word that is used when it speaks of God being our help! For example, "God is our help and shield." (Psalm 33:20)

Even more amazing is that the word *ezer* is first used regarding a wife, before it is used regarding God! In "the law of the first mention" the word help is given to a wife! We reveal the image of God when we help our husband and submit to his

day care centers than in the home. This way he can sow seeds of deception in their minds from a young age. The more he can incite mothers to follow their own careers rather than the highest calling God has given to them, the more he can steer the new generation into his deviant thinking. This is already happening. Even many Christian women have imbibed the thinking of the world rather than God's eternal Word.

Parenting is also weakened. Many fathers have forgotten their responsibility of fathering, the highest calling that God has given to a man. When fathers abdicate their mandate to provide, protect and lead their families in the ways of God, the family declines. When mothers leave their homes and relegate motherhood to a subsidiary part of their lives, the nation wanes.

The first home that God created was called Eden, which means "delight." The first home was a prototype of all homes to come. God wants our homes to be a delightful place, a place where everyone loves to be, a place where we experience the presence of God; a place where we nurture and train our children and prepare them for life. God wants Eden homes to be spread across the world. He wants us to take dominion over all deception and evil and spread God's love, truth, joy and salvation across the earth.

He wants us to have His vision—His vision for life, love and family. God loves life. The first charge to families is to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth. God wants the earth to be filled with the godly seed, children who reveal His character. When we limit the number of children we have, we limit the image of God in the earth. We limit what God wants to do.

Because God's people have listened to the deceiving enemy and limited their children, the world is now bereft of millions of godly children who could be filling the nations with His glory. The devil has succeeded and is laughing up his sleeve! We have been sucked into his lies, we are weakened, and we have given up the Genesis charge.

## When we relinquish God's mandate, the enemy takes charge!

The more families give up the mandate God has given them and release their responsibilities to government and organizations, the weaker the family becomes—and the weaker the nation becomes. A nation is as strong as its families. Families are God's plan for living. Committed families are God's plan for a prosperous nation.

But we have to do it God's way. God did not leave us ignorant. He showed the plan in the first few chapters of Genesis. He showed us that it starts with the marriage where the man "shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." (2:24) God wants a husband and wife to be one, not two separate entities doing their own thing, but one—one flesh, one spirit and one purpose. We must work to make our

covering and leadership.

Worldly philosophy laughs at submission. It despises commitment and laying down your life for another. But what is the result? A harvest of failed marriages and hurting children. It's time we committed to God's way, the one who planned it in the first place. The devil's independent way always brings destruction; God's way is life and happiness.

The feminist agenda woos mothers out of the home. They are led to believe they have more important things to accomplish than to make their home a loving sanctuary and to raise and nurture the children God gives them. Once again, this is the enemy's plan to weaken the family unit and to cross purposes with God. The devil would rather have children raised in

Finis Dake comments on Psalm 127:3-5, "Each child will in the process of time be a defense, support and propagation of the eternal reproduction of man and fulfillment of the plan of God for man. The more arrows one has, the more enemies he will slay, the more powerful will he be in the earth. The more children born and saved to help God administer the affairs of the eternal plan for man, the more reward God will have."

It is an undisputed fact that the people who obey God's mandate to be fruitful and multiply are the people who will subdue and take dominion. Before dominion comes multiplication. It is an eternal law. If we as God's people want to multiply God's ways across the world, we must first be fruitful! Currently, the Islamic people are outnumbering western civilizations seven to one! They are on their way to taking dominion, unless we wake up!

The early Christians not only embraced the children God wanted to give them, but they gathered abandoned chil-

**We are to be on the offensive, not the defensive!**

dren, took them into their homes and raised them for God. This should be the philosophy of all God's people. We are to be on the offensive, not the defensive. We are to take charge. We are to embrace the children God will give us because they will help us in this great task of spreading God's love and salvation across the earth. But we also need to take charge of the needs in this world—the widows, the orphans and the deprived. We can gather an orphan into our home, sponsor an orphan, or help another family to financially adopt an orphan. This is pure religion and undefiled. This is taking dominion.

Instead of relying on government agencies to help us out, we need to strengthen our marriages and families. It's time for families to take charge again. It is time to strengthen our marriages, strengthen our families and fulfill the mandate God has given us. Strong, healthy families are God's answer to the nation's needs.  
NANCY CAMPBELL

## My Baby

**I look down at your tiny feet,  
your tiny feet,  
tiny hands,  
and into your eyes.  
You are a precious gift from God,  
a ray of sunshine sent down to make me smile.  
You are so small right now,  
but it will be fun to watch you grow and learn each new thing.  
Then I will close my eyes and when I wake up and open them again I will realize how fast the time has gone by and wonder what happened to my tiny baby!  
Someday, when you're older you may be taller than me;  
I will look at you, grown-up, across the room from me,  
with love shining through the smile in my eyes and remember the tiny baby I held in my arms!**

Ellen Wyman, Cuyler, NY, USA

## Jesus Gave His Life For You!

*What does He want you to do?*

**Repent!**

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19)

**Receive the cleansing of the blood of Jesus!**

"The blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

"Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." (Hebrews 9:22)

**Confess that Jesus is your Lord!**

"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved, for with the heart one believes to righteousness and with the mouth confession is made to salvation." (Romans 10:9-10)

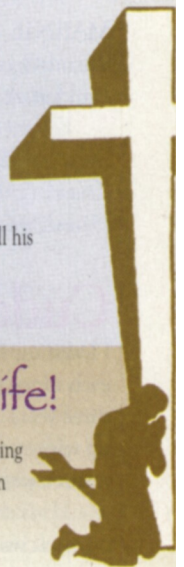
**Be baptized!**

"He that believes and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16)

"What must I do to be saved?" ... 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household' ... And immediately he and all his family were baptized." (Acts 16:30-32)

**And you will receive eternal life!**

"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36)



## The Milk Bar!

My husband used to call me "The Milk Bar". One time he was playing with our first born son while I was upstairs taking a nap. All of a sudden he came rushing up the stairs holding our son who had a mouth full of powdered chocolate Milo.

"Quick give him some milk!" he cried.

It turned out that Hubby had been making Milo drinks for us both. Our son looked longingly at the chocolate powder and hubby decided to give him a spoon full. He forgot that he couldn't drink out of anything other than the "Milk Bar" - hence, the quick trip up the stairs!

### VICTORIA PURDIE

Queensland, Australia  
vpurdie@optusnet.com.au

*Ross and Victoria's three children are Keegan (13), Cayden (11) and Jaymee (9).*

## A Little Child shall Lead them!

We were involved in a very close-knit Christian fellowship when our fifth child was nursing. I attended weekly prayer meetings where we spent time in worship before prayer. Isaac would nurse under a blanket, but it wouldn't take long before his tiny little hand reached out from under the blanket, raised in praise to Jesus. It was beautiful to everyone who saw!

As he grew a little older and could say a few words, he called the breast a "nap" as he would nurse to fall asleep.

### MARNIE SAGOR

dwsmls@gotsky.com  
Paulden, Arizona, USA

*David and Marnie's children are Joshua (18), Amanda (15), Shannon (13), Hannah (8), Isaac (5) and Benjamin (3).*

## Cuddles!

I loved nursing my babies and did so until each of my three biological children were three years old. My first born, Jace, came up with such a cute name for nursing that it stuck with all the other children. He would ask to "cuddle" when he wanted to nurse. It was nice to have this "code name"

# Nursing

for nursing. It gave us privacy as no one knew what my little ones were doing under our blanket or sling. It was a positive influence to others when I nursed my older toddlers and they saw how sweet and happy they were!

My three pregnancies were life threatening, especially Caresse's. Not long after she was born, God opened our hearts and blessed us with seven other children. Kiana came from China, Landon from South Korea and Garrett from Vietnam. Corbin is an African American baby. We were

found out that his biological sister, who is three, was in the orphanage. Their family is in the UN Refugee camp outside of Monrovia. My husband has just arrived home with her. Hallelujah!

### SHONNI HASSOLDT

shassoldt@msn.com  
Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA

*Steve and Shonni's children are Jace (17), Kalyn (14), Caresse (9), Kiana (7), Landon (6), Garrett (5), Alia (3), Corbin (2), Aiden (8 months) and Joeliciana (3).*



matched with twins in Sierra Leone not long after Corbin turned one, but they died shortly before we could bring them home. Then Sierra Leone closed the adoption doors. It was during this time of grieving that *Above Rubies* came in the mail with the first article about the Liberian children. We knew immediately that this was where God was sending us. While Steve was away for five months helping with the Katrina hurricane victims (with his company) I left my precious family and went to Liberia alone to bring home our little daughter, Alia. Last December we also brought home Aiden Siafa from Liberia. While there we

## Snuckles!

I have either been pregnant or nursing for the past 16 years and have used several names. One was "suckie." My daughter would crawl up in my lap and pull at my shirt saying, "suckie!"

One of my favorite ways to nurse is to lie down with my baby. When we do this we call it our "snuckles"—a combination of



# Stories

snuggle and suckle!

My current baby calls the breast his "mimmie."

## PAMELA HALE

Bardwell, Kentucky, USA  
ralphpamela@wk.net

*Ralph and Pamela's children are Anna Ruth (15), Paul (14), Sarah (13), Grace (10), Chloe (9), Beth (7), Samuel (6), Shalom (4) and Noah (19 months).*

## Seventh Time Blessed!

I am a mother of seven children but could only nurse the youngest of our children. I tried with the first three, but due to postpartum depression and fear I was not successful.

I tried to tell myself it wasn't important. Our children thrived just fine on formula and they were healthy and intelligent. It didn't make me any less of a mom just because I couldn't figure out how to do this. Everyone was very supportive of our decision.

I was too afraid to try with my fourth child. I became pregnant again and found out we were having twins! I was overwhelmed and decided not to think about breastfeeding but to concentrate on a healthy pregnancy. The twins were born at 39 wks, 7lb 10oz and 7 lb 4 oz. They were both very healthy and spent only 24 hrs in the hospital! Unfortunately, I had the worst post-partum depression. I couldn't think about anything other than just getting through every day safely. My wonderful husband was so supportive during this time.

I became pregnant with our seventh child when the twins were about 8 months old. This time I wanted to do things differently. I read more about breastfeeding! At 36 weeks, I was very unhappy with the usual pre-natal care given by my doctor. We decided to home birth instead. Our midwife was wonderful! The birth was amazing and I attempted to breastfeed her.

After a couple of weeks, Naomi didn't look like she was gaining any weight. Our

midwife weighed her and realized she had only been losing weight. She referred me to a breastfeeding clinic to find out what was wrong. My heart broke when they told me I was starving my child. She was getting less than an ounce of milk at a feeding. They told me I had to put her on formula or she would starve.

The nurse gave me a sliver of hope telling me it was possible to transition to full time breastfeeding if I followed their advice. I was to feed her formula, then offer the breast. After that, I needed to pump to get my milk supply up. I had to make sure I was eating, drinking and sleeping enough, and keep the stress level down as much as possible. If I did all of this, eventually she would transition to only the breast.

I went home and tried. They forgot to tell me that she wasn't going to want to latch on to me as she now preferred the bottle. I cried all the time. Feeding her took up the entire day and most of the night. I was exhausted all the time! I had a husband and six other children who needed me, three of whom I was supposed to be schooling somehow. I decided this wasn't fair to the rest of our family and stopped trying. It made me sad to think this was some thing I was never going to do.

Naomi didn't do very well on formula. She cried a lot and didn't sleep well at night. I blamed myself for her being upset. If I had only tried harder, maybe I could have succeeded.

By God's grace I was still lactating after three months of trying to make it stop. Naomi was now almost four months old and I couldn't stand to hear her cry any more from the formula. I decided to try and breast feed at afternoon naps to see if that would help us sleep. This was the time that wouldn't take away from all the other children since the younger ones napped and the older ones had quiet time. I was so surprised to see how easy she took to me again.

The nurses at our WIC program encouraged me to breast feed her more. I was excited and went home and talked to my husband. To my surprise, he was also supportive of me trying again! Within a week Naomi was exclusively breast fed! I was so grateful God helped me make this possi-

ble.

Naomi is now almost two years and still breastfeeds! The bond between the two of us is different than that of the other children. There is a closeness we feel with each other.

I am very grateful that God is so loving and even something as simple as this matters to Him. These lessons make me love being a mom so very much.

## AMY QUIMPO

Londonderry, New Hampshire, USA  
arquimpo@yahoo.com

*Fred and Amy are blessed with Gabriel (11), Isaac (9), Michael (7), Jeremiah (6), Matthew and Rebecca (3) and Naomi (2).*

## Booboo All Gone!

I noticed that my two year old daughter had not nursed for a few days and I thought it might be due to my pregnancy. I asked her if she wanted some "booboo".

"No," Joy replied, "Booboo all gone, Mama."

"Where did it all go?" I asked.

I wasn't expecting an answer but she opened her mouth wide, pointed in her mouth and said, "In there." Then she rubbed her belly and said, "And in there."

## PATRICIA SAWICKI

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada  
patooty@shaw.ca

*Glenwood and Patricia's are blessed with three daughters—Gracia (6), Faith (4), Joy (2) and new baby due October.*

Patricia is helping to organize the Ladies Above Rubies Canadian retreat which will be held May 2-4, 2008, Ph: 204-222-2621.

## Dee Dees!

When my oldest son, Justin, was born, there weren't many people to go to for answers about breastfeeding problems. My own pediatrician, whom I trusted implicitly, but learned later wasn't pro-breastfeeding, gave me false advice. I did not successfully nurse my first three children past six weeks. By the time I had my fourth child, John, I had discovered the *La Leche League*



## My Precious Gift

*Kim wrote this poem as she nursed her fourth baby, their first vasectomy reversal baby.*

You wake in the night  
 I pull you close  
 My hand covers your whole back  
 You are tiny and warm  
 It is dark  
 You find my breast by the light of the moon  
 and your sensitive mouth  
 The milk flows, filling your hungry belly  
 The house is quiet, except for your  
 contented sucking noises  
 You fall asleep with a sigh  
 I touch your hair  
 I marvel at how you were fearfully and  
 wonderfully made  
 Before God formed you in the womb  
 He knew you  
 You are a precious gift  
 My pillow is wet with tears  
 Each one praises Him  
 I drift back to sleep  
 Nursing by moonlight

**KIM MILLS**  
 Smiths4Jesus7@aol.com

*David and Kim have been married for 20 years  
 and God has blessed them with Kyle (17), Jesse (16),  
 Casey (14), Justin (5) and Ethan (2).*

and even had a leader living right next door. With all the correct information and support at my fingertips, I still had many trials and obstacles as I nursed this little guy and I nearly gave up. But, with lots of prayer and determination, we became such a successful breastfeeding couple and he nursed for two and a half years.

One day when John had just turned two, my husband came home early from work and played with the children after dinner and I saw my opportunity for an uninterrupted soak in the tub. After a few

minutes little John realized I was gone found me in the bathroom. Sitting in the tub, the upper half of my body was clearly visible and right at his eye level. When he walked in his face lit up as he ran to the tub, joyfully exclaiming "dee dees", our word for nursing and breasts. When daddy came to the bathroom to collect little John, my darling little boy looked at his daddy and said in the most loving and wistful tone "I just love the "dee dees".

**VALERIE PAVOLKA**  
 Michigan City, Indiana, USA  
 valleyp@comcast.net

*John and Valerie are blessed with Justin (19),  
 Joshua (17), Hannah (11), one at the feet of  
 Jesus, John (4) and Jesse (2).*

## How about some Coffee?

Seven months ago we adopted our precious Ruby from China. She was 4 1/2 years old at the time. One afternoon we got on the subject of how babies are fed. I explained that when a mama has a baby grow inside, the mama feeds the baby milk from her breasts after the baby is born. I told her that God made milk come from there for the baby. I also told her that two of her sisters were fed this way and that our oldest daughter and Ruby were fed with bottles. I held her close and said how glad I was that her nannies in the orphanage took such good care of her and how I wish I could have held her when she was a baby.

The next day while I was dressing, she came up to me and "poked" me. She inquired, "There milk in there?"

"No," I replied. "The milk is gone right now." She thought about it for a moment. Then decided, "Now there coffee!" I laughed and said, "Yea, probably!" Mama likes her cup of java!

**LISA WIERZBICKI**  
 Blairstown, New Jersey, USA  
 gerardandlisa@njaccess.com

*Gerard and Lisa's children are Eloise (11), Sophie (8), Lily (5) and Ruby (5).*

## Nummies!

In our home we called nursing "nummies" or "snibble" (a sip and a nibble). Our children will hold our baby and say, "Do you need your nummies?"

**SHELLEY HILLMAN**  
 Gorham, Maine, USA  
 titus2@maine.rr.com

*Alan and Shelley are blessed with Abigail (12),  
 Rachel (10), Grace Elizabeth (7), Isaiah (5) and  
 Annah Joy (7 months).*

## I Listened to God!

My little Lily began having medical problems around two months. We took her to a specialist and he said that she had severe allergies and I would have to stop nursing her. I bought the special formula and all the bottles and tried to wean her, crying the whole time! She screamed for three hours and would not take the bottle.

Finally, I laid her down and prayed over her. I felt the Lord say to my heart, "Nurse her and trust me." I continued to nurse her. When we went to her regular pediatrician (who is a breastfeeding advocate), she told me I could keep nursing her as long as I followed a very strict diet. I would have weaned my baby had I not listened to God. My husband and I know nursing is God's design and he proved it to us.

When I was trying to give Lily the bottle, my little three year old fussed, saying, "No, mommy, she wants your milk from your 'milk bodies'."

**MELISSA SCHULTZ**  
 Minden, Texas, USA  
 schultzfamilijmc@hotmail.com

*John and Melissa are blessed with Christopher (3)  
 and Lily (4 months).*

## Chocolate Milk!

I had a friend whose baby was born about four months after my baby. She was an African American young woman and I watched her baby for a few hours one evening when she was about eight months old. I nursed Hannah, my 12 month old little girl. The visiting baby started to fuss and

would not be comforted. In desperation I tried to nurse her. She took to the nipple right off, but after a few minutes she stopped and and looked up at me. She was not interested in nursing any more!

Soon my friend returned. When I told her about this, she replied smiling, "Of course, she only drinks chocolate milk!"

P.S. I nursed our babies until they were two years, the first and fourth into their fourth year. They all referred to breastfeeding as "Honey."

#### LEANNE GOLLIHER

An Australian girl who married an American, now living in Los Angeles.  
lpotterymum@aol.com

*Clayton and Leanne have four children, Hannah (18), Polly (15 1/2), Abigail (12) and Elijah (10).*

## Human Milk Tonight!

As I pump milk in the morning to mix with baby food, I always seem to have breastmilk in the fridge. My three year old daughter likes to have a glass of milk before bedtime, but one night we were out of milk. My five year old son told his sister, "I am sorry we only have human milk in the fridge tonight!"

My third child was born unable to nurse. She had fibrous tissue at the base of her tongue and she could not latch on. I was determined that she have breastmilk for as long as I could supply her with it. I therefore pumped milk for the first two months of her life and fed her with a bottle. Pumping started to become very difficult since the baby was not nursing at all and my body did not want to continue supplying a machine! I asked my five year old son to please ask God to help our baby nurse so she could keep having mommy's milk. She started nursing the next day! Now at four months she is happy and healthy! I am so thankful for the encouragement I received to keep it up even when it was hard. I am so thankful for the way God hears the cries of our children!

#### SUMMER BROWN

Kennesaw, Georgia, USA  
daysofsummer@comcast.net

*God has blessed Thomas and Summer with Noah (5), Lydia (3) and Tabitha (4 months).*

## Supplemental Feeding!

My daughter was 15 months old when our second daughter arrived. As I nursed the new baby my barely-talking toddler asked what I was doing.

"This is how the baby eats." I replied.

"Baby eats!" she copied. That became her name for the breasts. She is seven years old now. We have four children so far, and they have all called my breasts their "Baby Eats".

When my first baby was three weeks old we discovered I was not producing more than an ounce or so of breast milk each day. She was basically starving. I was devastated, but determined to do all I could to fix the problem. After months of trying every remedy I could find, and countless hours of research, I resigned myself to the fact that outside of a creative miracle from God, I would never have enough milk to satisfy my babies.

I have a condition known as Insufficient Glandular Tissue (IGT) or hypoplastic breasts. I am missing most of the mammary glands (mammary tissue) which should have developed at puberty. There is no known cause or cure for this disorder. By this time I was pregnant with my second baby. I wanted to breastfeed and provide my baby with what little milk I was able to produce. I figured a little is better than none. I also knew that the benefits of breastfeeding go far beyond simply providing nourishment in the form of milk.

God's answer for me was a supplemental nurser which allowed me to provide supplemental milk through a feeding tube inserted in the baby's mouth as the baby nursed at the breast. Initially I used the Medela Supplemental Nursing System (SNS) and later the Lact-Aid. The Lact-Aid was actually invented by a father when he and his wife adopted a baby and she wanted to be able to breastfeed. Nursing in this manner is difficult, takes time to learn, and is not for the faint-of-heart, but the benefits are wonderful! I have nursed four babies this way and though some would call me crazy, I wouldn't have it any other way.

#### BETH WALKER

Round Rock, Texas, USA  
katartizo@earthlink.net

*God has blessed Bryan and Beth with Kaitlyn (7), Brynalise (6), Caleb (3) and Ian (1).*

## Shushing my Baby!

Our second child picked up on the word "boobie". Although somewhat cute a first, it didn't sound so cute when paired with "I WANT" in a very loud voice! Thankfully, I have gained a bit of wisdom since then and our later children have come up with some cute names. Our fourth child, used the word juice for nursing, only he said it "SHUSH". It always "shush"ed him! Then our sixth called it, "nursie". Our seventh has now learned sign language for "milk" and usually says "moo".

#### ROBYN ZEPP

East Texas, Pennsylvania, USA  
zepp1785@rcn.com

*The Zepp children: Bailey (12), Noah (11), Rebekah (9), Shaun (7), Ian (5), Samuel (3), Sydney (1) then Leona (5) and Josephine (7 or 9, not sure!) waiting in Liberia.*

## Let me stay in "Jail"!

When I was pregnant with my first child I wanted to try nursing him. I heard it was better for babies. No one in my family had ever breastfed, so I had no idea what I was doing. When he was born, I was still not sure, but knew it was the best thing for him. However, I did not like it. I felt trapped. I used to refer to nursing as being in "baby jail". I wanted to be free to go out and do things without a baby attached to me. I wanted my husband to be able to feed him with a bottle. I also decided I would only nurse for six months, thinking that he was lucky to get that much. I continued this pattern and attitude with the next two children. I refused to feed them if it hadn't been a standard two hour wait. I thought I would spoil them if I gave into their cries.

While I was pregnant with my fourth child I read *The Power of Motherhood* by Nancy Campbell. When I got to the part about breastfeeding, I was totally convicted. I repented of my "baby jail" attitude and thanked God that He designed me to feed my own child. As I read all the benefits of extended breastfeeding I decided I would try to nurse a full year with this next child. I also decided that I would nurse for comfort,

instead of only nourishment every two hours. Wow, what a difference it made with my little one! He was happier and our whole family benefited from the peace that pervaded our home! He was much more content than my other babies were.

I am now happily breastfeeding my newest son! When I am nursing, I have the best excuse to sit down and pray over my family, or read a snippet of God's Word that helps me get through the busy days! I still can't believe I considered this to be "jail"! If it is "jail", let me stay in it!

#### STACIE BROWN

The Dalles, Oregon, USA  
sbfirefighter@earthlink.net

*Steve and Stacie are blessed with Joshua (8), Marcus (6), Jessica (4), Andrew (2), and Jacob (2 months).*

## Chi Chi!

My youngest daughter, Keziah, is almost 23 months old and still loves to nurse. In our household, we call it "chi-chi" which is a Spanish slang from Central America for nursing. On Mother's Day morning this year, I held Keziah in my arms as we worshipped at church. She murmured, "chi-chi, chi-chi" as we sang. I wasn't really paying attention to her, as we were focusing on the song. Suddenly, Keziah reached up, took hold of my face between her two chubby little hands, pulled my face right in front of hers and exclaimed, "Mum, Mama, Mum! Chi-chi!"

#### MELODY FROESE

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada  
all.aboard@bluebottle.com

*Michael and Melody are blessed with Abigail (5), Elizabeth (3?), Keziah (2) and another precious gift due August 2007.*

## Premie Baby!

I have enjoyed nursing all my babies for 13–15 months. It is an amazing bond and brings such an intimacy that I have not found in any other activity with my babies.

When I had my fourth child at 31 weeks, she was only 2 pounds 15 ounces. They told me I probably wouldn't be able to nurse her. She was very weak and they put a tube down her nose and into her stomach to feed her. I pumped every 2-3

hours around the clock which they fed her, plus supplemented to help her gain weight. At 11 days old, they told me we could try skin to skin contact. The lactation consultant said she might lick my nipple, but not to be surprised if she didn't latch on.

We put her close to the breast and that sweet little girl knew instinctively what to do. She wrapped her mouth around my nipple and sucked and sucked! She nursed for 10 minutes and the lactation consultant's jaw dropped to the floor! They would only let me nurse twice a day after that and pump the rest of the time. I got them to let me take her home at one month old at 4 pounds 7 ounces. I started adding one feeding every day as she got stronger. It was much easier and satisfying to let her nurse than to pump!

Praise God she loved nursing! It took a lot of patient endurance to continue but she went to full time nursing in a few weeks! She is a healthy three year old now and calls it my "ba-bas" when I nurse her baby sister.

#### DEANNA ZEDICHER

Ephraim, Utah, USA  
d\_zedicher@hotmail.com

*Rodney and Deanna are blessed with Jessica (8), Abigail (6), Emily (4), Hannah (3), and Aliyah (1).*

## Need Calm Mommy Back!

I absolutely love nursing my babies. So far, I have been blessed to birth five biological children and have another on the way. With my first child I didn't know what I was doing. I supplemented with water and made all kinds of mistakes and she was weaned by 11 months. My second child, I enjoyed much more. I didn't supplement and we rocked in the rocking chair all the time. He slept with us and it was great, but I weaned him at 18 months because I had something that I thought was important to go to. Was I mistaken! He didn't want to be weaned at all and started misbehaving after I weaned him. After that, I vowed to never wean a child but to let them wean themselves.

My third child was born in our van. I had to be a little pushy, but the paramedics finally let me start feeding her right away once we were settled in the ambulance. I

nursed her for 23 months. By the time my fourth child came along, my husband finally agreed to a homebirth. I can vouch for the fact that there is nothing at all like being able to nurse as soon as a baby comes into the world. It's the most incredible feeling. My fourth and fifth children were both born at home and both nursed for over two years.

I am amazed at how relaxed I become when I nurse my babies. The whole world could be coming to an end but I feel like I'm in heaven. Without nursing, I tend to be more prone to feeling stressed and often over-react to things. My youngest is now 3 1/2. This has been the longest I've gone without being pregnant or nursing for a long time. Of course we did bring home three more darlings during that time from Liberia. However, I am now expecting a baby due in October and cannot wait to start nursing a baby again. I think my children are all looking forward to having their calm mommy back!

In our house, our children call nursing "Ninny".

#### HANNAH BABIAK

Pell Lake, Wisconsin, USA  
Rhbabiak13@charter.net

*Robert and Hannah's children are Leah (13), Kaila (12), Robert (12), Sarah (12), Michael (10), Rachel (7), Kendra (5), Jared (3) and Baby due October 2007.*

## Filling Station?

Thirteen years ago I had two babies 11 months apart. I tandem nursed them which seemed to take most of my time. I felt like a milking machine and the breakfast bar was never closed!

I managed to go out of town for the Fourth of July when my youngest daughter was two weeks old. My nieces were enthralled with the babies. I had just nursed my 11 month old, Zerah first and then began to nurse my newborn, Nesha. I burped Nesha and changed sides.

My three year old niece looked at me strangely and asked why I changed to the other side. I told her one side was empty and the other side was full. She looked at me with her big blue eyes and said, "Do you have to go all the way back home to fill those up?"

#### MARCHELLE WEBB

Grand Junction, Colorado, USA

“Well, Mrs. Lloyd, if you are going to refuse to have an abortion, you might as well go back to class. There’s nothing we can do. The bleeding indicates you will eventually miscarry the fetus.” I ran out of the university health clinic with tears streaming down my face. My husband met me in the hall and held me for several long minutes. The year was 1985. I was only 20 years old and he, 22. We were both still in college. We had been married for less than six months, and already, we were facing the possible death of our first baby.

Our story actually began in 1984. I was a new Christian; Mike had been a Christian since the age of eight. We were attending the same college, he with the hopes of being drafted by a professional baseball team. When we met, we were both very independent, strong-willed people. But, even early in our relationship, we sought to make Christ the center of our lives.

Mike and I got engaged and made plans for our wedding day. Part of those preparations was deciding which kind of birth control we should use. On the first visit to my hometown OB/GYN, I was told I probably would have a very difficult time getting pregnant, because since age 13, I only had my menstrual cycle about once a year. The doctor never determined the cause of my missed periods, but recommended fertility pills in order to bring on my cycle, a necessity for getting started on the birth control medicine.

Even as a new Christian, I did not feel comfortable taking medication and tampering with my body’s chemistry. Late that night I prayed to Jesus to intervene and let me get my cycle naturally. It had been over a year, but miraculously, the next day, I started my period. My first major prayer of faith had been answered and I threw away the fertility pills.

With only a few months left before marriage, I began taking the birth control pills. I did not like the idea, but I had been so conditioned into thinking that pregnancy was something to avoid, that I saw no alternative. Our wedding day arrived and not long afterwards, Mike’s grandfather began telling us he wanted a grandson. “How dare he?” I thought. “We just got married. I’m not ready for children yet.”

The next thing I knew, I began spot-

# Pregnancy &

## Kidney Stones

ting. I thought I might be pregnant, so I immediately stopped taking the Pill. I had heard that if you take birth control while you are pregnant, it could cause deformities in the baby. A pregnancy test proved negative, but I decided not to take any more of the drug. I did not like the way it made me feel and besides, hadn’t the doctor told me I probably wouldn’t get pregnant anyway?

The very next month, I conceived. I was in shock. The OB/GYN said it was probably because my body released multiple eggs when I first got off the Pill, and I most likely would never get pregnant again. Shortly after conceiving, I began to bleed heavily. My first visit to the university health clinic was when the doctor told me I should either terminate the pregnancy or face an inevitable miscarriage. No other advice. No compassion. Abortion or miscarriage.

Thankfully, even though we didn’t have health insurance at the time, my husband took me to a doctor in his hometown. He was an older gentleman, obviously pro-life, who told me to take off school for two weeks and rest in bed. He wasn’t sure if I had lost a twin or if I had an elevated chorion, but he believed I could deliver my baby full term if I was careful. Soon, the bleeding stopped.

Then at about 27 week’s gestation, I experienced a gnawing pain in my left flank. The burning, stabbing spasms came and went in waves. My nurse read my chart and feared the worst. She hooked me up to a monitor and asked me if I was in labor. How should I know? I’d never had a baby before. Eventually the spasms stopped and I was released. The rest of my pregnancy went smoothly and several months later, the Lord gave us a healthy baby boy, whom we named Michael.

After delivering Michael, I figured there was no need to try to prevent another pregnancy, as the doctor said the first one was a freak accident. Eleven months passed and, as usual, I did not experience any menstrual periods. I did, however,

begin to experience morning sickness. Amazingly, without even having a monthly cycle, I was pregnant again with our second child.

Within the hour of arriving home from the hospital with our new little bundle, I was once again writhing in excruciating back pain, the same stabbing spasms I had experienced with Michael. I could not even walk down the stairs, so Mike carried me to the car and we rushed back to the hospital. This time, the cause was determined. I had a large kidney stone in my left ureter which blocked my kidney from draining. Surgery ensued and a slow recovery, but eventually I healed from both the kidney stone attack and usual postpartum pains.

It was about this time the Lord began to change my views about the whole idea of birth control. A lady gave me a book by Mary Pride called *The Way Home* which opened up the Scriptures to me. I remember vividly the day in 1988 when I became convicted to surrender our ideas about “family planning” and allow God to give us children in His perfect time. I was also convinced that we should home educate the children the Lord would give us in order to nurture and train them in His ways.

I knew my husband, however, and I knew it would take a small miracle for him to accept these “radical” ideas. Amazingly,

when he came home from work that day in 1988, and I shared with him all I had been learning from the Scriptures, Mike replied simply and confidently, "Yes, I agree." (I didn't know that he, too, had been reading Mary Pride's book!)

I wish I could say that we never doubted and all was smooth sailing from that point on. There were many difficult trials ahead. In less than a year's time, I was pregnant with our third child. With a few month's left in the pregnancy, I developed another kidney stone that lodged in my right ureter. My kidney swelled like a balloon. The pain was unbelievable. At the hospital, I could not even speak, only vomit and moan. I remember turning from side to side in the bed all night long pleading with God for mercy. The doctor could not remove the stone due to the pregnancy. Instead, he inserted a stent extending from my kidney to my bladder around the stone to allow partial drainage.

I lay on the couch in constant pain for the remaining months of that pregnancy with a one and a two year old running around the house. The verse that kept coming to mind was Romans 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Those days were real faith stretchers.

I struggled with tremendous fear about all kinds of things during this time of weakness. Most involved the idea of giving up complete control of my life and my children's lives to God. I was still a young Christian and was very concerned about being socially accepted. I was painfully aware that living a truly dedicated, Christ-centered life meant losing popularity with the world. The Lord kept reminding me of the verse, "Be ye not conformed to the image of this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God," (Romans 12:2). Slowly, the Lord changed the desires of my heart and I realized that the world's riches paled in comparison to the spiritual and

eternal rewards that God had in store for our family if only we would serve Him faithfully.

As the years have passed, the Lord has continued to bless us with a new baby about every year and a half. Although He has been gracious to give me "easy deliveries", I have experienced at least one kidney stone attack before, during or after every pregnancy. With two of the babies, I passed over 30 stones and during my tenth pregnancy, I had a severe blockage from a stone and had to have another stent placed in my ureter. Over 21 years, I have undergone multiple lithotripsies, ureteroscopies, cystoscopies and stent placements to treat kidney stones. I have had four different urologists, an endocrinologist and a nephrologist consider my case. I have also tried natural remedies, herbs, kidney cleansing, diet changes, massage therapies, chiropractics, reflexology, anointing, fasting and much fervent prayer. All in all, I have passed over 100 stones with much pain and suffering.

Although I have had multiple tests done to determine the cause of my kidney stones over the years, all results have been inconclusive until recently. This summer, after the birth of our twelfth baby, I underwent six high-risk surgeries to remove five ureteral stones. Several were impacted in the tissue and were causing kidney blockage, dilation and damage. During this ordeal, my urologist ordered a new set of tests from a different lab. Finally, an abnormality in my body chemistry was detected. I have a citrate deficiency and a high pH level in my urine. I am now taking a mineral supplement called Urocit-K which has proven to get my citrate levels back in check. We are praying this treatment will prevent further problems.

Whether I am cured from kidney stone trouble is yet to be seen. Nonetheless, I have come to accept my kidney stones as simply "thorns in the flesh" which the Lord uses to keep me dependent on His strength, not my own. I know in my heart that the painful testing

periods over the last two decades have developed my faith and perseverance. God tells us in James 1:3-6, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

I have also learned that whether it is a physical, mental, spiritual, financial, or marital problem that our family faces, the Lord is faithful to solve it if we humble ourselves, pray, search the Scriptures and submit our wills to Him. Whenever I am at "my wits end", I know that it is only because I am trying to control a situation in my own strength and not relying on God's wisdom and power. The words of Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths," give us comfort when Satan's hurls his attacks. We praise the Lord for His mercy and grace and give Him all the glory for the work He is accomplishing in us.

#### SUE LLOYD

Moore, South Carolina, USA  
susanl9131@gmail.com



God has blessed Mike and Sue with 12 children—Michael, Jr. (20), Mary Beth (19), Mandy (18), Isaac (16), Abby (14), Matt (12), Becky (11), Timmy (8), Sarah (7), Sam (4), Anne (3) and Chloe (1).

**Above Rubies E-Groups — <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AboveRubies/>**

Down Under E-group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AboveRubiesDOWNUNDER/>

United Kingdom E-group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AboveRubiesUK/>

Questions, please email: Tamie Krawczeski at [tamielovestn@hotmail.com](mailto:tamielovestn@hotmail.com)

# Falling out of Love?

Do you promise to love, honor and obey, as long as you both shall live? A wedding service always reminds us of the promises we made on our own wedding day, doesn't it? But what does it mean to love someone? Romantic novelists tell us that love is a whirlwind of shared joy and happiness, intermingled with hearty doses of nights out on the town, candle lit dinners for two, and heart pounding love letters. Psychologists tell us that to love someone is to spend "quality" time together and "communicate."

All these things are good and surely couples who practice them have experienced a better relationship. But what if you are unequally yoked to an unbeliever? What if your spouse doesn't act lovingly toward you? What if, right now, the Lord is blessing you with children and you can't afford to, or have little energy left to pursue the fun dating activities that originally brought you together? Sadly, many couples, when faced with these types of growing pains, feel as though they have "fallen out of love", seek a separation and ultimately divorce.

God, however, looks at love differently. Biblical love is a verb, a word that indicates action, rather than a noun which would indicate a feeling. We are to lay down our desires for those of another. One pastor put it, "Doing what is best for someone else regardless of the cost to self."

Many married couples in Biblical times did not even know each other before marriage. Isaac and Rebekah, for example, lived many miles from each other. Others, such as Moses and Zipporah or Jacob and Leah were not even drawn together by a common bond or goal. When Jesus

beseached husbands and wives to love each other, He was not encouraging them to ignite the old flame through whirlwind nights on the town. He was, instead, encouraging us to "be" loving.

1 Corinthians 13 shows us love by God's standards. It tells us that expressing agape or God's love is a greater virtue than syrupy speech, indicating that verbalizing love is never as effective as "doing" love. It gives examples of how much greater love is than having exuberant spiritual gifts or giving of your life and possessions in selfless sacrifices.

Love is patient—even when you feel like forcefully expressing yourself.

Love is kind—even when others are not nice to you and you really want to retaliate.

Love is not jealous—especially when hubby comes home too tired to listen after giving all of his energy and time to work and you feel you are going unnoticed.

Love does not brag—even when you want to tell the world about your accomplishments.

Love is not arrogant—but is instead humble, assuming others to be right when they correct us.

Love does not act unbecoming—even when being rude and overbearing would allow you to get your way.

Love does not seek her own—even when it is profitable for you to do so.

Love is not easily provoked—even when you've been changing dirty diapers all day and your husband comes home irritated from a long day at work.

Love does not take into account wrong suffered—even when it seems every one is against you or you are openly



Clayton and Angela with their two daughters, Lela (21) and Megan (17). They also have a married son and two grandchildren, ages 1 and 5.

attacked.

Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness—even when it seems that the other person deserved the ill treatment.

Love rejoices in the truth—even when it seems easier and more beneficial to lie or mislead.

Love bears all things—even when disappointments seem overwhelming.

Love believes all things—even when you've been hurt and don't feel like trusting anyone.

Love hopes all things—even though your visions have been dimmed by years of disappointments.

Love endures all things—especially when you think you can't endure the people or the circumstances in your life anymore.

Love never fails—even when you feel overwhelmed and your situation seems hopeless.

Love will not crumble when placed in stressful or difficult situations, but instead, remains selflessly faithful, even to the point of death.

ANGELA DECOTEAU  
St. Amant, Louisiana, USA  
calmdec@cox.net

## Study the Above Rubies Manuals Online

The Power of Motherhood: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/POMSTUDY/>

The Family Meal Table and Hospitality: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FMTSTUDY/>

Be Fruitful and Multiply/God's Vision for Families: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GVFSTUDY/>



Wess and Kriya with red-haired Rivers (8 months)

# RIVERS OF JOY

When I was born, my parents gave me the middle name *Anandi* which means joy in one of India's many languages. This name has proven to be prophetic in my life. I have always been naturally cheerful and I began to know true joy when I gave my life to Jesus Christ at age 15. I grew up with a wonderful dad and a loving and devoted mom.

I knew from a young age that I wanted to be a wife and mother. However, I had an extreme fear of the pain of childbirth. I don't really know where I picked that up since my mom gave birth to me at home and always told me it was the best day of her life. She hoped that one day my sister and I would also have homebirths. I used to upset her by telling her I wanted to be completely knocked out when I gave birth. I was so afraid of childbirth, I even tossed around the idea of never having any birth children, but only adopting.

However, as I grew in my relationship with God, my thinking began to change. I learned what the Bible had to say about children being a blessing and about God not wanting us to live in fear.

When I was 19, I traveled on a missionary trip to India where I had the privilege of serving in an orphanage and performing dramas about Jesus on the streets. I had given up dating in high school after a painful breakup and vowed to wait for God to bring the man I was to marry into my life. I had even made a list of things I

wanted in a husband and prayed over it. I wasn't looking to find him on this mission trip (romantic relationships were not allowed since we were almost all teenagers.) But three days into the trip I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life with this blond guy from Colorado who loved God and children as much as I did. I also knew it was going to be a long wait since he was only 16. Wow! Two amazing years of friendship and one beautiful year of courtship later, we were married.

During our courtship I began to research different kinds of birth control. Even though I knew I wanted to have children, I was sure I didn't want them right away.

Was I shocked when I found out that the birth control pills I had planned to take had the potential to cause early abortions. I was pro-life; therefore these pills were no longer an option for me. When I shared my concerns with my fiancé, he was amazingly supportive. He always knew he wanted a big family as well.

We took a few classes on Natural Family Planning, but ultimately decided to trust God to plan our family. We were scolded by well meaning family who were afraid we were too young and too poor to have a baby right away. We held our ground.

Lo and behold, a year passed and no baby. We weren't too concerned about it at that point. We enjoyed our first year of marriage and I busied myself caring for babies at a daycare. A year and 1/2 passed. I was sure I would get pregnant soon. We took Bible College classes and went on our second missionary trip to India. Two and a half years passed and still no baby!

Now, family and friends were concerned for a different reason. I politely told people, that yes, we were trying, and no, we didn't feel we were to see a doctor

about it. We were simply trusting God. I began to learn more about nutrition and we both started taking better care of ourselves. We took a job as assistant house parents at a Christian ranch for troubled teen girls. I loved living with "my girls" and home schooling them. More than ever I wanted to be a mom.

Three years passed. Now I was starting to get a little concerned. It was during this time I had a dream I will never forget. I was holding an adorable baby I had never seen before. The baby looked me in the eyes and said (even though it should have been too young to talk) that I was soon going to have a baby named Joy.

I woke up and wrote the dream in my journal thinking it was possibly from the Lord.

I also began to pray specifically for the Lord to bless us with a baby the following September. Three and 1/2 years passed. We were two weeks away from traveling to Australia to take music classes and play in a missionary band when I found out I was pregnant! I spent my pregnancy traveling in Australia, singing and talking about Jesus in everything from bars to schools to churches. We then came back to the States to prepare for the birth.

On August 16th, after four years of marriage, our first son was born at home! He was perfectly healthy and had lots of red hair. We named him Rivers Chairo which means rivers full of joy—Chairo is Greek for "full of joy, delight, or gladness". He is now eight months old and lives up to his name everyday! He is the joy of our lives. We are now starting the process to adopt a brother for Rivers from Liberia.

KRIYA HERZOG  
Helena, Montana, USA  
iloveindia19@hotmail.com

Seven Etiquette Posters  
to bless your home!

Purchase from Above Rubies. \$8.95 a packet plus shipping

Home Etiquette • Speech Etiquette • Table Etiquette • Daily Life Etiquette • Hospitality Etiquette • Church Etiquette • Work Force Etiquette

Pin them up in appropriate places to encourage helpful and thoughtful attitudes in your home.





# A WAYWARD CHILD? There Is Hope!

It is peaceful out in the bush as I write this. A black and orange cockatoo flies overhead and now sits quietly on a nearby branch gazing down at me. The dazzling flowering peach tree in brilliant colour looms above me, dropping its pink confetti like snow flakes. God whispers to me, "Mandy, these difficult trials shall pass."

It is easy to encourage the little smiling face beaming up at you; kiss the chubby grazed hand and wipe away the large teardrops from soft smooth skin; to embrace the little ones who look to you for strength, support, love and consistency; to talk to them about Jesus and see the excitement in their eyes. But what happens when all you have poured into those little gifts turns against you? How do you encourage those children who outwardly don't seem to want your encouragement?

Perhaps, like me, you have given your whole life to mothering, nurturing, teaching and seeking to encourage the ones entrusted to you. Maybe you have found that life's circumstances have caused your older children to move away from all that you hold dear. What you hoped for looks as if it lies in ashes.

Yet, through it all, God's Word remains faithful and true. He speaks in the midst of the storm and says to you and to me, "Don't give up doing what is right! Keep trusting in Me! In due season, when I have worked in them what I desire, THEN you will reap a harvest of righteousness."

Sometimes the anxieties of having children who don't want to be godly, can choke the very breath of life and joy in your mother's heart. However, God's Word encourages us to not look at the circumstances we find ourselves in, but to be obedient to His Word and remain faithful and true.

It is easy to love when our children are nice, loving, deserving and pleasant but what happens when the situation turns nasty, ugly, hurtful, insulting and

even rejecting? This is when we must allow God's supernatural love to love through us. When the flesh can no longer see anything to encourage, we must pray for God's Spirit to reveal the things which are worthy of praise—the lovely things, hidden though they may be, and the things of truth, though shrouded in darkness. We must dwell on these things.

God's love stands firm like a mighty rock. It cannot be shaken! Even when we are shaken, He is not moved! God encourages us, "Be still! Know without a shadow of doubt, that I am God! I will accomplish what I have planned and no one or no circumstance can stop me. I AM GOD, your Creator, and your child's Creator. I made them for my glory. I know the end of the story! Trust me even when you can see no fruit on the vine, even when there's no blossom on the tree. In due time, you will see deliverance. Don't get discouraged and give up. I will restore your joy to you. You will go out singing and great will be your children's peace. Be faithful in continuing to be a godly mother. Let Me, your God, do the rest. It's a battle in the heavenlies, but that's my realm."

I see above me the brilliant pink of my flowering peach tree. I feel the Lord asking me, "In winter, Mandy, what do you see?"

"I see nothing but a heap of dead looking dried out twigs," I reply.

"Look again, Mandy, at those dead looking twigs. They may appear dead on the outside but there is resurrection life flowing in them. In due season, this new life will appear. This tree will no longer look dead but it will in fact be the most spectacular tree in the garden!"

**MANDY**  
Perth, Western Australia  
forwell@aapt.net.au

*Mandy has five children ranging from 22 - 9 years.*

## Are You Starved for Encouragement?

Send a blank email to  
subscribers-on@aboverubies.org

You will receive regular email devotions to encourage you in your high calling of being a wife and mother.

You will also receive an occasional newsletter (a mini *Above Rubies*) to keep you going until the next issue arrives!

*"Receiving your e-mails is my favorite thing about owning a computer!"*

*"our email devotions are like water to my soul!"*

*"They are food for my mothering soul!"*

*"our studies are my favorite devotional and womanly info of all time!"*

If you have subscribed to this email list but have stopped receiving them, please subscribe again. Sometimes the email list drops names for no reason at all.

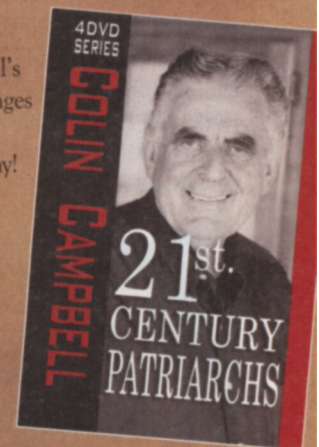
## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Patriarchs

A series of four messages on DVD for men!

Colin Campbell (Nancy Campbell's husband) challenges men to return to Biblical patriarchy!

All men will be challenged and inspired.

Purchase for personal blessing or to use at men's groups or seminars.



**\$30.00 US**  
plus shipping

Available from  
*Above Rubies*,  
see page 29.

# BORN at 28 WEEKS!

My husband, Justin, and I have now been married for 13 years. We did not start out "the perfect Christian couple" in any way shape or form. I brought to our marriage my son, whom I had when I was 17 and my husband adopted him.

I decided to use Depo-Provera as my choice of birth control which caused suicidal thoughts and depression. It was a huge mistake. We both agreed to have a baby and our first was born two years later. From there it became, "pick my birth control" until God put it on my heart to have another baby. This was the process until we had our sixth. Justin said he thought we had enough children. Six was a lot!

We started attending a new church and learned that a cousin of Justin's also went there. In conversation one night with his wife, she told me how she had gotten her tubes tied and it was the biggest mistake of her life. She talked of living a life governed by God and having as many children as God gave you. I was blown away! I had never heard anyone say such things! Justin and I went home and talked about it and agreed that we were not living our lives to the fullest.

My next pregnancy, which came only a couple months after getting off birth control, ended at eight weeks. During my grief, the Lord encouraged me that He would restore my joy, but I did not think He could because the pain was too great. Then Alyssa was born. I looked at her and I exclaimed, "You did it! You did just as you said. You have restored my joy!" There was no stopping my faith!

When Alyssa was 11 months old I became pregnant again. I couldn't have been happier! At 12 weeks I started bleeding. The hospital staff had no idea what was going on and sent me home. I was physically and emotionally exhausted and went to bed early. Justin came in with a fire in his eyes I hadn't seen in awhile. He said he'd been praying and God told him that the enemy was trying to take our baby, but he would be okay." I slept better than I had in a long time. My husband and my God had it taken care of.

A few days later, out of the blue, the name Isaiah came to my mind. It means "saved by God". Justin liked it too. I knew that was his name, but we hadn't yet seen the worst.

Isaiah was born three months early at 28 weeks. I barely made it back to the hospital after being sent home only two hours earlier. It was the most painful, terrifying birth I've had. He was transferred immediately to a bigger hospital where, after several hours of waiting, a doctor told us, "He is in respiratory failure; his heart beat is over 220 beats per minute. We think he is going to die. You need to come back now."

As we approached his bedside, I first noticed that he looked gray. Thoughts flashed through my mind, "How am I going to tell the children? They barely handled it when we lost the baby. I don't know if they can handle this. I don't even

know how to bury a baby. I guess we could bury him next to Grandma Great." Then it was as if God smacked me with a 2x4. I looked at Justin, who had tears streaming down his face, and told him, "Go and tell our parents to start praying."

I started praying over this baby like I had never prayed before. Hebrews 11:1 came to my mind, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." What happened next was nothing less than a miracle. I watched our son go from gray to pink. His lifeless body began to work with the ventilator and his heartbeat slowed.

After 10 long weeks at the NICU, while my children were passed from here to there, we came home. He was on a monitor and oxygen because of pulmonary hypertension. On December 13th, 2006 we got to call Tim (our oxygen guy!) and tell him to come get his tanks, it was nice knowing him, but hoped to never see him again under those circumstances!

As his birthday approached I began to have panic attacks as vivid accounts came rushing back to me. I threw the biggest party I could; just to have the celebration outweigh my inner pain.

Isaiah is now 15 months old and, aside from his size, you'd never guess he was a micro-preemie. He still doesn't walk yet or even pull himself up to stand. But I know this isn't because there is something wrong, it is because he doesn't want to. He never learned to crawl, but he butt-scoots! He can go unbelievably fast. Trying to stand up and walk is just way too slow!

I look at him and can't stop thanking God for His mercy, His greatness, and His faithfulness. I would like to put together stories from others who have been through similar experiences and can testify to God's greatness and love! I would like to put a copy of each book in every NICU so that other parents can gain hope and encouragement. If you have a story, please feel free to email me!

**HEATHER POWELL**  
Fostoria, Ohio, USA  
powell10@gmail.com

*Justin and Heather's children are Britton (15), Devon (11), Trinity (10), Kilian (8), Arianna (6), Ceara (4), Alyssa (2), Isaiah (15 months) and baby due December 2007.*



# ABOVE RUBIES

## RETREATS AND SEMINARS

Family Camps are for the whole family - fathers, mothers and the children. Singles and single mothers are also welcome. The speakers are Colin and Nancy Campbell. Colin will minister to the fathers and Nancy to the mothers, unless otherwise stated. All ladies are welcome at the Ladies Retreats - wives, mothers, singles, teen daughters, and of course, we always welcome the nursing babies. Come and be encouraged, challenged, fortified, strengthened, uplifted and inspired in your divine calling of parenting.

Check [www.aboverubies.org](http://www.aboverubies.org) for additional retreats or changes. More retreats are currently being finalized.

### -- Camps for 2007 --

#### 6-7 JULY, NORTHERN WISCONSIN

##### FAMILY SEMINAR IN HURLEY

Good Shepherd Apostolic Lutheran Church

Contact: Steve and Robin Estola

Ph: 715-561-2070, Email: [scanlog@portup.com](mailto:scanlog@portup.com) or

[sestola@scandinavianlogandtimber.com](mailto:sestola@scandinavianlogandtimber.com)

#### 13-15 JULY, VIRGINIA

##### LADIES RETREAT

Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center, Toano, VA

Contact: Sonny and Angela Sundaramurthy: 804-633-5358

Email: [yellowbunnys@hotmail.com](mailto:yellowbunnys@hotmail.com)

[www.varubies.org](http://www.varubies.org)

#### 27-29 JULY, CALGARY CANADA

2nd FAMILY CAMP, Living Faith, Caroline, Central Alberta

Contact: Bob and Ruth Klepel, Ph: 403-722-2059

Email: [office@lfbcc.net](mailto:office@lfbcc.net)

#### 24-26 AUGUST, CALIFORNIA

##### 11th ANNUAL FAMILY AND LADIES CAMP

Pine Valley Bible Conference Center, out from San Diego

Contact: Gary and Trish Evans, Ph: 951-681-4858

Email: [gtdkz@empirenet.com](mailto:gtdkz@empirenet.com)

#### 21-23 SEPTEMBER, EAST WASHINGTON-IDAHO

3rd FAMILY CAMP, Pinelaw Park on Dear Lake, near Clayton, WA

Contact: Laura Neal, Ph: 509-891-9038

Email: [lkneal@southernngospelonline.com](mailto:lkneal@southernngospelonline.com) or

[MaralieThomas@sotazzy@yahoo.com](mailto:MaralieThomas@sotazzy@yahoo.com)

#### 28-30 SEPTEMBER, ARIZONA

##### 1st FAMILY CAMP IN ARIZONA

Huachuca Oaks Christian Camp, Hereford

Contact: Xavier and Ronda Caballero

Email: [xavroncab@netscape.com](mailto:xavroncab@netscape.com)

Ph: 520-623-3501 or 520-403-1370

#### 19-21 OCTOBER, KANSAS/MISSOURI

LADIES RETREAT in Woodston, Kansas

Contact: Brandi Jackson, [julieleej@hotmail.com](mailto:julieleej@hotmail.com)

Or Tanya Thomas, Ph: 785-738-6636

[thomastribe@nckcn.com](mailto:thomastribe@nckcn.com)

#### 26-28 OCTOBER, KENTUCKY/TENNESSEE

FAMILY CAMP, Lake Barkley Resort Park

Contact: Russ and Michelle Thomas

Ph: 270-522-0073 or [thomasquiver@aol.com](mailto:thomasquiver@aol.com)

Or Sherri Leiter, Ph: 931-964-9944 or [dsleiter1@juno.com](mailto:dsleiter1@juno.com)

#### 9-11 NOVEMBER, ARKANSAS

LADIES RETREAT, Arkansas 4H Center in Little Rock, Arkansas

[www.arkansas4Hcenter.org](http://www.arkansas4Hcenter.org)

Contact: Kelly Rackley, Ph: 972-722-4585

Email: [razorbackrubies@yahoo.com](mailto:razorbackrubies@yahoo.com)

All Nancy's daughters will be coming to this retreat.

### -- Camps for 2008 --

#### 28-30 MARCH, 10th WISCONSIN FAMILY CAMP

Inspiration Center, Williams Bay

Contact: Roger and Jackie Thelen, Phone: Ph: 262-723-6557

[safehaven@pensys.com](mailto:safehaven@pensys.com)

#### 4-6 APRIL, LOUISIANA FAMILY CAMP

Rocky Creek Conference Center, Pineville LA

Contact: Angela Decoteau, Ph: 225-715-1587

Email: [calmdec@cox.net](mailto:calmdec@cox.net)

<http://www.laaboverubies.org>

#### 2-4 MAY, MANITOBA, CANADA

LADIES CAMP, Camp Cedarwood, Pinawa Bay, 140 km NE of Winnipeg

<http://www.cedarwood-yfc.com/site/site.htm>

Contact: Susan Halladay, Ph: 204-253-6059

[rsmanyblessings@hotmail.com](mailto:rsmanyblessings@hotmail.com)

Or: Patricia Sawicki at [patooty@shaw.ca](mailto:patooty@shaw.ca)

Ph: 204-222-2621

## INTERVIEW WITH NANCY

Watch and feel Nancy's heart as she answers the following and many more questions:

- How did Above Rubies start? • How has Above Rubies changed over the years?
- How has your role changed since becoming a grandmother? • What are your feelings about adoption?
- How can you raise a family on one income? • What are the keys to a peaceful home and marriage?
  - How do you think God's command to "be fruitful and multiply" applies in today's culture?
  - What importance do you place on the Titus 2 injunction to older women? • And many more!

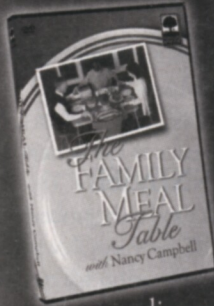
Available  
for  
**\$14.95**

# GREAT BARGAINS continuing for issue #71!

Purchase BOTH book and DVD only \$30.00.

Be inspired by God's revelation for your table!

## THE FAMILY MEAL TABLE AND HOSPITALITY Study Manual



The FAMILY MEAL Table...in action! DVD

Full of Biblical principles, practical advice and creative ideas to enrich your home. You will discover that food is only the beginning of the blessings that can happen at your table!

"What a treasure of love and information is wrapped in these pages."

"This DVD is an invitation to a feast. It will change the way you look at your table."

Save \$5.00 on every special!

Do you want an exciting home?

Order the CD set

## Building A STRONG MARRIAGE AND AN EXCITING HOME!

Two CD's on the role of a wife. Two CD's to help change the world from the heart of your home!

"I am so encouraged and blessed. I hear an uplifting seminar in my own home!"

"My life is different because of your words. I can hear you throughout the day saying, 'You are doing a GREAT work.'"

Purchase for only \$12.00

Do you need rejuvenating? You need Serene's recipe book and "how to" DVD!

## Rejuvenate Your Life Recipes for Energy

Purchase both book and DVD only \$28.00.

All cooked food is dead. Therefore, you should try to eat at least 50 percent of your food raw in order to replenish your body with life-giving enzymes. This recipe book will change your life! Nearly 200 original raw recipes to whet your appetite, tantalize your taste buds and rejuvenate your life!

"Serene writes like she is cheering me on!"

"My DVD arrived yesterday and I had to write and say, 'Wow!'"



DO YOU HAVE SERENE AND PEARL'S CD'S YET? YOU WILL BE BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE!



Purchase both CD's Only \$25.00



## SOOTHE ME & PEACE ALL OVER ME

"Peace All Over Me is more often than not playing around 5 pm when we are tired, crabby, waiting for daddy and while we try to get dinner ready. That hour or two can be trying, but this CD helps us get us through."

"I was up until 1.45 this morning listening to Soothe Me with the baby who is teething. We walked, rocked, nursed for over two hours with the CD on repeat. I was already exhausted and feeling overwhelmed, but listening to the songs helped calm my heart. I was able to respond to my baby's fussiness with a gentle, loving touch instead of out of anger, frustration and fatigue."

"I want to buy the CD's for every mom I know. I listen to them both daily. They are so uplifting and encouraging."

# Teaching CDs

By Nancy Campbell:

## THE ATMOSPHERE OF YOUR HOME

New!

Five messages to help you create a heavenly atmosphere in your home. Nancy shares seven P's to help bring a godly atmosphere to your home and seven S's to keep the right attitude in your home.

## BACK TO THE BEGINNING

God plainly reveals His plan for marriage, motherhood, and the way He wants us to live in the first few chapters of Genesis. You will discover wondrous and hidden truths.

## MOTHERS WITH A MISSION

What kind of children does God want us to raise for His end-time army? How do we do it? Be inspired with a new vision as you hear these six messages.

## THE BEAUTIFIUL WOMAN

Five messages on what it means to be a beautiful woman—beautiful spirit, submission, countenance, maternalness, warrior, purity, fragrance, speech, garments and temple.

## GOD'S GRACE AT MY PLACE

Inspiring messages on how to walk in God's grace in your home.

## BUILDING A STRONG MARRIAGE AND EXCITING HOME

Two messages on the role of the wife and two messages on the potential, power and purpose of building an exciting and creative home.

## LOVELY HOMES

Four messages based on Numbers 24:5-7, "How beautiful are your tents, O Jacob; how lovely are your homes, O Israel!" You will be excited by this wonderful vision God gives for your home and family!

## THE FLOURISHING MOTHER

Are you wilting, just surviving, or are you flourishing in your home? Find out how you can flourish.

## HOME SWEET HOME

God wants a sweet anointing in your home!

## GIRD YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH

Are you being fed the truth?

By Evangeline Johnson:

## THE ADVENTURE OF MOTHERHOOD

3 tapes on adventurous mothering - Third Heaven Mothering, Freedom Mothering and Tiveria's Story (Evangeline tells her testimony of the miraculous pregnancy and birth of their seventh baby, Tiveria Life).

## GUARD YOUR CHILD'S BRAIN SPACE

Who is parenting your children?

# ORDERING INFORMATION

Order by credit card or PayPal

www.aboverubies.org,

or send check to:

## ABOVE RUBIES

PO BOX 681687 • FRANKLIN, TN 37068-1687

PHONE: (931) 729 9861

(between 9am - 4pm Monday - Friday central time)

Order Form on Page 30.

PLEASE ADD 10% SHIPPING

(15% if ordering from Canada)

Minimum Shipping \$1.20.

(The above are US prices only and please pay in US funds)

Above Rubies Webmaster  
Phone Joe at 520-603-0063

## DISCOUNT PRICES FOR BULK ORDERS

POM 1 - 9 copies, \$10.00; 10 or more, \$10.00

FMT 3 - 9 copies, \$15.00; 10 or more, \$12.00

BFM 3 - 9 copies, \$12.00; 10 or more, \$ 8.40

GTE 3 - 9 copies, \$7.00; 10 or more, \$ 5.00

MEN 3 - 9 copies, \$12.00; 10 or more \$ 8.40

FAR 3 - 9 copies, \$14.00; 10 or more, \$10.00

RYL 3 - 9 copies, \$14.00; 10 or more, \$10.00

## ~CAMPBELL SUPPPORT~

All donations to *Above Rubies* go to the printing and distributing of the magazines. Colin and Nancy do not take any support from donations to *Above Rubies*. All donations to *Above Rubies* and money to books and manuals, go to the printing and distribution of *Above Rubies*. To help them personally to continue this ministry, fill in below.

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

# HERE IS MY DONATION FOR **ABOVE RUBIES**

Send by credit card, PayPal, or check.

*Above Rubies* is made freely available by donation. However, we can only keep printing as the donations flow in. We encourage those who have a burden to see marriages and families restored back to God's ways to give liberally so we can continue to strengthen families across this nation and the world. Thank you very much.

My Donation for Above Rubies \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment:  Check  Money Order  MC/Visa/Disc

Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ V-code \_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I AM ALREADY ON THE AR LIST

I AM A NEW SUBSCRIBER

I ALREADY HAVE ABOVE RUBIES # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THIS ISSUE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.

INCREASE MY FUTURE ORDER TO \_\_\_\_\_

DECREASE MY FUTURE ORDER TO \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO ORGANIZE AN ABOVE RUBIES RETREAT IN MY STATE.

MY ADDRESS HAS CHANGED. HERE IS MY NEW ADDRESS.

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS ZIP # \_\_\_\_\_

NEW FRIEND. COULD YOU PLEASE SEND AR TO:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

List more friends on a separate sheet of paper. Share *Above Rubies* with everyone you meet.

# 71

## RESPONSE FORM

	Price	Qty	Total
<b>Study Manuals:</b>			
The Power of Motherhood	\$18.00		
The Family Meal Table and Hospitality	\$20.00		
Be Fruitful and Multiply	\$14.00		
Gate Keepers of the Home	\$10.00		
<b>Discount for above 4 manuals</b>	\$50.00		
Your Price is Far Above Rubies	\$18.00		
<b>Music CDs:</b>			
Soothe Me - Serene & Pearl	\$15.00		
Peace All Over Me - Serene & Pearl	\$15.00		
I Had No Idea - Val Halloran	\$15.00		
<b>DVDs:</b>			
Rejuvenate with Serene	\$14.95		
The Family Meal Table	\$14.95		
Interview with Nancy	\$14.95		
Reclaiming God's Plan for Women	\$30.00		
<b>Nancy's Teaching CDs:</b>			
The Atmosphere of the Home	\$21.00		
Back to the Beginning	\$21.00		
Mothers with a Mission	\$21.00		
The Beautiful Woman	\$19.00		
God's Grace at my Place	\$17.00		
Building a Strong Marriage and Home	\$17.00		
Lovely Homes	\$17.00		
The Flourishing Mother	\$13.00		
Home Sweet Home	\$ 5.00		
Gird your Loins with Truth	\$ 5.00		
<b>Colin Campbell's Materials:</b>			
21st Century Patriarchs DVDs	\$30.00		
Where are the Real Men of God?	\$14.00		
The Making of a Patriarch CDs	\$17.00		
<b>Evangeline's Teaching CDs:</b>			
The Adventure of Motherhood	\$13.00		
Guard Your Child's Brain Space	\$ 5.00		
<b>Serene's Health Information:</b>			
Rejuvenate Your Life - Recipes for Energy	\$18.00		
Coconut Butter/Oil Recipes - by Serene	\$ 4.99		
Rejuvenate Your Life CD	\$ 5.00		
<b>Books:</b>			
A Change of Heart - Reversal Testimonies	\$12.00		
Quiet Reflections For Mothers - 101 Poems	\$12.00		
Me? Obey Him?	\$ 3.95		
The Bible and Birth Control	\$ 7.95		
Does the Birth Control Pill Cause Abortions	\$ 3.00		
A Full Quiver	\$10.00		
Abortion In The Church	\$10.00		
Breastfeeding and Natural Child Spacing	\$10.00		
Breastfeeding and Fertility	\$10.00		
Etiquette Poster Package	\$ 8.95		
<b>Bargain Specials:</b>			
FMT Manual and DVD	\$30.00		
RYL recipe book and DVD	\$28.00		
Peace and Soothe	\$25.00		
Sub-Total			
Add 10% Shipping			
<b>My Donation for Above Rubies</b>			
Total:			

**SALE!**

## PAYPAL

### INTERNATIONAL ORDERING FROM ABOVE RUBIES

You can now order books, tapes and CD's from Above Rubies anywhere in the world by using International PayPal.

1. Go to the Above Rubies website, [www.aboverubies.org](http://www.aboverubies.org)
2. Click on BOOKS ON MANUALS
3. Click on ALL OTHER ADDRESSES
4. Place order and then click on CALCULATE SHIPPING and follow instructions to process shipping charges from your country.
5. Close out of the CALCULATE SHIPPING link and add that amount to the designated section of the order.
6. Click on CONTINUE to confirm your order information.

### ONLINE DONATIONS

You can now donate to Above Rubies online.

Go to the Above Rubies website,

**[www.aboverubies.org](http://www.aboverubies.org)**  
and click on  
Make a Donation

### ARE YOU MOVING?

Please remember to send us your change of address. We are charged for your returned mail.  
Thank you.

#### \* South Asia:

India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

#### \* East Asia:

China, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Macau, Taiwan, Japan and Korea.

#### \* South East Asia:

Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam (except Malaysia as we have an Above Rubies base in Malaysia).

Publications Agreement 40866061

ABOVE RUBIES June 2007, No.71

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

**ABOVE RUBIES** is a non-subscription magazine, supported by the contributions of its readers and interested people. Our vision is to print four times a year, but this is dependent upon the donations that flow in. We go to print each time as soon as the money is available. God has been so faithful and we have been printing *Above Rubies* for the world for nearly 30 years. If you would like to receive this magazine regularly, or would like a bulk order for distribution in your community, please WRITE to us or fill in the form on page 30 and post to the appropriate *Above Rubies* address below.

### AMERICA

PO Box 681687, Franklin, TN 37068-1687  
Nancy Campbell: [aboverubies@hughes.net](mailto:aboverubies@hughes.net)  
Ph: 1 877 279 9861 (*between 9am - 4pm Monday to Friday, Central Time*)

### AUSTRALIA

PO Box 5604, Manly, QLD 4179  
Val Stares: [admin@aboverubies.org.au](mailto:admin@aboverubies.org.au)  
Ph:/Fax (07) 5543 4744

### CANADA - BC and Western

For ordering Books & CDs:  
General Delivery, Grovedale, AB T0H 1X0  
Breanne & Brooklyn Biegel: [bree\\_4jesus@yahoo.ca](mailto:bree_4jesus@yahoo.ca)  
Ph: (780) 539 3838

New Subscriber & Database changes go to:  
C34 - 3545 E 43rd Ave, Vancouver, BC V5R 5X5  
Marie Ferreira: [arnewinfo@yahoo.ca](mailto:arnewinfo@yahoo.ca)

### CANADA - Eastern

PO Box 48006, R.P.O. Lakewood, WPG, MB R2J 4A3  
Rosa Brandt: Phone: (204) 878 4508

### MALAYSIA

No 1, Jalan USJ 13/1A, UEP Subang Jaya, 47620  
Petaling Jaya, Selangor  
Rosalyn Khoo: [aboverubiesmalaysia@gmail.com](mailto:aboverubiesmalaysia@gmail.com)  
Ph: (60) 5638 3522

### NEW ZEALAND

PO Box 4232, Mount Maunganui  
Heather Jones: [aboverubies@xtra.co.nz](mailto:aboverubies@xtra.co.nz)  
Ph: (07) 575 5787 Fax: (07) 575 2024

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA and AFRICA

8 Burkes road, Gowrie Junction, QLD, Australia 4352  
Lisa Thorpe: [thorpe@dodo.com.au](mailto:thorpe@dodo.com.au)

### SINGAPORE, SOUTH ASIA, EAST ASIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA\*

Marine Parade, PO Box 720, Singapore 914408  
Jenny/Ruthie: [rubies@singnet.com.sg](mailto:rubies@singnet.com.sg)  
Ph: (65) 6223 7047 Fax: (65) 6223 7048

### SOUTH AFRICA

PO Box 3916, Durbanville 7551  
Linnie and Christo Lues: [aboverubies@absamail.co.za](mailto:aboverubies@absamail.co.za)  
Ph: 021 976 0883

### SOUTH PACIFIC

PO Box 4232, Mt. Maunganui, New Zealand  
Margarett Hartnett: [arubiessouthpacific@clear.net.nz](mailto:arubiessouthpacific@clear.net.nz)

### SOUTH/CENTRAL AMERICA, ISRAEL and MIDDLE EAST

Email [nancy@aboverubies.org](mailto:nancy@aboverubies.org)

### UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPE

6 Field Close, West Molesey, Surrey, KT8 2LA  
John and Alice Gurr: [aboverubies@ntlworld.com](mailto:aboverubies@ntlworld.com)  
Ph: (020) 8224 3628

Thank you for your support to help us bring the message of encouragement to marriages and families across the world.

# A Day Seminar with Nancy Campbell

Four messages on DVD to  
inspire you as a wife and mother!



- Enjoy on your own!
- Invite friends in for a Day Seminar!
- Organize one a week for a month!

To order in USA:

Go to [www.aboverubies.org](http://www.aboverubies.org)  
and click on Book/CD Store

Or call 1 877 729 9861

to order by credit card

Or send a check.

Other countries

can order by

International PayPal.

For only  
**\$30.00**  
plus shipping  
you can bless  
many women!



ABOVE RUBIES  
PO BOX 681687 • FRANKLIN TN 37068-1687  
[www.aboverubies.org](http://www.aboverubies.org)

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Franklin, TN  
Permit No. 25