

Strengthening Families Across the World

ABOVE RUBIES

ISSUE: Ninety-three



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From Our Home to Yours

Life is filled with blessings and challenges, isn't it? Last year we enjoyed loads of wonderful blessings and faced heartaches too.

We enjoyed three family weddings. Serene and Sam's son, Arden, married Esther on the 20th February. Sorry it has taken a year to give you a picture of their wedding. Sadly, we only printed one magazine last year, although our vision is to print four issues each year. Somehow, the money was slow in coming. As you know, Above Rubies relies completely on the loving donations of its readers and those who have a heart to see marriage and family life strengthened in the nations. We trust we will send out more magazines to you this coming year, especially considering this year is the Ruby Anniversary for Above Rubies. Forty years ago, I began Above Rubies in Palmerston North, New Zealand. Now, it reaches mothers all over the world.

One of the reasons we enjoy weddings so much is that they become family occasions with many of the brothers, sisters, and cousins as part of the wedding party. It makes it so special. I often say to young people that the more family you have in your

wedding party the better. We live in a day of easy travel and many people do not stay where they grew up. Often very close friends move away and you lose contact with them over the years. Your future children will have no idea of these current friends pictured in your wedding party. But when they see family—their aunts and uncles (especially what they looked like and what they were wearing at the time) they will love it and it strengthens family bonds.

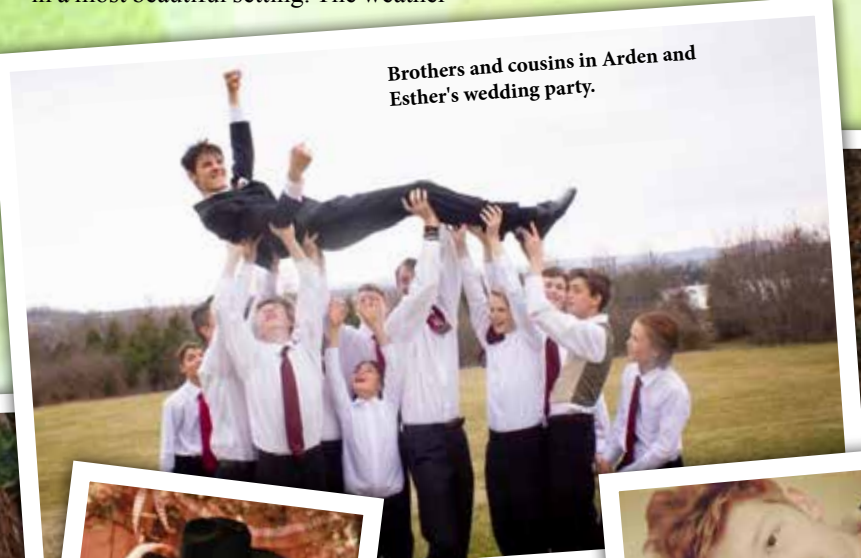
Pearl's daughter, Meadow, married Kendall Hall on the 10th September. I'm sorry I have too many wedding pictures for the front cover. This was also another wonderful wedding, even though it didn't go as planned! Meadow arranged an outside wedding in a most beautiful setting. The weather

was perfect right up until the time of the wedding. All the attendants walked down the aisle in the beautiful outdoors followed by Meadow, the radiant bride. Everything was going smoothly until the pastor began the opening remarks. Immediately the sky blackened, and without warning, down came a torrential downpour. Everyone—children, older people, and wedding party scrambled for cover!

Fortunately, the reception building was right next door. Everyone ran in, dripping wet, but all in good spirits. The wedding party lined up again and the service continued as though nothing had happened (except dripping clothes). The festivities continued into the night with great food, fellowship, and speeches.

How we love speeches. They are part of every Campbell function. The other night we celebrated Rashida's 21st birthday and most of the night was taken up with speeches! So many people wanting to share. But they were all entertaining and no one wanted to miss out extoling Rashida's life.

The third wedding was Josiah and Shelby's on the 16th October, another outdoor wedding on a beautiful fall



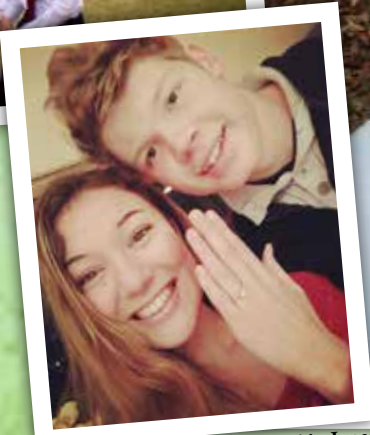
Brothers and cousins in Arden and Esther's wedding party.



Meadow and Kendall Hall



A touching moment when Meadow danced with her father to the song she recorded when she was about 12 years old, called FIRST WORD. "You were my very first word, Daddy! Your arms are the safest place on earth, Daddy!" You can listen to the song on www.facebook.com/AboveRubiesUS/videos/



Bowen and Kahoru get engaged in Japan.

day—and no rain this time! Shelby was one of our Above Rubies helpers. Esther, Arden's wife was also an Above Rubies helper. And it's not finished yet! Bowen, Pearl's eldest son was recently engaged to another Above Rubies helper, Kahoru Aliisa, and they are getting married here in Tennessee on the 6th May this year. Kahoru is half Japanese and grew up in Japan, but speaks perfect English. We look forward to this wedding and secretly hope there will be more before the end of the year!

Not to be outdone with weddings, we were blessed to have a new grandson and three great-grandbabies born this year. And we look forward to more. Every child, grandchild, and great-grandchild is another opportunity for God to reveal His image in the world. One of the most powerful things we can do is to bring life into the world. Isaiah 8:18 says: "Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders . . . from the LORD of hosts."

I love the words in John 1:9 where it tells us that "Jesus was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." I believe that every new baby is born with a God consciousness, the light of God in their spirit. What a privilege to be born into a godly home where that light can be fueled to a great

flame for the glory of God. Conversely, children born into unbelieving homes can have this light squashed and dampened. But it is always there and the Holy Spirit's power can ignite that light again by His moving in the heart. No one is exempt from receiving God's great salvation through Jesus Christ.

I think of the words Mary sang as she worshipped the Lord "For he that is mighty hath done to me GREAT THINGS; and holy is his name" (Luke 1:49). It is true that Mary was blessed beyond any other women in the history of the world as she nourished Jesus in her womb and gave birth to the Son of the Highest, the Savior of the world. God certainly chose her for great things. The word "great" is "megaleios" and means "magnificent, conspicuous, wonderful." I wonder if this is where we get our word "mega"?

In a lesser and yet still powerful way, God continues to do great things through every baby that is conceived in a mother's womb. Every new baby is born in the image of God. Each one is a fresh revelation of God to the world. Each one has the possibility of accomplishing marvelous things.

Let's think for a moment of all the amazing things that have happened, are happening, and will happen in this world—the remarkable inventions, the incredible feats both intellectually



Rashida and Meadow—cousins and best friends since babies. Now they are both married and entering a new season of life.



Meadow's wedding: Bowen (Pearl's son) escorting me in before the downpour!



Josiah and Shelby's wedding



ABOVE RUBIES

PO BOX 681687

FRANKLIN, TN 37068-1687 USA

Ph: (877) 729-9861 (9 am - 5 pm Mon-Fri)

Web site: 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

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FRONT COVER: Arden and Esther Allison on their wedding day, 20 February 2016 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Photo: Rashida La'el Photography.



Our youngest daughter, Mercy's little boy, Canaan, born 1 October, 2016.



Rashida (Evangeline's daughter), with her little girl—cutie, roly poly Ezzie (Ezra), born 21 May 2016.



Selah (Serene's oldest beautiful daughter) with Kyrrah (5 months). She was born 30 July 2016. Selah and Samuel (who also have Sammy and Eureka) will soon be adopting three more children from Liberia from where they were also adopted. These three children are from family members who have passed away. They can't wait to embrace them into their loving family.



Nancy holding Christiana's little Lilliana, born 6 June 2016.

and physically, the astounding advancements, and the brilliant discoveries. None of this happens on its own. Every single one happens through a person. And that person comes through the womb. Without the womb, NOTHING happens in this world. It all comes to a halt.

Can we grasp the fullness of this truth? God privileges women with the gift of a womb, a sanctuary from where God brings forth GREAT THINGS to fulfill His purposes and glorify His name. And not only for this world, but for eternity. Every child who is conceived is an eternal soul that lives forever. Your finite mind cannot even fathom what great things God has ordained to happen in this world through creating a God-destined life in your womb (1 Corinthians 2:9).

We can relate to Frank Boreham's quote: "We fancy that God can only manage His world by big battalions abroad, when all the while He is doing it by beautiful babies at home. When a wrong wants righting, or a truth wants preaching, or a continent wants opening, GOD SENDS A BABY INTO THE WORLD TO DO IT. That is why long, long ago, a Babe was born in Bethlehem."

We also faced great challenges this past year, but they were times of drawing closer to the presence of God. Arden was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma shortly after his wedding in February. The whole family joined him in the fight of faith as we faced this battle. In his most crucial and desperate times we met every consecutive night for 13 weeks to pray for him—often

over 30 family members praying around him each night. God is so good and has brought him from the depths (where we did not look at what we could see by the natural eye but hung on to the promises of God by faith) to great health. From stage four, each test has become clearer and clearer. However, we continue praying in faith for the final victory. We have begun nightly prayer meetings again as we look forward to the triumphant day when we see the full manifestation of his healing. Please pray with us.

During this battle, Serene's 20-year-old son, Isaiah had a traumatic car accident with brain trauma. It took two hours to extract him from the car and his ear was severed. Miraculously, they found his ear. The surgeon did a magnificent and miraculous job in a 22-hour operation on his face and putting his ear back.

We received the verdict that he would never come out of a nursing home, but as we prayed and sought God we saw another mighty deliverance. Isaiah is a walking miracle and a joy to us all. He has come into a greater place in God and the joy of life. He laughs all the time and is such a tonic to the whole family. Isaiah now helps Arden in his photography and filming business called "Wild Fire Videos."

Don't forget to check out our books and products at <http://aboverubiesbookstore.mybigcommerce.com/>. We are advertising several new products this issue. Many have been waiting for the new edited edition of THE POWER OF MOTHERHOOD. We have been out of print for a couple of

years and at last it's here. I first wrote this book twenty-one years ago! It was certainly time to edit and enlarge.

You are going to love this new edition. Even if you have the original, I'd encourage you to purchase the new one. "The Power of Motherhood" is my legacy to the mothers of the world. Well, I should say, God's legacy. It goes into God's Word to reveal His heart and plan for mothers. To many it is hidden, but this manual will open it up to you and revolutionize your life. I believe every mother should have this book. It will bless you personally, but can also be used as a study for Ladies' Bible Study Groups. Don't keep the blessing to yourself. When you purchase your copy, purchase one for another mother who needs encouraging and uplifting.

I am also advertising another product that we have been wanting to share with the world for the past couple of years. However, owing to some behind the scenes difficulties, it was delayed. It is Serene and Pearl's TRIM HEALTHY MAMA WORKINS exercise DVDs. Of course, coming from Serene and Pearl, it is revolutionary, not the usual fitness DVD. They prepared it for you after hours of study and their own experience to bring you the very best for mothers—pregnant, nursing, and every stage of life. Another product every mother in the world should own.

May the blessings of the Lord fill your heart and home this year. Let laughter, joy, praises, and thanksgiving flood your home.

NANCY CAMPBELL

Founder and Editress of Above Rubies

Doug and Dalyn with Taylor, Benjamin, CJ and a foster son who was with them for five years.



MOUNTAINS, VALLEYS, DRAGONS, AND REST!

My children's ages range from five years old to young adult. Some I gave birth to and some I didn't, but they're all precious.

Yesterday, I sat next to my grown-up, married son and brushed a crumb out of his beard. His beard? It doesn't seem but a week ago that I washed peanut butter off his face. That freckle-faced little boy, who declared he would live with me forever, is a married man.

I have, like you, both struggled with my motherhood and cherished my motherhood. It's the hardest, best job there is. It's not just a biological calling, but a spiritual calling.

I have so often fallen short of the ideals I've set for myself. Time and again, I have failed the intention to be patient and kind. I spent most of my thirties feeling guilty about the ways in which I wasn't earning "Mom of the Year." But I didn't give up. I allowed God's Word to develop my character. I pounded heaven in prayer for those babies.

For my husband and myself, I prayed for the ability to do this most-important work as best we could, even with our limited resources. I learned that there's no such thing as lack in God's economy; all the resources I needed, I had in Christ.

The Holy Spirit brought life to my mothering time and again. When I thought I'd drown in the day-to-day of laundry, dishes, and meals, the Holy Spirit lifted me up. During the years when my husband was gone so often and I was alone with what seemed like too much responsibility, God came by my side. I would have missed out on all the good, rich stuff I'm enjoying now if I had allowed self-pity to lead me to dark places. Instead, I chose to strengthen myself in the Lord.

God's assignments are sometimes mountains to climb and valleys to travail. There are certainly dragons to battle, but He also provides those sweet, restful, green pastures we love so well.

Motherhood is a series of thrills and drudgery, heartbreak and the most pure and sincere love to be found, apart from the love of God. Devotion and character are developed in the years of the hardships that come with mothering and homemaking.

I remember well the slow and gradual change from a self-centered young lady to a devoted and sacrificing mother. My husband too, has grown over the years, from a selfish man to a tender-hearted father and husband. Daily putting the needs of others before our own changes us.

It's so easy to get discouraged with parenting in this culture. For all the times I've wounded my children, I ask for forgiveness and for God's scandalously generous mercy. In the victories, I point again to His grace and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes it seems like the forming of a loving human takes two steps back and only one forward—in the children and us! Growth is painful. But that pain is necessary for development of character. So often, I wanted to protect my children from hurts and dangers. However, I learned that the person they become for God's Kingdom is so much more important than their comfort or mine.

I'm so thankful to be on this ride with Jesus and my family. It's not easy, yet nothing is more worthwhile than being a missionary to my own little corner of the world. If I endure, then maybe I will reap a harvest of Jesus-loving children who are missionaries in their own spheres—big or small. I'm rejoicing in hope, and remembering that my troubles are comparatively light. Hope doesn't disappoint when it's in the right place. Besides that, children give you grandchildren!

DALYN WELLER

Milk 'n Honey Ranch, Yakima, Washington, USA

<https://tshirtandjeansblog.wordpress.com>

Doug and Dalyn's children are Tori (24), Taylor (22), (and his wife Rebecca), Benjamin 18, CJ 6, and Gramma to Auden (4).



Winning the Heart of my Sons



Scot and Kimberly with their 12 children: Michael (25), Seth Turner (married to our daughter Kaylee, 21), Casey (20), Brooklyn (15), Wesley Ann (13), Summit (11), Sierra (9), Mesa (7), Benjamin (5), Selah (4), Jordan Journey (21 months) and new baby Levi Courage (1 day old in this picture). The children are holding their ten Golden Retriever puppies.

It came as a surprise. With so many little ones underfoot, I could feel the momentum building. The season of my children's adulthood rushed toward me!

Somehow, before I knew it, my adult children stood before me, wide-eyed and ready to embark on their own life's calling. The moment to release my arrows into the unknown came all too soon. With God's help, I decided to embrace this new season and launch them well. This article is geared specifically toward sons and the unique way we can release them.

Honoring my Husband

As my oldest son quickly approached adulthood, I noticed his needs were very much like the needs of my husband. We notice throughout Scripture that a husband greatly desires and values honor and respect from his wife. Loving is easy and comes naturally, but offering respect requires a much closer walk with the Lord. In this age, the concept of "respect must be earned" is touted. I believe, however, that the respect talked about in Scripture is very different. I like to call it "unconditional respect." After all, I desire to be loved and treasured—even with my morning hair, postpartum body, when I say something silly, or give in to my grumpy heart. Don't our husbands desire the same kind of respect?

Astounding Results

Years ago, I began offering this kind of respect to my husband and the results were astounding. My aim was that no one would give him more respect than me, his wife. I wanted him to stand tall and walk into any situation knowing that I truly respected and admired him, no matter what—win or lose, succeed or fail. I challenged myself to find anything and everything in which to honor him.

Sometimes this was easy and offered freely. Other times, my own way or pride tempted me to withhold this gift to my husband. I observed how often I put "conditions" on my respect. There were moments when the respect certainly was not earned (at least, not in my eyes). However, I practiced the habit of always finding something I could encourage. Perhaps it was his honesty regarding a mistake, his willingness to get back up and try again, or his heart's desire to do right even when his flesh failed.

When I freely offered respect, especially in those times, my heart was blessed to watch him stand taller, straighter, and fight harder. Because the pressure was off, I witnessed the transformation of an even more godly man and we bonded together in a greater manner.

Our Sons Want the Same Respect

Soon, my sons stood much taller than I (not a difficulty since I'm only 5 ft. tall). Like mini versions of my husband, these young men desire respect. Therefore, I began the habit of offering "unconditional respect" to them as well. At times, it took great effort.

Sometimes, I simply told them I was so proud of them for their will to keep trying and not give up as they worked toward maturity. Other times, witnessing the unfolding of God's work in their lives made giving respect easier. Regardless, I began to see the same astounding results. The gift of "unconditional respect" ushered the way for them to grow from boyhood to manhood, knowing all the while that mom was their number one cheerleader.

As always, the secret to success is found in Scripture. Psalm 127 talks about the blessing of a full quiver. Yet, what good is a quiver full of arrows if they are never released to penetrate the enemy? You may think the greatest joy in life as a mama is embracing your children, holding them tight, making every attempt to keep them safe and warm from the winds of this world. I have discovered, that as good as that is, it pales in comparison to watching them grow and mature as they use their gifts and God-given abilities to

shine brightly in a dark world.

Training Sons to be Battle Ready

Training your arrows to be battle-ready does not come naturally, but it is essential for the success of your launch. Young men don't respond well to a mother who questions if they are capable or ready, directing their decisions from the sideline.

Instead, we must constantly affirm that we believe in them, see their readiness, and trust that God will guide them in the areas where growth is still needed. Almost every time I respond this way, I see the men in my life rise to the occasion. Raising godly children isn't just about daily Bible stories and prayer. It involves discipleship, modeling, and an appeal to their hearts to find protection, joy and freedom in their walk with God.

Holding a special ceremony when each son turned thirteen, inducted them into manhood and marked the beginning of their journey. It also enabled me to begin the process of releasing them into adulthood over the next few years. At this age my husband made every effort to take over their homeschool journey—to draw his relationship with each son closer and teach them more about manhood. Because of his work, my husband could not be involved fulltime. However, knowing that Dad was monitoring their schooling and core life-muscles, imparted the vision they were indeed becoming men.

At one time, my son wanted to buy a truck with his well-earned money. In my opinion, it was not the right truck or best timing. Yet, as an adult, he needed the blessing and freedom to make his own decision, knowing his parents would respect him whatever the outcome. What a blessing to watch him rise to the occasion! He stood a little taller, confident that he was his own man, and we were behind him all the way. As I feared, the truck was not the right fit and had to be sold at a slight monetary loss. Standing amid defeat, I spoke of how well he handled the whole situation and how I admired him as a man. Had I responded with “I

told you so,” I'd have sent the heart of my son spiraling toward despair.

Both of my grown sons have developed their own businesses and worked for others. Not too long ago, I helped one of them work through some stressful aspects relating to the start-up of his business. My son shared with me how, if nothing else, this was an opportunity for him to see God provide and move in a mighty way in his life. Once again, I reaffirmed how much I respected his trust in God, even during such a stressful time.

Protect Their Purity

When you speak and act respectfully to your son, you help protect his purity. Without love and respect from his parents, a young man can be driven to insecurity and find respect in the lowliest places. He must learn to guard his heart and eyes, but respect from his parents will strengthen his purity walk.

When God brings a young woman into the life of your son, once again you stand at the door to a new season. Encourage your son to discover the same joy and love you have found in your marriage. Be his number one fan in moving his heart toward his wife.

Guard Against Fear

I am convinced that many of us respect and admire our husbands and sons, yet struggle to know how to speak it into their lives. Often we want to take control to prevent an unwanted outcome. This fear, however, robs us of the opportunity to give honor and respect. I have also learned that, as with my husband, nagging and expressing disappointment does nothing to motivate my sons to grow in maturity.

Respecting an imperfect husband can be difficult, let alone trying to respect an immature, growing young man. However, with God on our side, we have nothing to fear. As I offer respect to our sons, especially when my heart is tempted to fear, they see past me to God. They always stand taller, knowing that they have their mom and God on their side. Is God not big enough to be faithful to complete the work He began in them without our help?

Leave room for them to fail, to grow, to change, and to mature. Never “put them in a box.” Leave room for them to blow your socks off, for God to do a work in and through them and display His mightiness!

Nothing Works Without Prayer

Finally, pray! Pray for your sons, their purity, and their walk with the Lord. My heart soared when my 25-year-old son spoke these words: “Mom, you and Dad are my best friends. When all the world seems against me, I know that you guys care and understand. I know that God is real and I am not afraid because I've seen Him in your lives.”

Recently, I welcomed our twelfth child (our sixth son) into my arms and into our family. As I treasure the newborn smells of my little man, I equally ponder the conversations and connections with my grown sons—knowing that all too soon, respect will win the heart of this little boy as well. Giving up my control and fears to the Lord is never easy, but the close relationship I have with my adult sons is a gift as precious as holding my cherished newborn.

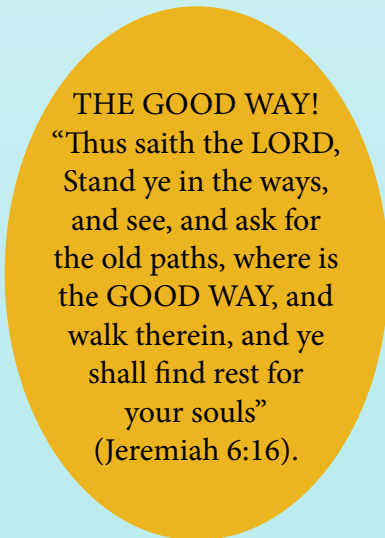
KIMBERLY BRYANT

Springfield, Oregon, USA

climbingbryants@msn.com

Blog for those who struggle with chronic illness:

Kimberly@lymegreenpastures.com



THE GOOD WAY!
“Thus saith the LORD,
Stand ye in the ways,
and see, and ask for
the old paths, where is
the GOOD WAY, and
walk therein, and ye
shall find rest for
your souls”
(Jeremiah 6:16).



THE OLD PATHS

Written by a retired minister in Tennessee.

I liked the old paths . . .

When moms were at home, dads were at work,
Brothers went into the army and sisters got married
BEFORE having children!

Crime did not pay; hard work did,
And people knew the difference.
Moms could cook, dads would work,
And children behaved.

Husbands were loving, wives were supportive,
And children were polite.
Women wore the jewelry and men wore the pants.
Women looked like ladies, men looked like gentlemen,
And children looked decent.

People loved the truth and hated a lie!
They came to church to get IN, not to get OUT!
Hymns sounded godly, sermons sounded helpful,
Rejoicing sounded normal,
And crying sounded sincere.

Cursing was wicked, drinking was evil,
And divorce was unthinkable!
The flag was honored, America was beautiful,
And God was welcome!

We read the Bible in public, prayed in school,
And preached from house to house.
To be called an American was worth dying for;
To be called a Christian was worth living for;
To be called a traitor was a shame!

Sex was a personal word.
Homosexual was an unheard of word,
And abortion was an illegal word.

Preachers preached because they had a message;
Christians rejoiced because they had the VICTORY!
Preachers preached from the Bible,
Singers sang from the heart,
And sinners turned to the Lord to be SAVED!

A new birth meant a new life,
Salvation meant a changed life,
Following Christ led to eternal life.

Being a preacher meant you proclaimed the word of God,
Being a deacon meant you served the Lord,
Being a Christian meant you lived for Jesus,
And being a sinner meant someone was praying for you!

Laws were based on the Bible, families read the Bible,
And churches taught the Bible.
Preachers were more interested in new converts
Than new clothes and new cars.
God was worshiped, Christ was exalted,
And the Holy Spirit was respected.

Church was where you found Christians on the Lord's Day
Rather than in the garden, on the creek bank,
On the golf course, or being entertained somewhere else.

I still like the old paths the best!



OUTDOING ONE ANOTHER

Erik and Karen (married 25 years) with their children: Keilah (24), Elizabeth (23), Jaron (20), Benjamin (18), Timothy (15), Erik James (13), Abigail (10), Gus (7), and Marigold (2).

My children, well . . . they bicker. Sometimes they complain about each other. They’ve even been known to get mad at one another. As their mother, it’s probably my greatest frustration. Therefore, I was excited when the Lord brought to life a Scripture for me and showed me a way to help my children apply God’s word to their relationships.

Romans 12:9-13 (ESV) states: “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” I love how God encourages us to “outdo one another in showing honor.” We took this Scripture and made it into a challenge. We allotted 40 days to focus on showing honor to one another—not only showing honor, but OUTDOING one another in honor.

We also spent those 40 days spying on others showing honor! For my competitive children (and even my non-competitive ones), this was a great way to emphasize their relationships and walk them out through experience. We opened doors for one another, jumped up to help, spoke kind words in heated situations, took over others’ responsibilities, and on and on.

I kept a memo app on my phone specifically for this challenge (although you could also use a notebook), to keep track of points. Points were earned when:

- a) They memorized Romans 12:9-13 (5 points).
- b) Dad or I observed someone showing honor (1 point for

each instance).

c) A child reported someone showing honor. Both the child reporting and the child caught honoring received a point. Therefore, it was in their best interest to watch for and share good reports of their siblings! They could not report their own good deeds. Proverbs 27:2a (ESV) says: “Let another praise you, and not your own mouth.”

We talked about doing good in secret, trusting the Lord would see. I reminded the children that when reporting an honor-sighting, they needed to wait until I’d recorded it on my phone. That way, every instance was credited. My husband and I got in on the challenge as well. We provided two painted jars which we couldn’t see inside. When someone noticed Dad or Mom showing honor, they’d find a slip of paper, write their own name on it (as the reporter of good deeds!) and put it in the appropriate jar.

At the end of the 40 days, it was agreed that the child who had the most points (the one who OUTDID the rest!) would go out for a special time with the parent who had the most points! It was amazing to hear, many times throughout the day, reports from our children about their siblings. What a difference from the bickering and tattling! They truly tried to outdo one another in showing honor. Our hope (now that the challenge is all said and done), is that our children will be better at showing honor, kinder with one another, and genuinely love each other.

KAREN ENGSTROM
Covington, Washington, USA



How to Get Your Child Through College Without Going to College

My mother was a hippie at the University of Wisconsin Law School, flunking out because she was going crazy. I believe she was losing her mind to drugs. She was also involved in cult practices, Buddhism, and Mormonism.

Mother taught me that women should go to college and have careers. There was no choice in the matter; it was drilled into me. I was an only child with no chores and an irregular bedtime, but academics were of paramount importance. I played with educational toys and watched educational TV.

The “self-sufficient-career-life” promised women they would be deliriously happy and fulfilled. My mother’s life was the opposite. Time and again, she would marry a wonderful man, decide she didn’t like him anymore, and divorce him. Then she would cry all day, every day, for months—unable to function or raise me. When I was 11 years old, the Child Welfare Department of Rhode Island made the decision that I should live with my wonderful, godly, Christian father!

Daddy wasted no time in sharing the Gospel with me. I had been so confused with all the teachings I’d undergone. But Daddy told me with his heart of love that if I confessed and repented of my sin and turned to Jesus that I would have a place in Heaven and a totally new life of forgiveness and victory. How exciting! I had a new relationship with Jesus and I was now a part of a Christian family of seven—three step siblings, a half-brother, and two parents. Getting used to chores and tithing was difficult and the world quit revolving around me! However, I began my love-relationship with Jesus and began learning more of the Bible.

Eventually, I chose a small Christian college (the only one we found which believed the Bible has no errors). I majored in education, in case I ever worked. In theory, this was so I could be with my children after school and during summers. I’m not sure I learned anything in my education classes that helped me as a homeschooling mom! However, I met my husband. We graduated, married, and he began his pastoral ministry.

Why did they Change their Beliefs?

My best friends from high school were the ones I met at church. But what happened to them? After college, they changed their beliefs. Another friend went to college near our little Texas town where my husband pastored. He shared with me how disturbing it was that the science professors at his Christian college taught him Evolution. He was incensed and made impassioned appeals. The head of the department told him, “If you don’t like it, take your science credits to a community college, because Evolution is all that we teach you here.” That was that. Today he believes in Evolution.

My best friend homeschooled her sweet daughter. Yet, when Hallie went to college she met a boyfriend, completely changed, and even turned her godly parents into Child Protective Services! Since, I’ve discovered that Christians all over the country are losing their 18-year-old children at an alarming rate. Lifeway Research and others say it’s up to 70 percent of Christian children who are turning from their faith in college atmospheres.

What do statistics say about children who stay with the faith? These are young adults who live in the same town as their parents and continue attending their parents’ church. They have been on a mission trip with their parents, or were homeschooled. Homeschooled children have a much greater chance of walking with the Lord all their lives.

Is there an Alternative?

Today, you have the option of homeschooling through college as well! That’s something to think about today. A friend of ours teaches college Sociology. His colleague, who claims to be a Christian, said that his main goal is “to make the students in his classrooms

question their beliefs.” This means making Christian teens question everything their families stand for.

In many colleges, sons are surrounded by immodestly dressed girls, told in the classroom that premarital sex is okay, and live in co-ed dorms or apartment buildings. One liberal-leaning person said, “Let the conservatives breed. We’ll get their kids in college.” Of course, not all colleges are created equal. Patrick Henry College, Bob Jones University, and Pensacola Christian College are a few that are great!

Another important issue to consider is that of accountability. Even when our children are still living at home, we need to keep our relationship open with them. We must be tying strings to their hearts, asking them questions about how their Christian-lives are going.

A big problem with young men today is pornography. RoadtoGrace.net says that 76 percent of Christian young-adults actively seek out porn. Our sons (and daughters) need us in their lives to walk with them through moral victory. At our house, we use many tools to protect our children when they’re on the computer. We use passwords on computers, iPads, and phones and we use filters like Safe Eyes, Open DNS, and Covenant Eyes.

You can Homeschool through College

It was very hard for me to give up on the idea of college, especially for my sons. Thankfully, God provided a way for our family to think outside the box. Let me tell you how it happened. Flashback to the 1990’s—our sweet little country church was very gracious to love on us and forgive our many mistakes as Ronny served as a young pastor.

Our next adventure was overseas missions. During one furlough, I met a lady who casually mentioned that young people could get a college degree through taking CLEP tests at home. “What? Tell me more!” We researched, took tests, passed, failed, and failed some more.

What Happened to Our Children?

My son, Micah (age 23) got his accredited college degree from home at age 16. This segued into a great job from home

plus a seminary degree from home.

My daughter, Hannah (age 20), got a paralegal degree from home at Oakbrook College of Law. She is now one of only about 150 certified paralegals in Oregon! The degree only cost about \$2000. Through this program, she (and I) learned so much about how law went awry in our country. As part of the program, she had to study God's law as well as the art of counseling people to stay married!

The paralegal program at Oakbrook is a lot of work, but paralegals can work from home and are in great demand. They make a pretty good salary as well. Right now, Hannah is our church secretary and is not sure if she wants to work for a stressed-out lawyer! She just started doing pro bono work for a pro-life charity.

Our girls want to stay home with their children and not have careers. Therefore, what they specifically study is only to find specific work before getting married. I'm certainly not advocating for all daughters to get a degree or certification!

Oakbrook is also a great option for sons. They even give law degrees without a prior BA/BS requirement. Josh (age 18) is on the fast track to getting his degree—he could be finished

by January! As you take CLEP tests, you become more proficient at them, which makes you faster and faster, especially if you are motivated to finish. After attaining his bachelor's, Josh wants to either do seminary from home or study at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with the accountability of a wife. Southwestern is still true to the Bible!

Matt (age 17) is a history whizz. The Social Sciences degree is perfect for him (it's also the quickest and cheapest)! Matt has several history credits already.

Micah's degree was Social Sciences. Since he completed his degree at only age 16, his company wanted to hire and teach him how to do marketing on the job.

Bethany (age 15) spends a lot of time memorizing Scripture for the National Bible Bee. In the off-season, she likes to learn computer programming on teamtreehouse.org. This skill will definitely be handy in the future! Treehouse is about \$30/month.

It's not all Academia

What about sons who are not academic? My super-cool, marketing, techie son says, "The future of careers is not necessarily going to be in the business

world." People aren't becoming welders, electricians, or plumbers anymore. Have you noticed how hard it is to find someone who can work on your house nowadays? Sons who are not very academic could probably make an excellent living by learning these kinds of skills. The Lord of Hosts has unmeasured blessings in store for them!

I realize how blessed I am that I was rescued from the empty promises of the career-woman and one-child life. My handsome pastor/husband comes home for lunch and gives me a kiss and hug. My children all want to be missionaries (with one future CIA agent hold-out! Ha!) We have dinners together which are loud and crazy. We have Christmases with gift wrap flying everywhere! I get to be with my favorite people all the time.

All the careers in the world could never amount to the hugs, kisses, and cuddles that I get every day.

KATHY COOKSEY
McMinnville, Oregon, USA
kathy@ronnykathy.com

*Check out Kathy's book on page 15



Ronny and Kathy's children are Micah (23), and Hannah (20), who was married to Micah on 3 December (20), Joshua (19), Matthew (17), Bethany (15), Andrew (12), Gracie (10), and Reed (6).

YOU'RE HAVING A BABY!

How exciting! This is the most wonderful experience that can ever happen to you.

Check out what God says about you and your baby.

1. You have been **VISITED BY GOD**. Conception is a divine visitation. When Sarah conceived, the Bible tells us God **visited** her (Genesis 21:1). After Hannah dedicated Samuel to God and took him to the temple, 1 Samuel 2:21 says that God **visited** Hannah and gave her five more children.

2. You are the receiver of a **PRECIOUS GIFT** from the hand of God. It is God who has begun the life of this child within you. It is His gift to you (Genesis 33:5; 1 Chronicles 25:5; Psalm 127:3 and Isaiah 8:18).

3. You are **CHOSEN** by God to nurture this child within your womb and bring it into the world. On God's behalf, He has chosen you to prepare and mold this life for heaven (Malachi 2:15).

4. You are receiving a **REWARD** from the Lord (Psalm 127:3).

5. You are **BLESSED** with a gift that lasts for this life and for eternity. Your life will never be the same again (Genesis 1:22,28; 49:25; Deuteronomy 7:12-14; 28:4,11; 1 Chronicles 26:4-5; Psalm 112:1-2; 127:5 and 128:3-4).

6. You are the nurturer of a life that God is **CREATING** (Psalm 139:14-15.) Your womb is a sanctuary where God is “fearfully and wonderfully” and “intricately fashioning” a child who has never been created before and will never be created again. This precious child is unique. The only one of its kind in the history of the world! How amazing.

7. You are never forgotten for a moment. God **CARES** for your unborn baby. He has already written a book—planned and recorded every day of your child's destiny (Psalm 139:16).

8. You have an **ARROW** in the making to furnish your quiver (Psalm 127:4). God has chosen you to be the one to polish and sharpen this arrow to accomplish great things for Him

9. You have a little **OLIVE PLANT** growing in your womb, who will one day bless and grace your table (Psalm 128:3).

10. You are **FRUITFUL** which is a result of God's blessing. (Genesis 1:28; 9:1,7; Leviticus 26:3,9; Psalm 128:3—cf Genesis 17:6,20; 28:3 and 35:11).

11. You have within your womb a potential **PROCLAIMER** of God's testimonies and ways (Psalm 78:5-7).





12. You are preparing a **CROWN** to give to your parents (Proverbs 17:6 and Ruth 4:14-17).

13. You are **WELCOMING** God Himself to your life (Matthew 18:1-6; 19:14 and Mark 9:36-37).

14. You are embarking on a **GOD-HONORING LIFESTYLE** (1 Timothy 5:9-10).

15. You will experience great **JOY AND GLADNESS** (Psalm 113:9 and Luke 1:14).

16. You can relax! God doesn't expect you to keep up your usual pace now that you are nurturing His child. He promises to **GENTLY LEAD** you (Isaiah 40:11).

17. You carry an **ETERNAL SOUL** within your womb. You now embark on an eternal mission. All the possessions you spend time procuring on earth must one day be left behind. The only thing you take into eternity is your redeemed soul and the redeemed soul of your child and future children to come. Motherhood is an eternal career.

18. Above all else, you are being **OBEDIENT**, which invokes God's blessing. (Genesis 1:28; 9:1,7; 1 Samuel 15:22; Psalm 112:1,2 and 1 Timothy 5:14).

Therefore, Rejoice!

"He will love you, bless you, and multiply you;
He will also bless the fruit of your womb"
(Deuteronomy 7:13).

~ Nancy Campbell



PRAYER BRACELETS



For years, I told people that I believed in the power of prayer. I affirmed with my mouth that “prayer changes things.” I knew in my mind and heart it was true.

At a Ladies’ Retreat a few years ago, Nancy talked about prayer and quizzed us on Scriptures pertaining to prayer. There are at least 650 references to prayer in the Bible—probably more. I’m familiar with them, but do I *believe* them? Do I live like I believe that prayer is as powerful as the Bible says?

That weekend, I was challenged to pray for my children. If I don’t pray for my children, who will? I cannot rely on grandparents or a prayer-warrior-friend to cover my children with prayer. It is my duty and should be my delight. I must be vigilant for we live in the midst of a daily spiritual battle. I must *purposefully pray* for my children.

I had to look at my prayer life and found it sorely lacking. My heart was heavy. I was failing to pray for my own children! Day-to-day, I was very conscientious to prepare them nourishing foods, to educate them, and to fill their brains with a Biblical worldview. All these things are good, but I’d neglected to *pray* for my children. I’d left them uncovered.

When I did remember to hunker down and pray in the hustle and bustle of life in a big family, I usually petered out. Starting at the top of the age list, I could never get through them all—interrupted by my own distractions or the needs of the very ones I was trying to pray for.

The next time, I would start with the youngest and work my way up. Again, I was pulled away and some always got left out! The squeakiest wheel got the most prayer and the quietest one (who happened to be in the middle) was forgotten. This was unacceptable! I was abnegating the most basic of parental duties. I was surrendering my most powerful weapon to protect my family. Abandoning my post. This was not my heart. I needed a plan!

As Nancy shared that weekend about the high priest of Israel and his garments which held the names of the tribes of Israel, an idea began to take shape. On the ephod and the breastplate of the priestly garments were the names of the tribes



Andrew and Pam’s children are Caleb (20), Emma (18) who is married to Jed and expecting their first baby in December, Ben (16), Isaac (16), Ruthie (12), Sarah (9), Clarity (7), Valor (5), and Eli Noble (3).

of Israel. Exodus 28:29 (ESV) says: “So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgement on his heart, when he goes into the Holy Place, to bring them to regular remembrance before the Lord.” I realized that I could no longer leave out any of “my tribe.” I needed to carry them with me as I carried out my motherhood role, to cover them, and bring their names before the Lord.

I am not much of a jewelry girl. I find it most inconvenient as I don’t know how to match it to my clothing, it makes a noise, or gets in the way when I try to be productive. I knew I couldn’t manage a breastplate or an ephod! But I needed a physical reminder.

Now, I wear a bracelet for each of my children. Each one is a simple elastic string of beads that matches just about everything. *Honestly*, I don’t care if it doesn’t match, because these bracelets are more important than fashion!

I put beads, which spell out my children’s names, on each bracelet. Every morning, I put the bracelets on my left wrist. As I pray for them, I move the bracelets to my right wrist. Now, when I am interrupted, I don’t lose my place! If I pray for them as the Lord leads, I don’t lose my place. No longer must it be done in order! If I finish praying for some, I slip those bracelets onto the counter—ready for the next day.

While driving errands, my wrist is right before me at the steering wheel—a reminder. I turn off the radio and pray instead. If I think, as I cook or wash dishes, “these bracelets are getting in the way,” I remind myself that my *true* work for the day is not completed. I am called to pray. When folding laundry, instead of letting my mind wander, I check my wrist and get down to the real business of my home.

My children know about my bracelets. It is the sweetest thing when my seven-year-old comes up to me, lovingly caressing my arm and checking each bracelet to look for her name. “Mommy, you haven’t prayed for me yet?” or, with excitement, “Mommy! You prayed for me already!”

I find that when I pray for each child, the Lord brings to my heart all the needs surrounding each particular child. My prayer life is becoming quite unbound-

ed. I now pray for my children's friends, their workplaces, their future spouses, and the ministries to which God has called them. Though I still need to make a bracelet for him, I pray for my husband daily as well.

I was once unable to find the time to pray for my husband and the nine precious children God has given me. Then I discovered I had the time all along. I was merely distracted. My walk with God is stronger, as I talk with Him all day long concerning the most exciting and the dullest things.

I ask you what I asked myself: "Do you really believe in the power of prayer? If so, are you *living* what you believe?" I'd be so happy for you to try my plan.

PAM FIELDS
Salem, Oregon, USA
pamrfields@gmail.com

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BRACELETS

What you need:

Clear stretchy cord, beading needle, seed beads, E6000 glue (to secure the knot so it doesn't come undone). These supplies can be found at a craft store.

Alphabet beads from Oriental Trading company or Amazon (Amazon has an extra vowel set) which might be necessary, depending on how many you make). My beads started off silver, but after a year of wearing them, the silver has rubbed off and they are now white.

Slow Down, Mummy!

Slow down, Mummy, there's no need to rush,
Slow down, Mummy, what is all the fuss?
Slow down, Mummy, make yourself a cup of tea,
Slow down, Mummy, come and spend some time with me.

Slow down, Mummy, let's put on boots and go for a walk,
Let's kick piles of leaves, and smile and laugh and talk,

Slow down, Mummy, you are looking very tired,
Come, sit and snuggle and rest with me a while.

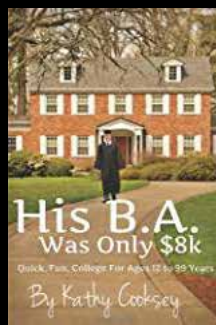
Slow down, Mummy, those dirty dishes can wait,
Slow down, Mummy, let's have fun and bake a cake!

Slow down, Mummy, I know you work a lot,
But sometimes, Mummy, it's nice when you just stop.

Sit with us a minute and listen to our day,
Spend a cherished moment,

Because our childhood will not stay!

~ Rebekah Knight (c) 2011



His B.A. was Only \$8K

Quick, Fun College for
Ages 12 to 99 Years

Using humor, interesting stories, and an off-the-wall writing style, Kathy describes her own son's journey of getting an accredited bachelor's degree from home at the tender age of 16. She explains how this method works for adult students, transfers, homeschoolers, or anyone. Older students sometimes finish an entire degree with this method in only one year.

Go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/HisBAOnly8K>



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It's All About Life!

There are only two kingdoms in this world—the kingdom of God, and the kingdom of Satan. God's kingdom is a kingdom of life. He is the author and initiator of life. He loves life.

Conversely, Satan's kingdom is a kingdom of death. He hates life and seeks to destroy it in whatever way he can. He is the mastermind behind abortion and all abortifacient contraceptives.*

If we belong to the kingdom of God, we will be on the side of life, because God is life. We will embrace life from conception to the grave. Adam named his wife Eve meaning “the life-giving one.” Eve was the prototype of all women to come—the first of her kind. Because she was a life-giver, we are life-givers! We have the privilege of conceiving, nurturing, and bringing forth miracles of life from the womb.

The Hebrew word for Eve is *Chavvah* and yes, it simply means “Life-giver”! However, we can understand a little more

of the fullness of this word as we look at the root words from which it comes.

Chavah looks very like *Chavvah*, doesn't it? This word means “to live, to declare, to show.” I think this is wonderful. Because we are created in the image of God, He wants us to reveal His image in the earth. He wants us to show our families and the world around us whom He created us to be. As we embrace, nurture, and bring forth life from the womb, we declare to the world that we are life-givers.

We are not ashamed to be whom God created us to be. We are not ashamed to embrace life in our womb. We are not ashamed to nurture a baby at our breasts. We glorify God by embracing the way He created us.

Chayah means “to live, give life, revive, preserve alive, nourish, recover, repair, restore, save alive, and to be whole.” This gives us a fuller understanding of what

it means to be a life-giver. It is the all-encompassing picture of motherhood.

Some commentators believe that *Chavvah* is abbreviated from the Hebrew word *Mechavvah* meaning, “the sustenance, the propagation of life.”

What about the Septuagint? When they translated the Old Testament into Greek, they changed *Chavvah* to *Zoë* meaning “life-giver, life-producer, life-preserver, and life-spring.”

It's all about life, ladies. LIFE. LIFE. LIFE. Every single part of your life.

1. Embrace life in the womb

The Divine Life-giver created you to be a life-giver. Anything less negates God's original purpose for your life. Isn't it sad how many women would rather be life-stoppers when they were created to be life-givers?

2. Pour out life-giving nourishment from the breast

God not only gives us a womb where He initiates life—planned before the foundation of the world, but He also gives us breasts to nourish the babies He graciously gives. Embrace your beautiful nurturing anointing. Delight in nursing your baby. Don't hurry to wean your baby, but enjoy this life-giving ministry for which God created you.

3. Live the abundant life Jesus died to give you

Jesus said in John 10:10: “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” When Christ comes into our lives, He comes with His divine life. It's not ordinary life. How can we ever be ordinary again when Jesus Christ, the Creator of the universe, dwells within us by His Spirit? We are not meant to live status quo, boring, middle-of-the-road, normal lives. Jesus came to give *abundant* life.

The word abundant in the Greek is *perissos*. Do you want to know what it means? Look out! It means “more exceedingly, above the greatest abundance, superabundantly, over and above, extraordinary, above measure.” This is the life Jesus gives you. This is



“The Wait And The Reward” by Anna Rose Bain
Oil on linen, 30 x 30, 2014
<http://www.artworkbyannarose.com/>
annarosebain@gmail.com

the life He wants you to live in your home—in your kitchen with your little ones around you, cooking, cleaning, and managing all that goes on in your home and family. You cannot be an ordinary mother when Christ is in you. You are a superabundant mother. Everything you do is above the normal.

You can never be a normal wife. Christ in you makes you an extraordinary wife. You are not boring. You are life-giving, exciting, and ravishing.

4. **Speak life-giving words to your husband and family**

Every time you open your mouth, you have the power to fill your home with life or a spirit of death. Perhaps this is our biggest challenge of all. It's easy for our mind to receive negative, self-pitying, depressing, and despairing thoughts—then mouth them off. However, if these thoughts come to our minds, we dare not verbalize them. Get into the habit of speaking only positive and life-giving words.

5. **Teach a life-giving lifestyle**

God says in Deuteronomy 30:15-20: "I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; . . . therefore CHOOSE LIFE, that both thou and thy seed may live." It is important that we teach our children "the way of life" (Jeremiah 21:8). In doing so, we must seek God for discernment to *teach* them discernment.

There is much in this life that looks good, yet, it is not God's way. Even Eve (who walked with God each day), was deceived by that which looked good (Genesis 3:6). If Eve could be deceived, how easily we can! We must discern and lead our children into that which is *best!* Good is not always the best. I believe everything from God is good, but not everything that looks good is from God!

6. **Declare life-giving healing to your family**

What power we have as mothers to bring healing to our husbands and children, not only physically, but to their souls and spirits. Proverbs 16:24 says: "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones." Imagine speaking health into the bones of all your children! That's powerful, isn't it?

Proverbs 15:4 (TLV) says: "A healing tongue is a tree of life." Don't speak

sickness and disease in your home. Instead, when your children have an ailment, encourage them to take hold of the truth that God is "Jehovah Rapha, I am the LORD that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26).

Apart from emergencies and accidents when medical attention and surgery are needed, I think we should give God more time to show His healing power. He created our bodies to heal. You notice that when you cut yourself, the cut doesn't stay a gaping wound. It begins to heal. That's the wonder of the way God created us. He heals the inward parts of our bodies too.

I like to confess, "Things come and things go." I've proved this many times. When I notice some infirmity in my body, rather than getting worried and rushing to the doctor, I take it to the Lord, give Him time to reveal His healing power, and confess my affirmation: "Things come and things go." I am totally amazed when a few weeks or a few months later, I am no longer plagued with the problem. I was most interested to read Young's Literal Translation of Proverbs 15:4 (the same Robert Young who compiled "Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible"): "A HEALED tongue is a tree of life, and perverseness in it—a breach in the spirit." I love this. I think we all need our tongue to be *healed*, don't we? It's all very well to have a "healing tongue," but our tongue often needs to be healed before it can bring healing to those around us.

We need the purifying fire of the Holy Spirit to touch our lips each day, don't we? Just as when Isaiah saw the LORD and exclaimed: "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of

unclean lips." Then the seraphim took a coal from the altar and laid it on his mouth and said, "Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged" (Isaiah 6).

Let's pray: "Dear Father God, please touch my lips with your holy fire and heal them from all perverseness. I want to be a healing tongue in my home—to my husband and to my children. Amen."

7. **Fill your mind and heart with God's life-giving words**

Jesus said: "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). The more we fill ourselves with God's living Word, the more we give life to others.

8. **Diligently pour God's life-giving words into your children**

God's plan for parents is to fill our children with His life-giving words. This is one of the most powerful things you accomplish in your career as a life-giver. It's not an option, it's a mandate from God. We do it as part of our daily lifestyle (Deuteronomy 6:6-9).

I am always challenged by Isaiah 59:21 (HCSB): "'As for Me, this is My covenant with them,' says the LORD: 'My Spirit who is on you, and My words that I have put in your mouth, will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouth of your children, or from the mouth of your children's children, from now on and forever,' says the LORD." Do God's words continually come out of your mouth? What about your children? Are you implanting it not only into their hearts, but

continued on page 18



Photo: Amelia Page

continued from page 17

their mouths? It's only when the Word is in their mouths that they will pass it on to the next generation.

9. Accept life-giving reproof

I beg your pardon! Is it life-giving to receive reproof? It doesn't feel like it, does it? However, Proverbs 4:13 says: "Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her, for she is thy life." Here is another one: "The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise" (Proverbs 15:31 CEB).

In the context of a mother teaching her children, Proverbs 6:23 states: "Reproofs of instruction are the way of life." None of us like to be reproved and rebuked, but if we receive it with humility, we'll be blessed in the end. I've proved that many times.

We must teach our children that through training, instruction, discipline, and correction, they will grow in wisdom, maturity, and all the blessings of life.

10. Feed your family life-giving foods

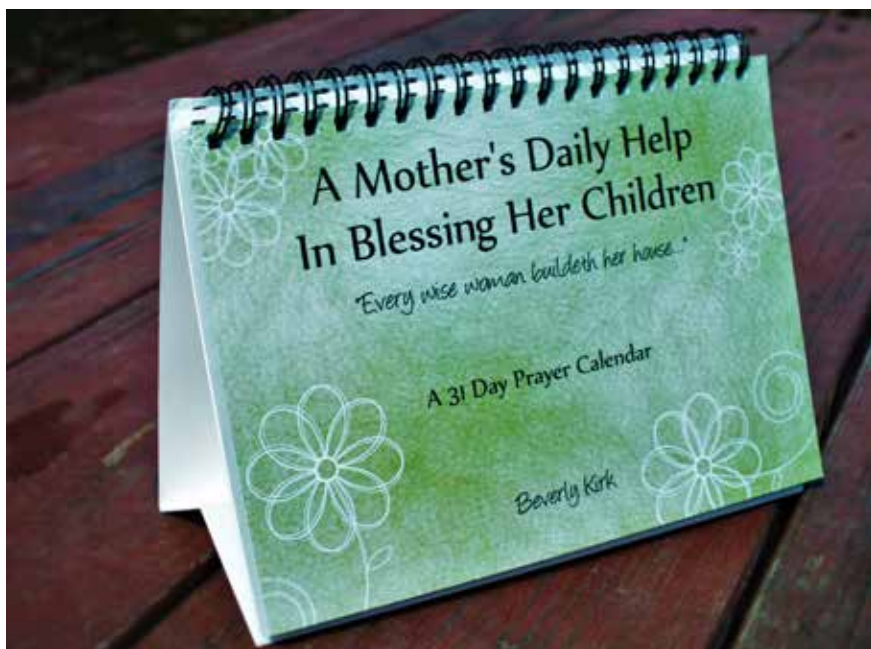
Our career of life-giving also includes feeding life-giving foods to our children. We are not victims of the Standard American Diet. Rather, we study and research to make life-giving foods exciting and palatable to our husbands and children. I am sure you have thrown out of your kitchen all the dead foods—refined white flour, white pasta, white rice, and especially white sugar which is a poison to your body. I am sure that educated mothers would not feed these inferior foods to their children.

Let's be life-givers from conception to the grave. We will never condone euthanasia. We will never be on the side of medical assisted suicide. It is only God who gave life and He is the only One who has the authority to take life when it is His perfect time. We will stand for life to the very end.

NANCY CAMPBELL

* Go to <http://www.abortionno.org/birth-control/> to check out which birth control methods abort babies.

Choose Life!



31 DAY PRAYER CALENDAR

A MOTHER'S DAILY HELP IN BLESSING HER CHILDREN

By Beverly Kirk

This is a desk, stand up, flip calendar to have on your table or sideboard. For 31 days it gives a prayer for your children, featuring different character traits, and includes five or six Scriptures. For Example:

Day 1
Lord, may my children love You and Your Word
(with six appropriate Scriptures).

Day 13
Lord, may my children have pure lips
(with six appropriate Scriptures).

Day 28
Lord, may my children have discernment
(with eight appropriate Scriptures).

It's a wonderful way to focus on the particular prayer and character trait for your children and choose one of the Scriptures for a memory verse. You will want to continue to use it month by month until you have all memorized all the Scriptures. Oh yes, it also has a hymn (with the music) on the other side of the desk calendar which you can sing to. I highly recommend it. Nancy

LET'S KEEP STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ACROSS THE WORLD

If God touches your heart to give to Above Rubies to help get out this needed and important message to families, you can do it whichever way suits you best:

Go to either of the following links:

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Call the office to give by credit card: 1 877 729 9861

Send a check to: ABOVE RUBIES, PO Box 681687, Franklin TN 37068-1687

City Slickers

You know what our out-of-town guests say upon their first visit to our downtown-Seattle home? “This is where wickedness resides!” These words surprise me! Firstly, I am sure wickedness resides everywhere. Secondly, our family is called to this neighborhood—and we love it! We are not citizens of this world, but citizens of heaven. Did you know that the Bible tells us how to live in exile in this world until we go home? In Jeremiah 29:4-7 (NIV) God tells his people how to live in exile: “Build houses and settle down. Plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters. Find wives for your sons and allow your daughters to get married so that they too can have sons and daughters. Grow in number; do not dwindle away. Work to see that the city where I sent you as exiles enjoys peace and prosperity. Pray to the LORD for it. For as it prospers you will prosper.”

God told His people, who were captives in Babylon how to live among the pagans. He gives the same instruction to us wherever we are planted.

More and more people are moving to cities. Currently, more than half of the world's population is urban. The prediction is that by 2050, 66 percent of the world's population will live in cities across the globe.

I notice, though, that many Christians do not want to live in the city. Personally, I cannot say that I've never dreamed of a big back yard, farm-fresh eggs, and raw milk. Nonetheless, applying the principles in Jeremiah has allowed us to love living in the city where God has placed us.

Fourteen years ago, God directed us to a lovely house. We have a 3,200-square foot house on a little plot of land across the street from a beautiful urban park. We live half a mile from the University of Washington and only five miles from downtown. Seven different grocery stores, many parks, a public pool, an urban lake, multiple restaurants, coffee shops, and much more are all within walking distance. My husband likes to joke that we lead an alternative lifestyle because we are a married, heterosexual couple who homeschool their nine



Erik and Molly with their children: Drew (17), Zachary (15), Ella Jane (14), Daniel (11), Toby (9), David (7), Jeremiah (6), Peter (4), and Hannah Verity (2).

children. We offer diversity in our liberal neighborhood and diversity is offered to us via the city.

There was a time when I thought that the children needed more land to learn proper working ethics. However, God has provided so many ways for my sons to work, right here in the city. We have worked on pea patch gardens and eaten the produce. Our sons have learned to paint, landscape, clean, chop and stack wood, and take care of pets. Our daughter has her own business and babysits as well.

They each saved a substantial amount of money by the time they were young teens. All this work was for neighbors and we've established some wonderful relationships while working with and for the people we live near.

Our home has a basement apartment that we use as a Bed and Breakfast. We live close to the Children's Hospital and have enjoyed the opportunity to host families who needed to use the hospital. We've served people from all over the world as they stay and eat with our family. Our children have learned how to keep a guest room, and more importantly, how to show hospitality.

God has brought so many people into our home. They have experienced first-hand our lifestyle and enjoyed Family Devotions with us a family. “Many of these families write back to us about how they were inspired to read the Bible and disciple their own children.

I remember one time when I called a specific family who I knew would be at the children's hospital for a surgery.

I told them that we lived nearby and to call for any need. A few days later, the wife called back to say their temporary housing (at the Ronald McDonald House) fell through and asked “Could we stay with you?” Of course!

They came with their sick son and five other children. I'd met her through Above Rubies, although at the time we didn't know each other well. While their son underwent surgery, we kept their other five children. Through this experience, we became such dear, dear friends. A few years later, cancer and another heart surgery brought them back to us. I'm so glad that God planted us here, exactly where this family needed a second home.

As a family, we have invested in our neighborhood. My sons serve on the emergency search and rescue team of our neighborhood's Natural-disaster Committee. They pick up at the park and maintain a park mural. We're available to our neighbors for any number of favors. Although they have a very different world-view, they appreciate our family's generosity and availability.

In addition, we have appreciated what they offer us. We've received writing lessons, garden goodies, many job opportunities, and friendships. We pray for opportunities to share the gospel and praise Him for the times we can share.

My 13-year-old daughter helped a family who'd just had their second child. Their three-year-old is very disabled and adding a new baby to a long list of household chores became a lot for this recovering mom. Ella went into their

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A Father's Legacy



Holly with her children in Israel, 2016: Levi (18), Jedidiah (15), Justice (13), and Shaddai (9).



Kim and Holly in Israel in 2010 when they were all together.

As a young girl growing up on the Canadian prairies, I never dreamed I would end up in the heartland of Israel (Biblical Judea and Samaria), known by the world as the West Bank.

My father died in his thirties, when I was seven years old. He was tormented in his mind and finally used a gun to end the torment. He had four daughters, whom he felt would be better off without him. He believed a lie and we were left fatherless.

Years later, I too felt tormented in my mind and wanted an end. Generational fears controlled me. I inherited a very low self-esteem and was plagued with eating disorders. On a regular basis, I exercised obsessively, binged, and purged.

My mother remarried an awesome man, but I still missed the affirmation of a caring father and looked for love in all the wrong ways. This torment and emptiness pushed me to seek an answer, which I found in Christ. Yeshua became my personal Savior in the middle of dark times, fighting for my life, and seeking peace.

During these years of struggle, I attended University and graduated with a B.A. degree. After University, at the

age of 25, God miraculously delivered me from my eating disorders. As I sat on a sheltered bay of the Pacific Ocean, I finally accepted His will for my life. I dove straight into the ice-cold water and experienced a personal baptism. Eating disorders disappeared overnight, but the fight-to-live was not over.

One tragic day, in the middle of a complicated relationship, I tried to end my life, following the footsteps of my father. Eventually, an ambulance arrived and took me to the hospital. I was close to dying and they put me on life support immediately.

In my spirit, however, I traveled up a tunnel of light. The experience was heavenly. At the top, I saw a dazzling lion and was told I would return to earth. I experienced supernatural peace, calm, and total deliverance from my earthly struggles. When I awoke in the ICU, I was being extubated (breathing tube removal) and was happier than I had ever been in my life.

However, the bliss was short lived. Once again, generational fears attacked my mind. I was rushed to the hospital—this time having fallen asleep via an overdose, while alone in my apartment. When I awoke, I saw demons in the corners of the room, but with the name of Jesus, fended off their attacks. His power was real, even in my weakest state of fighting to live.

I was a shell of a person after that experience, but slowly God restored my life. I returned to life with my parents and became like a child again.

My loving parents were very patient and helped me to live independently in a small condominium in the city. My step-father was especially kind and spent hours playing cards or reading books with me.

I recovered—ready for life again. Eventually I met a man who directed my life to God's plan. Kim Alan Mitchell, a handsome American, wouldn't stop following me around. We were attending a Christian event, "Gathering for the Nations," at Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia. Kim was incredibly persistent; I felt like I had a shadow. One evening, we talked in the hot springs and ate together. He left early the next morning, but called me a month later for my birthday. Within six months, we were married! I was 32 and he was 40.

We built a strong marriage and God blessed us with four incredible sons. One thing I loved about Kim was his gift for prayer and intercession. He prayed us through struggles and loved being a father at home with his family. He also loved Israel. He wanted everyone to understand that God's chosen people and His land were still important and not replaced by Christianity.

Before our marriage, Kim made several intercession trips to Israel and while at home he constantly prayed over the land. It was like breathing to him. He filled every spare moment of his life learning more about Israel and looking for ways to bless God's chosen

land and people.

Eventually, Kim and our eldest son, Levi, ventured to Israel with HaYovel, a wonderful family ministry dedicated to rebuilding God's land by helping the farmers in Judea and Samaria.

When he and Levi served the farmers in Samaria, Kim found a place to both physically and spiritually walk out his calling with his family.

Unfortunately, we faced marriage difficulties and almost lost our relationship in 2009. However, Abba Father rescued our marriage and worked wonders that led to a beautiful remarriage in 2010. This turnaround was very significant. We didn't know *then how short our life together would be.*

Kim began to age quickly and a year after our remarriage, many unusual symptoms surfaced. He had a very strong personality and resisted seeking medical help. It wasn't until his digestion completely shut that he finally agreed to hear what the medical community had to say. A week later, Kim was diagnosed with stage 4 colorectal cancer.

I took Kim to the hospital on August 29th and he passed into glory on October 5th 2011.

The intensity of this time was beyond words. Eventually, the tumor completely prevented any eating. The doctor tried a colonoscopy to help bypass the tumor, but during the surgery, Kim aspirated into his lungs. He stopped breathing in recovery, was immediately rushed to the ICU, and put on life support. During those extremely intense 11 days in the ICU, Kim slowly regained strength.

When Kim awoke in the ICU, I cried into his embrace and pleaded for a chance to live the dreams he wanted to give our family. "I only want to do what you want. I want to go to Israel and find out why this place is so important to you. I want to follow you with all I have, my precious Kim. Please forgive me for holding us back." Kim was happy! He'd won my heart! We only had two more weeks together, but they were very precious times and Kim had peace to leave us in our Father's care.

Kim instructed me regarding some finances he'd been saving. He wanted

it all to go to bless Israel as soon as possible after his passing. But he had a more important request. He took my face in his hands and said, "I want you to go to Israel and I want you and the boys to stay there."

I didn't know what to say. "How can I promise you this, Kim? I will do it, if it's God's will."

After Kim passed away, the boys and I returned to our lives at home. However, our faces were set towards Jerusalem. Kim's vision changed me forever. I knew our family had a destiny to live the legacy of a father's dream. The finances Kim pledged allowed us to work with HaYovel in Israel for three consecutive years.

Our first fall harvest, in 2012, was an incredible accomplishment. I always expected to go to Israel with Kim leading, but now I had to go on faith, with dependence on the unseen. We left Tel Aviv on November 12th 2012, as rockets from Gaza began to fall.

Our 2013 trip was a test in perseverance. Our third trip, the 2014 harvest, was mixed with a summer war in the land and an opportunity to remarry, which I turned down.

The journey is exciting, but tiring. The climb is steep. The greatest attacks are in my mind as I wonder how to continue as only one parent. I try to figure out each step, but then remember I am doing the impossible. Only God can accomplish this. Homeschooling, working to provide, traveling year after year, and making all the decisions. He reminds me: "My yoke is easy, and My burden is light" (Matthew 11:30).

I completed writing this testimony in early 2015, 1.5 years ago. Now, in the fall of 2016, we are serving once again in the vineyards and olive groves on the West Bank, preparing the land and ourselves for our Messiah's return. Our Jewish family here believes our presence with them is a sign of the final redemption. Isaiah 61:5 prophesies: "The sons of the foreigner shall be your plowmen and vinedressers." This is happening and my dear sons—Kim's sons—are playing a part. Levi, our oldest says: "Dad's vision has become my calling. . . For Zion's sake, I will not be silent!"

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and

Jacob watches over His land and over my little family who are called to follow in the path of a father's dream. We are very blessed to be fulfilling Bible prophecy . . . and one day, if it's His will, we will live permanently in Israel.

HOLLY MITCHELL

Patterson, Missouri, USA
(when not in Israel).
h.mitchell@estreams.ca

HAYOVEL is a non-profit organization that brings Christian volunteers from all over the world to serve the Jewish farmers in Israel. If you would like to have the privilege of fulfilling Bible prophecy in the heartland of Israel, go to: www.hayovel.com to find out more information.

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home, played with the toddler, held the baby, folded clothes, and cooed for the family. This neighbor inquired of Ella regarding the way our family operates. Why do we have a large family? Why do we homeschool? The mother was amazed at how comfortable and competent Ella was in the home. 1 Peter 2:12 (NIV) says: "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us." Ella was not only a blessing to this family, but also an example of God's love.

I do not know what plans God has for my children, but I know He is preparing them for His service. With a large part of the world living in cities, they very well may be sent to a large city. They may need to know how to navigate on a bus, or interact with and evangelize to people very different from themselves. They may need to know how to live in small quarters and how to be hospitable. I am grateful that God has shown us how to live and prosper right here, in the city.

MOLLY LILJA

Seattle, Washington, USA
mollymom24@icloud.com

We Discovered . . .

A New Way to Train Our Children

Once again, I found myself confronting my five-year-old. “Did you take some of your sister’s gum without asking?” I challenged her.

Looking down and smacking her gum, she responded, “No. I found it outside.”

“Are you sure?” I asked. “Yes, Momma,” she replied rather sheepishly. I could feel my blood pressure rise as I realized she was telling me an outright lie! This scenario kept repeating itself. We had tried all sorts of discipline for lying, but were not reaching her heart. Somehow, we were not winning the battle.

Desperately, we cried out to the Lord for help, “Please show us what to do!” God opened our eyes to an amazing truth that changed everything.

We discovered the truth in 2 Corinthians 5:16, 17: “Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.”

God wants me to know my children by who they are in Christ, not by their fleshly natures. Instead of focusing on my daughter’s lying problem, I needed to focus on who she is in Christ. My five-year-old had given her heart to Jesus and wanted to follow Him. I could tell that she didn’t want to be dishonest, but she struggled with yielding her mouth to God instead of the enemy.

I began to encourage her to use her mouth for God. I explained to her that God had given her a special gift with her mouth. The same Spirit which raised Jesus from the dead was living inside of her, giving her strength to tell the truth even when it was difficult.

I was absolutely blown away by the change I started to see in my precious little girl! “Momma, can we go over to the neighbor so I can tell him how I gave my sins to God?” she asked one day.

“Momma, can I go tell the guy Daddy’s talking to how God changed my life?” She boldly used her mouth to tell even the roughest-looking, tattooed fellows of what God had done in her heart. And she began to have victory in telling the truth!

This beautiful truth changed the way I view my children, my husband, and even myself! The enemy constantly tries to distract me from encouraging my children and husband by getting me to focus on their flawed flesh, instead of the truth of who they are in Christ. When my children act out in the flesh, I now remind them, “That is not who you are! You are a daughter of the King of Kings! You have all His strength to show kindness, even when people are being mean.”

When I start feeling overwhelmed and discouraged as a wife and mother, I am now convicted that I am disobeying God’s commandment in 2 Corinthians 5:16. The truth is that my flesh is weak and not able to do what God calls me to do. However, through His Spirit living and dwelling in me, I am MORE than able to do what He has called me to do! Romans 8:37 says: “Nay, in ALL these things we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS through him that loved us.” And 2 Corinthians 2:14 says: “Now thanks be unto God, which ALWAYS causeth us to triumph in Christ.”

We are also endeavoring to teach our *children* to not view each other after the flesh. They often say to each other: “You are so mean!” Instead, we encourage them to speak words of life to each other: “You have Jesus’ kindness in your heart. I know you are going to show His kindness.” Or, “A



Paul and Kameran with their children: Beniah (10), Zoe (8), Isabella (6), Josephine (4) and Evangeline (1) named after Evangeline (Nancy's daughter) because she is so encouraged by her teachings from www.aboverubies.org

friend loveth at all times.” It has been delightful to watch them grow and blossom as they speak words of life to each other.

God gives us wonderful examples of how He doesn’t view people after the flesh. In Genesis 17:5 He changed Abram’s name to Abraham, which means “Father of a Great Multitude.” God spoke those words when Abram was childless, 99 years old, and way past child-producing years! God did not view Abram after his old flesh!

Judges 6:12 tells us about Gideon: “And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, ‘The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor’. And Gideon said unto him, ‘Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? But now the

LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.”

When the angel said these words, Gideon was hiding from the Midianites. He didn't believe God was with him. Yet, God did not view Gideon after his weak flesh and flawed perspective, but as who he was in the Lord! He reminded Gideon that He was with him and for this reason, he was a mighty man of valor.

Our God “calls those things which be not, as though they were” (Romans 4:17). He delights to speak life into existence by His powerful Word. He longs to use our tongues for the same purpose. Proverbs 18:21 says: “Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”

Every day is a constant battle to either speak life or death over the people around us. We must *choose* to

direct them to who they are in Christ, by reminding them of the promises of God. Philemon 1:6 says: “That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing, which is in you, in Christ Jesus.”

KAMERIN WILLIAMS

Creswell, Oregon, USA

Kamerin_Williams@yahoo.com

God Knows What's Best



Eric and I had been married for one year, when we welcomed our first-born into the world. Margaret was a surprise, yet a delightful one. God used her to open our eyes to the blessing of children. Eighteen months later, Howard was born. After another 18 months, Walter joined our family. A home with little ones can be demanding, but Eric and I enjoyed the challenge of keeping up with youngsters. We relished the laughter, energy, and enthusiasm that our toddlers and babies brought to our lives.

Like clockwork, I conceived our fourth-born when Walt was nine months old. However, shortly after we learned we'd be welcoming a new baby girl into the family, our oldest son (age 2.5 at the time) was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes—an incurable autoimmune disease of the pancreas that requires daily insulin injections.

We were shocked. Feelings of disbelief quickly morphed into frustration and immense sadness. After a weekend at the children's hospital and a whirlwind crash course in diabetes education, we took our son home and embarked on a new chapter in our lives. Blood sugar checks, insulin management, and food management became a top priority in our lives. Looking back, I'm ashamed to say I was a tad bit embarrassed by my growing belly. Before too long, I'd have a newborn on top of what already felt like a major balancing act. Maybe everyone was right—maybe I *did* have my hands full!

As the days and weeks passed, our family slowly but steadily adjusted to our son's new medical needs. I can say that only God's grace has allowed us to navigate each day with assurance, resolve, and peace. As the pregnancy progressed, I found myself more and more excited for the birth of our new daughter. Her arrival symbolized the hope that only Christ—the giver of life, can provide. For the first time, I viewed this new baby not as a burden to bear or a season to trudge through, but as a true blessing to enjoy!

Early in the pregnancy, we chose the name Louise Winifred should we have a girl (as both names honor respective family members). Yet, the names' meaning of “Blessed Warrior” took on new significance in the months that followed Howie's diagnosis. We felt the Lord's hand on us more than ever. Although our son's disease presents daily battles to fight, “blessed” seemed to be the sentiment of the season. We've never been more thankful for our children, especially our precious son and the new life growing inside of me.

The sheer joy I felt when I delivered our daughter, Louise, was indescribable. Despite what the world may say, God knew what Eric and I needed: another precious little one to remind us of His presence, His goodness, and His faithfulness—both in times of trial and times of celebration. Truly, children are a blessing, a reward from Him. We are eternally thankful for His perfect timing in bringing Louise to us! She is a delight!

SARA CAVE

Columbus, Indiana, USA

sara.a.cave@gmail.com

GOD'S GREAT SURPRISES



Jason and Tara with their family: Tobin (18), Kallista (16), Fiona (12), Sophia (10), Josie (8), Tate (6), and Ezra (3).

We were engaged Bible College students, then young marrieds trying to find our way in this world. My husband was discouraged in those early years because he could not keep a job. He would work for a few months and be laid off.

I never had any trouble to find and keep a job which was disheartening for my husband. Therefore, during those first few years of marriage my husband decided to go back to school to learn a trade in the computer field, an area in which he naturally excelled.

The finance I contributed to the home affected my attitude and the decisions in our marriage. I spent far more than I should have. I did not understand how to best manage finance and debt ensued. My husband didn't feel he could address the problem because I brought in most of the money. I also felt undue pressure to make our home look a certain way to keep up with family and other couples in our church and spent more money to create that facade.

At four years of marriage I worked one full time job in a fancy high rise office building and part-time in retail sales during the evenings. We also managed the apartment building we lived in. My husband, having recently finished his schooling was looking for work, but still struggled to find anything permanent.

In earlier years, I worked as a full-time nanny and became the mother figure to those babies. I loved them dearly, witnessed their first steps, and heard their first words. Now, working in the office exposed me to many women who lived their days under the authority of "another man" and were separated from their children all day.

Spiritually, I tried to figure out "who am I, and what is my role as a wife?" And "how can I best serve God in this role?" My world view was shaped by the public school system. Careerism and success came naturally to me. However, it also fed my pride and the leadership I inadvertently introduced to my marriage.

Add to this four years of infertility and an ever-increasing desire to be pregnant. Yet I was equally compelled to keep working to pay for life and make up for where my discouraged husband failed. Why doesn't God bless my husband with work? Why can't he keep any job? Why am I barren? I had been diagnosed with PCOS and was told my chances of having children were very slim.

I determined to seek the Lord. I opened His word and began to search it out. That meant starting at the beginning of the Bible and reading every verse I could find with the word "wife" and "woman." As a Christian I believed God's word was true and that

its principles apply today as much as they did when they were first written.

I began to see a pattern very quickly, but it was contrary to my current lifestyle. The more I studied, the more it became clear to me that I usurped my husband's authority in many areas. I desired to be a woman of God and I equally desired for my husband to be the man God designed him to be. I think of marriage like a dance--the man leads and the women follows. However, if she takes the lead, the dance does not work as it should. I needed to step back to allow my husband to take the lead. I had to trust him and humble myself.

It dawned on me that when I left my home each morning that I left the covering of my husband's authority to come under the authority of my employer. I watched as a co-worker could not leave to attend to her daughter who had broken her arm because her boss wanted her to finish his paperwork first. This was heartbreaking to me. I also realized that by putting myself first and not advocating for my husband that I did not help him to fulfill his role as provider spoken so clearly in 1 Timothy 5:8.

Nearing our fourth anniversary, I came to my husband with a humble and broken heart and shared my research and discovery. Much to my amazement, he had been doing his own study and even meeting with older godly men who were encouraging him to take seriously his role as the provider. The timing of the work of the Holy Spirit in both our hearts was perfect.

Together we got on our knees. We surrendered to God our marriage, our future, and our lives. We asked Him to fill us with His truth. We pledged our willingness to serve Him with our lives no matter what, accepting His will for our family life whether He blessed us with children or not. This was a turning point in our marriage.

The next day, despite my husband not having full-time work I made a huge leap of faith and resigned from my positions of work. My appointments with a fertility specialist coincided with these events although *continued on page 27*

God Watched Over Our Baby

Isaac and I were married on August 6th 2011. Three years of marriage came and went before we held our precious, long-awaited bundle in our arms.

In December of 2013, while attending a cousin's wedding, my husband talked with a couple who had been married for almost nine years. They were on the verge of doing medical testing or fertility treatments, but decided to pray about it instead. Within the month, they were expecting!

I enjoy researching. I wanted to do testing to find out what was wrong with me. My husband had a different perspective: "Isn't it just as controlling to undergo testing as it is to limit family size?" After hearing this man's testimony, we committed the matter to daily prayer. Within the next two months, we discovered we were to be parents. What a direct answer to prayer!

In June, we made our annual trip to Ohio. We were just south of Rockford, Illinois, when it happened. I had just grabbed the lunch things from the back seat and was looking down, about to make a sandwich. Suddenly, a horrific impact! I hear my husband's frantic "Oh, no! Oh, no!" Our windshield shattered so we could scarcely see what was happening. In a matter of moments, it was all over. While traveling 70 m.p.h., we crashed into two stopped (or nearly-stopped) vehicles. We were still alive!

Shakily, we opened our doors and crawled out. Our airbags had deployed, sending up "smoke" that made us think something in the car was about to explode. We left the car (we couldn't have moved it anyway; the whole front looked like a blob of black mashed potatoes), and stood, in shock, on the shoulder of the road in the grass. Almost immediately, I became aware of back pain.

"We could've been killed," I gasped to my husband. Then—it hit me! The baby! We could lose the baby! I realized that part of my dress was wet. Had my water already broken? At this point, I was a little over twenty weeks along. I had read about lying on your left side if experiencing premature labor, so I lay down that way in the long grass on the shoulder of the road. An off-duty, very helpful EMT came up and recommended that I stay in that position. Besides, it felt better than standing.

The ambulance arrived and took me to the Rockford hospital. My blood pressure was low so they gave me an IV en route. All this time I remained on my left side. I was not as concerned about myself as I was for my unborn baby. Once at the hospital, they checked the baby's heartbeat. Via ultrasound, the hospital staff checked for leaking amniotic fluid and monitored me for contractions.

Everything seemed stable with the baby's condition, and with Tylenol, I got out of bed eight hours after being admitted. Praise the Lord! Isaac's folks headed straight for Illinois and drove us back to their home in Indiana. That ride was the most excruciating of my life. The back pain persisted, despite Tylenol (which is the safest for pregnancy, but not as effective for serious ailments). I moaned and groaned much of the way.

My abdomen exposed an ugly purple bruise the size of the seat-belt, but it was my back that bothered me the most

with almost constant pain. I suddenly became helpless, needing assistance to get in and out of bed and dress, etc. Hot baths helped the most. For about two weeks we spent time recuperating as we alternated between his and my family's places. Slowly, I began to improve. I could partially recline in an arm-chair where I hand-sewed hems on dresses for my sister's upcoming wedding.

Returning home to Wisconsin (in an older car that Isaac used to drive), I faced new challenges with my bad back. Everything took longer and required more effort—it was so frustrating. However, a bright spot came during the recovery period, in the form of a sister from church offering to help with my flower-bed. How nice! Just a little thing, but it meant a lot. I continued to recover, feeling back-to-normal in several more weeks.

At about 34 weeks, my midwife checked the baby's position and suspected a breech presentation. We got a second ultrasound and found the midwife's suspicion was true. Our baby was in a frank breech position (rear first).

We tried several different methods in an attempt to turn the baby, including the following: 1) Hot and cold therapy (a cold-pack where baby's head was and a hot water bottle applied in a lower spot, encouraging the baby to "head south"), 2) Lying at a 45-degree angle on a tilted ironing-board, hanging upside-down for five to ten minute intervals in a special chair (like an inversion table for one's back), and 3) Our midwife trying to turn the baby manually.

All efforts failed and our baby remained stuck! This was our baby who survived a horrible wreck! Should we schedule a C-section or still try for a natural birth? Our midwife stressed that it was our decision to make. Tears and anxiety! Isaac felt we ought to try for a natural birth. With that decision settled, I felt happier—like a weight had gone.

But not for long. My very concerned aunt, a fairly-conservative labor and delivery nurse (who's not one to go racing after C-sections and epidurals, especially knowing the negative impact they can have on labor) respectfully begged me to have a C-section.

"If you were my daughter," she pleaded, "I'd be crying at your ankles, saying, 'Please, get a C-section.'" She also told my dad about a certain X-ray that would show the mother's pelvic floor measurement and the unborn baby's head measurement. This X-ray would allegedly give assurance that the baby's head could fit, if a natural birth were attempted. I very much craved such assurance!

We were just on the verge of calling to schedule an X-ray when my aunt called and basically stated that the information she'd given us was incorrect! No longer did people depend on that certain X-ray to provide accurate information. In fact, she stated, "It would be a waste of time and money" to get it done!

Once she knew our final decision to try for a natural birth, our midwife was wonderfully supportive. She let us know what we might expect with a breech birth. One thing she

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said was: "All the (breech) babies I've delivered needed to be resuscitated." Gulp! What if the baby wouldn't be okay after all? What if the baby simply could not be delivered naturally and got stuck? I felt God say to me, "Where I am, there is no risk."

And it was true! Sixteen days after my original due date, on 25th of October, my labor started with a bang.

I took calcium pills, arnica tablets, a magnesium drink, and red raspberry leaf tea to help with labor. Almost twelve hours later, our baby girl entered the world, weighing 8 lbs. 2 oz.!

We prayed aloud as the midwife worked on her for she was limp and blue. But God wanted her to live. She soon breathed and cried! We were especially glad she was okay when

we found out that she had the biggest head of any breech baby our midwife had delivered—14" instead of 13 1/2"!

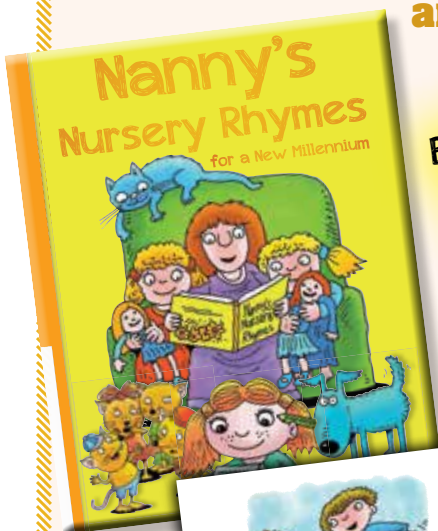
Praise God for all His many miracles—especially for the gift of life!

JESSICA MILLER
Wonewoc, Wisconsin, USA

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continued from page 24
the diagnosis wasn't good.

My husband began pounding the streets looking intently for work in his field. He landed an interview (though it wasn't exactly what he wanted) and we went out to celebrate at a favourite restaurant. We happened upon an older friend, who hearing of my husband's training, was thrilled to hire him to work for him in a contract position at a nearby school division. Just like that, my husband ended up with a job where he made more money than I was making in my three jobs combined! We were amazed. This was no coincidence.

God was waiting for my obedience so my husband could step up and step forward.


And He gave us an even greater bonus. I had one more fertility appointment scheduled. The doctor first wanted to confirm I was not already pregnant. I consented and to our astonishment I was in fact already pregnant! Within ten days of quitting my jobs, my husband was working in his field and I had conceived! We give God the glory!

Eighteen years later, we are blessed with seven beautiful children. My husband still works in the computer field and has been able to provide for our family. It's not always easy on one income, but it is helpful when as a wife and mother I do my best to keep my home (Titus 2:3-5) and do my part to serve my family in my home (Proverbs 31:27). I find it very satisfying to save, budget, and make do. We are grateful for God's provision and His faithfulness.

Experiencing the miracle of our first pregnancy, despite the doctor's diagnosis, confirms to us that children are knit together in the womb by the very hand of God. We have experienced miracles of life and the sorrow of several miscarriages. Through them all, we recognize God's sovereignty and give Him the glory in life and in death.

TARA FOX

Whitewood, Saskatchewan, Canada
tara@foxfamily.ca



Oh Precious Little Child of Mine

Oh precious little one of mine,
How can I stop the hands of time?
And forever hold you in my arms,
To keep you safe from worldly harms?

But you'll grow up one day it's true,
And then I'll know not what to do!
So for now I'll cherish the time,
That you are so completely mine.

Your breath smells sweet like mamma's milk,
Your skin is soft and smooth as silk,
I love to cuddle you against my breasts,
And watch your expressions while you rest.

Your dreamy smiles and flickering frowns,
Your sleepy whimpers and baby sounds,
Your dimpled hands and pudgy feet,
Your chunky cheeks are oh, so sweet!

It's really amazing to think of the way
Your smile can brighten my darkest days,
I love it when you snuggle close,
That's one of the things I love the most.

© 2012 ASHLEY PLOURD

Galax, Virginia, USA

breakawaycowgirl@aol.com

Stephen and Ashley are blessed with Cheyenna (age 7), Austin (age 5) and Jace (2) and one baby in heaven.

How do You Keep Your Home Tidy?

In our home, we play an ongoing game which we call FIND IT. My husband and I decide on a random task that needs to be done. It may be something small such as picking up a book off the floor, grabbing the laundry from the stairs, or emptying the silverware tray from the dishwasher into the drawer, etc. Any one little task could be the secret job for that day. The children go throughout the day not knowing which is the secret task for the day.

The child who happens to "do" the secret chore is rewarded after dinner.

We find it a fun way to encour-

age everyone to look for things to do as they go about their day, along with their daily chores. The result is a home where everyone takes part in keeping it tidy.

It's also habit building and the children also learn to be mindful of the little ways in which they can help to keep order in the home.

TARA FOX

Whitewood, Saskatchewan, Canada
tara@foxfamily.ca

ABOVE RUBIES CELEBRATIONS FOR 2017

Check www.aboverubies.org for additional retreats or changes.

**27 - 30 APRIL, PANAMA CITY BEACH, FLORIDA
FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY, YOUTH, AND LADIES
FOUR DAY CELEBRATION at Laguna Beach Christian
Retreat Center, Panama City *<http://christiancamp.com/>
Send deposit to PayPal using
"FRIENDS and FAMILY OPTION" to:
Rubymoss31@yahoo.com
Contact: Daniel and Allison Hartman
Ph: 850-221-1222 * innerlight@yahoo.com**

**25 - 27 AUGUST, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
FAMILY AND LADIES RETREAT
Pine Valley Bible Conference Center, near San Diego
Contact: Gary and Trish Evans
Ph: 951 681 4858 * bondedtogether1@yahoo.com**

**8 - 10 SEPTEMBER, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
FAMILY CELEBRATION at Bethany World Prayer Center
13855 Plank Rd, Baker, LA 70714
Contact: Les and Connie Lanford
Ph: 225 774 3801 (Home) * 225 953 1970 (Cell)
lanfordlegacy@cox.net
To book, go to www.la-empoweringfamilies.com**

**20 - 21 OCTOBER, OREGON
LADIES RETREAT at Valley Baptist Church, McMinnville
2631 NE McDonald Ln, McMinnville, OR 97128
Contact: Charity Jenkins * Ph: 503-871-9535
kengjenkins@msn.com
Or Sonia Ramsay * Ph: 503-743-3002
upsetmyapplecart@gmail.com**



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwhxM9y-si0&feature=youtu.be>

Apart from USA, we have 16 bases for Above Rubies around the world. I thought you may like to see families from some of our bases. Here are three of our Directors.



CONTINENTAL EUROPE

Sebastian and Kathleen Engelhardt with their children: Elias (11), Sarah (9), Johanna (6), Benedikt (4), and Leticia (5 months). Kathleen heads up Above Rubies in this area of the world.



SOUTH AFRICA

Justin and Chamonix Boland are blessed with Nicholas-Christian (7), Evangeline-Faythe (6), Caleb-Eathen (4), Maia-Hope (2) and Benjamin-Fergus (1) (not in picture). Chamonix has now taken over the directorship of Above Rubies in South Africa from Linnie Lues.



UNITED KINGDOM

Brian and Tania Potter are blessed with Jack (14), Ned (12), Daniel (9) and Ben (7). Taken while visiting in Canada.

Above Rubies Webmaster: Contact
Joe at joe@hmmaz.com

ORDERING INFORMATION

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ABOVE RUBIES

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PHONE: (877) 729 9861

(between 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday central time)

PLEASE ADD \$3.50 plus 10% of total
or 25% for International

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

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I ALREADY HAVE ABOVE RUBIES # _____

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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.

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RESPONSE FORM (Everything in bold is DISCOUNTED!) Pay in US Funds.

	Price	Qty	Total
Study Manuals:			
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The Family Meal Table and Hospitality	\$18.00		
Be Fruitful and Multiply	\$10.00		
Gate Keepers of the Home	\$10.00		
Music CDs:			
Angel in my Arms - Serene & Pearl	\$7.00		
This is our Road - Serene & Pearl	\$7.00		
Richest Man on Earth - Songs for Fathers	\$7.00		
I Had No Idea - Val Halloran	\$7.00		
DVDs:			
72 THE MOVIE	\$14.95		
A-B-C Say It With Me	\$14.95		
Children Are a Blessing	\$14.95		
History of Birth Control	\$14.95		
It's Your Life	\$14.95		
The Family Meal Table	\$7.50		
The Baby War	\$7.50		
Reclaiming God's Plan for Women	\$14.95		
Courtship DVDs:			
Pamela's Prayer	\$ 9.00		
One Lucky Lady	\$ 6.00		
Nancy's Teaching CDs: (Also all available as MP3 sets * Only \$8.00 each set)			
Changing the World from your Home	\$12.00		
Powerful Parenting	\$11.00		
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The Atmosphere of the Home	\$12.00		
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God's Grace at my Place	\$11.00		
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Lovely Homes	\$11.00		
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		MP3	
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Where are the Real Men of God?	\$14.00		
The Making of a Patriarch CDs	\$11.00	\$8.00	
Evangeline's Teaching CDs:			
		MP3	
The Adventure of Motherhood	\$10.00	\$7.00	
Guard Your Child's Brain Space	\$ 5.00		
The Weeping Warrior	\$ 5.00		
Justice in the Home	\$ 5.00		
Sub-Total left column			

	Price	Qty	Total
Childrens Books:			
Nanny's Nursery Rhymes	\$12.95		
Bracelets:			
Motherhood/Husbands/Homemakers	2.50 ea.		
Buy the three for:	\$5.00		
Posters:			
Etiquette Poster Package	\$ 8.95		
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Exercise DVD:			
Trim Healthy Mama Workins (9 Exercise DVDs)			
Sub-Total from this column			
Sub-Total from left column			

Shipping: \$3.50 PLUS 10% of Total. **or 25% for International**

My Donation for Above Rubies

My Donation to Campbells

Total:

~CAMPBELL SUPPORT~

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 _____

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**"I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. . . .
I will walk within my house with a perfect heart"
(Psalm 101:2).**

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. We go to print as soon as the money is available. This September we will celebrate 40 years of publishing Above Rubies. If you would like to receive this magazine regularly, or would like a bulk order for distribution in your community, please email to the appropriate *Above Rubies* address below.

AMERICA

Nancy Campbell: nancy@aboverubies.org
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Ph: 1 877 729 9861 (between 9am -5pm Monday to Friday, Central Time)

AFRICA

Misty Getter: mistygetter@yahoo.com
4084 Schad Rd, Middleville MI 49333

AUSTRALIA & PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Val Stares: valstares@aboverubies.org.au
PO Box 2798 Nerang DC 4211
Ph:/Fax: (07) 5525 1970

CANADA

Anita Johnson: jer924@sasktel.net
Ph: 306 522 7601 • www.aboverubies.ca
All new names and changes to: Marie Ferreira
ar-ca-subscriptions@outlook.com
C34-3545 43rd Ave E, Vancouver BC V5R 5X5

CONTINENTAL EUROPE

Kathleen Engelhardt: above-rubies@gmx.de
14, Rue du General de Gaulle, 68510 Stetten, France
Ph: 0033 389 701072
AR Blog for Europe: aboverubieseu.blogspot.fr

BELGIUM and THE NETHERLANDS

Wilma Samyn
Jaak Vandersandenstraat 29
3740 Kleine Spouwen (Bilzen)
BELGIUM
Ph:+32 89 854011

CZECH REPUBLIC

Karel Fridrich: hustopece@apostolskacirkev.cz
Kollarova 7, 69301 Hustopece

FINLAND

Ulla Vesala: ulla682000@yahoo.com
Hiirolantie 15, 51520 Hiirola
Ph: + 358 40 7645333

HUNGARY

Rita Borzaine Tozser:
aboverubieshungary@gmail.com

POLAND

Alicja Sarna: ala-sarna@wp.pl
Wojska Polskiego 48D, 43186 Orzesze
Ph:+48 32 2212623

SERBIA

Natalija Elijas: talyqu@gmail.com
Novohradska 15, 21470 Backi Petrovac

SLOVENIA

Natasa Kokalj: natasa.kokalj@gmail.com
Qsi Langusova 16, 1000 Ljubljana
Ph: +386 40 484800

UKRAINE

Ildiko Beres: bereslaci78@gmail.com

MALAYSIA

Rosalyn Khoo: aboverubiesmalaysia@gmail.com
No 1, Jalan USJ 13/1A, UEP Subang Jaya, 47630
Petaling Jaya, Selangor
HP: +6 013 3909077 (Rosalyn) or + 6 19 2671889 (Jimmy)

NEW ZEALAND & PACIFIC ISLANDS

Heather Jones: aboverubies@xtra.co.nz
1 Tay Street, Tokoroa 3420
Ph: (07) 886 1927

SINGAPORE and ASIA (except Malaysia)

Nancy Campbell: nancy@aboverubies.org

SOUTH AFRICA (New Director)

Chamonix Boland: aboverubiessouthafrica@gmail.com
P.O Box 169, Clarens, 9707 * 083 740 3827 (cell)
www.aboverubies.co.za

SOUTH/CENTRAL AMERICA, ISRAEL and MIDDLE EAST

Nancy Campbell: nancy@aboverubies.org

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Tania Potter: taniaaboverubies@gmail.com
Ph: 07 879 693041
1 Linden Rd, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7JF

FACEBOOK OR BLOG FOR FATHERS AND HUSBANDS

Colin, Nancy's husband, writes a post for men most days on Meat for Men Facebook. However, if men are not on Facebook, they can still receive Colin's powerful messages by going to: <http://tinyurl.com/MensDailyDevotionalBlog>

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DISCUSSION

How does God see the difference between loving your children and loving the church?

Read 1 Timothy 2:14, 15. In what ways do you think the performance of our motherhood could be hindered from getting into disrepair?

Show some examples of godly mothers, both married and single (past or present). In what ways did they, or do they currently, reveal the mother heart of God?

Just as you cannot a mother's what

God magnificently go to us as women, but it is not our world come

One of the messages is the consequence of in care, and also the 6 eternal soul who will it

Let's discover what God of God (Luke 11:49) I mean in the blood, etc

1. IT IS OUR DESTINY

Genesis 2:21-23: "The Lord God took one of his ribs, and made from man, and he became a woman."

The Hebrew word for "woman" is "ishah".

The Hebrew word for "man" is "ish".

Webster's 1828 dictionary "womanly" and "manly" are "like" created only two kinds of woman-like women.

The words in God's holy Bible especially for us. It is with all our hearts, to do system—accidentalness, or for there are God's gifts to young mother's womb. By the mother's womb.



Australian/Papua New Guinea & New Zealand/ South Pacific News *Report*

My longing and cry: "How can we reach families to encourage them in this hour when family life is being eroded and undermined? How can we share the hope that is available for our mothers and their precious children who have to live with the negatives of today that are forced upon them?"

Although it seems like a small drop in the ocean with only two camp venues for all of Australia, I am so encouraged that Colin and Nancy are coming. They will impart truths, invest love and hope, and spread encouragement to those of us who cry out to God for help. May His blessing be upon Colin and Nancy for Australia.

I understand that some may be unable to attend because of distance. But if you possibly can, I wholeheartedly encourage you to make every effort to come. What you glean you can share with others, allowing the Holy Spirit to take the message further than we could ever hope. I ask that you think beyond your own needs and consider how much others need the messages God has laid upon Colin and Nancy's hearts.

The Family Camp in Tasmania and the Day Seminar are advertised in this issue. The venues both have limitations as to numbers so please endeavour to book early. I am so looking forward to their visit and ask that you join me in prayer for God to bless these ventures with a great anointing.

On Australia Day, 26th January, we celebrated 34 years since the Campbell and Stares families came to Australia from New Zealand. The work of Above Rubies and the magazine grew very fast back in 1982 as the women of Australia were eager and hungry for encouragement in their roles as wives and mothers. Nancy took me with her to many distant places to share the

messages of hope and support. It was very rewarding to witness so many changed lives.

Then came the time when Colin and Nancy moved to America and it was left to me to travel to those far places, taking helpers with me. How God blessed those times. My heart aches for today's women. What we thought as difficult times are now even harder as we witness families struggling to retain godliness against an increasing tide of liberalism.

Every mother wants the best for her child. As we pray for Australia, the topmost request on my heart is for a spirit of prayer to fall upon our nation. We live in an amazing country, thanks to our Christian heritage. We need to keep it amazing! We need to "do our bit," which is just as Australian as our "mateship."

Pastor Suzette Torti from Open Heaven Ministries, penned a short prayer that anyone from any denomi-

if they are only prayed once, it is increase. In our immediate community, we received news of two drug busts. Praise God.

When we hear someone complain about our nation, we ask, "Would you like things to change?" We then hand them the prayer and encourage them to say it each day. It is interesting to note that it is the young people who are the most interested in bringing change. If you would like copies to hand out in your community please email Suzette at info@openheaven.org.au

VAL STARES

Director of Australia and Papua New Guinea

WOULD YOU BLESS OUR COMMUNITY AND OUR NATION DAILY?

In Jesus Name,

I bless our community and our nation with peace and prosperity.

Let every sign of crime be found and destroyed.

Let God's grace and order be established.

Let evil and wickedness come to an end.

Let orphans get parents; the homeless get homes; the jobless get jobs.

Let the reign of abuse and terror be over.

Let the rule of the gangs and drug lords be ended.

Let our land be healed and let it rain in season.

Let our community and our nation be blessed with every good and advantageous thing, for the sake of our children. Amen

Based on Psalm 10:16, 18.

nation can pray. We hand these out in our communities, shopping centres, checkouts and so on. Many are taking them. Others ask for them as they see them being taken, Christian and non-Christian alike.

Nearly 2,000 of these prayer pamphlets have been distributed person to person and through letterbox drops. Even

24TH – 26TH MARCH
2017
LADIES CAMP IN NEW
SOUTH WALES
GUEST SPEAKER: NAN-
CY CAMPBELL FROM
USA

Manna Park, Red Hill Rd,
Merimbula NSW 2548
Contact: Diane Walker *
0429 312 302 * walkerdg@
gmail.com
www.aboverubies.org.au

Wednesday 29th MARCH
2017
LADIES DAY SEMINAR
ON GOLD COAST, QLD
GUEST SPEAKER: NAN-
CY CAMPBELL FROM
USA

Genesis Church, 148 East-
lake St, Carrara QLD 4211
Contact: Val Stares * 07
5525 1970 * valstares@
aboverubies.org.au
www.aboverubies.org.au

Saturday 25th MARCH
2017
MEN'S DAY IN SOUTH
QUEENSLAND
GUEST SPEAKER: COLIN
CAMPBELL FROM USA
19 Stark Dr, Narangba
QLD 4504
Contact: John and Pat
Twomey * 07 3385 7576 *
04027220599 * 0406 534
539
Email: patmtwomey@
gmail.com

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28 - 30 October 2016
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Registrar: Michelle & Jason Campbell
Ph:09 2320381 * nzcampbellclan@gmail.com

SOUTH ISLAND
4 - 6 November 2016
Woodend Christian Camp, 124 Woodend Beach Road
(25 min. north of Christchurch).
Family/couples/singles
Registrar: Naomi & Ian Wilson
Ph: 03 2053544/027 9140396 * ian.nomz@hotmail.com

AUSTRALIAN CAMPS

QUEENSLAND:

Wednesday, 9 November 2016

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