

Strengthening Families Across The World

ABOVE RUBIES

www.aboverubies.org

Issue: Seventy-Eight



In This Issue:

Married to an Addict
Adoption Story
Power of Bible Reading Nation
Hospitality to Strangers
Justice in the Home
Family Trees

From Our Home to Yours

What a joy it is to experience each new season of the year. As I write in this northern part of the world, we are now enjoying winter. I love my wood stove which keeps us warm down stairs. We homeschool around it while my soup stock simmers on top. It's cozy and warm. But not everything is perfect. Our pipes froze today which means no water. However, I had stored bottles of water before the winter in case of emergency. Now, big pots of water are also boiling on my wood stove ready to do dishes. Sam and Serene's pipes are frozen also and they haven't had running water for a month. It's all part of the adventures of living.

Serene's baby daughter, Breeze was born 20 November. She is doing so well and gets fatter every day, her fat cheeks hanging down to her chin. You can't look at her without smiling.

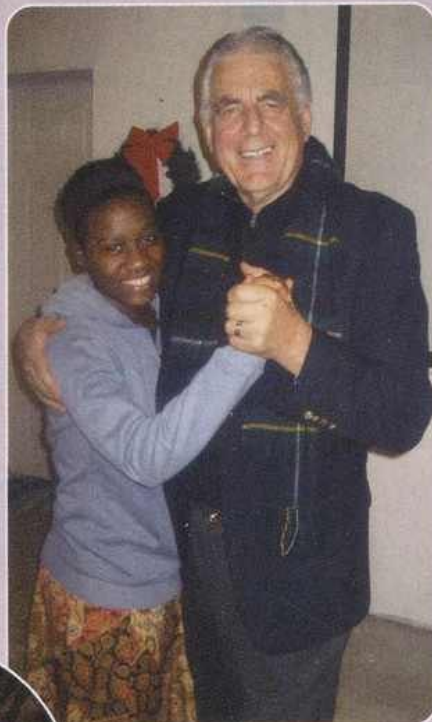


Breeze at two months old.

Since Thanksgiving, through Christmas and New Year, it has been a continual succession of family gatherings—the best times on earth. Thanksgiving was a great day with 60 of us together. Between our big Thanksgiving dinner and dessert we had family games outside. We started with an egg-throwing contest. Yes, raw eggs! Each couple throws an egg back and forth, stepping back one pace after each throw. The winners are the couple who are the last ones to break their egg. It is a lot of fun and a lot of smashed eggs!

Next was a tug-of-war between the children and the uncles. Can you believe who won? The children! The uncles could not believe the strength of the growing children. Braving the cold wind, the children and young people then enjoyed races—running races, sack races, wheelbarrow races, crab walking races and piggy-back races. They can't get enough of them.

Each Thanksgiving and Christmas we usually eat around mid-day and have dessert late in the afternoon. When everyone came in from races this Thanksgiving



Colin dancing with Mercy. After Christmas Dinner, each one had to contribute something—some read poems or told a story. Mercy played Cinderella by Stephen Curtis Chapman and asked the fathers to dance with their daughters. It was a lovely moment.

they were so ravenous that all the desserts were scooped in about one minute! Well, it seemed like it. Pearl complained of her healthy low-carb desserts being wasted on the children who don't mind what they eat! "I think we can remedy this," I told Pearl. So we started a new tradition this Christmas—a dessert competition. All of the children who wanted to be involved could make their own dessert. They brought a table full of wonderful desserts. Rashida won \$5.00 for first prize for the most delectable baklava. And the children loved eating their own creations, while the adults ate from their own dessert table with specialty low-carb desserts to stay slim!

We have just enjoyed another big party—Mercy's 18th birthday. Mercy is



No, he's not praying, although Cedar Allison loves to pray. Children fall asleep in many strange positions towards the end of our family celebrations!



Colin and Nancy with Mercy at her 18th birthday.

our youngest daughter, originally from Liberia. After a meal, we played hilarious games until midnight. We played traditional favorites such as *Pass the Parcel*. I loved to play this at parties when I was young and the young people still love to play it. *Surprise Parcel* is another one. In this game the music plays while the parcel is handed around the circle. When the music stops, the person holding the parcel either finds a gift or a note telling them to do something, which is always a lot of fun.



Cherish's surprise was to eat her food blindfolded! During the game we also had a Push-Up contest. Although some of the guys did more, Cherish completed 25 full push-ups. She is a strong little girl!

And we wouldn't miss the Chocolate Game. Have you ever played it? Each person throws the dice until they get a six. They then dress in the clothes provided, including gloves, and start eating the chocolate with a knife and fork from a plate on the floor. The next person who throws a six, grabs the clothes, puts them on and eats as much chocolate as they can before the next six is rolled. It is hilarious. Many don't even get to start eating before the next person's turn.

Among other games, we also played *Noughts and Crosses* (called Tic Tac Toe in USA), not with paper, but people! You have two equal teams who are numbered and nine chairs. A leader calls out a number and the two with that number fly to

their chairs. The numbers keep coming fast until the first team has an equal row of chairs. It is beneficial if each team wears an identifying color to save confusion. We grabbed some party decorations, one team making a headband of yellow crepe paper and the other of red. They loved this game, even though it became rather rough and wild. They broke two chairs in the process!

The last game was *Pinch the Clothes Peg*. Each person had a clothes peg pinned to their back and had to try and grab everyone's clothes pegs. The winner was the last one with a clothes peg. That got really rough too but they had an uproarious time.

In the midst of games we stopped for birthday cake and speeches. This is traditional in the Campbell family. At each birthday, everyone gives a speech to the birthday person. We say all the good things we feel about them, affirming them in their character qualities and blessing them. These moments are the most important time of every party and are greater gifts than any material birthday ones. As Mercy replied, "Thank you so much for making me feel so special."

We have been celebrating a lot of birthdays amongst the grandchildren since Christmas. At the Allison's home they have a high chair in which the birthday person sits in for speeches. As each uncle, aunt, grandparent, cousin and friend speaks into their life, their smile gets bigger and bigger. They drink in all the affirming words which build them up and make them feel confident, secure and loved. We did this when we were raising our children and now the tradition continues with the grandchildren.

Over the years, we have noticed that these birthday speeches not only bless the birthday person, but they have the added advantage of teaching the children to learn to give speeches. This is preparation for learning how to "speak in the gates." In my *Above Rubies* # 77, editorial, I wrote about how God wants us to prepare our children to be able to speak and contend for the truth in the governing places of the city and nation. It is in "the gates" that laws are made to affect the nation. We need righteous men in the gates, those who hate evil and love good. The Bible tells us that we are to not only train our children to speak in the gates but to

possess the gates, establishing justice, wisdom, truth and peace. This is one of the greatest needs in our nation today. It is parents who have the privilege and responsibility to prepare righteous, Bible loving, freedom loving, justice loving and truth loving children to possess the gates of the nation. It is only when the righteous rule that the people will rejoice. (Proverbs 29:2)

It doesn't happen by chance. We must prepare and train them, not only in godly convictions, but how to communicate these convictions. Because I want our children to understand the roots of our founding fathers and our great Constitution, I decided to have a class to discuss these issues. Each morning, Mercy and six of the grandchildren, from 11 - 17 years come together. Currently, I read to them from *Liberty and Tyranny, A Conservative Manifesto* by Mark Levin. We rarely get through a chapter each day. Instead, I read about 12 pages and we discuss the issues together. I



Three sweet grand-daughters - Autumn Rose Barrett, Engedi Allison and Sahara Johnson.



Iqara Johnson makes friends with the horse.



Zadok, Evagangeline and Howard's eldest son (17 years and 6' 3") arrives to class at our home each morning with his little brother, Saber Truth tucked in his jacket.

ABOVE RUBIES

PO BOX 681687

FRANKLIN, TN 37068-1687 USA

Ph: (877) 729-9861 (9am - 4pm 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

GRAPHICS: Doree Dornay, Dornay & Associates, dianed2@yahoo.com

PRINTING: Lithographics, Nashville, TN USA

FRONT COVER: Kane Barnes with Cale (4 months) and husband,

Michael. Ulmer Studios Photography • www.ulmerstudios.com

info@ulmerstudios.com

also choose new words from the chapter for them to learn. I give each a page a day with seven to ten words and their meanings plus a few quotes from what we have read. They have to choose one of the words to write a sentence which they bring the next morning to read aloud. Yesterday, Meadow won the prize for incorporating four new words into one sentence! Wow! Not to be beaten, Zadok included five of the words in one sentence today!



Zadok, Arrow, Sharar, Crusoe and Jireh Johnson. We were all excited to get 4" of snow recently (great for Tennessee). Instead of hibernating inside the Johnson boys slept outside for a couple of nights. They like to sleep outside when it's really cold! This time they made an igloo of cedar and a mattress of cedar branches to sleep on!

It has been amazing to see the children develop. When we first started, they mainly listened. Now, they discuss and speak confidently on political, Biblical and historical issues like adults.

Ideas for Family Discussions?

Go to www.aboverubies.org
Click on Articles/Stories,
then Family Meal Table.

Under this heading you will find *Dinner Time Conversations* which you can print off. I like to have a copy on top of my fridge in case I am too tired to think and need to refer to an idea for the evening meal. You can also click on *Presidential Quotes*.

This article contains quotes from presidents from George Washington to Ronald Reagan. You can read a quote at the table and ask your family to discuss it and how it relates to us today.

Sometimes we'll read something a little controversial so I send them home to research. They return speaking confidently, often with analogies, and sometimes with different opinions from one another which enlarges their thinking even more. With one more chapter to go in this book, we are not giving up. We are planning to read and discuss a book on understanding the principles of the Constitution. We are looking forward to it. Wouldn't it be a powerful thing if all parents could take their children through a book to help their children understand the Constitution? It would bring a new solidarity back into the nation.

Another way our children learned to communicate was at the family meal table. I believe that it is not enough to prepare the physical food each evening, but I find that I need to also prepare food for their soul. If I don't come with anything prepared, nothing happens and often the conversation disintegrates. I like to think of a subject or question that we can bring to the table to discuss and talk about. Table conversation can be boring or it can be full of life and an opportunity to increase in knowledge.

When the children were little, we would often ask basic questions such as, "What was the most interesting thing you did today?" or "What was something new you learned today?" Every person is expected to share, from oldest to youngest, including mom and dad. When each child speaks, all eyes are on them. They learn to speak and become more confident the more they do it.

A New Zealand *Above Rubies* reader writes, "Thank you for your email devotion on encouraging children to speak. We have had weeks of fun with "Question Time" at the dinner table. Now I find I have to be on my toes to have a question ready for everyone each evening meal time. As we sit down to eat I am met with eager cries of, "What's our question tonight, Mum?" We have even started to let the children have turns bringing questions to the table with tonight's question coming from our seven-year-old daughter, "If you could have anyone famous in the world for a sister or brother, who would you choose?" Needless to say there was a variety of answers!"

As the children got older, we would



Shepherd Allison showing off his baby in the sling. Sheppie watches his mommy (Serene) wear Breeze in a sling or baby carrier most of the day, so he likes to do the same.

bring subjects to discuss—Biblical, spiritual, political or general knowledge. Each child would be expected to share their views. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to learn to express their thoughts and articulate clearly. The other night (with twelve of us around the table) we got into a political discussion that went on for so long that I burned my lovely sour dough bread in the oven! It cooked for two hours instead of one! In fact, I think that if my husband had not insisted we eventually stop for our Bible reading and prayer, we would have still been talking until midnight!

As our children were growing, and especially when they got into their teen years, we frequently enjoyed Speech Nights. Sometimes they had to prepare a speech on an assigned topic that took time to study and prepare. Other times we wrote different subjects on paper and put them in a hat. After taking a subject from the hat, the children would then have to give an impromptu three minute speech on that subject. We also did this with the Scriptures. Sometimes they had to prepare a talk on a certain Scripture or passage. Other times we would put Scriptures in the hat and they would have to give an impromptu exhortation on it. These were great opportunities to train

continued on page 7

My husband and I have married for 10 years. We went from a pub-going lifestyle to being baptized, getting married and becoming very active in church.

When our beautiful daughter turned two years old my husband turned back to his old ways of drinking and taking drugs. I spent many hours wrestling in prayer as to what to do. The Scriptures make it clear that the wife should dwell with her husband, because he may be won back to God by her example. Divorce is not an option unless one's mate is adulterous or violent. It's now eight years later and my husband is still in the trap of addictions, but God has given me the grace to cope.

upon the wondrous love Christ has shown to us, makes the same Spirit flow out of us to those around us

I've learned that a few words spoken hastily under provocation can cut the cords of influence that bound their hearts to ours.

I've learned that when dealing with an addicted person, the addiction is a disease and arguments are useless.

I've learned that an addicted man is in a desperate condition. His brain is diseased, his will-power is weakened, he has no power over himself and his appetite is uncontrollable. He cannot be reasoned with or persuaded to deny himself.

change, or live with continued confusion and unhappiness, we find that humility is a vital tool to getting the healing help we needed.

I've learned that Christ will give us help in every trial, if we seek Him. He will open our eyes to discern the healing promises recorded in His word. The Holy Spirit will teach us how to appropriate every blessing that is an antidote to grief. For every bitter draft we must drink, God will grow a branch of healing.

I've learned that the very trial that taxes our faith the most severely and makes it seem as though God has forsaken us, leads us more closely to Him. As we lay our burdens at the feet of Christ, He exchanges them for His peace.

Keys to Coping

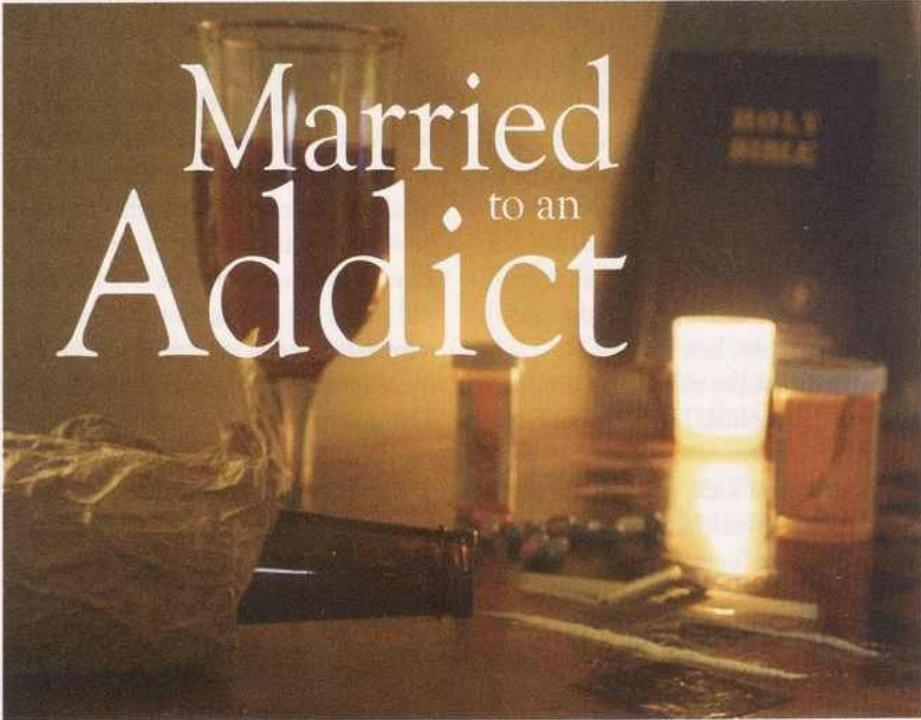
As I've learned these lessons, I've learned to cope in a number of ways. The following are things I have found helpful.

1. In the early days, when these changes were the hardest to accept, I attended AA meetings. These are anonymous meetings for friends and families of alcoholics or addicts. Meeting others who could relate was a big help. I kept their literature at hand for those days when I thought I couldn't take any more. The words of wisdom got me through the tough times. Sayings like "One day at a time" helped alleviate worry.
2. Walking has also been a tremendous help. The fresh air and sunshine and physical exercise help me cope.
3. Supportive friends are invaluable. Having fun with them, as well as their love and care, helps me to stay strong.
4. Lots of prayer on a daily basis is necessary. When it all seems too hard, I lean on God and plead with him for a miracle. God has come through every time.
5. Disciplining bad thoughts changes my perspective. Rather than going over all the bad things, I focus on the blessings instead.
6. The power of my love for my husband overrides the addictions I have to live with. "Love covers a multitude of sins." (1 Peter 4:8)

I am happy to encourage those in similar circumstances.

AMANDA

amanda@smartclix.com.au



Married to an Addict

Lessons Learned

I've learned many lessons in how to love my enemy unconditionally, bless those who curse me, and do good to them who despitefully use me. (Matthew 5:44)

I've learned that when ill-treated or wrongfully accused, instead of returning an angry answer, to repeat the exhortation, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21)

I've learned that the guilty expect contempt or indignation, but kind forbearance takes them by surprise and often awakens their better impulses and arouses a longing for a nobler life. (Proverbs 15:1)

I've learned that to dwell on the unjust acts of others makes it impossible to love as Christ loves us; but meditating

I've learned that God has a purpose for our good in every affliction. The Lord brings us over the same lessons again and again, increasing the pressure until perfect humility fills the mind, the character is transformed; and we are victorious over self.

I've learned that nothing we can do will stop an addict's behaviour. By accepting these facts we can free ourselves from frustration and confusion.

I've learned that the impulse to criticize or blame only makes matters worse.

I've learned that our behaviour is often distorted by anger, frustration and fear. Many of us react to the addict in irrational, hysterical ways.

I've learned that when we finally face the fact that it is we ourselves who must

What a blessing to be surrounded by our 21 children. Yes, you read correctly! God has blessed us with 21 children—three biological and 18 adopted!

In 1975, everyone laughed when as newly-married 17-year-olds we said that we were going to have 10 children! Even

revealed another step in His plan. Through a dream, He directed us to adopt a Hispanic sibling group. The four new additions arrived a year later in 1993. The adoption of Alex Ray (11), Weston Cordel (9), Diana Jean (7), and Pamela Rose (6) finalized in 1995. The

My heart exploded with love. Joel was diagnosed cocaine positive at birth with a grade three bleeder on his brain. I didn't care what the doctors said; I knew he was our baby. We prayed and God performed the miracle. The next morning we faced a very puzzled doctor. He



P.S. Since Bonnie wrote this article, they have been reappraised as foster parents and now have a very special sibling group of five precious children, 10, 9, 7, 2, and a newborn. This now makes Twenty-six! Bonnie says, "We are thrilled beyond words, sleepy, happy and very content. Billy and I are doing what we do best, touching little lives for Jesus Christ!"



The Walker Children's version of entertainment—skating on the foundation of the new addition to their home.

A dozen of the Walker Children forming a circle of love!

then. I knew it was more, but with everyone laughing at the number 10, I chose to remain silent.

Our first child, Chrisy Marie was born in 1977, then came Josey Lois in 1980 and Katrina Victoria in 1984. When Katrina was barely two, we received a message from God to "Be a Foster Parent." We had always considered adoption, but not fostering. If you've ever tried to argue with God, my advice is—don't! We lost that argument and our first foster son arrived in 1987.

I remember fighting back tears as I gave him his first bath, wondering how anyone could let a child stay so filthy. From 1987 to May of 1993 we cared for 10 foster children, each with individual sets of needs and problems. The biggest need of each by far was the need to know that someone loved them and that God loved them. This "temporary" parenting was very hard on us emotionally, but we proved Philippians 4:13 that says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."

Eventually, we adopted three of our foster children. Peggy Rae (10) and Cindy Lachelle (7) arrived in 1987 becoming legal members of our family in 1989. Little Greyson Tyler (2 1/2 months old) came in 1989 receiving his adoption papers in 1992. With three biological children and three adopted, our family was slowly taking shape. As our family increased, so did our needs. We enlarged our 1800 sq. ft., three bedroom home to a 2400 sq. ft. one with five bedrooms.

In June, 1992, our heavenly Father

newest arrivals brought our number higher than state regulations would allow for fostering, so those doors were closed, but the adoption doors were now wide open. I remember when Diana (who had suffered much abuse) had been with us for a month, coming up to my recliner, laying her head on me and saying, "I love you. Am I going to stay here forever?" I assured her that she was, at least until she married. She replied, "That's good! I like it here!"

We adopted Ricky Jon Ford (5) and Gabriel Samuel (newborn) in 1996, putting us at an "even dozen". We then took two years "off" for a breather, spending time reflecting and growing in our relationship with our heavenly Father. Learning to be content on the journey was a huge spiritual milestone during that season. In the meantime, the Lord directed us to start home schooling the children. That in itself was a huge leap of faith!

In the fall of 1998, with the four oldest children having moved out to various walks of life (marriage, college, etc.), God began to deal with our hearts once again as He directed us to a sibling group from Texas. Anna Abigail (9), David Joseph (7), Bethany Nicole (5) and Adam Nathaniel (2) arrived at the airport in March, 1999. In October of that year, we received a call that their birthmother had given birth to another baby boy and were we interested in adopting him. Two days later, we finalized the adoption on Anna and her siblings, and were introduced to our new son, Joel Isaac.

couldn't figure out what was wrong because the CT of Joel's brain was now normal. He scratched his head telling us that a grade one bleeder might seal itself off, it may be possible for a grade two bleeder but impossible for a grade three bleeder. When we brought him home he still suffered the ravages of the drugs that were in his system at birth, crying excessively as he went through withdrawal. This usually takes about six months and the doctor wanted to give him medicine to help him through this time. I declined and instead prayed to my miracle working God. Ten days after being home God set him free.

Our family, now totaling 19 (Billy and myself, 13 at home and four grown), snuggled cozily in the same 2400 sq. ft. home. The only time we noticed the tight quarters was when the hot water ran out and two people still needed a bath or on the heavy wash days when instead of the eight normal loads, there would be 12 or more. I've lost count of the number of washers and dryers we've worn out.

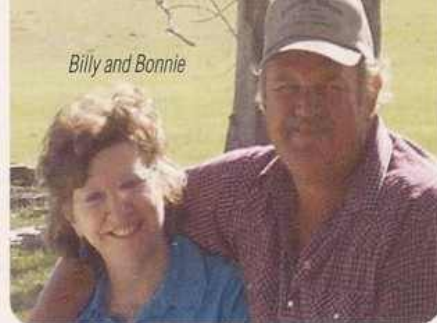
Our Father wasn't through with us yet. In September 2000, Joseph Chuck (7) arrived. Now it was 14 children in four bedrooms. We received a Word from the Lord to "enlarge your house; build an addition; spread out your home! For you will soon be bursting at the seams!" (Isaiah 54:2-3a). Billy laughingly joked, "I thought we already were!"

In March of 2001 God blessed us with three more additions to our family: Charity Ruth (7), Rebekah Hope (6), and

Lydia Faith (5). That brought us to the 21 children that currently call us mama and daddy. The folks who laughed at us wanting to have ten children quit laughing a long time ago!

It hasn't all been easy. We've both had our moments of doubts and despair,

from daylight to bedtime? And what difference does it make that 16 children share four bedrooms and only two bathrooms? What does it matter that bath time starts at 5 o'clock and goes on "until", and someone usually winds up taking a "cool" bath? In the natural these



Twenty One Children!

but we just kept walking, holding tightly onto Jesus' hand, following His leading one step at a time. We have marveled at God's ability to heal and restore to these children all the years "that the locust has eaten." Actually the hardest part about adopting is the time between when God tells me about a child or children He's sending until the time I can actually hold that child in my arms!

Not long after our last three little girls came home one of them asked the all important question, "Who is Jesus?" Shortly after, I penned this in one of our newsletters, "So what, if the septic tank has to keep being pumped out because it was never meant to provide for this many people, and the washer and dryer run

are minor inconveniences, but in the spiritual realm where Jesus reigns, of what Kingdom value are these sacrifices? What Kingdom value indeed? Three more little girls know the answer to the question, "Who is Jesus?"

BONNIE WALKER

Rhine, Georgia, USA
hinds_feet@hotmail.com

The current ages of Billy and Bonnie's children are: Peggy & Christy (25), Cindy & Josey (29), Alex (27), Katrina & Weston (25), Diana (24), Pamela (22), Greyson & Anna (20), Ricky (19), David (18), Joseph & Bethany (16), Ruth (15), Rebekah (14), Lydia, Gabriel, & Adam (13) and Joel (10).

Bonnie has recently published her book

Refuge Ranch: A Story for His Glory

in which she shares
their adoption journey in detail.

It is available at
Gospel World in Douglas
and also on Amazon.com.

If you'd like more information
about their ministry or are interested
in contacting Bonnie
for speaking engagements,
you can email them at
hinds_feet@hotmail.com
or visit their web site
www.refugeranch.com

From Our Home to Yours *continued from page 4*

them in speaking.

We love Poem Nights with all the grandchildren. Each one has to memorize a poem and recite it to the audience of uncles, aunts, cousins and grandparents. It is good practice for speaking and they grow more confident each time. You can do the same thing with Scripture Memory Verses. You may not have the big audience on hand like we have, but you could organize an evening by gathering a few families together.

As we prepare our children to "speak", we must train them to speak clearly and articulately. What is the use of understanding a concept if you cannot communicate it clearly? I find that many young people today speak so quickly that it is difficult to understand them. Some

even mumble! I am forever saying, "I beg your pardon. Could you repeat that again?" I'll have to admit I'm getting a little older. However, I do believe that children and young people should speak in a way that not only their peers, but older people can clearly understand them.

I was most impressed, when in England last year, and a young boy about seven or eight came up to me. He put his hand out to shake my hand and in a very articulate voice said, "Hello, my name is... It is very nice to meet you, Mrs. Campbell." With his firm handshake and confident voice I can imagine this young man going far in life. He has obviously been trained well.

In Matthew 10:16-18 Jesus said, "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves...ye shall

be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony..." This is not a very comforting Scripture for what do wolves do to sheep? They tear them to pieces! We are preparing our children to go into the midst of wolves, to those who are antagonistic, hostile and opposed to everything they believe. We and our children must be rooted in the principles of the Word of God, understanding our great Constitution and able to contend for our faith. We must know who we believe, what we believe and how to communicate what we believe.

May we be uncompromising. May we not only speak the truth, but write, email, phone and stand for truth—and train our children to speak, write, phone and stand for truth.

NANCY CAMPBELL

How big a place does the Bible have in your home? Although 93 percent of American homes have at least one Bible, Gallup calls the United States “a nation of Biblical illiterates.” Apparently, half of the American population can’t even name the first book of the Bible. The Bible is on the shelf but not in the heart.

Horace Greeley, founder of the *New York Tribune*, stated, “It is impossible to mentally or socially enslave a Bible-reading people.” Is this why most “Christians” are vulnerable to deception? The Bible is on their shelf but not in their hearts. This great freedom-loving nation of America is subtly being enslaved by the deceptive ideologies of humanism, socialism and even communism. Many are unaware it is happening. But if we don’t wake up now, it will be a different world for our children and grandchildren.

It is time for the Bible to come off the shelf. It is time to read the Bible personally. It is time to read it to our children. The Bible is our greatest constitution. It is the basis for our mindset. It is the foundation for our nation. It is the blueprint for our success. God encouraged Joshua, “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

How much of the Word of God is in

What can I use for Family Devotions?

We currently use **THE DAILY LIGHT**, a compilation of Scriptures on a specific theme for every morning and evening.

They were originally compiled by Samuel Bagster of London (1771-1852) for his family. This devotional is timeless because it is comprised of Scriptures only. I read it when a child and we still love to read it every day.

Daily Light on the Daily Path

(NKJV Version)

This book retails at 15.99 but available from Above Rubies for only \$12.00.

Purchase today and bless your whole family.

On the Shelf or in your Heart?

your heart? How much is in your children’s hearts and minds? Apart from our personal devotions, my husband reads the Bible to our household each morning and evening.

I loved reading the story of the Arnold family who traveled the continent preaching the gospel together. Every day,

“It is impossible to mentally or socially enslave a Bible-reading people.”

Arnold Pent conducted family devotions with his wife and eight children. It wasn’t a ten minute devotion either. He read the Word of God to his children for one hour after breakfast, one hour after lunch and one hour after supper, whether they were at home or someone else’s home. Consequently, by the time the children were 10 years old they could all quote at least 300 verses of the Bible. The older ones could quote the entire New Testament and many passages from the Old Testament.*

This may sound impossible for your lifestyle. However, I think the least God-fearing families could do is to read the Word of God together at least once a day. This should be a greater priority than anything else in our family schedule. If every family began to do this, we would see this generation change back to our godly heritage.

John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States, wrote letters to his 10 year-old son on how to effectively read through the Bible in one year. These letters were later published in a book so that other children could be inspired to read through the Bible in a year.

At our church gathering last week, not only the adults, but the children were encouraged to take a pocket New Testament with them wherever they go to read at available moments. Today, we have

the added blessing of being able to download the Bible on to MP3s.

To become people of the Book, to take up the responsibility of reading the Bible daily to our children and to make it a priority in our home is not just a good idea. It is imperative for the saving of our nation. It is crucial for the preservation of future generations—our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

To live for our own materialistic pursuits and avoid this responsibility will result in the downfall of our nation. My purpose is to live, not only for today, but in a way that will affect future generations for blessing and righteousness. I cannot do this without inculcating the Word of God to my children and my children’s children.

Let’s hear from two of our early statesman...

“I know not how long a republican government can flourish among a great people who have not the Bible... But this I do know that the existing government of this country never could have had existence but for the Bible. And further, I do in my conscience believe that if at every decade of years a copy of the Bible could be found in every family in the land, its republican institutions would be perpetuated.” (William Seward, a Governor of New York)

“The moral principles and precepts contained in the Scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible.” (Noah Webster, Compiler of 1828 Webster’s Dictionary)

For the salvation and protection of our nation, may we come back to the original source of all truth, and with excitement and joy, daily read it to our families.

NANCY CAMPBELL

* *Ten P’s in a Pod* by Arnold Pent III

Do you understand the Bible when you read it?

Do you hear God speaking to you personally?

Post Natal Depression

After my first pregnancy I suffered post-natal depression which continued into and after my second pregnancy. I did not want to get pregnant again, but despite trying to avoid it, God had other ideas. When I fell pregnant with our third baby I was very angry with God. Why? Didn't he know I couldn't cope? Didn't He know my children would suffer if I had PND again? Didn't he know I was applying to Bible College with my husband with a view to being missionaries?

All through the pregnancy I struggled with worse PND than ever and when our baby was born it became worse, not better. I did not want this child. I cared for him and tried to love him but he just shouldn't have been there, I thought. I remember him as a tiny baby gazing at me with such adoration in his eyes and my heart breaking knowing I couldn't even smile back.

Now I was determined I would not let this happen again. Three weeks after giving birth I went on the pill. I'd always said I'd never use a birth control that would get rid of a fertilised egg. However, I said to God, "You know I can't cope with another baby. I have to take this. Please don't let it cause an abortion."

I continued taking it, but despite the Pill, when No. Three baby was 15 months old I found myself pregnant again! I was still suffering PND but knew I couldn't go through the pregnancy hating it the whole time as I had before. This time I made the decision to think positively, I had to make the best of it.

A week later I miscarried. Shocked, sad and tempted to blame myself for taking the Pill, God did an amazing thing—He turned my heart around. Suddenly, I was so grateful He had allowed me to keep Ezekiel. I fell head over heels in love with this beautiful, adorable child that I had moaned and groaned about. All the bitterness I'd felt about God giving me this child at 'the wrong time' left me. I still suffered from PND but the healing had started.



This happened in December. In May I attended the *Christian Resources Exhibition* in Surrey where *Above Rubies* had a stand. My Mum and I went round collecting freebies and both picked up a different *Above Rubies* magazine. When I got home I read mine, then asked for hers to read. I devoured them both and quickly knew this teaching about letting God plan our family was right. I talked to my husband, Adam, and he agreed to give it a try.

That first month I fell pregnant while still suffering from PND. What if it got worse again? How would we cope? In October I went to the first *Above Rubies* retreat in England and I received lots of prayer. Very gradually God began to heal me. About five or six months into the pregnancy I realised I had a smile on my face that wasn't going away. Low times were lasting hours or the odd day, not weeks or months as before.

My beautiful baby girl is now six months old and I still have a smile on my face. As I allowed God to change my heart towards motherhood and staying full-time in the home I became more content and His healing work could take place.

What about Bible College and missionary work? Adam is, God willing, about to start his third year of a theology degree and we still hope and pray God sends us to the mission field. But instead of feeling I need an 'equal' role with him I will be his 'helpmeet' in the home—showing God's love to our growing family and to those around us.

RACHEL THOMAS

Greenford, Middlesex, England.
rachel.thomas@genesis-es.co.uk

Adam and Rachel's little lambs are Micah (6), Talitha (5), Ezekiel (3) and Hadassah (6 months).

"A cottage will not hold the bulky furniture, and sumptuous accommodations of a mansion; but if God is there, a cottage will hold as much happiness as might stock a palace."

— Dr. James Hamilton

To help the Word of God become a living, breathing word to you and your family, go to www.aboverubies.org

Click on Bible in the Home

Under this heading you will find practical ideas to help you, e.g. *How to Read the Word of God in your Quiet Time*, and many more!

How wonderful it is to open my home for an evening of feasting and fellowship or to host a monthly *Above Rubies* Bible study. Everyone enjoys these times to eat together and share our hearts. But what about showing hospitality to strangers? Am I expected to feed the hungry, shelter the

Hospitality to Strangers



Mike and Brenda with their children: Andrew (17), Tiffany (11), Kaylie (9), Isaac (7), Lillia (5), Josie (18 months) and a new blessing arriving mid-March 2010.

Jesus said, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. But when you give a

reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." (Luke 14:12-13)

Should I do these things out of guilt? Am I supposed to do these things to earn my salvation? No. I do these things out of my love for the Lord and my desire to honor Him. Because of the compassion, mercy and kindness that Jesus has shown to me, I must show compassion, mercy and kindness others.

A Stranger at Dinner

I was on the way home recently from my appointment with the midwife, feeling very tired with a van full of cranky children. I had been battling morning sickness for a few weeks and my sweet husband had taken over a lot of the chores at home. I was thinking about taking a long nap and allowing my husband to cook dinner again. I could almost feel the soft pillow, until I pulled off the Interstate and saw an elderly lady standing on the side of the road with a bag in one hand. She looked lost and vacant. Immediately my 17-year-old son said, "Mom, pick her up!"

I thought, "What do I say to her? What would my husband say? I've never done this before! Help, Lord!" I pulled into a gas station and called my husband to ask his permission to bring her home, but he was not answering! Then I recalled our conversations about being open to having someone over who needed help. I drove up to the lady and asked where she was going. She said she needed a ride to the next state. I said, "I'm not going that way; I'm heading home. I live right down the road. Would you like to have dinner with my family tonight and take a shower?" She was flabbergasted, but seeing that I had several children in the van, she shrugged her shoulders and said, "Well, okay."

On the way home, I learned our companion was only 54, like my mother, not in her late 60's as I had thought. Her name was Catherine and she shared my mother's birthday. My husband opened the door and I saw the look on his face when he saw this down-trodden lady. Before she got out of the van, I whispered, "Is it all right that she's here for dinner?"

"Perfectly fine," he replied.

Instead of focusing on my exhaustion and morning sickness, I got right to work in preparing dinner, completely forgetting about the nap I was going to take or that I was going to ask my husband to be in charge of dinner again! I learned that focusing on the needs of others makes the troubles and cares of my life melt away. We found new clothes for Catherine in a bag of hand-me-downs that someone had just given us the day before. Catherine was very quiet, but her presence at our table will never be forgotten.

What if something bad had happened to me? What if something bad had happened to my children while opening my home to a stranger? What if I was taken advantage of? Oswald Chambers

homeless, or open my home at a moment's notice to the traveler? Jesus commended those who showed kindness to those in need when He said, "For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me." (Matthew 25:35-36) Job described his own ministry by saying, "The alien has not lodged outside, for I have opened my doors to the traveler." (Job 31:32) What about you and me?

With six children and another blessing on the way, I feel tired even thinking of serving others when I already have a full-time ministry to my own family. Therefore, my husband and I have been praying for opportunities to serve the needy while not neglecting our family's lifestyle of "being at home." I could easily rationalize that by hosting a Bible study in my home or having other Christian events with friends who are in the same social group as I am is "enough," but there is a huge difference between fellowshiping among like-minded believers and fellowshiping with the down-trodden of this world.

wrote in *'My Utmost for His Highest'*, "Don't plan with a concern for evil in mind... "Love... thinks no evil." (1 Corinthians 13:4-5) Love is not ignorant of the existence of evil, but it does not take it into account as a factor in planning."

I may be robbed. I may have things taken from my home. I might not be shown gratitude. But Jesus said, "Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not demand it back." (Luke 6:30) God also said, "Divide your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house; when you see the naked, to cover him." (Isaiah 58:7)

There are many avenues to helping the needy besides bringing a stranger into your home. Carrying extra bottles of water and pre-packaged snacks for someone in need is a way to feed the hungry. We can minister to the sick by bringing meals to someone who is unable to cook for themselves.

Adopt a Grandparent

How do we visit those in prison with our children? Are we even supposed to? Yes. Remember, there are different types of "prisons". For the elderly, living in a nursing home against their will, is a daily prison. While adults can conduct Bible studies in a penitentiary, a mother and her children can "adopt" a grandparent in a nursing home. When I did this with my children, I saw new life in the eyes of someone who previously felt like they were forgotten and alone. Reading books together and bringing special treats or a hand-written card are ways to hospitality and encouragement to someone who feels imprisoned.

Latchkey Children

Another idea the Lord gave us was to volunteer with our local women's shelter by opening our home in the afternoons to children whose single mothers have no choice but to work to support their families. We volunteered to "adopt" a homeless family; the children come to our house for a few hours after school, receive some help with homework and see firsthand what a Christian family looks like. We also asked that the mother come for dinner at least once a week so she can be

fed, both physically, and spiritually. The director of this ministry told me that she's never had anybody offer this type of hands-on "family care" before; usually people want to help by donating clothing or writing a check (which is helpful), but when she tells them that the women really need someone to befriend them and just listen to them, there is not much interest in offering this service. Why? Are we scared that we will be "dirty" by the problems in other people's lives? Are we afraid we will be taken advantage of?

I believe the Holy Spirit will give us discernment. There may be times when we don't hear a specific "yes" or "no" from the Lord when we see someone in need. I don't think we should overanalyze the situation, but simply act with compassion. Even unbelievers practice "random acts of kindness." How much more should a child of God help the helpless? If we are feeling unsure or hesitant in any way, it may be the Lord's way of saying "Not this time," but we need to stay open for future opportunities.

Serve with your Children

When the New Testament was written, a woman could not be included on the list of widows to be supported by the church unless she had brought up godly children, shown hospitality to strangers and assisted those in distress. (1 Timothy 5:10) We must never put our ministry to our husbands and children on the back-burner, but rather, we should embrace a family lifestyle of "stranger" hospitality. Our children need ample opportunities to serve alongside their mothers. This type of radical hospitality was foreign to me because I was not taught it while growing up. I do not want my children to grow up in an isolated bubble, always believing that, "Someday, when we're grown up, we'll minister to God's people," when there are many ways to serve right now!

I believe the Lord would delight in a revival of family service that plants seeds in the lives of our children at home as well as the needy of the world.

Are you willing to sacrifice yourself for the work of another believer—to pour out your life sacrificially for the ministry and faith of others? Or do you say, "I am not willing to be poured out right now, and I don't want God to tell me how to serve Him. I want to choose the place of my own sacrifice. And I want to have certain people watching me and saying, 'Well done.'" It is one thing to follow God's way of service if you are regarded as a hero, but quite another thing if the road marked out for you by God requires becoming a 'doormat' under other people's feet... Some saints cannot do menial work while maintaining a saintly attitude, because they feel such service is beneath their dignity.

~ Oswald Chambers

Your Identity is Showing

My husband recently stopped to help a man on the Interstate who needed a ride to Texas. My husband got out of the car, sat next to the man and began talking to him, "friend to friend". He invited the man to our home for dinner, but the man wanted to stay near the road to catch a ride. My husband bought him some food and helped him get a hotel room for the night. While they were signing in at the hotel, the man said, "You must be a Christian."

"Why do you say that?" my husband asked.

The man answered, "I can tell by the way you're acting."

When we all get to Heaven

We should "not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2)

I'd love to find out in Heaven that I served angels in my home!

BRENDA WEATHERLY

Loudon, Tennessee, USA
brendaw@jesusanswers.com
www.ilovejesus.com/myhome/brendaw/

STITCH BY STITCH

The ornate Victorian wedding picture hangs over our marriage bed. I completed the final stitch a little over 15 years after my husband presented me with an engagement ring.

A year later, my grandmother was intrigued as I sat in the wicker rocker in her kitchen, stitching and telling her the romantic tale of our newly married life. Occasionally I would interrupt myself, straining to see the intricate design of the linen, in order to follow the designer's specific instructions. "The stitches are so very tiny," Nanny observed. "How will you ever finish? It's taken an entire year to stitch just a small square of the bride's bustle!" I laughed and thought of how far from "finished" I felt as the bride in real life.

Considered bright academically, I was told from an early age that I should devote my interest in academia into a career that would not "waste" my intellect on the thing I loved most in life: children. In college, my part-time jobs as a nanny and in day care centers opened my eyes to the tragedy of children crying out in the night. I gave my life to Jesus Christ shortly after those experiences, while caring for my boyfriend as he heaved from alcohol poisoning. I had wasted the majority of my single years with my soul attached to a second generation alcoholic. It became crystal clear that I needed to get my life in line with God's plan, in order to have a hope for the fairy tale marriage for which every girl longs.

I had only been a fully devoted follower of Christ for a short time when my husband, a vibrant new Christian, came into my life. We both had radical convictions about passion and purity. We had lived the world's way long enough to know that the single scene we observed, even in Christian circles, was not unlike the relational games we played in bars before we came to Jesus. As we entered into a dynamic courtship and engagement, our campus pastor and his wife helped us to conduct our relationship differently than the ones we were in before.

Our wedding guests were an eclectic

collection of likeminded Christians and perplexed, yet intrigued friends from our lives before we knew Jesus. I delighted in learning to be the queen of our tiny castle, but was deceived and conflicted by feminism and mixed messages about God's plan for married women.

The bustle of the bride on the canvas continued to come together slowly as Shane started graduate school and I worked nights in the computer lab on campus after class, manning the phones, clipping coupons, applying for law school, and stitching. The fabric of our understanding of marriage was coming together that year as well. We were learning how to transfer our loyalties from our families of origin to the new family God had planned for the two of us.

When I had an adverse reaction to the abortifacient birth control method we were using, we were told that my fertility was in question. We agreed with the doctor's suggestion to put law school on hold, and start our family earlier than the original plan. I was ecstatic during my pregnancy, and I put the canvas with the bride and groom away for a few months while I worked on a needlepoint piece for the nursery. We stayed up late watching my belly expand as I stitched, reminiscing over the revolutionary things the Lord was teaching us about giving our children a godly heritage. We wanted our children to have a "ripple effect" to future generations, teaching the things we were learning about God to people we would never meet.

Our first child was born and we were

in awe. When the midwife asked at my postpartum checkup what form of birth control we planned to use to prevent a second pregnancy, I responded, "Who are we to plan our family? God gave us an undeserved gift when He entrusted this gorgeous little person into our care! She is the very best thing that ever happened to our marriage; she is the absolute delight of our lives! Before motherhood, I was going in one direction and Shane was going in the other, and this child gave us a common vision. Why in the world would we tell God when He can put babies in my body and when He can't?"

In the beginning of our marriage, I told God what I was going to do for Him before consulting His Word for the basics on my role as Shane's wife. I was determined to not make that mistake twice, thus I began researching the Biblical facts on my role as a mother. Simultaneously,





Shane and Chase at their renewal celebration.

my husband was showing everyone we knew a sketch of a tree he saw in Robert Andrews' book, *The Family: God's Weapon for Victory*. One lush, vibrant family tree was full of many descendants. The other tree, like his would be, as an only child, if he chose to father the 1.8 children American culture dictated, was a few scraggly branches that didn't look like a tree at all.

There wasn't much time for stitching during the early years of my adventurous mothering career. I did a few roses and bows on the bride's skirt during the end of my pregnancies, but because I was unable to stitch very often, I tucked the scroll frame away. Later, when we were packing to move to a larger home, I discovered that a mouse had eaten a large hole in the top corner of my partially complete work of art!

It was interesting that these were the very same years that our marriage was threatened by the dark parts of our opposing personalities, as well as the pain of unhealed wounds from our pasts. We were engaged in high levels of drivenness and occasional workaholicism to soothe the frazzled emotions we were learning to identify for the first time. It was several years before I was able to properly repair the damage from the mouse's nibbling, in an effort to redeem the hours I had painstakingly invested into the project.

When I resumed my efforts to continue stitching the pearls along the edge of the bride's train, we were learning to set healthy boundaries with responsibilities outside of our home; I learned that many of my "good ideas" were often the

enemy of the best things (the most important being time set aside each week to truly rest and embrace God's command to carve out time for Sabbath).

I decided to be intentional about my husband and children getting the BEST of my creativity and energy, not my leftovers, by being productive in my home only six days a week, rather than the edgy, frantic quality my never-ending calendar had become. A mentor taught me to avoid being the foolish woman in Proverbs who sees danger and hurls herself headlong into it, and life became much less of a treadmill each week I applied these principles.

After an unfortunate series of events that led to a difficult season of our values being in direct contrast to my husband's career path, he started over in an entirely new professional world, and we struggled to stay connected during the arduous financial transition. He dealt with clinical depression and private sin, and I hung on for dear life as all of my personal insecurities were revealed when God brought things to the light. When the storm was over, the Holy Spirit assured me that part of releasing Shane from the shame that barred him from receiving God's forgiveness, was to share my own private struggles and fears, ones I'd never trusted to any human being.

As he tenderly grieved with me over the pain, confusion and injustice we both felt from similar pasts, we became a safe haven for one another, all over again. I watched the Lord invade my husband and he actually began apologizing on behalf of the other men who had wounded my soul so deeply before we met.

Where my view of God was once based on the earthly examples of the men who had failed to represent Him well, it now became aligned with what the Bible says about the nature of God. It was no longer such a strain to relinquish control and respect to the man God had placed in authority over me. As the remnants of my feministic habits began to dissipate, Shane's transformation from what he refers to as "being a boy" to "being a man" occurred almost instantaneously.

The Lord showed up "on a white horse", so to speak, and He rode my husband and I off into the sunset of new beginnings. Our weekends and evenings were spent in a second honeymoon of

sorts. We set a date to renew our vows, and God miraculously provided for every detail through our generous community of friends and family.

I began stitching every afternoon in the garden so the long-awaited bride and groom would be ready in time for the big event. We displayed them on an elegant easel for our guests to admire at the reception, and something in me felt a deep sense of peace and finality as I hung it on the wall of our bedroom when we returned home after dancing the night away with our grateful children.

God is showing me how to simplify, streamline, and get my life in line with the personal margins He gave me, to protect me from illness and burnout. I've actually started a new stitching project of a calm, peaceful mother, the picture the Lord is currently stitching into my heart, one day at a time.

It does not matter how ill-equipped you feel to live out God's plan for family life, nor does it matter how painful your story has been, God wants to rewrite it. He wants you to know for yourself, like I do now, that you are His favorite (the children love it that Daddy says those words to Mom many times each week now). We can all have the fairy tale marriages of our dreams! This is our destiny as children of the King! "Stitch by stitch," my canvas proclaims. "Line upon line" the Bible says. He longs to gradually, one incremental step at a time, create a breathtaking work of art in our marriages.

CHACE SIMMONS

Waxahachie, Texas, USA

Shane and Chace's children are Abbie (15), Emma (13), Jackson (12), Libby (10), Ruby (9), Ethan (7), Josephine (5) and Tate (3).

Renewal photos © David Sixt Photography



The Power of Agreement



Agreement stands as a fundamental aspect of any relationship, especially in marriage. In the area of finances there are many decisions husbands and wives need to be in agreement about or the marital relationship and children will suffer. Deciding the importance of tithing, living with one income, and cutting expenses to pay off interest-earning debt are topics best agreed upon before marrying.

After marriage, some realize that there are many different views on how to earn and handle the household expenses. This brings a real dilemma to the wife learning how to submit to her husband. While our culture applauds cranky wives and passive husbands, this is not the example of Scripture.

I certainly struggled with this. "How can I submit but disagree?" I prayed. God showed me that I needed to discuss my reasons for not agreeing with something in a quiet and calm environment. I should bring up the subject only once and be willing to have my husband still do what he had in mind and support him in that decision. This does not include anything overtly unscriptural. I wouldn't support my husband robbing a bank or cheating on his taxes.

As I worked on submitting, my husband began to ask me to join him in praying for God's will in several areas. Developing a relationship with my husband while spending time in prayer are experiences I'll always cherish.

What does a wife do when all her efforts of reaching an agreement have not brought fruit?

First, commit the matter to God in prayer. Seek His guidance. Ask, expecting God to show you a new angle. God knows your husband better than you do. You might also find you need to receive forgiveness for your attitude.

Second, encourage times of prayer together. This might also include times of "intense fellowship." At times we prayed and hashed out our thoughts in an effort to finally agree with God. We tried to be honest and respectful to one another, never mean-spirited. Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly bro-

ken." This Scripture beautifully describes a husband and wife in agreement with God,—"a three-fold cord."

There can be a time when not even seasons of "intense fellowship" bring agreement. For example, what is a wife to do if she wants to tithe and her husband doesn't? This can be the source of financial trouble. Tithing is an action that acknowledges a covenant between the tither and God. Malachi 3:8-11 states that God promises to do His part, to rebuke the devourer, if we first tithe. Sadly most of us look at our pay check as our source. When we tithe we are saying that God is our source and provider.

If you and your husband disagree about tithing and giving donations, I suggest these three things:

1. Ask if you could tithe/donate for a trial amount of time, perhaps three to six months. This is a challenge of sorts but watch how God shows Himself faithful during this season.
2. Tithe your time volunteering at church or where God leads you.
3. Tithe items from your home. They could be "good condition" clothing, household items, or food.

The wisdom you gain from working through disagreement into agreement can be passed on to the next generation. Our children need to know how to handle these situations before they come up. Having the wisdom to discuss with future spouses their goals and knowing how to work through conflict can prevent troubles later. These are also the things our children need to understand in order to be leaders in their communities. Financial integrity and strong marriages are something to be highly valued and a strong relationship with God is priceless.

LINDA BOYNTON

San Antonio, Texas, USA
motherof9@hillcountrysupport.com

Rick and Linda's children are Steve (married to Tabatha and they have two girls), Jason (married to Diana), Jacob (25) and six precious children born after a reversal - Samuel (16), Peter (15), Abigail (13), Lydia (11), Ruth (10), and Rebekah (8).

THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION OF YOUR LIFE

**"Choose you this day whom you will serve; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
(Joshua 24:15).**

Have you made this most important choice in your life?

So many marriages and homes are falling apart. It is only the lives and homes that are built on the foundation of Jesus Christ and His commandments that will stand.

How can you get your life on a right foundation and receive God's salvation?

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE** that you are a sinner. It is your sin that separates you from fellowship with God. (Luke 18:13; Romans 3:21)
2. **REPENT** of your sin and turn away from it. (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38,39; 3:19)
3. **CONFESS** your sin to God and He will cleanse you and forgive you. His forgiveness is complete. When He forgives, He forgets! (Psalm 32:,2; 1 John 1:7,9; Romans 10:9,10)
4. **FORSAKE** your own way and determine to follow God's ways. (Isaiah 48:18; 55:7; Mark 8:24-38)
5. **BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is the Son of God. He is the One who has borne the punishment of your sin. (John 3:16; Mark 16:16)
6. **RECEIVE** His great salvation that He has purchased on your behalf. (John 1:12)
7. **BE BAPTIZED.** (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:38)
8. **THANK** Him for His great salvation and His blood that He shed for you. Receive Him gladly and ask Him to take control of your life.
9. **DETERMINE** that you and your household will all serve the Lord.

Growing up in a large Jewish community and partly Jewish family, I often noticed small decorative boxes mounted on the doorframes of my friends' and relatives' homes. Some were sculpted out of wood and simply understated, while others were cast out of metal and covered in bright enamel colors. I remember wondering about the meaning behind these unusual decorations, although the distraction of warm companionship and kosher food waiting inside left this curiosity unanswered.

A few years ago, I finally learned through a Bible study, that tucked behind these little boxes, known as Mezuzahs, were two small paper scrolls inscribed with Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21. These passages instruct the people of Israel to love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, and strength, to keep and teach their children the commandments, as well to write the Scriptures on the doorframes of their homes. With the creation of a Mezuzah, the Jewish people found a literal way to write the Scriptures on their doorframes. What a brilliant idea, I thought, as I set out to buy my own Mezuzah.

Just a few weeks later my new Mezuzah arrived, ready to be mounted onto the doorframe of my home. As I tapped the two little nails securing it in place, I became keenly aware of how easy it would be to let my faith become merely symbols, rather than living out the truth of Scripture. Within a few months, I had indeed forgotten the passages tucked away inside. I grabbed my Bible and fumbled through the concordance looking for the word "doorframes". I was determined this time to study the Word more carefully and look at practical ways to follow the Lord's instructions. I did not want my Mezuzah to become merely a symbol again.

Many questions came to mind as I read different translations. The Message was particularly bold and challenging: "Get them inside of you and the get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into



Stephen and Elisa's children: Abby (7), Luke (4), Leah (10), Megan (Spiritual daughter) and Kaitlyn (4).

Write them on your heart!

bed at night." (Deuteronomy 6:6-9) I wondered if I had been sharing Scripture with my children at every opportunity! Were we starting the day with devotions? When was the last time I pointed out the beauty of God's creation? Am I too busy running around town that I don't have time to teach my children about our wonderful Creator? As I considered the Lord's instruction to love Him with all my mind, soul, and strength, I wondered when was the last time I focused all my mind, soul, and strength on loving God? Do I love Him more than I love myself, my hobbies, my family, my chocolate?

It was at that moment when I saw the order and perfection of God's instruction. If you look at the verses in sequence, God points to Himself first as Lord, then calls us into a relationship with Him—a relationship based on love. After that is tended to, then He challenges us to teach our children. I thought of airline safety instructions provided by flight attendants at the point of departure: "Parents, place your oxygen mask on first and then place the mask over child's face." These instructions are critical! In order for us to care for our child's life, we must wisely care for our own first. We'll be

completely out of breath without the oxygen God breathes into our lives through our love relationship with Him.

My little Mezuzah beckons me to the Word to revisit foggy lessons. It's not the oxygen, but has certainly functioned as the alarm flashing: "Trouble ahead, time to take a deep breath of Jesus into my soul and remember the ultimate purpose of this journey: to love the Lord my God with all my heart, mind, soul and strength."

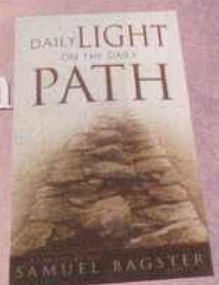
Symbols of our faith have a valuable place as reminders of the Scriptures, but unless they capture our attention and redirect us back to the Lord, they are meaningless.

ELISA PULLIAM
Stony Brook, New York, USA
extragrace@gmail.com
www.extravagantgrace.net

Elisa is the founder of
The Ruth Project
(www.theruthproject.net),
a website designed to encourage
the faithful care and support of widows.

**"A child may not inherit
his parents' talents,
but he will absorb their values!"**

Remember! Bless your family and order your copy today!
Daily Light on the Daily Path
Scriptures for Morning and Evening.
www.aboverubies.org



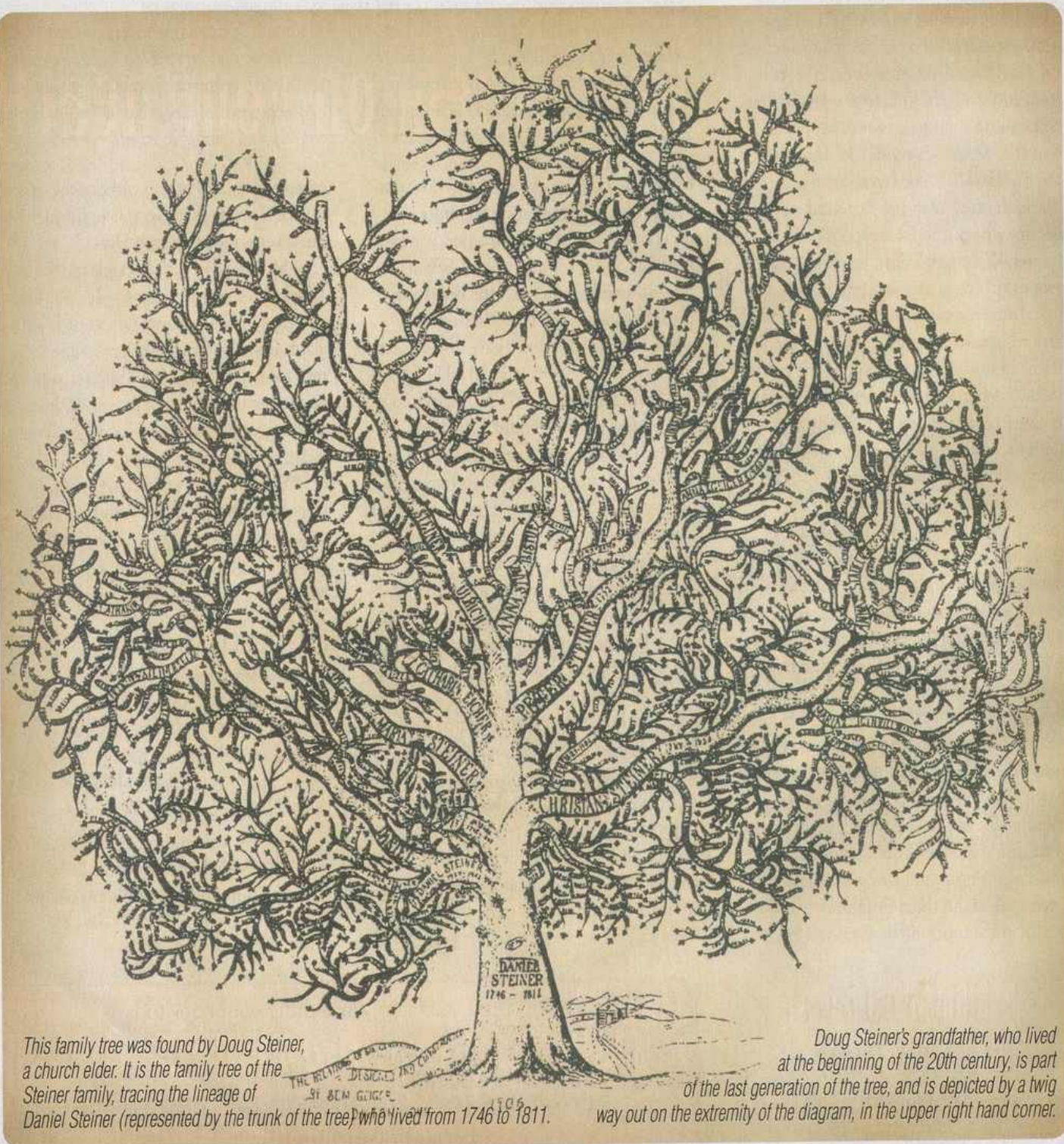
Family Trees

Family trees are fascinating. One could easily become absorbed in the history of our predecessors. My wife and I were recently in the United Kingdom speaking at family seminars. We had a one-day break while in Scotland and decided to visit CASTLE CAMPBELL, originally owned by Colin

Campbell, my namesake. I have always loved castles. Their grandeur, largeness and strength intrigue me. I find myself contemplating the wealth, dignity, pride and creativity that belonged to my ancestors of that era. I guess it must still be in the DNA.

Most of us do not have to look very far

back into the history of our families to find that many of our forbears had large families compared to today's 2.1 member families in the USA—the average is 1.3 in European countries. What with wars, vehicle fatalities, infertility, alternative life styles that produce no children, cancer, heart failures and other



This family tree was found by Doug Steiner, a church elder. It is the family tree of the Steiner family, tracing the lineage of Daniel Steiner (represented by the trunk of the tree) who lived from 1746 to 1811.

Doug Steiner's grandfather, who lived at the beginning of the 20th century, is part of the last generation of the tree, and is depicted by a twig way out on the extremity of the diagram, in the upper right hand corner.

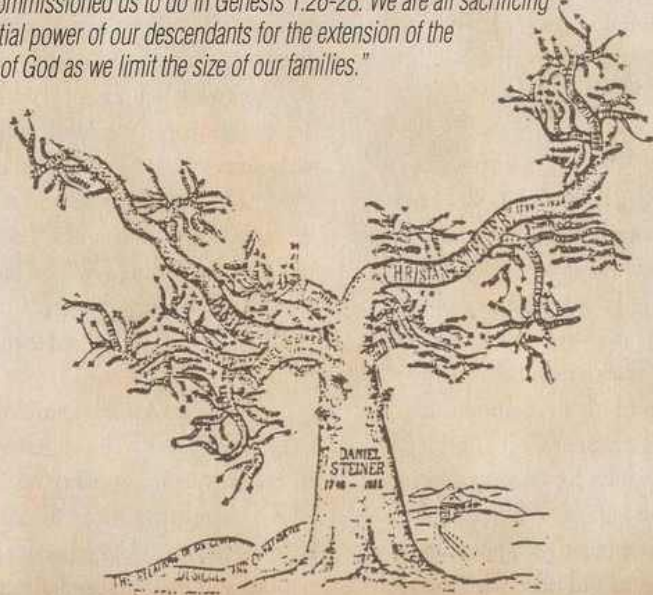
diseases that cause death, the west is on the verge of self-destruction. We are told that within the next 40-50 years, much of Europe will cease to be the Europe we have known. It will instead be an Islamic Europe. Most of Europe is beyond the hope of reversing the huge demographic and cultural change that is already taking place.

Here in Tennessee we live among beautiful hardwoods including oak, walnut and hickories etc. We are surrounded with logs and saw mills. Many of the hardwoods take years to mature yet the perpetuating of the forest continues. One wonders how the forests could possibly continue to yield such a vast amount of trees year after year, and yet, with God's help they keep going. These forests are self-perpetuating generational forests. There are so many seeds in the ground and the top soil is continually enriched by the falling leaves. As soon as a tree is cut down and removed, dozens of little trees pop up through the soil to compete for its replacement. From the beginning God planned it this way. All those who make a living out of harvesting these forests would be devastated if our natural trees only yielded what our family trees currently yield. Isn't it appalling that we are intent on saving our national forests but oblivious to the fact that our family trees are being destroyed?

I wonder why so-called Christian nations are antagonistic to God's original mandate to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth. God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them and it was so. And the earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind, and God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:11-12 NASB) We whole-heartedly agree with our Almighty Creator that this creation of vegetation and trees was, and still is, very good. What would we do without them? How boring it would be to live in a treeless world. How unhealthy it would be for us to be without green vegetables or fruitful trees that provide us with all the life-sustaining enzymes and nutrients to live and perpetuate our own human family trees.

How can we have such a big disconnect between Genesis 1:11-12 and Genesis 1:26-28? Man was made for sacred purposes; trees were not. Of all the myriad of crea-

Doug Steiner decided to prune his family tree. What if each of his ancestors had only four children each, a large family by today's standards? Robert Andrews comments in his book, "Neither Doug, who is a church elder, nor his father, who was a medical missionary to India, nor his grandfather, would ever have lived to make the contributions they have made to the furtherance of the gospel. As you can see, a huge portion of Daniel Steiner's posterity would never have lived to bear the image of God and to take dominion over the earth, as God commissioned us to do in Genesis 1:26-28. We are all sacrificing the potential power of our descendants for the extension of the kingdom of God as we limit the size of our families."



tures that God created it was only man that was given the sacred and priceless privilege to bear the likeness and image of God. This should never be underestimated. After creating the vegetation and trees, God said that "it was good" but it was the family tree that God blessed and gave the divine commandment to "Be fruitful and multiply." This commandment has never been

revoked and is as important today as in the beginning. Time has not changed this generational mandate.

It would be understandable, if after the fall in the Garden of Eden, God had decided to give up His original mandate to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth with His likeness and image. But this was not the case. In Genesis 9:1-7 God repeats His first

We decided to prune the tree even further to make it more applicable to today's society. What if each of his ancestors only had two children each, the normal for most families today? A very pathetic tree! A picture is worth a thousand words!



Reprinted from the book, *THE FAMILY: God's Weapon for Victory* by Robert Andrews. Available from Sentinel Press.

Contact information: rbandrews@centurytel.net www.gospelparenting.com Ph: 509-738-4842 (h) and 509-675-5823 (c)

mandate, not once, but twice! Oh the mercy and grace of God toward His rebellious and sinful creation. Man still remains the only privileged creation to bear His likeness and image (God's character and His ways of justice truth, love, joy, peace and holiness and so on). The trees of the woods reveal His creative glory but they cannot reveal His nature and character.

In verse six of this same passage God says, "Whoso sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." Why would God say such a thing? He gives the answer in the same verse. "For in the image of God made he man." It is obviously a serious crime to tamper with man because the divine purpose of man's creation is to show forth the image of God. And yet, today, we frivolously contracept, sterilize and abort the image of God in the earth. Every child, given the right opportunity, can be born again and filled with the Holy Spirit and in some way reveal to the world something of the likeness and image of God. Dare we stand in God's way?

We all want our natural trees to be fruitful. Why not our family trees? In John 15:6 Jesus says that He will cut off the branches that do not bear fruit. We all agree that this passage primarily talks about spiritual fruit. However, there is a parallel here. Christ uses a natural vine to illustrate a spiritual point. God is glorified by fruitfulness, and more so, by "much fruit." It is not for us to cut off branches, hindering fruitfulness. Yet this is exactly what we do when we refuse to have children. To the natural man, it is not spiritual to have children. On the contrary, to the spiritual man, having children is not only for natural fruitfulness, but it also increases spiritual influence. Why? Because every child born and raised in God's ways has the potential to be fruitful in the things of God. No one in their right

mind would go around lopping off fruitful branches from trees. Why do we want to lop off fruit from our family trees?

Isaiah 61:1-11 foretells the anointing that will be upon the Messiah "to preach good tidings to the poor; to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning." Why? "That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

With the Messiah's anointing, let us be co-laborers with Him to raise up family trees of righteousness who will accomplish all the purposes of Isaiah 61. Verse 9 says, "Their offspring will be known among the nations and their descendants in the midst of the people. All who see them will recognize them that they are the offspring whom the Lord has blessed."

Along with natural Israel, as the new Israel of God in Christ Jesus, we can also claim family trees of righteousness through whom the Lord will be glorified. Be encouraged. You are ordained by God to raise trees of righteousness that will bless the nations.



COLIN CAMPBELL
Primm Springs, Tennessee USA

Check out the following on YouTube which reveals the current demographics in Europe:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-3X5hIFXYU

Many readers have asked for advice after reading my testimony, *Tending to my own Plank*, in *Above Rubies* # 77. If your husband struggles with addiction, or has other issues, the following pointers may help. Many husbands aren't addicted to drugs or alcohol, but to such things as television, overeating and internet. My prayer is that God will use my words to help you cope.

Now that my husband is better, it is easy for me to see my mistakes. I may sound hard on others now, but believe me, when I was in the middle of it I was a stubborn mule, learning little for so long. I also know that for the 15 years of "hell" that I experienced, I failed miserably in my role. I'll never know if the dark time would have been shortened or made easier if I had done things differently

It is too easy to put all, or most of the blame, on the addict. Please don't think I am judging you, because, I was NOT doing most of these things when I was immersed in the mess. However, if you can do them, and by the grace of God you can, I believe there will be positive blessings from the hand of God. Should your spouse remain an addict, these principles will at least help you stay in the marriage as the helpmeet you are called to be.

1. Remember your role.

You are called by God to be a helpmeet to your man. Your job is to do everything you can do to make his life BETTER—every day, no matter what. Each morning, afternoon and evening, ask yourself what you can do to make his life better.

2. You are not a doormat.

Unless there is danger to your life or the children's lives, or there is repeated adultery, you have no grounds for divorce. Your unmet longings, your pain and emotional suffering really don't give you biblical grounds to leave. Leaving must only be for the safety of the family. Divorce can only be considered if there is infidelity, and I believe it must be repeated infidelity, not a one-time slip. (Matthew 19:3-9) Serving your husband in all other circumstances is your God given role.

3. Respect your husband.

As long as he wants you as his wife, you are called to serve him with respect. Ouch! I failed in this, but according to God's wisdom, your husband, needs and deserves

***"It is my conviction
that the fundamental trouble
with the people of the United States
is that they have gotten too far away
from Almighty God."***

~ Warren Harding, 29th President of USA

So There's TROUBLE!

your respect. (Ephesians 5:33) There are no escape clauses given. You don't have to feel like it, but you have to do it. How? Respect him, not on his own merits, but because our Father commanded it.

4. Don't accept the addictions.

Respecting your husband does not mean that you accept his addictions. You can be respectful without nagging. You can also be firm about boundaries that cannot be crossed. Praise everything and anything praiseworthy that you can find—all the time. It is only the addiction that is the problem. Praise and respect him for the many things he gets right.

5. Keep a thankful heart.

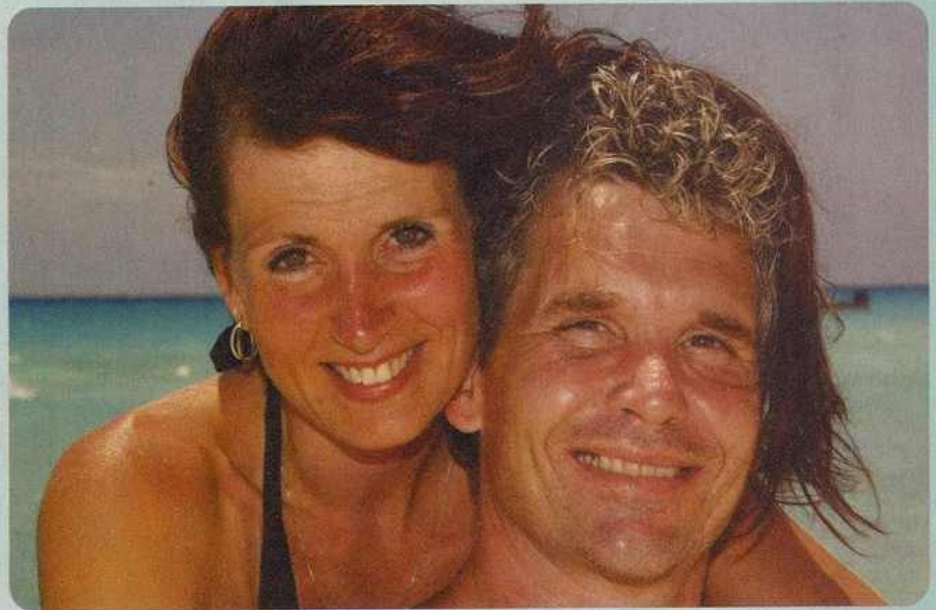
Resist the urge to feel sorry for yourself. This does nothing to help your faith and is counterproductive for everyone. Make a concerted effort to thank God for everything. There are many who are worse off than you. Let gratefulness show in your attitude. Dwell on whatever is praiseworthy. (Philippians 4:8)

6. Separate the addiction.

While the addiction affects you, it is not a sign of personal attack. His lack of overcoming is not a sign that he does not love you. It has a power over him that is extremely hard for him to resist. I used to feel that he knew how much it hurt me but didn't love me enough to quit. But it really isn't about you at all. It's about the addiction's power over him. No one wants to be enslaved. If he could stop he would. His goal is not to hurt his wife and family. He is succumbing to the addiction, and by default it hurts you. Try to separate those two things in your mind. It will help you cope.

7. Don't feed the addiction.

Don't feed his addiction by giving him reasons to run to it. A man needs praise and respect. He also loves a happy smiling wife. Do what you can to make him want to be with you, rather than escape you. (Proverbs 27:15). This will help him resist temptation, and long to be a better man.



8. Don't make excuses.

You don't have to make excuses for him to anyone. There is a difference between stating a fact, "My husband or father has an addiction" and tearing him apart with your words. Don't cross that line. He is created in God's image to be your husband and leader. God does not make mistakes. Bloom where you are planted and see what God develops. If nothing else, you will learn to depend on God and your faith will grow.

9. Resist self-pity.

Resist the urge to have a pity party. Take your complaints to one, only one, wise and trusted friend. You are not a victim; you are in God's hands. Believe it. Even if your life never gets better, there is still much to be thankful for. We, as Christians, have given up all our rights and are only called to trust and obey. The Lord is faithful to bless our efforts, so plod away, good and faithful servant. God will make your efforts worthwhile in His time.

10. Take the high road.

There is a high road, which is always harder; the low road, though easy, yields bitter fruit. Take the high road, and count on God to give you what you need. Raise your children in the truth, and show them the fine line of love. Do not endanger them, but show them how to walk victoriously in God's strength during trying times. He will give you what you need, even if you can't

see it at the time. This is why our life with Christ is called a walk of faith.

Remember, you are not alone! You are not a victim! You are a servant of your heavenly Father, and you will love and respect your husband, period. Watch for the good fruit that will come. Keep plugging away and don't grow weary of doing good. Your family is worth it. The fantasies in your head are no help, so discard them and move on.

One day I asked God to help me love my husband as He did. The love I felt and was able to show my husband that day was amazing. Sadly, I often didn't want to bother.

Learn from my mistakes dear friend, and be richly blessed.

MICHELLE KAUEHOFEN

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
ceducate@xplornet.ca

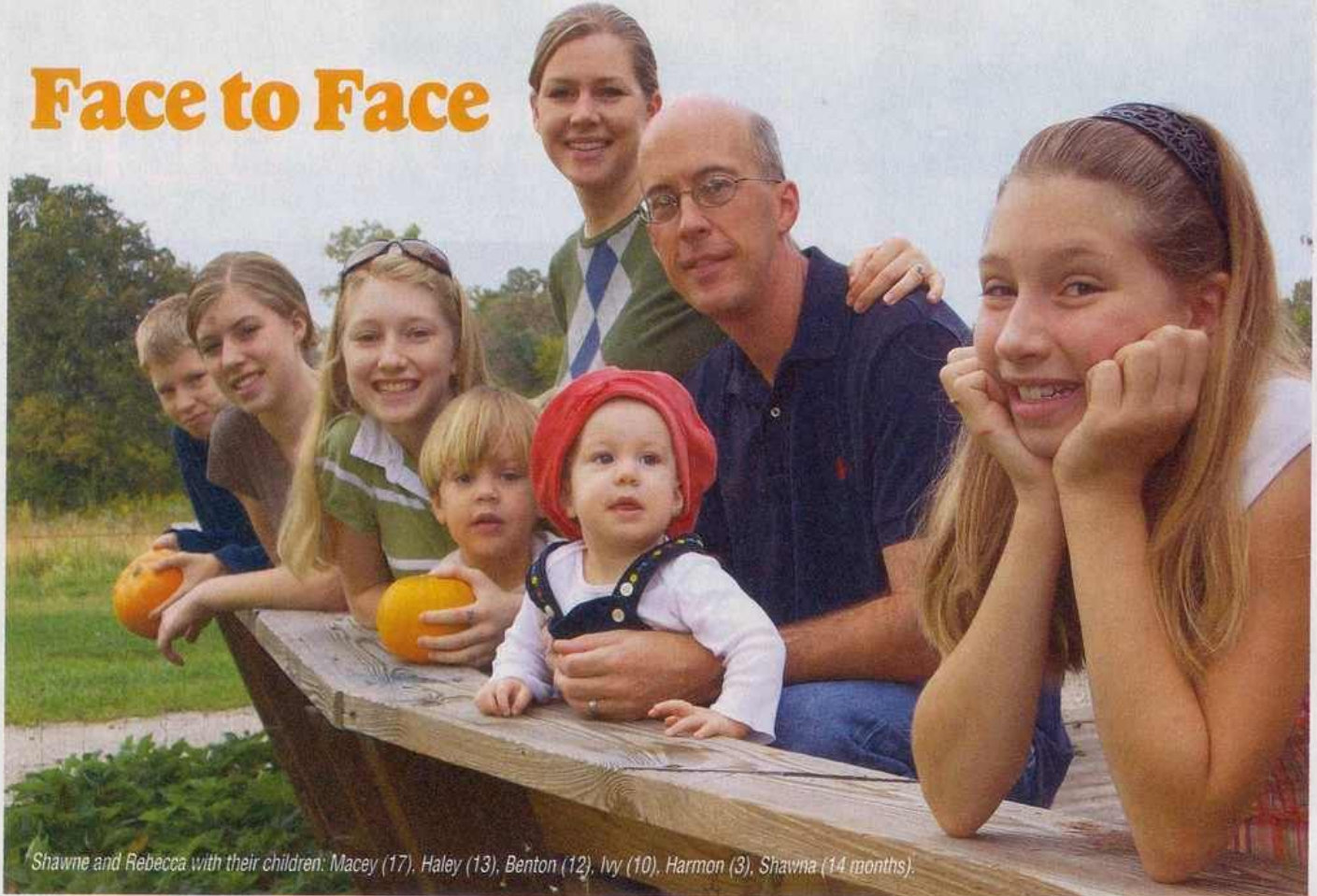
Cam and Michelle are the blessed parents of Bryson (18), Jacinda (16), Dalton (15), Brielle (12), Logan (10), Havenne (8), Gideon (7),

Jilissa (6), Tressa Leigh (3), Drayden (2) and Solana Scarlett Jubilee was born on the 10 Jan.



Michelle is the Director of Above Rubies in Canada. Canadian readers please contact her for all your orders, magazines and donations: Ph: 204-355-7682

Face to Face



Shawne and Rebecca with their children: Macey (17), Haley (13), Benton (12), Ivy (10), Harmon (3), Shawna (14 months).

In the fast paced life of a mom, I often get too caught up checking off the next thing on my to-do list and fail to marvel at the miracle of babies and the God who created them. Today, as I was nursing my precious baby girl, she began pushing my shirt up higher than I would like and exposing more skin than I am comfortable with. I usually fight her on this so as not to expose myself to other people in the room. However, this day we were alone so I ignored it. She really enjoyed more skin to skin contact.

As she stared up into my eyes, searching my face, she kind of hugged me while nursing, and gave me that little smile babies do when they are nursing and smiling simultaneously. It was so sweet. I thought of how humans can nurse and look directly into the face of their baby whereas most animals nurse while facing away from their young. We are blessed to have been given this special gift of "face to face" while nursing which helps us to form a special and unique bond with our child.

God's creativity never ceases to amaze me. Cows, horses, deer and goats have their mammary glands between their hind legs while dogs, cats, and pigs all have them on their belly. Manatees have theirs under their flippers! If that's not unique enough, look at the kangaroo. A mother kangaroo will often have two joeys (baby kangaroo) of different ages. Each baby uses a different nip-

ple, or teat, inside her pouch. The young joey gets low-fat, high-protein milk from one teat until it's about six months old because it needs the extra protein to help it grow quickly. The older baby, because it is often hopping around outside the pouch, needs more energy. It gets high-fat, low-protein milk from another teat till about 10 months of age!

In His infinite wisdom God also gave nursing moms a gift. As a baby nurses, signals travel to the mother's brain to make special hormones. These hormones help the mother feel at ease and remain calm with a fussy baby and all the new demands of adjusting to motherhood. I am certain that God gave this gift to animals as well! Have you ever seen how content a mother cat is when nursing her kittens? Even a big grizzly bear becomes playful and fun while nursing.

As I was thinking about this I realized also that all animals nurse their young according to how fast or slow their offspring mature. Animals that grow slowly and are longer in reaching maturity have a longer nursing period while those that grow rapidly and reach maturity early have a short nursing period. Puppies only nurse for a couple of months while a calf usually nurses for nine! Horses nurse their young a little over a year, but believe it or not, the slowest growing animal of all is the human.

Humans take the longest to reach maturity and, typically, require two years to develop sufficient teeth to chew solid foods. Therefore human babies should have the longest nursing period. It all fits together as part of God's perfect gift to mothers and their babies.

Take the time to nurse and look into the eyes of your miracle baby! Hold on to those moments for as long as you can, even if it's two years or more!

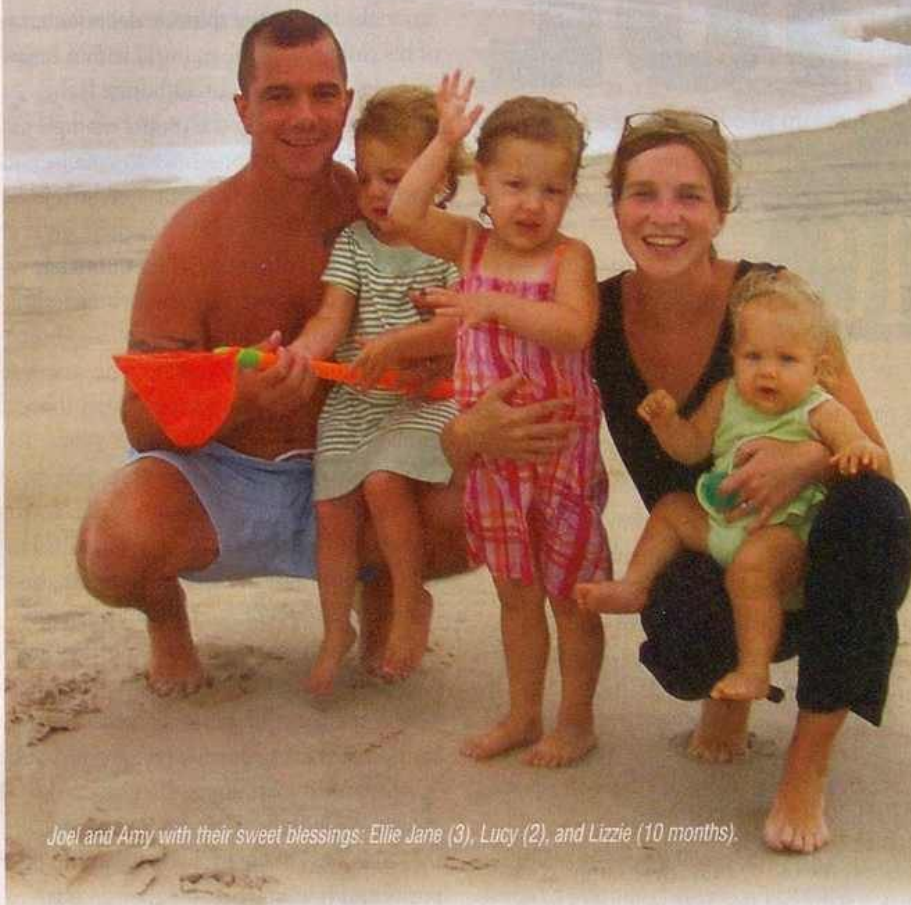
REBECCA HUFF

Crossville, Tennessee, USA
rebecca.huff@gmail.com



I recently read where a doctor advises the nursing mother to fully engage with her baby as she nurses. As she looks and interacts with her baby, rather than looking at TV or a reading a book, she will receive a greater intensity of the hormone, prolactin. Nancy

Third Time's a Charm



Joel and Amy with their sweet blessings: Ellie Jane (3), Lucy (2), and Lizzie (10 months).

When I gave birth to our first child, merely ten months after our wedding night, I was relieved to have the ordeal over with. She was born two weeks early from an induced labor, following a pregnancy that began with spotting (and the doctor telling us he couldn't guarantee that the baby was going to make it) and sickness. We were nevertheless overjoyed at our daughter's birth, and at the same time, overwhelmed with the new responsibilities God had placed before us.

Just four months later, we discovered that God again had plans to grow our family! At the time, my husband was finishing his second year of law school and I had recently quit my full time job and taken on tutoring in an attempt to stay home with our daughter. We had ABSOLUTELY no money and no room in our tiny shack of a rental house. My husband had to continually remind me that this new baby was part of God's plan.

Although my hesitations subsided, the problems did not. At 21 weeks, I was

hospitalized with stomach flu and contractions. At my 28-week checkup, my doctor told me I was dilating. I was put on strict bed rest and given a shot to mature the new baby's lungs in the event that she came early. We were frightened. A week later, I was hospitalized after the doctors realized I had dilated two more centimeters in the previous week. Suddenly, we were rushed into a whirlwind of doctors, medicines, and most troubling—the reality that I would be in the hospital for the long haul.

We were an 18-hour drive from our closest family members and had a nine month old baby girl at home who needed us. Additionally, my husband was now in his final year of law school, which was stressful and all-consuming by itself. I underwent four weeks' worth of hospitalization with a magnesium drip and total bed rest. No getting out of the hospital bed for any reason—no shower, no bathroom time—nothing. Certainly our baby's health was worth it, but my depression grew daily from not being with our

daughter. Finally, after much prayer, we insisted on my release from the hospital at 32.5 weeks gestation. We had peace that God's best for the new baby would not be at the expense of our older baby.

Lucy, our second daughter, was born at 36.5 weeks and went home with us from the hospital. God was so good! We were awestruck by the miracle of her life and the way God guided us through the ordeal.

When I became pregnant again 10 months later, I was devastated. How could our family survive another month-long hospital stay or even bed rest? Our daughters were 10 months and 21 months old, and I was not ready! Even though I had heard a clear word from the Lord about not getting on birth control, I thought it was more of a call for obedience than family growth! How wrong I was. I cried for weeks. Again, my husband encouraged me towards realizing God's plan for our family. A dear friend at church also encouraged me with Proverbs 31:17, saying that God makes my arms strong for my tasks. So, I prayed for a full-term pregnancy and a healthy baby, and that God would somehow help me do it without medication.

Three days before her due date, and after an uneventful pregnancy, our Baby Lizzie (as the girls call her) was born. By the time we got to the hospital, I was 9.5 cm dilated and she was born thirty minutes later—without any medications for mom or baby. She was our biggest yet; she weighed 8.8 lbs. and nursed like a champ from the minute she was born (another answered prayer). She has been the happiest, easiest baby I have ever been around, and most surprisingly, she even looks like me (which had not happened before)! Isn't our God wonderful?

He proved to us that He requires only obedience; we can leave the rest up to Him. He changed our circumstances, our hearts, and even our finances. We needed only to believe that He is who He says He is!

AMY WRIGHT
Stafford, Virginia, USA
amyhamon@hotmail.com

JUSTICE

in the Home

One of the primary attributes of God is that He is a God of Justice. Oh yes, He is a God of mercy and compassion too. But, if He were not just, He would not be God.

The Bible says that...

He is called the God of justice.

(Isaiah 30:18)

He is known by His justice.

(Psalm 9:16; Exodus 7:5; Ezekiel 5:8)

All His ways are justice.

(Deuteronomy 32:4; Proverbs 8:20)

He loves justice. (Psalm 33:5; 37:28)

His throne is established on justice and judgment. (Psalm 89:14; 97:2)

He guards the paths of justice.

(Proverbs 2:8)

He is exalted in justice. (Isaiah 5:16)

He lives in justice. (Jeremiah 4:2)

He exercises justice in the earth.

(Jeremiah 9:24; Ezekiel 5:8, 15)

He is filled with justice. (Micah 3:8)

He delights in justice. (Jeremiah 9:24)

Because we are created in His likeness, He wants us to be just people. Micah 6:8 says, "What does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" If justice is to be part of our lives, where should it start? It seems that God wants it to start in the home.

In the story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, God said that he would not hide from Abraham what He was going to do. Why? Because of the way

he parented his children. Genesis 18:17-19 says, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment..." Abraham ordered his household and trained his family in the ways of justice. Justice is close to God's heart. It is the foundation of family life. It is the primary principle of parenting.

What is Godly Justice?

Justice is the use of authority to uphold what is right and fair. It is acting as a judge and rendering the proper verdict—God's verdict. Because justice is missing from many homes today, it is missing in the nation. Often people do not understand justice because they have not experienced it. They have not experienced godly discipline in the home that teaches them right from wrong. They may have been spanked, but out of frustration and anger, and therefore have not understood righteous judgment.

Children need to know true justice growing up or they will never understand who God is. Many people have a god of their own imagination. He is whoever they want Him to be. He is tolerant of whatever they want to do. He has to fit into their ideas. We can all be guilty of falling into this trap. But God is God. He is who He is. We must understand this and give this understanding to our children. We do this by teaching them to have a clear demarcation of what is right and wrong in the sight of God.

What is Parental Justice?

In the book, *Surveying the Evidence*, the

authors state, "If atheism is not normal, why do certain people become unbelievers? First of all, it is well known that the seeds of atheism can be planted early in life. One of the most dangerous contributions a parent can make toward the spiritual delinquency of his child is a failure to instill within him a wholesome respect for authority. If the parent neglects to set the proper example as an authority figure, or refuses to exercise discipline with love, he might well be rejected as an authority-figure by his child, and thus, by transference, the child ultimately may come to disdain all authority, including the Supreme Authority, God."⁽¹⁾

The Bible tells us that if we do not discipline our children, we honor them above God. (1 Samuel 2:29 and 3:13)

Children must be taught the clear difference between right and wrong, the clean and the unclean.⁽²⁾ Jesus said in Luke 16:11, "He that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." If our children do not learn justice in the little things of life while they are young, how will they know how to execute justice in bigger things as they grow older? Sadly, many young people, even from "Christian" homes, do not have clear insight of God's word about conception, the sacredness of life in the womb, morality, purity and honesty. Because they do not understand justice, they tolerate what God hates.

Our children must understand that justice will be executed for wrong-doing. If not, their judgment will be blurred all through their life. If we do not understand justice, we do not understand the necessity for Christ, the beloved Son of God, to die on the cross, in our place, for our sins. On the cross God's mercy and justice came together, as they always do. Justice must be fulfilled, but God's mercy is always available to forgive and embrace when there is repentance.

Examples of Parental Justice

We see more examples of parental justice in the Scriptures. When the angel came to Manoah and his wife to tell them that she would conceive Samson, Manoah asked the Lord, "How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?" (Judges 13:12) The word 'order' is *mishpat*, the Hebrew word for justice. Manoah knew that he needed God's wisdom to raise him with justice. Unfortunately, their parenting didn't

work too well. Even though they prayed for justice, they did not execute it. When Samson wanted a wife from the Philistines, instead of one of their own Israelites, they gave into his whim. Samson's end may have been different if they had exercised justice. (Judges 14:1-3)

What kind of an earthly father did God look for when it was time to send His Son to this earth? We would think that he would choose a wealthy man who owned a big home and could provide well for the Son of God who left behind the glory of the heavenly world. Surely He would choose a man of prominence and influence in the community. Perhaps a man of great intellect. No. He looked for a very special quality—a quality that describes who God is. When Matthew 1:19 introduces Joseph, the only quality mentioned is that he is a “just” man. It is obviously the No. 1 requirement for parenting.

We notice that God looked for the same characteristic in everyone who was part of the birth of Jesus. John the Baptist's parents, Zacharias and Elizabeth were “both righteous (just) before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.” (Luke 1:6). John the Baptist himself grew up to be a “just man” like his parents. (Mark 6:20) Simeon was also “just and devout”. The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that he would not die until He had seen the Messiah. The Holy Spirit led him to the temple just as Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to be dedicated and witnessed to him that this was the Christ. (Luke 2:25-35)

The Time for Justice is Now!

One of the greatest needs of this hour is for a generation of children to rise up who know justice. We need leaders who understand justice. We need men like King David who “reigned over all Israel and administered justice and righteousness for all his people.” (2 Samuel 8:15) We need leaders like Solomon, who rather than ask God for riches for himself, asked for “discernment to understand justice.” (1 Kings 3:11; 2 Chronicles 9:8)

We need young men like Phinehas who was not afraid to take action against evil. (Numbers 25:6-15; Psalm 106:30) We need prophets, young and old, who are not afraid to speak the word of the Lord—“Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish

justice in the gate!” (Amos 5:15) We need judges in the land who will “justify the righteous and condemn the wicked”, not the other way around as so often happens today. (Deuteronomy 25:1, 16)

The “gates” are the legislative capitals where laws and decisions are made for communities, states and the nation.⁽³⁾ This is where we need justice to be set up again. But before justice can come to the gates of our cities, it must come to our homes. It starts with parents who command their household in the ways of justice, who do not allow disobedience, rebellion, lies and deceit to go undisciplined. Parents who abhor evil and love righteousness and who teach their children to do the same.

Justice is an action. The Bible tells us to think justice, seek justice, know justice, talk justice, execute justice, establish justice, preserve justice, follow justice, joy in justice and sing of justice.⁽⁴⁾

The Blessings of Justice

We know that justice is often a hard thing to execute and even harder to receive. It is often painful for parents to discipline their children; they would rather gloss over it and hope the problem will go away. But it doesn't work like that. Sin is like yeast and multiplies. It must be nipped in the bud. Hebrews 12:11 says, “Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but grievous; nevertheless, afterwards it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” Afterward! Yes, that's it. Blessing comes **after** discipline. Always. There are many incidents in the Bible where grievous justice was executed, but great blessing came afterwards.⁽⁵⁾

God orders the universe with justice and judgment. In the same way, we should order the little universe of our homes. Does that mean that parents rule with an iron rod? That their homes are religious and full of legality? Of course not. Our homes are to be spheres of love and joy, peace and happiness. They are to be like the first Eden, which means “delight”. They are to be filled with laughter and fun. They are to be sanctuaries of rest from discord and strife.

Justice comes into play when these blessings are violated. A home is no longer a haven when children are disobedient and rebellious. The parents are distressed, the children are unhappy and the atmosphere is dreadful. It is no longer heaven on earth; it

is hell. When justice is executed peace reigns again. Children are secure for they have clear boundaries and know the difference between good and evil. And parents are no longer frazzled. They can enjoy life as they experience the blessing of Proverbs 29:17, “Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.”

May God anoint us as parents to command our children in the paths of justice.

NANCY CAMPBELL

(1) Surveying the Evidence

by Wayne Jackson, Eric Lyons and Kyle Butt (Apologetics Press, Inc.)

(2) No blur about sin:

Lev. 10:10-11; Psalm 34:14; 97:10; Jer. 15:19; Ezek. 22:26; 44:23; Rom. 12:9; Eph. 5:11-13; 1 John 2:15-17

(3) We need Justice in the Gates:

God's Word says that we are to...

Possess the gates – Genesis 22:17; 24:60

Speak in the gates – Psalm 127:4-5

Proclaim wisdom in the gates – Prov. 1:20-21; 8:1-7

Establish justice in the gates – Amos 5:15

Defend justice in the gates – Isaiah 29:21 (“the defender of justice in the gates” MLB)

Establish truth and peace in the gates – Zech. 8:16

Guard the gates – Nehemiah 11:19

Protect the gates – Isaiah 28:6

God's plan is that...

The righteous should inhabit the gates – Isa. 26:2

Those who sit in the gates should have a “spirit of justice” – Isaiah 28:6

The wicked will bow at the gates

of the righteous – Prov. 14:19

Godly men should be known

in the gates – Prov. 31:23

Mothers and homemakers should be praised in the gates, not the feminists – Prov. 31:31

(4) 10 Ways to establish Justice:

Think justice – Prov. 12:5

Seek justice – Isaiah 1:17

Know justice – Jer. 5:4; 8:7; Micah 3:1

Talk justice – Psalm 37:30; Prov. 16:10

Execute justice – Deut. 33:21b; Psalm 106:30;

Prov. 21:3, 15; Isa. 28:6; Jer. 7:5-7; 21:12; 22:3;

33:15-16; Ezek. 5:8, 15; 18:8-9; Zech. 7:9-10, 8:16

Establish justice – Prov. 29:4; Amos 5:15

Preserve justice – Isaiah 56:1

Follow justice – Deut. 16:20

Joy in justice – Psalm 48:11; Prov. 21:15

Sing of justice – Psalm 101:1

(5) The Blessings of executing Justice:

Exodus 32:26-29; Num. 1:50-54

– Chosen for priesthood

Num. 25:6-13 – Covenant of an

everlasting priesthood

Joshua 7 – Victory over enemies

Jer. 23:5-6; 33:15-16 – peace and safety

Heb. 12:11 – peace and righteousness

When my husband and I married, I dreamed of having four children. However, after our first two, we decided we would not have any more—babies were hard work and stressful. Heidi-Mari was a colic baby who cried for six months before we learned she was dairy, wheat and MSG

more than two children. How does one provide for three children in today's society? I must be crazy.

Everybody I talked to (even our pastor who had three children) advised me against having more children, especially having three children—the middle child

most enriching time to go into labor in the evening and give birth to a little boy in the early morning hours of the 24th August 2000! Everything was so peaceful and calm—no rushing to a noisy hospital and leaving our small children, no bright lights, no strange nurses storming into the

Another Baby! *Are you Crazy?*



Christo and Linnie with their blessings: CJ (15), Heidi-Mari (12), Joshua (9), Danika (6), Andrew (4), David (3), Daniel (1).

intolerant. She was two and a half years old and I was looking forward to having a life again. Heidi-Mari and CJ (then five years old) were in playgroups and I would now be able to start working in my husband's business again. I would also be able to get back to doing hobbies and go to Ladies' Bible studies without toddlers around my feet.

Then two friends of mine fell pregnant with their third babies! All of a sudden I wanted another baby! I tried to reason with myself. If I got pregnant again, I would be stuck at home again for another three years! And who in her right mind would want to do that to herself? I already had a boy and a girl, our parents only had two children, and everybody else I know, except these two friends, only had two children. Not even the church promotes

syndrome being one of the main reasons. But I wanted another baby so badly!

After two months of rollercoaster emotions, I decided to ask God for help. In the spring of 1999, I started a forty day fast from certain foods in my daily diet. Every morning and any other available time, I read my Bible, pleading with God for guidance. It was an amazing few weeks. God visited me every time I opened His Word, revealing Himself to me and giving me the most amazing promises. And, before the forty days were over, I was pregnant! I was overjoyed. With all the promises God gave me, I looked forward to this new life and trusted God to sustain us.

Since Heidi-Mari was a very traumatic hospital birth, miraculously not ending in a caesarian, we decided to have a home, water birth with a midwife. It was the

labor room every hour for observations and no interference with my body's natural instinct to give birth.

Two hours after my baby boy was born, I was lying in my own bed in my own room. The children had met their new baby brother and were back in a restful sleep in their own beds, the midwife left for her own hour or two of rest before dawn and my husband and I were adoring our newborn baby over toast and marmite* sandwiches!

This was only the beginning of God's blessing on our lives through this baby. A few weeks after our baby's birth, my husband's business went under and we lost everything. We moved to a small two-bedroom granny flat, borrowed a family member's car and Christo had to start a new business from the ground. But my baby

boy gave me hope and a reason to live! Every time I thought the pressure and stress was too much, I took my tiny baby into my arms and loved him. Through this baby's dependency on me, God faithfully renewed my tired, discouraged spirit.

Today this tiny baby is nine years old. God truly used him to lead us into the Promised Land and teach us His truth about the blessing of children.

Do I still think babies are hard work? For sure! Do I still think they keep me from having a life? Never! They are the key to the life God intended for me from the very beginning! Today, my seven children are playing around their brothers and sisters in the safety of their own home. They have their mother, using her talents and passion to stimulate and encourage each one to grow into the unique person

God intends them to be!

And God continues to provide. He has never forsaken us. I can say with King David, "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread." (Psalm 37:25-26).

LINNIE LUES

Durbanville, Cape Town, South Africa
linnie@aboverubies.co.za
www.backtoancientways.blogspot.com
Linnie is the Director of *Above Rubies* in South Africa



P.S. Their precious eighth baby, Michael Jonathan arrived 29 January 2010. Here they are together a few minutes after he was born at home.

*What is marmite? It is a tasty yeast spread that every child in Australia and New Zealand (and South Africa) grows up putting on their bread. Whereas American children eat jelly and peanut butter sandwiches, "Downunder" children (and adults) eat marmite or vegemite sandwiches or vegemite and cheese sandwiches.

Do you want to be
freshly inspired each week in
your great career of motherhood?

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

You will receive a confirmation letter and
then you must CONFIRM.

"Every time I receive a new devotional from you, God opens my eyes and heart to so much truth from His Word."

"Your encouragement is like water to one about to die of thirst."

"Your e-mails are like a compass pointing to true north when I get all spun around and disoriented."

"You always remind me that my job at home matters and I am important to my world."

"In our busy mummy lifestyle, it is great to get our hands on short, easy to read and understand studies, that impact us greatly and give us lots of food for thought."

Remember to **CONFIRM**
or you will not receive the devotions.

DOWNLOADS!

Now available for you to enjoy
on your computer or MP3. Go to

www.aboverubies.org
and download a blessing.

Music CDs

Individual
songs
99¢ each

Peace All Over Me

Soothe Me

This is our Road

Angel in my Arms

Richest Man on Earth

Entire CD
Only
\$9.99

Teaching CDs

by Nancy Campell

Shepherding your Flock

by Evangeline Johnson

The Adventure of Motherhood

Guard your Child's Brain Space

The Weeping Warrior

Justice in the Home



More teaching CDs
are being prepared
so keep checking the web page.

www.aboverubies.org



Can it get any Better?

"I want a divorce," my husband told me. He was drunk, so drunk that he no longer even remembers this conversation. His drinking was increasing, as was his misery and hopelessness. We had been married less than five years and had two sons, one who was born before we even met. My husband had been in the Navy, but now, less than a year out of the service, we were financially strapped.

We were also struggling with my trying to lead the marriage. I grew up in a family where my mom was the leader, though she would pretend otherwise. With Keith out to sea constantly I struggled with allowing him to lead. Also, we had hardly known each other. We were engaged within 24 hours of knowing each other, and married 10 months later after completing basic training and A-school. He was 19 and I was barely twenty. We fought constantly, even on our wedding day. My father predicted we wouldn't make it very long in our marriage and it looked like he was right.

My husband told me that he was going to move in with his mother but would continue to take care of the boys and me. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I was shocked, numb, and embarrassed. How could I tell my family and friends that my husband had left me? This was more than I could bear. I pleaded with him, but there was no changing his mind.

I had just recently started going back to church, recommitting my life to Jesus. I cried out to God to save my marriage. The next thing I knew I asked my husband if we could pray about it and give our marriage over to God. Shockingly, he agreed. Right there in our bedroom, with tears falling from both our eyes, we gave our marriage to our heavenly Father. We kissed, held each other, and went to sleep.

The next day there was no mention of the divorce. Time passed and the Lord worked in our marriage. Our fighting decreased. Keith started occasionally going to church with the boys and me. One day God told me that I needed to let Keith lead in this area, so the next Sunday morning when he told me that he wasn't going with us, I told him I didn't think we should go either. It wasn't long before he started taking us to church regularly.

Then came the decision to home school the boys, and soon after, we gave control of our family size over to Him as well. Each year as we celebrate our anniversary (28 years now) we cannot believe our marriage can get any better, but it does.

One time at a women's gathering with our church, each one shared something we were thankful for. I shocked everyone when I said I was thankful that God gave me a terrible marriage to start with, because after seeing what God had done for our marriage I knew He could do anything.

MARY McLASKEY
Bellevue, Nebraska, USA
Maryandthe8ks@hotmail.com

Keith and Mary have 8 Ks and 4 grandchildren – Kurt Bahr and Jennifer and their children, Micah (7), Lydia (5), Josiah (3) and baby Judah, Kyle (26), Kira (18), Kaleb (17), Kaitlin (15), Kenaniah (10), Karson (7) and Kelli (5).

Meat for Men

Colin Campbell is now writing again his Monthly Messages to inspire and challenge men.

To receive his monthly email messages, send a blank email to:

mens_devotional@aweber.com

Colin's first series will be:
**Principles of Preservation
in Difficult Times**

You will receive a confirmation letter which you will have to CONFIRM.



Time for Prayer

Our home life has its ups and downs,
Some days are dark, some fair:
When comes the night,
But all is right,
When Dad calls, "Time for prayer."

We read the Book for guidance,
Sing praises for His care,
Then as we kneel,
God's touch we feel,
As Dad leads us in prayer.

Sometimes we face temptations strong,
Or burdens hard to bear,
But hearts grow light,
New hope beams bright,
While Dad's voice lifts in prayer.

Oh I am rich, this legacy
Exceeds the millionaire's:
To know you've had
The kind of Dad,
Whose daily guide is prayer.

Ada Wine

ABOVE RUBIES RETREATS FOR 2010

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

12 — 14 MARCH, WASHINGTON

AR LADIES RETREAT, Black Lake Bible Camp, Olympia

For all registration questions:

Lisa Strickland, • slstrickland96@hotmail.com • Ph: 360-297-2717

For all other retreat information:

Heather Bryant • hbbry91@msn.com • Ph: 360-271-9668

19 — 20 MARCH, NEBRASKA

AR LADIES RETREAT, Spirit of Life Church

3148 Dove Hill Avenue, Kearney

Contact: Lezlie Keeling • spiritoflife@rcom-ne.com • Ph: 308-234-1185

Or: Brenda Kremer • kremerdb@gmail.com • Ph: 308-293-1730

26 — 28 MARCH, WISCONSIN

AR FAMILY CAMP, Inspiration Center, Williams Bay

Contact: Roger and Jackie Thelen

Ph: 262-723 6557 • safehaven@pensys.com

16 — 18 APRIL, TEXAS

AR LADIES RETREAT, Victory Camp in Alvin, near Houston.

Website: <http://www.victorycamp.com>

Contact: Kim Griffith, Phone: 281-714-0171

Email: texasretreat@hotmail.com • www.aboverubiestx.com

23 — 25 APRIL, MANITOBA, CANADA

AR LADIES RETREAT, Camp Cedarwood, Pinawa Bay, NE of Winnipeg

<http://www.cedarwood4yc.com/site/site.htm>

Contact: Michele Kauenhofen

Ph: 204-388-6015 (noon - 4 pm or after 8 pm) • ceducate@explornet.ca

Pearl, Serene and Evangeline will be coming to this retreat.

This will be Evangeline's first time to a retreat in Canada.

30 APRIL — 2 MAY, ALBANY, NEW YORK

WOMEN'S CONF. AT GOOD TIDINGS BIBLE CONFERENCE

Location: 739 Sutton Rd, Cornwallville, New York 12418

Contact: Deborah Borman, deb.borman@gmail.com • Cell: 518-528-7904

Web: goodtidingsfellowship.com • Office: 518-239-4178

7 — 9 MAY, COLORADO

AR LADIES RETREAT, Glen Eyrie Conf. Center, Colorado Springs

Although it is a Ladies Retreat, the whole family is welcome to come and enjoy the weekend together at this idyllic spot.

Contact: Felicia Johnson * Email: felipsha@gmail.com

Ph: 719-478-2113 or 210-367-3518 • Conference Center: (800) 944-4536

28 — 30 MAY, MEMORIAL WEEKEND, CA

AR FAMILY RETREAT • OAKHURST, CALIFORNIA

MAY 31 — JUNE 5, YOSEMITE

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK WITH THE CAMPBELLS

CONTACT for retreat and camping information:

BRIAN AND CHARITY CALLIS • Web: www.CaliforniaRubies.com

Ph: (559) 877-3777 • Info@CaliforniaRubies.com

25 — 27 JUNE, MISSOURI

AR FAMILY CAMP, Windermere Baptist Conference Center

www.windermereusa.org

Contact: Shane and Christine Richardson

Ph: 816-732-6171 • aboverubiesmissouri@mail.com

Web: www.aboverubiesmissouri.webs.com

9 — 11 JULY, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

AR LADIES RETREAT at Camp Alta, CA (60 miles NE of Sacramento)

Website: <http://norcalaboverubies.yolasite.com>

Email: norcalaboverubies@gmail.com

Contacts: Jardel Manalo (916) 366-6121

Or Heather DiSilvestro (916) 361-3123

13 — 15 AUGUST, TENNESSEE

AR LADIES RETREAT AT Garner Creek Center

700 Sam Hollow Rd • Dickson, TN 37055 • www.garnercreek.com

Contact: Lynn Owens, Ph: 615-243-7835 • Email: owensarrows@hughes.net

Or Tara Thacker, thackertribe@bellsouth.net

20 — 22 AUGUST, MONTANA

AR LADIES RETREAT at Abba's Haven (near Billings, Montana)

Contact: Megan Kirchhevel • chriskirchhevel77@yahoo.com

Ph: 406-320-2292 or 406-323-3381

Or Nancy Fowler • momfowler@gmail.com • 406-245-7460

27 — 29 AUGUST, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

AR FAMILY and LADIES RETREAT

Pine Valley Bible Conference Center, 45 min. east of San Deigo

Contact: Gary and Trish Evans, Ph: 951 681 4858 or Cell: 951-315-9078

Email: gtrkdz@empirenet.com

3 — 20 SEPTEMBER, AUSTRALIA

LADIES RETREATS in Tasmania, NSW and QLD.

Contact Val Stares for more information:

Email: valstares@aboverubies.org.au • Ph: 07-5543-4744

7 — 25 OCTOBER, UNITED KINGDOM/EUROPE

RETREATS AND SEMINARS

Contact Alice Gurr for more information.

Email: aboverubies@ntlworld.com • 020-8224-3628

29 — 31 OCTOBER, OREGON

AR LADIES RETREAT, Turner 15 min. form Salem

Contact: Pam Fields, Ph: 503-363-0579 • quiverfull@divix.biz

Or Terri Burkert, Ph: 541-580-2905 • www.OregonRubies.com

**CAMPING
WEEK**

“We don't change
God's message —
His message changes us!”



\$15.00
US
plus shipping

**Great
Gift for
Fathers**

An original album for fathers! Everyone in the family will love it!

Order by PayPal, www.aboverubies.org Call to pay by credit card, Ph: 1 800 729 9861 Or send a check.

Purchase Nancy's Four Manuals for Only \$50.00. YOU SAVE \$12.00!

The Power of Motherhood

What the Bible says about you as a Mother!

You will be strengthened, fortified, inspired, encouraged and uplifted in your high calling of motherhood!

Mothers who have read this manual confess that they are never the same again!

The Family Meal Table and Hospitality

What the Bible says about your Table!

This manual will give you a vision for your family meal table far beyond what you have ever dreamed. Filled with scriptural inspiration and creative ideas for your family mealtimes and hospitality.

It will change your family life and is a "must" for every family.

Gate-Keepers of the Home

How to Guard your Home

This manual studies the twelve gates of Jerusalem that

Nehemiah rebuilt, relating it to building, repairing and guarding the gates of your home.

It is a great study for Bible Study groups. You will be encouraged in your powerful calling as the Watchwoman of your home.

Be Fruitful and Multiply

What the Bible says about having Children!

This book goes into the Word of God to see what He says about having children. You will be surprised.

It is a must for every single person planning to marry and every married couple. Buy it for yourself and give as gifts to as many as possible.

Discount Prices for Manuals • 40% discount for ten or more!

RESPONSE FORM

	Price	Qty	Total
Study Manuals:			
The Power of Motherhood	\$18.00		
The Family Meal Table and Hospitality	\$20.00		
Be Fruitful and Multiply	\$14.00		
Gate Keepers of the Home	\$10.00		
Discount for above 4 manuals	\$50.00		
Your Price is Far Above Rubies	\$18.00		
Music CDs:			
Peace All Over Me - Serene & Pearl	\$15.00		
Soothe Me - Serene & Pearl	\$15.00		
Angel in my Arms - Serene & Pearl	\$15.00		
This is our Road - Serene & Pearl	\$15.00		
Richest Man on Earth - Songs for Fathers	\$15.00		
I had No Idea - Val Halloran	\$15.00		
DVDs:			
Rejuvenate with Serene	\$14.95		
The Family Meal Table	\$14.95		
Who Am I? Understanding my Purpose...	\$19.95		
Reclaiming God's Plan for Women	\$30.00		
Nancy's Teaching CDs: MP3			
Changing the World from your Home	\$19.00	\$10	
Powerful Parenting	\$17.00	\$9	
Shepherding your Flock	\$19.00	\$10	
The Atmosphere of the Home	\$21.00	\$11	
Back to the Beginning	\$21.00	\$11	
Mothers with a Mission	\$21.00	\$11	
The Beautiful Woman	\$19.00	\$10	
God's Grace at my Place	\$17.00	\$9	
Building a Strong Marriage and Home	\$17.00	\$9	
Lovely Homes	\$17.00	\$9	
The Flourishing Mother	\$13.00	\$7	
Home Sweet Home	\$ 5.00		
Gird your Loins with Truth	\$ 5.00		
Colin Campbell's Materials: MP3			
Stand Up and be Counted	\$ 5.00		
21st Century Patriarchs DVDs	\$30.00		
Where are the Real Men of God?	\$14.00		
The Making of a Patriarch CDs	\$17.00	\$9	
Evangeline's Teaching CDs: MP3			
The Adventure of Motherhood	\$13.00	\$7	
Guard Your Child's Brain Space	\$ 5.00		
The Weeping Warrior	\$ 5.00		
Justice in the Home	\$ 5.00		
Serene's Health Information:			
Rejuvenate Your Life - Recipes for Energy	\$18.00		
Coconut Butter/Oil Recipes - by Serene	\$ 4.99		
Rejuvenate Your Life CD	\$ 5.00		
Books:			
Nuturing the Nations - by Darrow Miller	\$15.00		
A Change of Heart - Reversal Testimonies	\$12.00		
Quiet Reflections For Mothers - 101 Poems	\$12.00		
Does the Birth Control Pill Cause Abortions	\$ 3.00		
A Full Quiver	\$10.00		
Breastfeeding and Fertility	\$10.00		
Sub-Total left column			

	Price	Qty	Total
Posters:			
Etiquette Poster Package	\$ 8.95		
Specials for this Issue:			
Quiet Reflections for Mothers	\$ 8.00		
Daily Light on the Daily Path	\$12.00		
Sub-Total from this column			
Sub-Total from left column			
Add 25% Shipping			
My Donation for Above Rubies			
My Donation to Campbells			
Total:			

ORDERING INFORMATION

Order by credit card or PayPal

www.aboverubies.org,

or send check to:

ABOVE RUBIES

PO BOX 681687 • FRANKLIN, TN 37068-1687

PHONE: (877) 729 9861

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

PLEASE ADD 25% SHIPPING

(30% if ordering from Canada)

Minimum Shipping \$1.40.

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

Above Rubies Webmaster
Contact Joe at
webmaster@aboverubies.org

~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, write checks to Colin and Nancy Campbell.

HERE IS MY DONATION FOR **ABOVE RUBIES**

Send by credit card, PayPal, or check.

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

My Donation for Above Rubies _____

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

Credit card number: _____/_____/_____/_____

Telephone number: _____

Name on card: _____

Exp date: ___/___ V-code ___ Signature: _____

I AM ALREADY ON THE AR LIST

I AM A NEW SUBSCRIBER

I ALREADY HAVE ABOVE RUBIES # _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

I WOULD LIKE _____ OF THIS ISSUE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS.

INCREASE MY FUTURE ORDER TO _____

DECREASE MY FUTURE ORDER TO _____

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

MY ADDRESS HAS CHANGED.
HERE IS MY NEW ADDRESS.

STREET _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PREVIOUS ZIP # _____

NEW FRIEND. COULD YOU PLEASE SEND AR TO:

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____

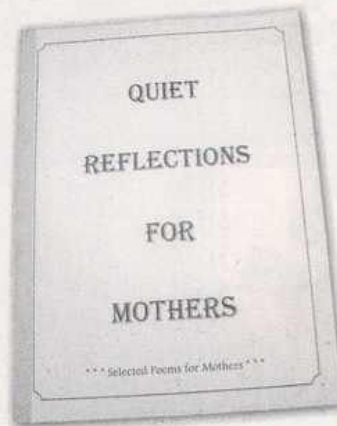
STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

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

78

SPECIAL FOR THIS ISSUE!



ONLY
\$8.00 US
(Down to nearly
half price!)

Order it while it is on special!

Quiet Reflections for Mothers

Selected Poems for Mothers

There's nothing like a poem to encourage you as a mother. These are poems I have gathered over the years and have been a blessing to me. They will bless you too. Read them while nursing your baby, or when you are feeling overwhelmed and need a "pick-me-up"! Call a friend and read one to her over the phone—you will both be blessed! Read some as you go to bed to rest your tired soul.

These books are also wonderful gifts to bless a mother, or for baby shower gifts.

Save \$4.00 on usual price!

What's New?



New DVD

Who Am I?

Understanding my Purpose as a Woman

by Nancy Campbell

Four messages on DVD

(plus testimonies from women)

4 hours of teaching
ONLY
\$19.99

Check for more DVD sets
on page 29 and at www.aboverubies.org

Changing the World from the Heart of my Home

by Nancy Campbell

New CD set

\$19.00
MP3 \$10.00

Check for 12 more CDs
on page 29 and at www.aboverubies.org

Are You Looking for Material
for a Men's Bible Study?

Here is your answer!

Where Are The Real Men of God?

Exposing the Wimpy Spirit!

By Colin Campbell

This manual is filled with
challenging messages to men.
Each of the 24 chapters exposes
another area of wimpiness. This
manual also has questions at the
end of each chapter to discuss
together, plus suggested matters
to pray for one another.

Available for \$14.00

ONLINE DONATIONS

You can now donate to
Above Rubies online.

Go to the
Above Rubies website,

www.aboverubies.org
and click on "Make a Donation"

ARE YOU MOVING?

Please remember to send us
your change of address.

We are charged for your returned mail.
Thank you.

CANADIAN READERS:

For all Canadian orders and prices,
call Michelle at 204-355-7682

Address or subscription changes email
Marie at arnewinfo@yahoo.com

* South Asia:
India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

* East Asia:
China, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Macau,
Taiwan, Japan and Korea.

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

Publications Agreement 40866061

ABOVE RUBIES February 2010, No.78

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

ABOVE RUBIES is a non-subscription magazine, supported by the contributions of its readers and interested people. Our vision is to print four times a year, but this is dependent upon the donations that flow in. We go to print each time as soon as the money is available. God has been so faithful and we have been printing *Above Rubies* for the world for over 32 years. If you would like to receive this magazine regularly, or would like a bulk order for distribution in your community, please WRITE to us or fill in the form on page 30 and post to the appropriate Above Rubies address below.

AMERICA

PO Box 681687, Franklin, TN 37068-1687
Nancy Campbell: aboverubies@hughes.net
Ph: 1 877 729 9861 (between 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday, Central Time)

AUSTRALIA

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

CANADA

Box 152, New Bothwell MB R0A 1C0
Michelle Kauenhofen: ceducate@xplornet.ca
Ph: 204-388-6015; Cell: 204-355-7682

MALAYSIA

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

NEW ZEALAND

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

PAPUA NEW GUINEA and AFRICA

8 Burkes Road, Gowrie Junction, QLD, Australia 4352
Lisa Thorpe: lisathorpeclan@bigpond.com

SINGAPORE, SOUTH ASIA, EAST ASIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA*

Marine Parade, PO Box 720, Singapore 914408
Jenny Png: rubies@singnet.com.sg

SOUTH AFRICA

PO Box 3916, Durbanville 7551
Linnie and Christo Lues: linnie@aboverubies.co.za
Ph: 021 976 0883

SOUTH PACIFIC

PO Box 4232, Mt. Maunganui, New Zealand
Margarett Hartnett: hartnettfam@gmail.com

SOUTH/CENTRAL AMERICA, ISRAEL and MIDDLE EAST

Email nancy@aboverubies.org

UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPE

6 Field Close, West Molesey, Surrey, KT8 2LA
John and Alice Gurr: info@aboverubies.co.uk
Ph: (020) 8224 3628

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

Our Future

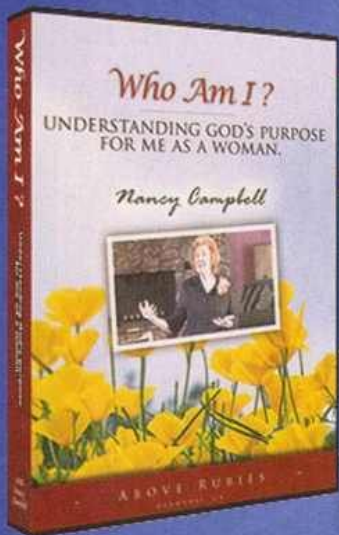
When you feel weary,
Burdened with care,
Your life unrewarding,
Your cross hard to bear

Think of our future-
Its present and past,
Without all our mothers,
How long would it last?

~ Robert Bridge

Above Rubies
Encouraging Women in their High Calling
as Wives, Mothers and Homemakers

~ ABOVE RUBIES ~



2 Disk Set!

Who Am I?

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S PURPOSE
FOR ME AS A WOMAN.

Nancy Campbell



A NEW APPROACH TO WOMANHOOD!

IN THIS DVD SET NANCY SHARES WHO YOU REALLY
ARE AS A WOMAN:



\$19.95

I AM A...

1. NURTURER
2. LIFE-GIVER
3. LEADER
4. GENERATION BUILDER
5. MANAGER
6. FEEDER
7. EDUCATOR, TEACHER AND CHILD-TRAINER
8. DISCIPLER
9. GUARDIAN
10. FLOURISHING VINE

Over 4 Hours of Teaching!

www.chaseshaw.com

© 2010 ShawFamilyMedia

designed by
Chase Shaw Designs

To order in USA: Go to www.aboverubies.org and click on Book/CD Store
Or call 1 877 729 9861 to order by credit card or send a check. Other countries can order by International PayPal.