

Hearth to Hearth

Woman to Woman

Vol. 3, No.3

“And ye are complete in him.” Colossians 2:10

May/June 2000

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Making a House a Home

“Behold, thus shalt the man be blessed who fears the Lord. Psalm 128:4

A lumber company has placed a number of billboard ads along the highway that tell how to make your house a home. Some picture a remodeled kitchen with beautiful new cabinets; others a lovely patio. These features undoubtedly can add to a family’s enjoyment of a house, but they don’t make a house a home. In fact, they may detract, though this need not be the case.

It takes godliness and love to make a home, no matter how simple or luxurious may be the house. The happy family portrayed in Psalm 128 is headed by a man who “fears the Lord.” (v. 4). The wife is like a “fruitful vine,” and the children like “olive plants all around your table.” (v. 3). This is a picture of contentment, joy, and fruitfulness, the result of a loving, godly home.

I can’t help but think that the home into which Moses was born was like this. Although we know little about it, Moses’ parents risked their lives to keep their baby boy from being drowned. His sister Miriam displayed much concern when she watched over her infant brother as he floated in the Nile in his waterproof basket. Moses went into the palace of Pharaoh as a boy, but he chose to identify with God and the Israelites when he became a man (Heb. 11:25). I believe this shows the

love and godly influence of his parents in his earliest years.

A remodeled kitchen, a new patio, or a new house may give enjoyment. But it takes a combination of godliness and love to make a house a home.—Herbert Vander Lugt

A house is built of bricks and stones,

Of sills and posts and piers;
But a home is built of loving deeds

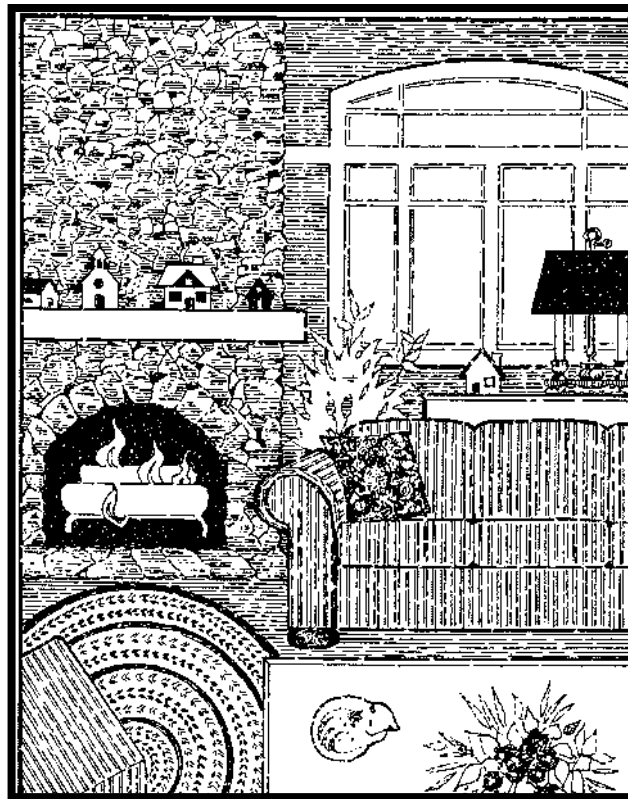
That stand a thousand years.—Anon.

A house is built by hands, but a home is built by hearts.

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Think about it!

There is another kind of “house” that we should be concerned about. It, too, is to be more than a “house;” actually, it is to be a “temple,” a dwelling place for God’s Spirit. “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is
(Continued on page 14)



Our Mission Statement: Believing that we can find completeness in all areas of our lives only “in him, who is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:10), it is the mission of *Hearth to Hearth* to provide a forum for Christian women to reach out to each other in friendship, with joy and hope; and to encourage each other to find our completeness in Christ as we sojourn here on our way to the kingdom.

Reflections in Springtime: Following the Son

Is there anyone whose favorite season of the year is NOT spring? Well, I'm sure there is, but spring is definitely *my* favorite time of year! As the trees put out their beautiful leaves in the incomparable color of "spring-time green," as flowers burst into bloom, as the birds busily go about their nesting rituals, it's as if the sap rises in my bones! Energized by the earlier sunrise and later sunset, I am overcome by the urge to thoroughly clean and refurbish my own "nest"—perhaps applying a fresh coat of paint to a room, starting a craft project, digging in the dirt and planting some seeds, summer bulbs or a few flats of summer-blooming annuals.

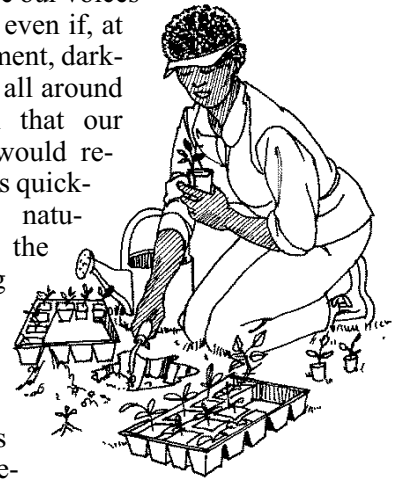
Spring means new life! All the new life bursting forth from the soil reminds us of God's creative power. Spring reminds us that God will create new heavens and a new earth, "wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Peter 3:13) It reminds us also of His redeeming power. "...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17) "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you..." (Ezekiel 36:26).

I lived among the hills of West Virginia for several years during the second half of the 1980s and early 1990s. How I loved it! Our home was situated on a hill overlooking a beautiful valley. In spring and summer I would often get up while it was still dark and sit outside, watching and listening, as morning broke. How glorious was the dawning of a new day! While it still seemed dark to me, a bird would tentatively twitter, then another, and another until, by the time the first rays of dawn gently parted the darkness, the air was vibrant with the songs of the winged choir! As soon as there was enough light for me to see the pond at the bottom of our hill, the mist would already be rising. Long before I could detect the warmth of the sun, the water responded. We see the same thing in plants and flowers of all kinds, but especially sunflowers. Those huge, top-heavy plants turn to follow the sun all day long as it progresses across the sky.

Before I moved to West Virginia, I lived in California for many years. There, in the desert areas, the wind blows fiercely, especially at certain times of the year. Shrubbery and trees lean as they grow and develop a natural, permanent posture and shape according to the direction of the prevailing winds.

There are spiritual lessons in these (and many other) things of nature. In Scripture, the work of God's Holy Spirit is likened unto wind (John 3:8; Acts 2:2) We need to yield to God's Spirit "blowing" on us, even as the tree yields to the direction of the wind. If we do, our characters will be formed according to the "shape" and direction of His will for our lives. Christ will be formed in us, "the hope of glory." (Colossians 1:27)

Let us take a lesson from the birds and raise our voices in song even if, at the moment, darkness be all around us! Oh that our hearts would respond as quickly and naturally to the drawing power of God's influence as water responds to the sun's rays! May we follow the Son of God as naturally and faithfully as flowers and plants turn their heads to follow the sun in the sky!



Grace

MAIL CALL:

My friend gave me one of your *Hearth to Hearth* newsletters and I found it so refreshing, so uplifting and inspiring—the poems, the stories.... Could you kindly send this for me to the addresses below, all dedicated mothers who work with children.

The Netherlands

Just had...to let you know how much I enjoyed this issue of *Hearth to Hearth*. I got it in the mail today after I got home from work and found myself sitting in the chair reading for an hour! All the entries in this issue were very inspiring, especially "The Essence of Spring Cleaning." I certainly enjoyed "Mending the Fence" as well.

TN

Please tell Kathy McKnight that her article, "Fighting Discouragement in the

Spiritual Realm" was very good and a blessing to many, I'm sure.

AR

I want to send you this book of poems. Perhaps you can use it in *Hearth to Hearth*. I cleaned out my books a few weeks ago. I thought you might use it. I have had it for thirty years or more.

AZ

[Yes! Thank you very much. The poems are beautiful and I'm sure our readers will enjoy many of them in future issues of *Hearth to Hearth*. Ed.]

Thank you for producing such an inspiring journal! It has been a blessing to me as I'm involved in ministry with my family, home schooling my children, and in my local church. Copies have been passed on to me by friends in the US, but they are irregular...and I sometimes miss out on continued articles. Would it be possible to put me on your mailing list? I

would faithfully share my copies with friends.

Australia

[It gives us joy to add names to the mailing list! If your friends would like to receive their own copies by mail, we will be glad to add their names also. If you (or anyone else) would like back issues, please let us know; we will be happy to provide them. Ed.]

Here is a small gift for *Hearth to Hearth*. You are doing a beautiful job. Thanks.

AZ

Thanks for the publication. I have already read it, and I have passed it on to a friend. I am looking forward to the next one.

TN

We received your *Hearth to Hearth* publication and were quite pleased with the content. May God bless you in your endeavor....

PA

I picked up a copy of *Hearth to Hearth* in Trenton the other day, and I have enjoyed it so much . . . I wrote for a Christian paper a few years ago and would like to write some for *Hearth to Hearth*. TN

[Thank you! We are always receptive to the participation of our readers and will welcome your submissions. Ed.]

Thank you for sending me your wonderful magazines. I was very anxious to receive them. Thank you for being so prompt. I just want to share with you how I felt when I received them. Every day, I waited patiently for *Hearth to Hearth* to arrive. Then, the day I received the envelope, I eagerly grabbed it and hugged it, as if it were a treasure waiting to be opened. After tearing the envelope open, I read as much as I could in the short time I had before preparing dinner for my family. After dinner, I took one magazine into the bathtub with me and continued to read. Then, I carried it with me to every room I entered, hoping to glean a little more as I went. Later that night, I took it to bed with me and fell asleep reading it. My husband evidently turned the light out as the next morning I found it in bed with me. Thank you for all the encouragement. AR

I don't know who put my name on your mailing list, but I thank God they did. I thoroughly enjoy the articles and poems—everything—it's so inspiring. I gave the last issue to my neighbor to help her with depression and discouragement. She says she reads the article ["Fighting Discouragement in the Spiritual Realm," Mar./Apr.] several times a day . . . Thank you for your ministry; may God bless you and the others for helping us know Him better . . . I would like the following names to be added to the mailing list if you don't mind. TN

EDITOR'S NOTES:

» **Moving?** Please notify *Hearth to Hearth* of your new address.

» **If you have** artistic talent and would like to offer your services to our layout and design editor, please contact us and let us know of your availability. You could send some samples of your work and that way she will know better how to utilize your material. We like to use as much talent from our readership as we can. Of course, in a paper of this nature that is free to our readers, we cannot

offer payment for either articles or artwork.

» **The photographs** used to illustrate our article in *Hearthside* (pages 8 & 9) are of Esther and George McDaniel's daughter, Marshalla Chadwick and her daughter, Rochelle Reneé, born March 11, 2000 to "Shelly" and Tim Chadwick of Antelope, California.

» **The author** of the poem, "Love Nest" (page 13), is the deceased father of Esther McDaniel. The poem was written to her mother in 1934.

PRAYER CALL:

Please remember Marilyn Dick in your prayers. She underwent surgery on March 31, 2000 to remove a rare type of malignant muscle mass from her leg. Please pray that she will have a full and complete recovery. Her contagiously sweet, happy spirit and confidence in God have served her well during this time, and have been a real witness to others. (Several of Marilyn's poems have been published in past issues of *Hearth to Hearth* and others will be included in future issues.)

Another person has requested prayers for courage and strength in the Lord. She received Christ into her heart recently and committed her life to Him. Since then, Satan has buffeted her with many problems, including illness, but her determination to follow Jesus is strong. Please pray for her. In addition, if you have any words of encouragement that

you would like to share with her please write or send an E-mail to *Hearth to Hearth* and your helpful comments will be relayed to her immediately.

FUTURE THEMES:

"**Friendship**" will be the theme for the July/Aug. issue. By the time you are reading the present issue, most of the content of that issue will already be in place; however, if you have an idea, a poem or an article that you would like us to consider using, please send it immediately.

"**Memories**" is the theme planned for the Sept./Oct. issue. Please put on your thinking caps, dust off some memories, write them up and submit them very soon. If you feel that you cannot express yourself well enough in writing, send them anyway; we will help you polish them. We will use as many as space and editorial guidelines permit.

"**Our Golden Years**" will be the theme for the Nov./Dec. issue and, in preparation, we would really like to hear from those who have reached this stage in life. Share with us your views on things, your hopes and your fears, your disappointments and your dreams. Dreams are not only for the young in years; they are also for the young in heart—and that includes just about all of us!

Hearth to Hearth Encouragers:

Barbara Barton at 70 FM 101 Rd., Hardy, AR 72542 or call her at (870) 856-4428. E-mail: cen39109@centurytel.net. Barbara is a Bible worker, thus studies deeply; her special interests as an Encourager are in the realms of spiritual encouragement and healthful diet and food preparation.

Pat Kroeger, 7616 E. Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40228; (502) 239-5489. E-mail: isha@bullitt.net. Pat is looking forward to being an Encourager to anyone whom she can help. She studies her Bible deeply, she is experienced in home-schooling, and she is also an advocate of healthful living.

Marion Landry, 3209 Chewacan Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93309; (661) 836-1320. E-mail: sewfrau@aol.com. She is experienced in home-schooling and would like to assist others in this endeavor. She also can provide recipes for healthful food preparation. She will be glad to encourage anyone in any way she can.

Esther McDaniel, 1420 Johnson Road, Chunky, MS 39323; (601) 655-8813; e-mail emcdan1274@prodigy.net. Esther (a grandmother of soon-to-be 14 grandchildren—six of them step-grandchildren) would like to help and encourage anyone in the areas of divorce, blended families and raising children and teenagers.

Mittisse Westerbeck, 9048 Old Hwy. 16 N, Millers Creek, NC 28651; (336) 973-7165. (She does not yet have e-mail). Mittisse would especially like to encourage those who have lost a loved one; she also would welcome inquiries regarding home-schooling as she too is involved in home-schooling her children.

What Causes Love to Die In Your Marriage?

Is your love for your spouse alive and well? Do you still have that passion that once burned in your heart? Or has your love slowly died? Has the fire gone out?

The Scriptures describe the love between a husband and a wife as a fire. This is how the Shulamite, in the Song of Solomon, described her love relationship with her husband. She said, "...For love is as strong as death; jealousy as cruel as the grave; Its

The Scriptures describe the love between a husband and a wife as a fire.... One way a fire goes out is by your inaction.

flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame." (Song of Solomon 8:6) Her love for Solomon was a passionate fire in her soul. She compared her love to the strongest and most powerful forces she knew: the power of death and the power of the flame. These two metaphors are descriptions for the strength and passion of marital love.

First, consider the comparison of love to the strength of death. This is a great illustration because death is so powerful and all consuming. Death takes everyone sooner or later. It never gives up. This same love was demonstrated by Christ. He loved you to the point of death. His strong love drove Him to sacrificially lay His life down. His love is tenacious. He is still pursuing you today. At this moment, His eyes are looking to and fro throughout the whole earth to find willing and loyal hearts. He wants to show Himself strong on their behalf. (2 Chronicles 16:9) Is your heart willing? God wants to give you His strong, persistent love for your

spouse; a love that is totally committed.

Consider the second illustration of love as a fire that burns in the soul. In Scripture, salvation is described as "a lamp that burns." (Isaiah 62:1) Salvation is primarily a love relationship between you and the Father. The great commandment declares, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37) Your heart becomes a lamp that burns with the fire of His love. Again, this illustration is fitting because you are also called to be a light to the world. The love of Christ is the light the world is looking for. His love in you is what makes you a bright light. Jesus called John the Baptist a "burning and shining lamp." (John 5:35) Why? Because he had this intense love and passion for God.

These metaphors also relate to how love dies in your marriage. The illustration of the fire is most important. Each of you has stood by a fire at one time or another, and you know very well what causes a fire to die out. It happens in only one of two ways.

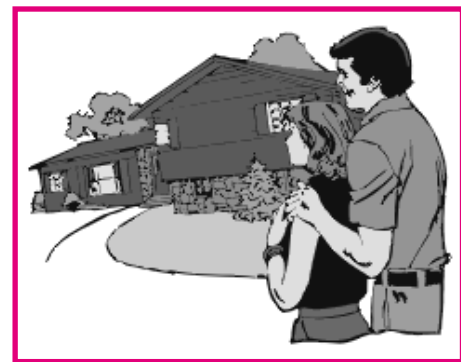
One way a fire goes out is by your inaction. If you fail to watch and stoke the fire with more wood, what happens? The fire slowly goes out. This is also what happens in your marriage. Your inaction to love and to show attentiveness to your spouse will surely kill your love relationship. Your spouse will see this inaction and determine that you really don't care.

If you want your love to die, just do nothing. It won't be long before the fire is out. Many couples simply fail to do the maintenance required to keep the love between them alive. What do I mean? Do you recognize

your mate's labor and accomplishments? Do you thank your spouse when he or she pleases you? Have you neglected to pray regularly with and for your partner? When is the last time you had a date together? When is the last time you gave a gift or did something special for your loved one when it wasn't a birthday or Christmas? Each of these actions will stoke the fire of your love. If you're forgetting these things, the fire will slowly go out!

Each forgotten action of love is simply a sign of laziness in your relationship. Yet, Scripture encourages you to love in a different manner. Paul says, "Be kindly affectionate to one another... not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." (Romans 12:10,11) The term "fervent in spirit" means "to be hot or to boil." Love is depicted here as a blazing fire burning inside your heart to serve the Lord, in direct contrast to a lack of diligence or laziness.

If God is encouraging us to be diligent and not lag in our love for our brother, how much more fervent should we be toward our mate? Are you showing the kindness and affec-



tion toward your spouse that you should? If you are, the fire between you will never go out. It only burns hotter and more intense with each passing day.

But there is another way to put a fire out besides your inaction. Your

deliberate actions will cause the fire to go out as well. You can take the deliberate action of throwing water on a fire, and it will surely die. What deliberate actions pour water on your relationship? Are you verbally abusive? Do you criticize or mock your partner when you talk together? Are you physically abusive? Are you refusing sexual relations to punish your loved one for lack of attentiveness to

**“Is there any hope to ever re-
new the love we once had?” ...
Yes, there is hope!**

you? Do you act harshly or rudely? Have you been seen flirting with someone else? Have you broken your vows by adultery? These actions will surely quench the fire of love.

Paul taught that doing evil to others is what quenches the Holy Spirit in our lives. He exhorts, “See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone...do not quench the Holy Spirit...abstain from every form of evil.” Evil done to any person quenches the Holy Spirit in your life because this is sin and it grieves the heart of God. These actions grieve your spouse as well and quench the love between you! Read the entire context of 1 Thessalonians 5:15-22.

Make changes today. Don't wait any longer. Your love relationship can only take so much neglect. The flames of your love can only take so much dousing with water before the fire goes out. Stir up the embers, take the action God requires.

Therefore, it should not be a mystery as to why love dies within a marriage. It's as simple as either 1) failing to maintain the fire or 2) continuing the deliberate sinful actions that quench the fire. When these problems go unresolved in your relationship, you slowly drift apart. The love slowly dies.

Some couples do both. They do nothing to stoke the fire of their love, and they are dumping water regularly on what's left. This relationship will

not last! How do you stop this downward cycle? Read on!

What rekindles love between you?

Many times couples ask me, “Is there any hope to ever renew the love we once had?” They wonder if they could ever rekindle the matrimonial fire. They think, “too much has happened that can't be changed.” Yet, when you start asking these questions, you are on the right path. Yes, there is something you can do! Yes, there is hope! What should you do?

1. Return to your first love with Christ. I have never seen a marriage that was in trouble where the two individuals involved weren't in need of spiritual renewal. Where there are unresolved conflicts, there will always be resentment. Where there is resentment, there is unforgiveness. Where there is unforgiveness, there is hardness of heart. With these attitudes inside, a person can't help but struggle in his relationship with God. You can't say you love God and hate your spouse at the same time. (1 John 4:20) The hardness you have in your heart toward your mate, will bring a distance in your relationship with God, and this destroys any possibility for change. Jesus said, “Without me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) If you desire to rekindle your love relationship with your spouse, you need to return to your first love with Christ. (Revelation 2:4,5) God is love.

(1 John 4:7,8) He is the Source of love! You can't give what you don't have, and you need Him to give you the love you lack in your relationship. First reconcile with Him those resentments you have in your heart. Ask His forgiveness for the hardness and unforgiveness you've had toward your loved one.

Once you've reconciled with Him, you will sense the power of His love working within you. You will then be able to take the action God requires of you. Remember, “...it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13) You must be in right relationship with the Lord to have the power you need to have a right relationship with your spouse. The steps you need to take will not be easy. In fact, they are impossible if you have a resentful heart. You need to say with all confidence, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13) If your heart is right with Him, He will strengthen you to do all that He requires!

Let me say a word to those of you who have never personally received Christ as your Savior. This is a critical issue for you. You may not realize it, but this is a central problem in your marriage. Without Christ you cannot be the husband or wife God requires. The love you need to enable you to resolve each of your problems is God's love, and it comes only from Him. Trying to love your partner with only your love and in your own strength will always be insufficient. The problems you are having in your marriage today should make this abundantly clear. If you believe this, this is an issue that must change. Humble yourself right now before

**Return to your first love with
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at the same time.**

God and pray. Ask His forgiveness and invite Him to come into your heart. Ask Him to take over your life and your marriage, and to fill you with His Holy Spirit, making you the man or woman you need to be.

2. Next, go to your spouse and begin to reconcile the conflicts that divide you. How should you begin?

Start with yourself! Jesus said, "First, remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye." (Matthew 7:5) He knew that this principle must be the priority for anyone to reconcile conflicts.

If you are ready to get things right, try this. Take out a piece of paper and write down whatever faults you have in your marriage. Be honest with yourself and with God. What have you done that has offended your spouse? Where have you failed to obey the Word of God? What have you neglected to do that you've been asked many times to remember?

Once you determine your failures, go and ask forgiveness for them. Don't start by pointing out your mate's faults, start with your own. (James 5:16) This action immediately softens the heart of your spouse and usually creates a response in your partner to compile a similar list. If this doesn't happen, gently encourage your spouse to consider his or her own faults and do some soul-searching as you have. Encourage your spouse that you want to change the direction of the relationship, and explain that only by reconciling these issues can the love return between the two of you.

This process of reconciliation might entail getting some counseling from your pastor. Many times, a third

person's objectivity helps to show both of you what Biblical action is needed.

3. Begin to provoke your spouse to love by deliberate godly actions. Paul said, "Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works." (Hebrews 10:24) We usually provoke one another to wrath and evil works; to provoke your spouse to love requires the power of God. It takes the love of God reigning in your heart to subdue your selfish actions. In most cases, love provokes others to love and stirs them up to love you back. Think of a time when a friend has done something for you that was totally unexpected. What was your reaction? Didn't it stir you up to want to do something in return for that person? Of course it did!

Love provokes others to love and takes care of the problem of inaction. The word provoke means "to stir up." Every action of love is like throwing another log on the fire. The more you take deliberate actions of love, the more the fire blazes. You will naturally be attracted to the warmth of this kind of relationship, and it will naturally draw you closer together. You will begin to look forward to getting home to see your spouse because of the love that has been rekindled between you!

4. Stop any of the deliberate sinful actions you are taking. If you want the fire of love to begin to burn again, you have to stop throwing water on the fire. This will show your spouse that you mean business! When there is true repentance in the heart, it is always demonstrated by reversing the direction of your life. If you are doing anything that is contrary to the Word of God, you must stop it. Where you are living selfishly, reverse directions. Paul said, "...do works befitting repentance." (Acts 26:20)

This would mean you must stop any verbal or physical abuse. Ask God to control your explosive anger. Resume regular sexual relations. If you are involved with another man or woman, cut this relationship off today. This is what real repentance does!

5. Do preventive maintenance daily. So often couples begin to work

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out their differences and then one of the two will revert to the same old habits. This quenches the love between them, and the whole unhealthy process starts all over again. You must guard against this with all your heart.

As you build a good fire by constant vigilance and attention, so you must be diligent to show your kindness and affection. This is a daily work. This is what love does. It works! Paul called it the "labor of love." (1 Thessalonians 1:3) If you love your spouse, you will put time and effort into building depth into your relationship. God loves you very much, and He has been at work for a long time to draw you to Himself. The work of the Cross was His labor of love for you. Yet, His labor of love is a daily action as well; He daily loads you with benefits. (Psalm 68:19) This is what He wants you to do with your spouse. Daily stoke the fire of your love together! Daily reconcile the conflicts that arise! Demonstrate your love today!

Steve Carr

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Wondering . . . Reflections of a New Mother

Babies are such precious little beings. I look at mine, asleep in his crib, and can't imagine anything that could equal the wonder of him. Yes, babies are I'm constantly wondering: "Why are you can do for you?" "Am I doing this right?" your diaper again!?" or, "Maybe you're

I'll probably never know the answer to some of these things; still, there is another kind of wonder that comes with babies. The wonder of the way he looks at you, his big blue eyes full of complete, perfect faith and trust, knowing that if he's hungry, or messy you will eventually feed, or change him; trust- ing you to support his still-wobbly head, and to comfort him when he needs it.

There's nothing like the wonder of a baby's smile, and what about the way his little hands curl tightly around your fingers? Then he'll fall asleep, head nestled on your shoulder, trusting that you'll not drop him, that you will definitely try NOT to wake him, that you won't let anything hurt him, and that you will still be there for him when he finally does wake.



No wonder Jesus said, "Except ye...become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3)

[Kendra, her husband Lynnford and their baby son Josiah (pictured here at three months of age) live in West Virginia where they are associated with Smyrna Gospel Ministries. Kendra is the youngest daughter of Esther McDaniel (our layout and design editor) and her husband George.]

Kendra Beachy

Quotes:

Let your love be stronger than your hate or anger.

Learn the wisdom of compromise, for it is better to bend a little than to break.

Believe the best rather than the worst.

People have a way of living up or down to your opinion of them.

Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship.

Jane Wells (1886)

"Nobody has ever measured, not even poets, how much the heart can hold."

Zelda Fitzgerald

To keep your marriage brimming,

With love in the loving cup,
Whenever you're wrong, admit it.

Whenever you're right, shut up.

Ogden Nash

"A woman should be as proud of her success in making her house into a perfect little world as the greatest statesman of his organizing a nation's affairs."

Andre Maurois

A happy marriage has in it all the pleasures of friendship, all the enjoyments of sense and reason, and, indeed, all the sweets of life.

Joseph Addison

Marriage with a good woman is a harbour in the tempest of life; with a bad woman, it is a tempest in the harbour.

J.P. Senn

Love your children with all your hearts, love them enough to discipline them before it is too late.

Lavina Fugal

Some women work so hard to make good husbands that they never quite manage to make good wives.

Unknown

Often the difference between a successful marriage and a mediocre one consists of leaving about three or four things a day unsaid.

Harlan Miller

A mother is not a person to lean on, but a person to make leaning unnecessary.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher

Youth fades, love droops, the leaves of friendship fall, but a mother's secret hope outlives them all.

Oliver Wendell Holmes

The goal of our life should not be to find joy in marriage, but to bring more love and truth into the world. We marry to assist each other in this task. The most selfish and hateful life of all is that of two beings who unite in order to enjoy life. The highest calling is that of the man who has dedicated his life to serving God and doing good, and who unites with a woman in order to further that purpose.

Leo Tolstoy

New Life in Christ

For me, personally, this is a wonderful time of year, when the trees have come into fullness, flowers are prevalent, and the song of birds and the flutter of butterflies are everywhere. Great expectations hang in the air. With summer just around the bend this is a time for planning and planting, a time of birth and rebirth, a time of weddings and new lives. To try to recall images of cold, blustery days gone by is next to impossible for me. Instead, the freedom of spring in its fullness is strong enough to overshadow any memories of winter past. Too soon summer will fade and another winter will loom on the horizon. I'll just wait and worry about that when the time comes. Right now it's time to breathe in deep the refreshing fragrance of the season!

Memories always change with time. It's today that occupies our minds. If today is upbeat and pleasant, then yesterday's unpleasant memories seem less harsh and more distant. If today hangs dark and dreary on our heart, yesterday's pleasantness seems but a wishful dream. This is the way it is in the natural life, but this is also the way it is in the spiritual life as well.

A very close friend of mine has recently emerged from a long, personal trial. There are the normal problems of life that we all must encounter day by day. Then there are the problems that tend to weigh more, linger longer, and accumulate one upon another until our molehill has become a virtual mountain, blotting out the light of day. It's something we all experience at one time or another, for various reasons, and at different levels of severity. In fact, these tribulations can be counted on to occur on a periodic basis over a lifetime. For Christians, these experiences tend to be more of a spiritual nature than a temporal one. Our view of God is temporarily darkened and our faith shaken until we must choose to walk by faith alone or allow the doubt to drown us. Trials are just a part of life. But *why* must they be a part of life?

Over a period of weeks, and possibly months, I felt helpless as I watched my friend in her struggle. My encouragement seemed inadequate against such a formidable foe. Through my own personal struggles I could

relate, if only from a distance. Yet, the best help I could have offered was already in my hands: the power of prayer. And this I did; added my prayers to those of others, and her own as well. Slowly, over time, my friend began to emerge from her private hell with a newfound faith in her Savior and a greater respect for His power to save. Looking back, she compared her ordeal to natural childbirth.

When a woman happily discovers she is expecting her first child there is an inner joy and feeling of personal awe that cannot be associated with anything else she has known, as something beyond her takes on a life of its own. Yet, with the knowledge that a tiny creation of love is bringing on a wonderful change that will shape her life (and her body) forever, there is a certain fearful anticipation of the unknown. Before she can

face the overwhelming responsibility of raising her child, she must prepare for the birthing process, as it looms bigger than life on the horizon (something she has only read and heard about until now). It is an unavoidable, desirable certainty.

As the time approaches she makes all the necessary preparations that are within her control, such as buying baby items, preparing the room, picking out the name, and the myriad other details that must be attended to while she is still able. She can even make preparations for the birth itself by taking childbirth



classes; glean wisdom from those who have passed this way before. She learns proper breathing techniques, how to stay focused, and how not to fight the birth process, but to work with it. The rest is in the hands of God. What tells that baby when it's time to come and starts the body contracting is something modern physicians still marvel at to this day. Once the labor starts, there's no turning back, or turning off; only an ever intensifying wave of anguish. Our soon-to-be mother endures a pain she never thought possible to bear. All her anticipation has not prepared her for what she is encountering. Just when it seems impossible to withstand another minute more, it's over.

As she holds her precious newborn in her arms the pain she has endured just seconds ago is forgotten. Over time even the distant memory of that pain will

continually fade until she is ready to face the experience all over again. When she does, she will face it with a much-earned confidence. Though it does not lessen the pain, she knows what's coming and can better plan for it. She has passed this way before. Her first experience has prepared her for that to follow. Such are the mysteries of life. Yet, our all-knowing God has left an understanding of the mysteries of life to the spiritual at heart.

The trials and suffering of the Christian walk are compared to a woman giving birth. "Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." (Jeremiah 30:6-7) "Birthing pains" are a necessary part of our spiritual growth. "...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3) When we accept Christ as our Savior we feel a joy and awe not to be compared to any earthly experience, knowing that something is happening *in* us that is taking on a life of its own. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (1 Peter 1:23) The Word of God is a seed that brings life to the born-again heart, and makes changes that can last not just a lifetime, but eternally. We are made sons of God by spiritual birth. (Romans 8:14) As believers, we grow toward spiritual maturity until there comes a time when we, the born-again offspring, must give birth.

The trials of life are what cleanse our blemished characters as we learn through hardship to trust in God. This second birth is not something new. (1 Thessalonians 3:4) Like an expectant mother, we should not be taken by surprise when we enter into travails. "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake." (Philippians 1:29) Even as babes in Christ our testing time will come, but we can make proper preparations in anticipation.

Like in a childbirth class, God is teaching us how we can best deal with the trials and temptations ahead. Breathing deeply the Spirit of God into the soul through prayer and study will bring calming peace in

the face of the unknown; (Philippians 4:7) keeping our focus on Christ through the pain is essential for survival; (Matthew 14:24-31) learning to work with God through the tough times, instead of fighting Him, is the secret to getting through quicker and coming through victorious. As every true mother knows, the temporary pain of childbirth cannot compare to the lifetime of joy the child can bring. The true Christian also knows this truth: that the temporary suffering we endure on this earth cannot compare with the joy of eternal life with God and His Son. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (2 Corinthians 4:17) This labor of love is only for a moment, when compared to the endless ages to follow. Although we may not relish the thought, we cannot avoid its inevitableness.

When life constricts around us and intensifies to our very limits, when we feel we can't endure the suffering for another minute more, that is when we open our eyes to find the light of sweet communion with our Savior again. It's because God has promised never to put on us more than we can bear that we know we can bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13) With this, we have the knowledge that in the end (and it *will* end) it will work in us a saving grace. We are made all the stronger, and better able to face the next battle with confidence in our victorious Lord and Savior. "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." (James 1:2-4) And what is born of this labor? Christ in us, the hope of glory. "My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you." (Galatians 4:19)

Christ explained it this way. "A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you." (John 16:21-22) When the seed of God's Word comes to life the Spirit of Christ will be formed in us, bringing to new birth a heart once dead in sin. It's an unavoidably painful process, but well worth the result.

Pat Kroeger

Understanding God's Plan of Redemption

From Rebellion to Dedication

All Israel was camped before Mount Sinai. Moses had sanctified them; they had washed their clothes; they had witnessed the thrilling, yet terrifying descent of God upon the mountain and they had heard His voice as He spoke His ten-commandment moral law—that law, the principles of which had been in existence from all eternity. They were frightened and stood “afar off” and said to Moses, “Speak thou with us and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.” (Exodus 20:18 & 19) Then, ultimately, they had seen Moses disappear into the mountain for at least the fourth time (see Exodus 19:14, 20; 20:21; 24:1, 9, 12-15), and they had waited... and waited... and waited!

Think now about how kind, loving and merciful God is! He had many, many things He wanted to say to His children, but they were too afraid of Him to hear it. He contented Himself, therefore, with giving all of His instructions to Moses for Moses, in turn, to give to the people. Have you ever had to use the services of a go-between? Did you find it entirely satisfactory? How much better it would have been if God could have spoken directly to the people. It would have saved all of them a lot of grief! While Moses was in the mountain, it took a long time for God to give all of His instructions to him and Moses took copious notes so as not to forget anything. (See Exodus 24:4)

Forty days in the mount with God

During this forty-day stretch, God was giving Moses the details of how He wanted His sanctuary to be built. He started off by saying, “Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.” (Exodus 25:2) He then went on to list all the items that were needed to compose this offering: gold, silver, brass, lovely fabrics, animal skins, shittim wood, oil, spices and precious stones. After that He went into

great detail regarding exactly how this structure should be constructed, as well as the specifications for all its furnishings and utensils.

Next, God explained about the priesthood, the dedication ceremonies for the priests and the tabernacle, the services that were to be conducted there and the specific people He had prepared with the special skills needed for the work of construction. After all of this, He repeated His instructions regarding the Sabbath day, reiterating the fact that it was to be a “sign between me and the children of Israel for ever.” And finally, when He had finished communing with him, God gave Moses the promised two tables of stone on which He had written His immutable law with His own finger! (See Exodus 24:12; 31:18)

Rebellion in the camp

Meanwhile, the people were getting very tired of waiting. Where *was*



Moses? Surely something must have killed him on the mountain! How could they survive in the desert without their “leader”? So they appealed to Aaron to “make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, *the man* that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.” (Exodus 32:1) How very sad! Already they had forgotten what God had done for them and attributed their miraculous delivery to a mere man.

Well, you know the story of how the golden calf was made, how God told Moses to go back down the mountain because the people had “corrupted

themselves,” and how Moses was so distraught at the sight of the people feasting and reveling before that golden calf that he threw down the tables of stone and broke them “beneath the mount.” This act was a fitting symbol of the results of their great sin. You can read the whole account in Exodus chapters 32-34; including the detailing of Moses’ *second* forty days and forty nights in the mount with God, the *second* tables of stone (this time hewn out by Moses) upon which God again wrote His law with His own finger and the instructions that were given to Moses during that visit.

The sanctuary is built

When Moses returned from this meeting with God, “the skin of his face shone” so that the people were afraid to come near him. Moses put a veil on his face in order to get near enough to talk with the people. (Exodus 34:29-35) He had a lot to share with them. The first thing he shared with them was the last instruction that was given to Him—the reminder in regard to the Sabbath, the great seal of God, placed in the very center of His law. (Exodus 35:1-3. See also Exodus 20:8-11 and note that God’s moral law is no exception to the rule that every law includes a seal, which gives the name of the

person whose authority it is to ratify that law, his title, and the territory over which he rules. It is the seal that makes the document official.)

After that He called for the offering that God had requested for the building of the sanctuary, being careful to give the invitation only to “whosoever is of a willing heart.” (Exodus 35:5) Then he explained what the offering would be used for, and the work that needed to be done. There was some way in which each person who was willing could help out and the people came with their offerings. Everyone came willingly

until Moses had to cause it “to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing. For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.” (Exodus 35:4 through 36:7)

And so the sanctuary was built according to God’s directions (Exodus chapters 35 through 39) “and Moses did look upon all the work, and, behold, they had done it as the Lord had commanded, even so had they done it: and Moses blessed them.” (Exodus 39:43)

On the first day of the first month, according to God’s explicit directions, the tabernacle was set up in the middle of the camp. The curtains were hung, the furnishings were put in place, incense was offered on the golden altar and a burnt offering and a meat offering were offered upon the brazen altar in the courtyard. Moses and Aaron and Aaron’s sons washed their hands and feet at the laver in consecration and dedication to the work before them. When all of the anointing and dedication ceremonies were completed and all was in readiness, “a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the

glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.” (Exodus 40:1-34) God had accepted their willing offering and honored them with His presence. From this point onward the cloud, as the visible symbol of God’s presence, would indicate when they were to move on in their wilderness wanderings and when they were to again set up camp. (See verses 36-38)

Please “stay tuned” for the next installment of this intriguing historical account slated to appear in the next issue of *Hearth to Hearth*.

Esther McDaniel

OF ISRAEL’S WANDERINGS—AND MINE

The wilderness seems to be God’s laboratory for the refinement of His people. Moses spent forty years in the wilderness of Midian unlearning the lessons he’d learned in the palace of Pharaoh and learning the ways of God in preparation for the task God called him to do. (Exodus 2:10-15; Acts 7:29, 30, 35) The children of Israel spent forty years wandering in the wilderness because of their unbelief and God’s patience in preparing them to enter Canaan. (Numbers 14:33, 34; 32:13) I have also wandered in the wilderness of this earth for many years while God has been patiently dealing with my unbelief and trying to prepare me to enter the Heavenly Canaan.

Though Israel cried out again and again for deliverance from their bondage, (Exodus 2:23-25) when the time finally came it was apparent that they still had much of Egypt in their hearts. (Exodus 14:11, 12; 16:3) When I realize that I am still sinning against God even though Jesus came to deliver me from my sins (Matthew 1:21) and has promised that He is able to keep me from falling, (Jude 24) it seems apparent that I also have too much of the Egypt of this world in my heart. God had miraculously delivered the Israelites from Pharaoh’s power over them and they had gone out victorious over their enemies. Yet when they saw Pharaoh’s army hotly pursuing them, and they seemed trapped by circumstances and doomed, they forgot that God was with them and gave in to fear, discouragement and unbelief. (Exodus 14:5-12) I find that I also, when I see Satan’s hosts surrounding me and there seems no way out, rather than trusting God to work things out to His glory, tend to give in to fear, discouragement and unbelief.

The Israelites murmured against Moses and Aaron, not recognizing that it was God who had decreed their circumstances out of His love for them and His desire to perfect their characters. (Exodus 16:2; Numbers 16:1-11; Isaiah 48:10; Malachi 3:3) I am ashamed to note that I, too, tend to murmur against, strike out at and blame mere people, or circumstances, when things don’t seem to be going right. Ultimately, therefore, I am murmuring against God, who is leading me along a path “Tailor made” just for me because He knows what it will take to prepare me to live with Him forever.

God took Israel away from the “junk foods” of Egypt and put them on a special diet—a diet He personally designed for their good—yet they did not appreciate this, and longed for their old “comfort foods.” (Exodus 16:15; Deuteronomy 8:3) I find that I, too, even though I know that the diet God designed for mankind (Genesis 1:29) is the very best diet to keep my body, soul and spirit operating in tip-top condition, tend to enjoy the man-made junk foods. I know that they clog my physical and spiritual arteries, bring on obesity of flesh and spirit and leave me short of breath in body and soul, yet many times I seem overcome by the lust of my taste buds.

The children of Israel did not want to speak to God directly; they preferred to get their instructions through Moses. (Exodus 20:19) I see that I, also, tend to seek counsel of family, friends or pastor before seeking counsel of God. Many times I will wait until a situation seems desperate before I fall on my knees and beg His deliverance.

I have often wondered how Israel’s children could forget so quickly God’s marvelous work in their behalf. I have looked with disdain upon their continual murmuring and transgressions against Moses and against God. I have judged them worthy of the severe penalties that frequently befell them. (Mark 9:24; Matthew 7:1, 2; Luke 6:37) As I think about these things, and realize that God has preserved the record of their experience for my instruction (1 Corinthians 10:1-11), I must conclude that I am worse than they. I am caused to marvel at God’s mercy and patience in my behalf. I am filled with a renewed determination to allow Him to not only forgive my sins, but to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. (Jeremiah 33:8; 1 John 1:9) I am thrilled with the concept that I serve a God who is able to keep me from falling! (Jude 24) I want to be an overcomer and inherit the fulfillment of the promises that are accorded to them. (See Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 25-28; 3:5, 12, 21; 21:7)

After the manner of Israel, as recorded in Nehemiah chapter 9, I want to renew my dedication to His service and I thank God that He is “A God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness, and forsooketh them not.” (Verse 17) I rejoice in the knowledge that He will not forsake me either. (Genesis 28:15; Hebrews 13:5) Let’s press on through this wilderness together; accepting, loving and encouraging each other all the way to Canaan.

Esther McDaniel

The Mother's Trust



*Beneath the blood-stained lintel I with my children stand;
A messenger of evil is passing through the land.
There is no other refuge from the destroyer's face;
Beneath the blood-stained lintel shall be our hiding place.
The Lamb of God has suffered, our sins and griefs He bore;
By faith the blood is sprinkled above our dwelling's door,
The foe who seeks to enter doth fear that sacred sign;
Tonight the blood-stained lintel shall shelter me and mine.
My Saviour, for my dear ones I claim Thy promise true:
The Lamb is "for the household"—the children's Saviour too.
On earth the little children once felt Thy touch divine;
Beneath the blood-stained lintel Thy blessing give to mine.
Thou who gave them, guard them—those wayward little feet,
The wilderness before them, the ills of life to meet;
My mother love is helpless, I trust them to Thy care!
Beneath the blood-stained lintel, oh, keep me ever there!
The faith I rest upon Thee Thou wilt not disappoint;
With wisdom, Lord to train them, my shrinking heart anoint.
Without my children, Father, I cannot see Thy face;
I plead the blood-stained lintel, Thy covenant of grace.
Oh, wonderful Redeemer, who suffered for our sake,
When o'er the guilty nations the judgment storm shall break;
With joy from that safe shelter may we then meet Thine eye,
Beneath the blood-stained lintel, my children, Lord, and I.*

Author Unknown

[This beautiful poem was submitted by Jean Patton of Trenton, Tennessee]

My Mother's Things

*When Mother passed it seemed to fall to me
To help divide her sacred souvenirs;
They marveled that I opened box and drawer
To lay them out without a sign of tears.
And when they spoke ahead for this or that,
Or thought another had a larger share;
Again they raised their weeping eyes at me,
Because, I guess, they thought I did not care.
But there are things I want, that Mother had—
The love that passeth all, and will endure;
The power to find content in little things;
The steadfastness that made things hoped for sure!
Oh, it was I that had the selfish wish:
And though I guess they thought me very odd—
I wanted all the things that Mother had—
Those priceless things that Mother got from God!*

Bess Foster Smith

Mother of Judas

*The sorrowing mother of Judas
kneelt by the side of her son,
And her heart was sealed to the story
of the awful deed he had done.
His father had left him, broken,
a statue of shame and price—
But his mother knelt beside him
and closed his eyes when he died.
There were no mourners for Judas,
there were no mourners but one:
A pitiful gray-haired woman,
who knelt by the side of her son;
And so she wept beside him as
the others, mocking passed—
For God is tender with mothers,
He gives them faith to the last.*

Author Unknown



Circle of Love

When she was thirty and I was two,
I couldn't be alone.
She did everything for me;
I could do nothing on my own.
She kept me clean and clothed me
And made sure I was well fed.
She taught me things, and made me
Laugh and tucked me in my bed.
I blinked my eyes. . . She was
Fifty and I was twenty-two.
We were best friends and did the
Things that mothers and daughters do.

I closed my eyes. . . She was eighty-two
And I was fifty-four.
I still needed my mother
But now she needed me more.
Though pride wouldn't let her admit it
She couldn't be alone
She didn't want to bother me,
But she couldn't make it on her own.
The circle of love is completed now;
Her life is in my care,
And I thank God for these precious
Years He's given us to share.

Author Unknown, adapted

[Arlene Bailey of Wilhoit, Arizona submitted this poem. It is published as a tribute to my mother, Mattie Laurell. The photos are of her—from around the time I was born and as she is today. Esther McDaniel]

Love Nest

*Just a cottage in the country
Far away from strife or care,
Nestled 'mong the flowering hedges
Sunbeams playing everywhere.
Rippling waters tinkling sweetly
Winding down their grassy way.
'Tis the brooklet cool and sparkling
Ever singing night and day.
Roses twining o'er the doorway
Cast their perfume in the air
See the wren's nest by the window
Home for such a happy pair.
'Tis a paradise for lovers,
Health and happiness there free.
Darling, tell me, don't you think
It's just the place for you and me?*

Kenneth Griffith



Marriage Takes Three

*I once thought marriage took
Just two to make a go
But now I am convinced
It takes the Lord also.
And not one marriage fails
Where Christ is asked to enter
As lovers come together
With Jesus at the Center.
But marriage seldom thrives
And homes are incomplete
Till He is welcomed there
To help avert defeat.
In homes where God is first
It's obvious to see
Those unions really work
For marriage still takes three.*

Perry Tanksley

My Mother's Day

"You must buy a flower for your mother," they said,
"Because it is Mother's day;
A big carnation, so rich and red"—
Oh, I didn't know what to say,
For I hadn't a penny to spend, you see.
So I brought her a violet sweet,
A clover from under the apple tree,

Two buttercups, fresh and neat.
Tomorrow I'll find some columbines gay,
And daisies that blossom in showers;
For every day is my mother's day.
I'm glad there are heaps of flowers!

Mabel S. Merrill



HIS SECOND CHOICE

“Helen!” exclaimed Aunt Susan as she put down the book she was reading. “Do you know what your husband will do if anything ever happens to you?”

“What do you mean?” was the startled reply.

“He’ll go and marry the sweetest-tempered girl he can find.”

“Oh, Aunt Susan!”

“Don’t interrupt me until I’ve finished,” continued Aunt Susan. “She may not be as pretty as you are, but she’ll be good natured. She may not be as bright as you are, but she’ll be good natured. She may not be as good a housekeeper as you are—in fact, I’m sure she won’t be—but she’ll be good natured. She may not even love him as much as you do, but she’ll be good natured.”

“Why Aunt—”

“And that isn’t all. Every day you live you’re making your husband more and more in love with that good-natured woman who may take your place someday. After the Harrisons left the other evening, didn’t you notice the only comment Bill made was, ‘Now there’s a sweet woman!’”

“But, Aunt Susan—”

“Today when Bill brought you that lovely rose off his prize rosebush, what did you do? You scolded him for walking across your newly-waxed kitchen floor. And yesterday you made a face when he kissed you. When he empties the garbage, you tell him not to spill it. When he lifts something for you, you tell him not to drop it. From morning until night you correct him and find fault with whatever he does.

“And when you were sick you scolded him for running out of gas on the way home from the office. You took absolutely no notice when he said, ‘I was so anxious about you that I didn’t even think about the car.’”



“But Aunt—”

“Listen, my dear. The strongest and most intellectual man of them all cares more for a woman’s tenderness than for anything else in this world, and without this tenderness the cleverest wife and the most perfect housekeeper is sure to lose her husband’s affection in time. There may be a few like your Bill, so gentle and loving and forgetful of self that their affection will die a long struggling death; but in most cases it takes but a few years of fault-finding and criticism to turn a husband’s love into irritated indifference.”

“Well, Aunt Susan—”

“Yes, well! You are not dead, and that sweet-tempered woman has not been found yet, so you have time to become so serene and sweet that your husband will never imagine that there’s a better-tempered woman in existence.”

Ella A. Drinkwater

[Adapted from the *Review and Herald*, 8-26-1918; submitted by Sandra McCrillis of Roan Mountain, Tennessee.]

(Continued from page 1)

in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1 Corinthians 6;19,20) Admittedly, that passage of Scripture has to do with fleeing fornication; however, it is not a far stretch to apply it to other aspects of Christian living, including the way we take care of our marvelous physical bodies that God created.

Are we maintaining and building our health, or breaking it down, by the way we live? Should we be concerned about what we eat, how we dress, and other lifestyle issues? There is a wonderfully close connection between body and mind—so close that what affects one directly affects the other. It is only through our thought processes that God is able to communicate with us; therefore, we need to keep our minds clear and in as good working order as possible.

There are eight basic laws of health and well-being which, if followed, will help to restore and preserve physical—and even mental—strength and vitality: Nutrition, exercise, water for cleansing both inside and outside the body, sunshine, fresh air, temperance, adequate rest, and trust in God. I believe God is pleased and our lives are blessed when we study to learn these laws and apply them on a daily basis—thus truly making our bodies (houses) into homes (dwelling places) fit for the Spirit of God.

Grace Cox

A Homemaker's Burdens and Rewards

It's Not as Bad as It Looks!

I remember one time when our six children were little and I had so many other things weighing upon me at the time—the pressure of being a pastor's wife and ministering to other people's problems, doing *Above Rubies*, and the daily pressures of life. I felt I couldn't cope any longer. Have you ever felt like that?

I awoke in the morning to have my Bible reading and prayer which is a habit of my life, and poured out my inadequacies to the Lord. Then I began my daily reading. As I read, I was amazed! It was exactly how I was feeling. My reading was in 2 Corinthians 1 and I couldn't believe it when I got to verse eight. "For we

It's just amazing the difference that comes to us when we put our trust in the Lord instead of ourselves. . .

would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were PRESSED OUT OF MEASURE, ABOVE STRENGTH, insomuch that we despaired even of life." [Emphasis supplied.] That was me! I was pressed out of measure. It was more than my strength could take! I'm sure dear one, that you have often felt like this too. Well, I hadn't gotten to despairing of my life.

So what did Paul do when he was in this situation? I kept reading . . . "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should NOT TRUST IN OURSELVES, BUT IN GOD WHICH RAISETH THE DEAD. Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in WHOM WE TRUST that He will yet deliver us . . ." [Emphasis supplied.]

At that moment, God gave me a revelation. I saw the light. I realized that I was trusting in myself and my own resources! Of course, my resources were not enough to carry me through. I repented and confessed before the Lord, "I'm sorry, Lord," I cried, "I repent that I have been trusting in my own strength. I have forgotten to trust in You. I have forgotten that you are my Deliverer. You are my Refuge. You are my Rock on which I can lean. You are my Strength. You are my Song. You are my Hope! I hand everything over to you. It is yours. I trust you. Thank you, Lord."

As I did this, a great peace swept over my soul. Although this was years ago, I can still remember, later in the day, trying to think of all those problems that were

weighing me down. Can you believe it? I couldn't even think of one of them!

It's just amazing the difference that comes to us when we put our trust in the Lord instead of ourselves, isn't it? So many of our worries, depressions, fears and frustrations are simply because we try to do it on our own and trust in our own resources. God is just waiting for us to put our trust in Him. We will never be ashamed if we put our trust in the Lord. Don't try and carry all the burdens of the day yourself. Roll your burdens upon the Lord. He has promised to sustain you. And His promises never fail.

Home is Exciting!

My day was planned. I had errands to run and time scheduled to work with the graphic design artist for *Above Rubies*, but before I could even get out of the house, my plans changed.

"Can you look after Grace for a few hours?" called my daughter-in-law. Of course. She is so adorable. It was more fun having her than accomplishing my plans. Then a mother called me and I heard the wonderful news first-hand of the birth of her fourth baby—this time a son after three daughters. It was so exciting to talk to her immediately after the birth. Then a fax came through with the news of the birth of another baby boy. Oh, how sad if I had been out and missed hearing first-hand these special joys.

I sometimes wonder why women want to get out of

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the home. To me, home is so exciting and fulfilling. When I have to go out for a few hours to do errands or when I have to speak at a meeting, I can't wait to get home to find out what has happened in my absence. I always miss out on something.

When the children were all home, they were my full-time mission. Now they are grown and married, and home is still such a beckoning place with so much to occupy my time. I am never happier than when I am in the heart of my home. It is wonderful to be here when family or other people come by, and I achieve so much more. I find so much time is wasted when I go out; with traveling and unexpected delays. I can't wait to get home again and get some work accomplished.

There is always so much to do. How can anyone ever get bored in their homes? I have a hundred projects waiting to do, and I wonder when I'll ever find time to do them.

What do you think of some of these powerful functions we perform as **HOMEMAKERS!**

We make our Home. . .
a House of prayer,
a Household of faith,
a Habitation of love,
a Haven of peace,
a Happening place of joy and laughter,
a Hub of activity,
a Home of Hospitality,
a Home of Happiness,
a Home of Harmony,
a Home of Holiness,
a Home of Honesty,
a Home of Humility,
a Home of Hugs,
a Home of Health and Healing, and
a Home of Hearty food and fellowship, and
a Hearthstone where all delight to come.
We Hedge it about with truth.

We Heal broken hearts.
We Help one another.
We Heap blessings upon one another.
We Hold fast the Word of Life.
We Honor the elderly.
We Hate evil and love righteousness.
We encourage Hard work.
We make it a Home of education and learning.
We provide an atmosphere for Hearing the voice of
God.
We fill it with Heavenly praises.
We love and appreciate our Husbands.
And of course, we make it a little taste of Heaven.

Nancy Campbell

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