

Time for Tea Reprint Book Volume 4

of the Civil War (continuing to try his hand at the harmonica and fiddle!). This is not all! Since he learned HOW to find information by looking up details of interest, now he has the “idea” that he can learn ANYTHING! This is key if we want for our children to continue learning for their entire lives!

John Taylor Gatto further affirms this in his book *Dumbing Us Down*, “*Right now we are taking from our children all the time that they need to develop self-knowledge. That has to stop. We have to invent school experiences that give a lot of that time back. We need to trust our children from a very early age with independent study, perhaps arranged in school, but which takes place away from the institutional setting. We need to invent curricula where each child has a chance to develop private uniqueness and self-reliance.*”

What would I recommend? Take this to our Heavenly Father. My prayer for you is that He will show you HIS perfect will for your child...give you a peace that passes beyond all understanding...and the help that you so desire to trust Him AND your child all along the way.

As for those prayers, my dear friend, you can count on them! Keep us posted!

I recently purchased your *Nature Study...The Easy Way*. I noticed (at your website) that your reprint volumes for 1 & 2 included a lot of nature study articles. Would these ideas be included in the book I have, or are there more? I have background in this area, but its something I have wanted to do for a long time. Thank you for your time.

Hi! I am so glad that you have found us! The first reprint book has the beginnings of several of my first books. Actually, it was through the first years of *Time for Tea* that I learned that there was WAY TOO MUCH to be written than I could cover in any issue! Many of the ideas that are in *Language Arts...The Easy Way* and *Nature Study...The Easy Way* are summarized in the first Reprint Book. I would not think that you would ever need more! Of course, each reprint book covers MUCH, MUCH more that is not covered in any of the books yet. (So many ideas, SO little time!)

Since releasing my first books, I mostly include chapters in each issue that were already on my heart yet fit great in both the books AND the magazine! There are only a few repeats with MUCH, MUCH more meat in each book! *Time for Tea* seems to have its own personality, so there are usually completely different topics in each issue than you will find in our books!

Oh, this is probably the perfect place to introduce our newest reprint book! This issue ends Volume 4. We are now offering specials on each of our reprint books. There are THREE reprint books in all (the first two volumes are combined into one book). Individually they are \$15 for subscribers/\$20 for non-subscribers to the magazine. When you buy the whole set, your cost is \$30 for subscribers/\$45 for non-subscribers. If you already own all of the issues up to date and want the new one, the cost is only \$10 for subscribers/\$15 for non-subscribers. Confusing enough??? These are PACKED full of great information and encouragement!

Dear Cindy,

Hi! Just wanted to let you know again how much I appreciated your coming to Kansas to do a workshop. What a blessing!

It would be great if you addressed record keeping in the newsletter, I will be PATIENTLY waiting—wellll...I'll be waiting! (hahahehehehe!)

Thanks for a great time—tell the family “hello” from us! Love in Christ

PS...I was wondering if it was OK to email you once in a while? I know you have a family, Homeschool, and have a business, and lots of “fans” (hahahehe!), so if you are too busy I understand.

What did you think about the S.M. Davis tapes? Take care and God bless!

Hi!

Thanks for this sweet letter (AND I LOVE your sweet card...I MUST learn how to “Stamp.” Guess

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that means another trip YOUR direction!). Our family sends a great, big Southern “HI!”

Of course, we MUST stay in touch! It may take me a bit to get back...especially if we are on the road for a while when your letter comes. BUT, I LOVE your letters and emails!

You should enjoy this issue. We have a wonderful article about organization and scheduling by Michele Autry. She is the author of the planner that I use for keeping my busy life organized, planned out, and in order! It is truly the best, most comprehensive planner I have found yet! (More information about that with her article and in our “Specials” section!)

I am planning more articles to come on the subject of record-keeping and organizing our home (hopefully a column each issue), so I hope that this will help you along the way.

I LOVED the S.M. Davis tapes. There was one that required a bit of discussion in our home...just different convictions, but isn't it great to see God develop our convictions even MORE as we evaluate teaching that we hear. You were right. We DO have a lot of teaching that is parallel!

Tell your crew that we sent our love and pray that the Lord will bring our paths to cross again soon!
Love, Cindy

Cindy,

I'm just a little overwhelmed right now. I was just diagnosed with a low blood pressure problem. I was feeling faint and winded all through the day and it was interfering with my taking care of the children and house. I'm now on medication and trying to adjust to it and am planning on using *Five in a Row* to start my daughter out in our first homeschooling experience. I have 2.5 year-old twin boys and I am just having trouble “wearing all my hats.” I really need a plan for my day. I just survive through the days on some days, but I want to do more than that. I want for my children to do more than watch Sesame Street (which is what they do in the mornings). It's been a challenge in the mornings because my husband never leaves at a set time and that affects any attempt at a schedule. When he is home, he's on the computer and phone in the living room, which makes “normal” life difficult.

How do I start homeschooling and do it relaxed? How do I schedule flexibility but get productive time with the children? I need to plan my day so that I can take care of myself and rest when I need to but also take care of my children and home. The most we do is read from our Bible Storybook and discipline and sing, sing, sing every Bible song I have ever heard and then some. My daughter, 4.5 years-old, does some chores like cleaning her room, making her bed, putting away silverware, etc. The boys clean up their diapers and toys. I just feel like I am not getting much accomplished. Not enough reading. The children get into trouble because they have too much free time or video time. I feel like I never have enough time to finish all I need to.

I am sorry to vent and be so long. God has been very faithful and kind through this whole time. I cling to Him each day. I just have been praying for some guidance and seeking it everywhere. I appreciate you reading all this. Thank you!!!! Many, many blessings.

(When I wrote back for permission to print this, Betty wrote back with some additional questions...)

You said you wanted to include my email in your newsletter. Which part? I have had a struggle with my health, which has kept me from doing all that I would like to be doing with my children. I'm not talking about workbooks or “academics” per se, but doing some beginning nature study with them (I can't tolerate the heat very well) or truly discipling them. I'm even too worn out to read some times. Every time my blood pressure goes down and I feel faint, it leaves me very drained and this was happening all through the day. I am now on medicine to keep my blood pressure normal, but I am trying to adjust to it's side effects.

You used another question of mine in one of your newsletters where I was anxious about starting the academics with my than almost 4 year-old and you answered it by opening my eyes to the true purpose of homeschooling—discipling their hearts. Now I am not as worried about her getting the academics, but with her twin brothers, it's hard for me to spend very much one-on-one time with her to do any

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further reading aloud or writing together, etc. Then if there is time, I've been too worn out. That should be getting better now, I hope. You mentioned somewhere before how you have a later schedule than most because of your husband's work schedule. I was wondering what your day looked like because maybe that is what I need to work towards. My mornings are crazy with trying to take care of my husband, keep the kids quiet while he's on the phone or computer till he leaves (anywhere between 9 am and 11 am) and eat and do some housework. I've been in a special time of prayer seeking the Lord for a better order or plan to my day where I can fit in the time I want to have with the children and take care of myself, my husband and the house at the same time.

Oh, my dear friend!

Reading your letter brought back the memories I nearly forgot. The early years with my children were SOOOOO exhausting! Now...you, my dear friend, are balancing THREE children under five!!!!!!!!!!!! I am tired at the thought! So, number one...KNOW that these days ARE tiring. The little ones TAKE so much from us in the early years, whereas now my children GIVE more than I often think that I do!

This makes each and every family completely individual. Not to mention, each of us find our husbands with different schedules for their jobs, different abilities that they bring into homeschooling, and even different preferences for their home atmosphere and priorities. If that is not enough, there are so many other things that we each have to balance as we bring homeschooling into REAL LIFE with our various health problems, care of extended family, extra-commitments, so on. Each and every family is completely unique. Each family has its own strengths and weaknesses. Each family has to bring homeschooling "home" as a lifestyle that is completely unique just for their family. In my opinion with all of the struggles and actualities that may seem to hinder the Homeschool, I believe that the home classroom is still a better learning atmosphere than any other mode of education regardless of any weaknesses that may seem to be there.

When I read your letter and your struggles, I wanted to send you a great big hug. Know that you are EXACTLY where God has planned for you to be. There are NO mistakes with Him. On each day, wake up and commit your way to Him. Allow Him the freedom to order your days. On those bad days, KNOW that God has ordered your day and that although you might not understand what WAS done, more than likely *GOD* has accomplished MORE than you could have done IF you had planned it and checked it all off on your planner!

This is a struggle for me EVEN today. Last year, I was blessed to hear a friend pray a prayer at our Mid-Winter retreat praying that God would bless her time of sharing. She asked that He ONLY bring back the things that were HIS will to teach. The most beautiful part of her prayer (that has had me thinking for 8 months) was her request asking the Lord to help her to put aside any of her notes that He did not want taught. (!!!!) She knew that God not only gives us much in our time of study, but He often uses those things only for our edification while bringing out other things in the actual workshops/devotions. This has been a challenge for me as I teach. I want to share it ALL!

I am learning how to let the Lord lead me in something small such as a workshop or a conference so that HE teaches, instead of me. (Isn't that SO much better???) So that HE sets the pace, instead of me. So that HE can truly minister! Now, you can probably imagine that this is truly a step of faith for a beginning speaker like me, who feels completely unqualified to speak in public. To lay down my plans and notes in speaking is as difficult as I remember it was to lay down my plans and ideas and techniques and methods in homeschooling.

It has been through the REAL LIFE in our homes that I have been learning over and over and over again that I can trust God! He is always there. Always faithful. He always cares! It has been as LIFE situations have moved me out of the way that God has been able to directly teach my children.

You MUST hear the background story behind my son's book, *Fearless Warriors??* It is a perfect illustration of God's strength being perfect in MY time of WEAKNESS!

I had lost two babies already. It had been 13 months of infertility. As I found out I was expecting

another baby, I also found that I was having another miscarriage. Needless to say, I was WIPED out! My family was SO precious. They were helping all that they could.

One afternoon, while I was in bed (trying desperately to take care of myself in hopes that the baby might be saved), Matthew came in the room to sit on the side of the bed with me. In the midst of my crisis, God had a treat for me! He was in one of his “pondering” moods. He sat down to share words that just SHOW how much more God can do with our children when we are out of the way so He can teach our children. He said, “*Mom...have you ever noticed that there is not ONE book with a chronological history of the US Marine Corp?*” (Now, IF I were not laying on the bed, I would have fell out!) With my jaw dropped, he continued, “*Someone is going to have to write that book...I guess it will have to be me!*”

Now, you may be saying, “*But Cindy, your children were reading and writing already...what about my little ones??*” Oh, you have to know that Matthew had not written a book by himself. Nor did I think he could. In fact, I had never seen him begin, continue, OR finish any project without me! My first response was, “*That sounds nice...we will work on this when we get back to school in January.*” I had NO clue what God would do with this little boy! Matthew just smiled and said, “*Oh, Mommy! I can do this BY MYSELF!*” Would you believe, he did?? The rest is now history! The book would have never been as wonderful IF I had been in the middle. God wanted to show me an important lesson...HE IS THE PERFECT TEACHER...all that I have to do is move aside and let Him teach my children!

Even this year, I had a concern because one of my projects began to take too long. It was competing with our school time. We had to delay a new study because my extra time, which I needed to prepare, was being swallowed up. I was finding myself frustrated. My plans were not working AT ALL! (Been there??) It was as I was out of the way, that God was able to teach my daughter. The free time, compliments of God, was all that it took for God to draw my daughter into her very first delight-directed study!

May I encourage you to trust God with the plans of your Homeschool? He has not made any mistakes as He has called you to Homeschool now. He knows ALL of your situations and you can rest knowing that every single situation goes through HIS HANDS! In fact, from the very foundation of the earth, God knew JUST what you would be like and what would happen in your life AND He still chose to give YOUR children to YOU! Isn't that tremendous??

God knows you...your limitations...your inadequacies...your strengths...AND God knows just exactly what your child needs to be prepared for his or her calling. He has sovereignly brought you and your family together so each of you could fulfill your callings JUST as He has planned! So, there is no mistake that you are parenting your children while facing physical trials. There is no mistake that your days are longer than your energy. There is no mistake that your husband is at home WHEN he is. God wants to use all situations to help each of you to KNOW Him...to TRUST Him...and to prepare to SERVE Him! Look at every weakness and see how God is able to be ALL that you need. Look at your limitations and see God's mighty provision. He has MANY wonderful lessons for each of you!

Scheduling

I love your question on Scheduling. Actually this was on my heart as I have been getting ready to get back to more formal lessons in our Homeschools. I have jotted down some thoughts that I pray will help you with setting up a schedule that would work for you.

⇒ **Wrap your day around your husband!** Look at what YOUR family is all about! You do not have to set your Homeschool up like a “school.” You can set up your day around your own family, your own husband and children! As I have prayed over my role as a Biblical woman, one thing is more prominent (based on Scripture) than any other of my roles in my life...being a helpmeet. We find that the first role of the woman was as a helpmeet for her husband. We “help” our husbands by teaching their children, keeping their homes, and bringing glory to them as we mentor others, but

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God never intends for any of these things to take priority over our chief role as a helpmeet. I don't know about you, but this is far too often the area in which I struggle the most! This is the number one thing that I would suggest as you look at your schedule. Is your day wrapped around your husband? You will have less struggle with getting things done. You will appreciate your husband much, much more. You will find your own lifestyle that is just right for your family. Things will begin to fit together. For us, this has been the anchor as we have traveled...as we have gone through constant schedule changes with Harold's job...and as we have the constant hindrances, delays, distractions, and disturbances that ALWAYS occur in the home (or REAL WORLD!). Take time to look at your day. Think through what you would like to cover (make a list in your planning journal) and incorporate into every day. Decide when you could best cover each thing you would like covered. Then, set up your very own way to teach and train your children!

- ⇒ **Set up your OWN lifestyle of learning!** This is crucial! You were mentioning how you want to get MORE done, not necessarily academics, but Nature Study, Reading Alouds, Writing, etc. Why not look at your day to see how you can most naturally include all areas you would like to cover? If you are struggling with one-on-one teaching time, why not consider teaching them ALL at the same time. Get the little boys going with "their" Copywork (Which they will LOVE! Especially if you keep their "work" in a binder!)...then work with your little girl in the few minutes you can steal to the side. Now, if you are anything like me, you may find yourself frustrated when they interrupt. It took a long time for me to see that the "interruptions" were really THE teachable moments! Those were the lessons provided STRAIGHT from God! Realize that NOW is a great time for you to ALL of them at the same time how to write. For individual teaching on reading, consider teaching her the first few minutes they lay down for their nap OR while they take a bath??? It really helped me to teach Matthew Phonics when Harold came home from work and could play with Elisabeth. When I realized that we did not have to stick to any set time or place, that learning could be part of our lifestyle, in OUR own way, things finally began to fit together.
- ⇒ **One thing is needful.** This is probably one of the most important things that I could share with you. You will never be able to DO it all, much less all at once! Instead, ask the Lord for His plan. Ask for His Way. Ask Him to show you the "one thing is needful" for each child? Each year that we have Homeschooled, we have found that there was ONE thing per child to focus on. This is Biblical. Remember Mary/Martha?? "One thing is needful." What is the ONE thing that is needful for each child? Obedience? Learning to read? Ministering to their heart? Writing his first essay? PLAY? Learn to cook? Understand Multiplication? Learn to write? Learn to build? Attentiveness? Read more? What is coming to your mind? That is the ONE thing that is "needful." Let that be the focus each and every day! Keep that as your focus for this season. Then, listen to the Lord for the next thing that is needful for each child. If you will keep yourself restrained toward the vision that God has given for your children and do the thing that is needful, you will simplify your home and get MUCH, MUCH more accomplished.
- ⇒ **Center ALL around your family.** Include your WHOLE family in all that you do! Bring your little ones into your Homeschool. The first year we Homeschooled, my daughter was only 2. That was the year that *she* decided it was time for her to potty train! She also began BIG experiments with Vaseline... Baby Powder... Toilet Tissue... and MOLD! I was always on the run to keep up with her!! AND I was trying to Homeschool also! The second year was soooo much better. BUT, I did many things different! First, I read aloud more! The children would cuddle up with me on the couch to listen to story after story. I read aloud on Matthew's level, but I am still amazed at how much Elisabeth understood. Sure, there were times that I did not think she was learning, but she STILL remembers details from those read alouds. I know, you are thinking about your busy little boys. Trust me, Elisabeth was a busy, busy little girl too. There were times that she wanted to
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“DO” something, evident by our first year homeschooling! I solved many of the problems by bringing her little toys into the floor in our living room for her to play with while we read aloud. I gave her play-doh, legos, dishes to “cook” in, little action figures, sketch pad and paints/colors/colored pencils, etc. This did two things...she made LESS mess AND she began to learn! Less stress! More accomplished!

- ⇒ **Balance ALL areas of your life...** I think that this is my greatest struggle...BALANCE! There are so many things vying for my constant attention! I read last year an interesting quote that has helped me in this area. Charlotte Mason wrote about the necessity of keeping all the areas of the study in proportion. She said that any area that takes up too much time does so at the expense of all of the others. Take this into our homelife. If there is any area that grows out of proportion, the others will suffer. For this reason, we have to constantly be on the look out as keepers of our homes. I made a list of things (areas of our life) that were important aspects of each and every day. I looked at all that we were doing to make sure that every thing we did could fit into those aspects of our day. For a few, I had to look to see if they were important enough to become an aspect of each and every day OR if they should be eliminated completely. This simplified our day AND helped me to get more accomplished. Take a look at your day. In these early years, you may want to have a simple plan for every day...getting Daddy to work while the children watch Sesame Street...play outside (brings in that Nature Study ☺ while meeting their need for play!)...read aloud/nap...table-time to practice handwriting/color...get ready for dad to come in! Oh, this is just a brainstorm. Our days are a balance of Quiet Times/Chores/Table Time/Family Time/Productive Free Time/Ministry and Business Responsibilities/Read Alouds. This helps us to accomplish our goals for our family AND to offer balance to each and every day. Think about what is important to you and your husband. Think about your abilities. Then, balance your day so it is JUST right for your family!
- ⇒ **PLAN!** Even now with your children little, make sure you have a plan even if you have to remain flexible! This will help you to have a vision for what needs to be done each day while it keeps you restrained to your purpose. You can use anything for planning...a journal, planner, Day Timer, a calendar, etc. You can be as detailed or as simple as you prefer. Just take a look at your year by going through your entire yearly calendar marking in all events, field trips, studies, etc. (easier to keep the schedule DOABLE). Then, take a look again each month for any updates or additional plans. Then, each day take your calendar and plans before the Father asking Him to order your day! As a very Choleric personality, I like order and the certainty of knowing what to expect. The only problem is that I have had to learn how to take that part of my personality before the Lord each and every day to surrender my plans to the leading of His Holy Spirit. I have learned that God wants for us to be orderly, but also to be flexible. The order helps me to have more margin in my life for the spontaneity of motherhood, the fun that often gets us off schedule, and the REAL teachable moments that are NEVER on schedule.
- ⇒ **Work your help!** This is a KEY for the Mommy at home with children! I had NO idea how much my children could REALLY do until I began to surrender my incredibly HIGH standards, my pride, and my time in training them! Oh, I am not just talking about them keeping up the messes they make. I am talking about training them to help manage the entire home. This is very foreign to many of us who were brought up in public schools. Our mothers had ALL day with us tucked away in schools to clean...not to mention that we were not at home to make messes AND most of us were not as creative (with creativity comes MESS, MESS and MORE MESS!) because we were taught in public schools. So many of us try to bear the weight of our homes on our own shoulders (my children lovingly call this being a “Mommy martyr!”) until we find ourselves completely exhausted! With the little bit of strength that you do have, allow your children to work alongside of you. Let the 2 year-olds fold and put away the laundry...let your daughter load the dishwasher and put away
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the dishes...let the children dust the furniture...let the children sweep, vacuum, and mop (talk about adventures!)...let them clean the windows and mirrors...so on! I usually do two major clean-outs each year (the last year I didn't and you can TELL!) which takes care of the scum and brings order to our home so that we can easily manage quick clean-ups each day during our chore time. I am slowwwly but surely training my children in more and more of the homemaking skills. Not only does this give me relief, but this helps to use the natural gifts and abilities that my children have. This is truly God's perfect plan!

- ⇒ **Re-evaluate your standards**...Now, this may not be YOUR struggle, but it was one of my high places! I tried to keep up with everyone...my mom (who in my eyes was and IS the perfect homemaker!), my mother-in-law (who's house is always perfectly clean, clean enough that I never cared if my toddler's ate off her floor!), my friends (who were not only keeping beautiful homes, but ALSO Homeschooled!), and even the ladies at the church. I found myself absolutely exhausted! Not to mention, I had very little joy in my calling! All it took was a good look at my standards, my actual abilities, my priorities in comparison to what was truly needful! Oh, the house could be a little more cluttered so my child could learn to read. Sure, I was *able* to take care of my house, Homeschool, and help at church...but was I NICE doing it all? Absolutely NOT! Asking my family and loved ones, you would soon find that the thing that was needful was a SLOOOOwwwww pace so I could balance being a responsive wife, fun Mommy, energetic homemaker, and wise mentor! I have to let the things go that would steal away my time, energy, and relaxed life!
- ⇒ **Take time for fun!** This is another thing that I had to keep in my schedule. FUN! I am amazed how much MORE we get done each day in our lessons as we take time to have fun...to laugh...to enjoy the little things...and to enjoy one another. Yes, this is a vital element of the Homeschool that endures. There is humor all around. There are delights at our fingertips ready for us to seize! All we have to do is take the time necessary to have fun! It may mean rolling on the floor giggling...chasing each other down for tickles...laughing at a CORNY joke...getting away for the day to just WATCH the children play. Whatever you do, be sure to leave lots of time for laughs, giggles, and fun!
- ⇒ **Let the Holy Spirit lead each day!** We have before us children, precious children. Motherhood is a tremendous calling. We are shaping the lives of people, real people. This load is simply too much for a mother to bear. For this reason, commit your whole way to the Lord. Ask Him to lead you each and every day. If you are confused, ask Him for direction. If you are tired and weary, check your burden to be sure that you are carrying His Yoke and His burden, then ask Him to give you the strength to press on!

My prayer for you is that the Lord will come alongside of you, engulf you, comfort you, and direct you. He is gently calling you to snuggle up close to Him so you can hear Him say, **“My dear child, ...I know the thoughts that I think toward you...thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then, you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you... and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you...and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.”** (Jeremiah 29: 11-14 NIV)

Hi, Cindy!

I wouldn't mind at all for you to address this in the newsletter. How often are you all away from home? How do your children like it and adjust? What is the longest period of time at one stretch that you

are away? I hope you can answer some of these. Also, how can I subscribe to the newsletter?

Thank you so much for your response. In His love, Kristy Pinion

Kristy's original letter

Hi, Cindy!

I met you at the Oklahoma City convention. My name is Kristy Pinion & I was the redhead at the breakfast meeting we had at the Hampton Inn. (Kim Seewald set it up) I had some questions regarding traveling and homeschooling. My husband, Michael, is thinking about changing jobs - to be a catastrophic insurance claims adjuster. He would be called at a moment's notice and leave for wherever there is a need after a severe storm. He would probably be going by himself at first until he felt like he could afford for us to come along.

I realize that the joy of homeschooling is to be able to see the country, but I have a 13 yr. old, 10, & 5 yr. old, all boys. The oldest wants to stay home to be with friends, although there are not many 8th grade boys in our church, and none are Homeschooled.

How often are you away from home? Do your children enjoy it or resent it? I have told Luke (13), that it would be exciting like the TV show "Promised Land", where they did the same thing, traveled all over the US helping others.

Anyway, this is a very big decision and I don't think my parents would be for it at all. Sorry this is so lengthy - but we have been "stewing" about this and trying to turn it over to God in prayer. We want to know His will.

Thank you for listening & I hope you can give me some input.

In Christ's love, Kristy Pinion

Dear Kristy,

I LOVE this letter. I don't think that I have ever seen this BIG question addressed. In Homeschooling, there are so many different families that those traveling to some extent as a family in ministry OR profession accounts for a large segment of homeschooling families. There have been only a few years that we have not traveled too much through all of our years of homeschooling AND those years we were busy moving from state to state!

At first, we traveled with my husband and his job. He worked with the District Attorney's Office for the first 3 years that we Homeschooled. There were WONDERFUL meetings and conferences that he brought us along to. The greatest perk was that they always provided free passes for us to visit most of the historical and entertainment spots in all of the areas. Tough life, but SOMEONE had to do it...may as well be a homeschooler! Ha!

We loved watching the Lord intertwine our lessons from home with where we traveled. My plans could NEVER have been SO on target. While we were studying a unit on the history of music, we happened to travel part of the month to New Orleans—you have got it JAZZ! We also found ourselves traveling to Memphis—you have got it again, JAZZ and of course, Rock and Roll! My children were able to hear the instruments that we were discussing, attend museums that "specialized" on the topic that we were wrapping our unit around, and even see the homes of many of the people we were studying about. I felt it a blessing straight from God! This happened time and time again with trips to Huntsville, Alabama and Houston, Texas while we were studying about space...trip to Gulf Shores while we were studying about tides and moon...trip to San Antonio and the great Alamo at the end of a great study on Davy Crockett and the tragic war for the independence of Texas...plus MORE!

Now, we really have just as much of a blast! Very rarely do we travel with Harold's job (Well, except in August when we pack up for Mississippi for a week!), but our bookings with our ministry take us to some of the most WONDERFUL places! We always try to really use every opportunity to teach along the way.

The children keep travel journals. We stop along the way to buy postcards so they have a "record" of

where they have been and what is “special” about it. Doing this has kept them busy during the ride and provided a special way to remember places we have gone. We also try to hunt neat mementos from areas that we travel. I usually try to find a Harley store to buy Harold a T-shirt or hat, especially if he is not able to travel with us for some reason. Then, we always try out the local cuisine! Funnnn!

How have the children done?? They have ups and downs. Elisabeth more than Matthew, especially when she was younger. We saw some of this last year with her and this year changed some of what we do to “take” our “home” on the road. This might help you as well. I wish I had known to do this from the beginning. Here are some thoughts for “keeping your home” on the road...

Taking Your Homeschool On the Road...

...Keep your schedule as close to normal as possible. We found this to be the most important thing we do now. I changed our schedule last year so that we could pretty much keep the schedule every day of the week except Sunday, when we only rest and worship the Lord. What do I mean? Well, we have set our quiet times so that we can have them at a set time EVEN when we are on the road...chores become obsolete, but we still know to get dressed and get our things together after our quiet times...table time is easily taken on the road, to a convention/retreat, or finished before we leave our room...family time/ministry/free time are every day EVEN on the road...and reading aloud the Bible and whatever book we are finishing is easy to maintain right before bedtime. We have to keep this basic schedule to keep a sense of normalcy to our lives. There is not the stress of “*Oops, we are missing ‘school’ days*” or “*We have to get back to a schedule when we get home.*” We are able to keep up our lifestyle each and every day.

...Guard your family togetherness. This was crucial for us. I ended last year very disappointed. Not so much with our traveling, we had such fun that I would not have traded it for anything. Not with ministry, we all enjoy ministering together so much that we have all become addicted to ministry (Paul describes this in 1 Corinthians 16: 15 as he describes the house of Stephanas, “**that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints.**” This is US!). No, my disappointment came as I realized that I was tired from staying up too late (who could go to bed in the home of a kindred spirit??)...I felt my husband was neglected since both of us were always busy talking to our friends and we fell into bed exhausted without time to pow-wow with one another...but worst of all, I felt that I was losing precious time discipling my children since they would miss several days a week, each and every week, going to bed without their usual lonnnngggg ritual of reading the Bible and great books with Mommy. In spite of the temptations this year to stay with friends while we are on the road, we have guarded OUR family togetherness by staying in hotels where we could pull away to have our family time each and every day. I have been more rested and contented...Harold has got those nightly head-rubs...and we have read more than ever before! If there were one thing that I would recommend for ANY family on the road, it is to be sure to guard your family jealously. Seie each moment together. These days are fleeting.

...Bring “Home” with you! This year we bought a big Ford 350 with a crew cab. Plenty of room and comfortable too! Not only that, but we bought a pull behind trailer to carry our books AND personal items with us. We now have room to carry an ice-chest filled with veges and homemade goodies to bring HOME with us. Plus, we have room for the children to carry their special toys/studies with us. Elisabeth just bought a Lee Middleton baby doll with her “work” money. She has spent every extra penny buying her baby REAL baby clothes, stroller, car seat, toys, etc. The extra room in the truck and trailer has allowed her this indulgence. Matthew spent his “work” money on a TV/VCR for the truck. I love hearing him explain to Elisabeth “how far” we have to go...”2 John Wayne movies and 1 Shirley Temple movie to go!” We have also invested in LOTS of tape sets. I realized last year that they were captivated by great audio books. So, this year we have invested in great sets along the way. Not only is this helping us to pass the time more pleasantly, but we are able to “hear” more great books read aloud.

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Our favorites this year are *Elsie Dinsmore*, *Pilgrim's Progress* (we have listened to part one and two), *Stepping Heavenward*, and now we are listening to 2 sets that have G.A. Henty books on them! (We DO have these available through our company. More information later!) These offer something special to pass the time WHILE teaching them great lessons! One more thing that we are doing that brings home with us is that we bring our quilts, special bubble bath, etc. That makes even the most "sterile" hotel environment suddenly feel cuddly warm and like home! Try this as you take your little ones on the road.

...Center ALL around the family. You were asking if they ever resented traveling. This is a struggle with our family. The only time I felt a tinge was the first time I flew out on my own and left our family. We were tired from traveling and had an upcoming trip that would add up to 20 hours on the road (ONE WAY!). No one in the family was up to that. So, we decided that I would fly. It was SO hard for me... perhaps that "fed" the minds of all in our family. It was hard for ALL of us! We try to really limit any trips that we cannot ALL travel together. It just makes ME more stressed and worried about not being there to take care of the children or my darling Harold. We also found another struggle that the children took care of this past year. We really tried to give them great opportunities to have extra-curricular activities when we ARE home. Last year, they BOTH opted for NO extra-curricular activities so we would not be bound to things back home when we had opportunities to leave a little early for a trip and soak up ALL of the great places to see. Having our entire life centered around our family and this "one thing" that we do really helped to simplify our commitments AND to reduce unreasonable expectations!

I pray that this will help you. I believe that the more that we turn to the Lord to see HIS PLAN for our family, the more peace, ease, freedom, and FUN we will have! I know it is frightening to step out into a completely new lifestyle. I know that there will be little things that you will learn along the way (perhaps even the hard way) that will help you to "make" and "keep" your home regardless of where you may be. Just trust God to lead you each step of the way. He will be faithful to work in each of you to bond your hearts together. He will faithfully provide the most fascinating things for you and your family to learn...at JUST the right time! You may not see it now, but you have a tremendous journey ahead! Have fun and enjoy the journey!

Dear Cindy,

I just wanted to thank you again for your generous gift to me, a stranger. I came home and literally devoured all of your books. I'm praying for a much better school year. I'll have to admit though *Time for Tea Volumes 1/2* is my favorite and I am looking forward to receiving *Volume 3*. I am also enjoying your *Rushton Reading List*. I am anxiously awaiting your resource catalog.

It is such a treasure to meet people who are devoted to the Lord and dedicated to raising godly children and having Christian homes. You have been such an encouragement to me and an inspiration. My children are the most precious treasures and I truly take this God-given responsibility very seriously.

I also wanted to thank you again for your time to talk with me those two times. It was a big help.

I hope to see you again sometime in the future. God bless you and your beautiful family. Keep writing! Because of Him.

PS. The enclosed bookmark is my thank you gift to you. I hope you like it!

Oh!

You have no idea how much you have already blessed me beyond words AND how much you continue to bless me! I love and treasure the gorgeous bookmark. It is in my Bible. I think of you as I have my Quiet Time AND as I teach the Word. By the way, I cannot believe that you gave me such a treasure as your own heirloom stitching and bullions! I have always reserved my bullions for my darling

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daughter or my mother! So, all that time you spent is VERY MUCH appreciated!

It is such an encouragement to know that you are finding encouragement and inspiration here with our ministry. WOW! That is my heart's desire! As I came into motherhood, I had a very OVERGROWN path before me. I desperately needed encouragement to keep on, keeping on. I desperately needed to be inspired to continue the calling. It is with this passion that I write and share!

The call of womanhood comes with great power! We all need to remember the power of womanhood. Just this morning, I went before the Father once again overwhelmed by the tremendous influence that we have in the lives of our husbands and children. Once again, I presented my day before Him asking HIM to show me how to spend each and every precious moment with them.

Later, Elisabeth asked me what it meant that ALL of our work would one day be brought into judgment with all going up in flames...leaving only those things "*tried as by fire.*" She was her typical CUTE self as she asked, "*Even my Copywork???*" (Can't you JUST see her mind churning as she thought about someone making a BIG pile of HER stuff and burning up her BINDERS and precious COPYWORK!?!?!)

As I shared with her how God did not look at what we do in categories that we think of, that often the little things are our greatest acts of service, I could see that same challenge digging into the depths of her heart that I had felt earlier. "*Is what I am doing REALLY going to matter?*" "*Does it hold eternal weight?*" "*Is this influencing the lives that are right before me, or is it merely passing time, avoiding the REAL call??*"

I am so grateful for the opportunity that is right before me to walk with her into her early years of womanhood. Prayerfully, she will KNOW that nothing is trivial...all things, big and small, are areas of faithfulness and excellence. Prayerfully, she will take this calling so serious that God can use her to minister to her own family one great and glorious day!

I pray that you will have this blessing as well. What we have before us is a legacy, a heritage. May God bless you richly as you seize each and every minute before you! Truly every moment is building generations to come.

Hi Cindy,

I just want to tell you that the books I ordered, *Language Arts...The Easy Way* and *Nature Study...The Easy Way*, are terrific. They are just the right books at just the right time for me!! I could not be more pleased and more excited!!!! I am especially excited about your "Binderizing" ideas and generous use of Copywork.

I just finished *Language Arts...The Easy Way* and am now starting *Nature Study...The Easy Way*. I have read most of the books you list at the beginning of your book and our Homeschool journey has been influenced and shaped by these people in significant ways. Reading your book has just put some things all together for me. It's kind of like when you are putting together a puzzle—and you are at the point where you can see the picture but there are pieces not in place yet...I feel like your books are adding some important pieces to the picture to me.

Our oldest daughter is almost 7, our next daughter is 4, and our third daughter is almost 2 (we are specializing in girls!). We have been doing a lot with notebooks for quite a while but somehow your book just put so many missing puzzle pieces into place. We have loved Notebooking, but I have always had the desire to use notebooks for so much more. For some reason, I was holding back because I thought it was probably best to just have a couple going at a time. But now I see, that to have many more notebooks would work just great for us...

We started a Music Notebook...our family always has a hymn that we are memorizing together so the girls have started putting the hymns in their notebooks (I photocopy them out of the hymnal and they mount them on some lovely paper) along with a copy of the history of that hymn (from the website you shared in the book). We also have been learning about a new master composer every 10-12 weeks or so. We will be putting each of their portraits in the music notebooks next week along with some information on the pieces they have written. We have also been learning Patriotic songs (such as *America, the*

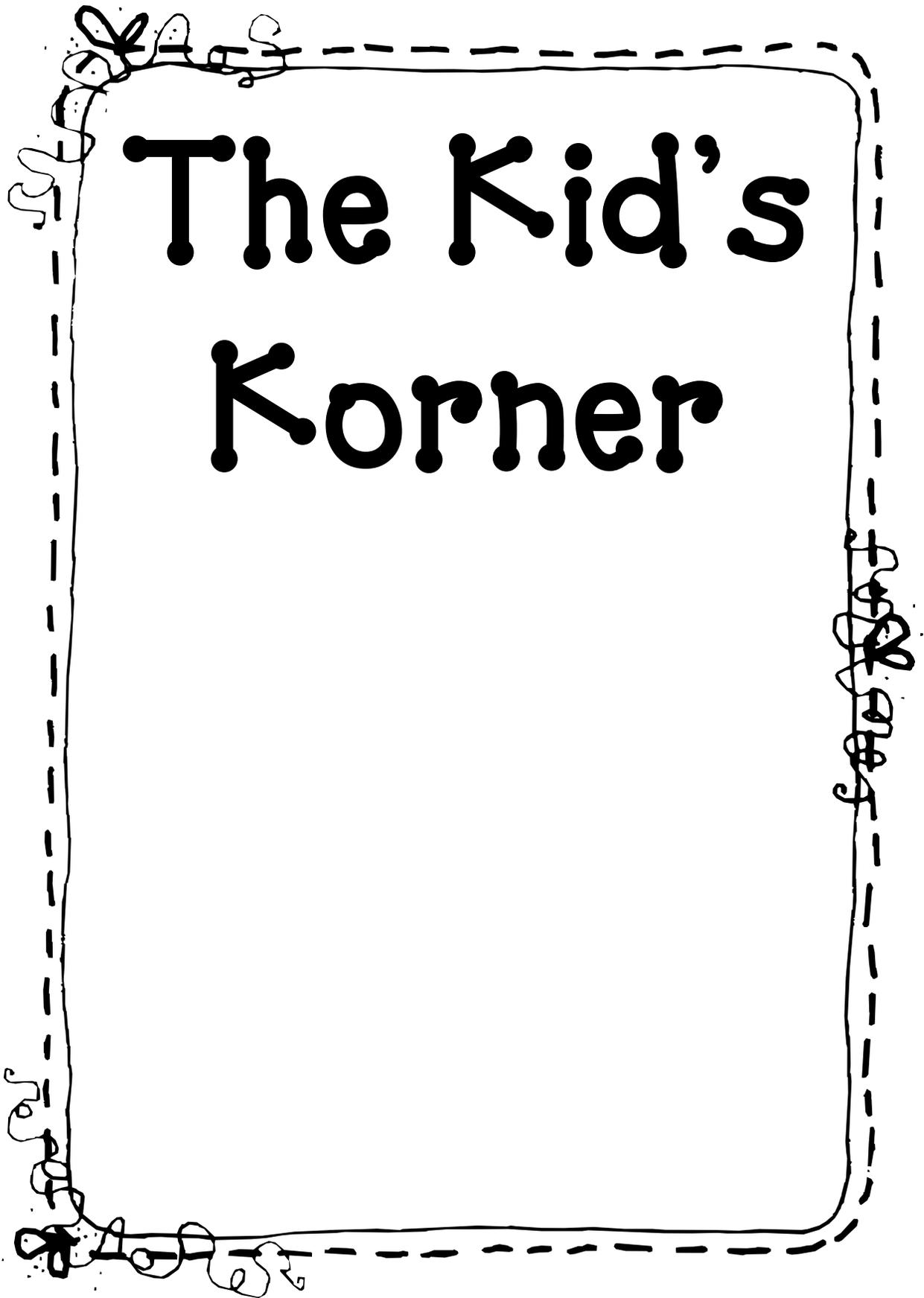
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Beautiful ...today we are starting *My Country Tis of Thee*). Yesterday, they illustrated *America, the Beautiful* and put it in their notebooks. We will continue to add American songs to this section of the notebook. We will also start putting programs from concerts that we attend into the notebooks as well (our local Philharmonic does wonderful children's concerts, which we attend regularly).

Well, that is just one example of how we are implementing your "Binderizing" ideas. I caught the vision of how we can use notebooks for all aspects of our learning. We don't have to hold back after all! ☺ I also SO appreciated all you shared about Copywork. I have read much about Copywork, but your book just really clarified for me how to incorporate this into various notebooks. Also, it really helped me see how central Copywork can be in homeschooling...and I am already seeing such good fruit from using this more than I have been. I could say so much more about ideas and such that your book has triggered for me...but I'm sure you have a lot of emails to read! Have a blessed day!

Hi! WOW! What a wonderful letter! Thanks SO much for sharing your wonderful ideas for implementing our Notebooking ideas in your home! Also, thanks for being so generous to share with our other readers. Everyone inspired??

Why not send in your ideas for Notebooking? How are you implementing these ideas and adapting them to your home? In our next issue, we will be taking a deeper look at Notebooking and how to use this WONDERFUL technique in all subjects! Stay tuned!



The Kid's Korner

Commitments of a Homeschooled Pre-teen...

By Matthew Rushton

My name is Matthew Rushton. I am 12 years old. If I told you all the commitments in my life, we could have big door-stopper. So, these are just a few of the things I do and that I am committed to.

I am a Boy Scout. I do school work, mainly because I am home schooled. I am learning to speak the Russian language, which is not that hard to learn. I am writing books on the *Famous Men of the Civil War*, *Armies of the Ancient Worlds*, and *Grammar...the Easy Way!* Yes, I am working on quite a few books, but I must commit my work on these books and all that I do to the Lord. Actually *all I do* must be committed to the Lord for this reason. There are many commitments I have made, let me share just a few...

Number One

The first commitment I had to make will influence most of the other commitments in some way. This important commitment is to follow and obey God without doubt. He sees things in our lives that we can't see yet. I had to trust God and wait for better things in every situation than I can get in my own power. You know how before Christmas you can go to Wal-mart and buy something for say, \$20. Well, then you come back the week after Christmas and you see the exact same thing for say, \$5.00 and you are just tore up over it. If you only would have just waited that few more days, you could have four of those same things for the same price. The moral to this story is that we humans never want to trust God for the little bit of time that it takes to wait on Him for what He is to give us.

**Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not on thine own understanding in all thy ways
acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5-6**

Let's look at this verse again. Your Bible says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart." What does trust mean? I looked it up in the dictionary...Trust is *to be confident of something present or future*. Another definition is, *"To place confidence in; to rely on. We cannot trust those who have deceived us."* I believe we are to trust in the Lord with everything past, present, and upcoming.

Number Two

The second commitment is to stay pure for the Lord in my heart for both what I have and what is to come in my life. I am going to wait for the Lord in all the issues in my life. Now let's look at another verse on purity. Let's start with Matthew 5:1-9...

**And seeing the multitudes, He went up into a mountain; and when His disciples came unto Him:
He opened His mouth and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the
Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the
meek for they
shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst for righteousness sake for**

character.

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The most important aspect of Courtship is the relationship with your family and the Lord.

I also looked up the definition to Relationship. Relationship, “*the state of being related by kindred, affinity or other alliance.*” My greatest Commitment is the relationship with my Lord, my family, and all others around me. Focusing on these relationships is the best commitment of all!

Now, I want to thank you for stopping to read what God has taught me about Commitments.
Matthew Rushton, Age 12.

Hedge of Thorns

Narrated by Elisabeth Rushton, age nine

There once was a little boy who was playing out in the yard. His father came out of the house with a baby wrapped up in his mother's coat. His father bent down to him and told him it was a girl. He called her Annabella. But the little boy called her his Little Bell.

A few years passed, he would walk every day with his sister to and from school. Along the way, there was a hedge of thorns on each side of the way. In the meanwhile, he would think about the hedge of thorns. He dearly wanted to get through them to see what was on the other side and to eat some apples from the tree.

One day on his way home from school, he stopped to cut out some of the thorns. A few days passed again. On their way home from school, he told Annabella that he would push her in there to see what was on the other side because she was smaller than him.

When he pushed her in there, she cried out loud. He still wouldn't stop. He dearly wanted to get to the other side. She cried more. Then, he pulled her out and saw that thorns were stuck on her face. He started to cry because his little sister was bleeding.

He took her home. His mother and father were disappointed in him. The worse punishment was his sister crying so hard in pain.

Iron Scouts of the Confederacy...

Narrated by Matthew E. Rushton, age 12

Once there were two brothers. Their names were Gant, who was the oldest, and Ben, who was the youngest of the two...fourteen at the time. Ben loved to go hunting out in the woods. He would take his trusty old rifle and hunt squirrels while Gant was busy helping to plow or harvest the fields. The two young men had been orphaned when their father was killed at the **First Battle of Manasses**.

One morning, Gant woke up and decided to join the Confederacy. He decided to leave Ben under the care of their nearest neighbors, the Parlows.

Ben brought all of his belongings to the neighbor's house, which was a mansion! That evening Ben decided that he would follow his brother. So, he packed up his belongings and left.

Later on into the night as he rode, he found a house in which the lights were on. It was raining out doors, so he went up to the door and knocked. The people answered the door, but those men were deserters, who had left their army for one reason or another. Usually the main reason was that they were cowards. They welcomed Ben and took him to a room where he was to be bedded down. But, they locked the door on him. He overheard them talking suspiciously.

Then, Ben decided to take all of his stuff ad leave. Quickly he busted out of the door, leaving it dangling on its hinges. Running down the hall, he left and ran for his horse. He was glad to be out. But, he knew they would not be happy that he escaped. So, when he was on his horse, he leaned off to the side so that in the dark these men would think he had fallen off of his horse.

Matthew's Book Shelf...

(This is a MUCH requested column! We welcome Matthew as he shares his favorites! Love, Mom!)

In case you would want to study more about the Civil War, here are some of my favorite books...

Memoirs of Robert E. Lee... This book is jam-packed with wonderful information about Robert E. Lee and the battles of the Civil War. It also has beautiful color and black/white illustrations. ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Christ in the Camps... This book has only a few illustrations, but it is full of wonderful stories of God's work in the lives of many Confederate and Union men. ***Christ in the Camps*** gives a spiritual perspective of the Civil War. ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ (Tenth to come when I finish the book! ☺)

I also like books by Michael and Jeff Shaara on the Civil War. Jeff Shaara has written ***God's and Generals*** and ***The Last Full Measure***. Michael Shaara, his father, has written the book ***Killer Angels***. All three of these books have a lot of profanity in them, but they have a very accurate perspective of the Civil War. They have great stories about each of the men both Union and Confederate during each of the campaigns they were involved in. Overall these three books are pretty good. ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ (Good, but need to watch your children or read these books ahead of your children.)

Distinctive Battles of the Civil War... There are 4-5 of these books in a series. ***The Calvary*** (Book 3) is my favorite! All of these have actual pictures of the units and their positions in each of the battles in which they fought. ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ (Only because they are not in color...of course, that is because they didn't have color film! ☺)

Any illustrations or books by Matthew Brady or Mort Kunstler. Any of their books, I give ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆! *(Note from Mom...These books are a wonderful way to bring in Art into the study of the time period surrounding the Civil War! REAL FAVORITES! Mom gives ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆!)*

If you want to find other titles, look under *Military History* or *American History* at your local bookstore or Library!

In The Herb Garden...

*For those who know me best, you are probably not surprised to see this addition to **Time for Tea!** I hope you enjoy the treats to come in this section!*

This year was our first year to SUCCESSFULLY grow our own herbs! They were such a delight! I would go outside in the late evening to find new surprises each and every day. One day it would be a new blossom on the Feverfew...the next day I would go outside to find all of my Yarrow blooming in the most stunning color combination of pink and purple! Even now, my Chocolate Mint and Chives are blooming. It seemed that they had that special way of taking me away from the cares of the world!

What is it about herbs that calls us to the garden? Flavoring our foods... making medicines...decorating our lawns... Uses are certainly countless! But it is much more than that! Herbs are dear friends that make that tea time even more special, welcome us to each and every season, and make each day a new and glorious celebration of God's personal gifts just for us! Herbs bring us closer to understanding the gentle hand of God as He works in our lives, His most precious plants! Yes, we all need to see how much deliberation it takes to place a plant in JUST the right spot for it to grow, blossom, and bear the most fruit! We all must see the great importance in pruning at just the right time so more fruit can be produced! And yes, we must have that visual lesson of just how precious and delightful a plant is as it is used fully for its purpose!

I pray that as we learn and explore in the Herb Garden, you will learn more about God's little treasures that quietly grow in the herb garden while experimenting a bit to learn your way around with the various herbs! Have fun!



In The
Herb
Garden...

Homespun Herbs...

By Susan Dahlem

For the past 20 years I have had an insatiable appetite for herbs and all the wonderful things you can do with them. I have grown them, dried them, and used them in everything from potpourri to cough syrup! I grow a variety of medicinal herbs and make my own tinctures, salves, compresses, ointments, medicines. Even now, I am seriously considering starting my own herb business selling not only seeds and plants but, herbal products. My husband and I have discussed this at length and his only request/advice is: START SLOW...he knows me too well!!! I am currently doing herbal workshops and have some scheduled for this Autumn and Early Spring 2000. I am so excited!!! In the workshops I will teach how to take care of and start an herb garden and also how to process and use the herbs you grow for medicinal purposes.

One of my very favorite herbs is: CALENDULA *calendula officinalis* - Pot Marigold - Compositae

Now for the necessary ill of discussing herbs, herbal remedies, recipes and health concerns - the infamous disclaimer:

DISCLAIMER: The information here is general, not specific to individuals and their particular circumstances. It is not intended as a substitute for the advice of a health care professional. The reader should consult their own medical practitioner with respect to symptoms that may require a diagnosis or medical attention.

PERSONAL NOTE: Always double check with a herbal reference guide or herbalist before ingesting or using an herbal remedy if you are pregnant or nursing.

Calendula

Calendula is one of the most useful, versatile herbs. It makes cheerful garden addition and is very useful in culinary, cosmetic and medicinal recipes. And can be used as a dye plant. It is a hardy annual that seems to flower continuously which has contributed to its frequent use. It is a soothing antiseptic and an excellent skin healer.

Calendula Remedy Recipes

Calendula and Thyme Tea (for fungal infections)

One sprig of Thyme
One Calendula flower

Place thyme and calendula in a tea cup and fill cup with boiling water. Steep for a few minutes. Drink this tea 3 times a day.

How To Make A Tincture...

Always use clean sterilized tools just as you were canning your food.

Put 4 oz dry or 10 oz fresh herb into a large canning jar. Pour 1 pint 50% proof vodka over the herb. Seal the jar. Let it steep in a warm place for one month (a sunny kitchen window is perfect) and shake the jar everyday. After a month strain the mixture through a cheesecloth twice in to a clean canning jar.

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Discard or compost the remains of the herb. Pour the tincture through a funnel into a clean, dark bottle and store until the remedy is needed.

I use a bottle with a dropper lid because the dosage for tinctures is usually in drops. ALSO: If you do not want to use alcohol with your children or do not want to ingest it yourself, you may place desired dose in a tea cup and pour boiling water over the tincture. The boiling water causes the alcohol to evaporate and you get the benefit without the alcohol. Alcohol is used to make tinctures due to the preserving factor of it. Tinctures made in 50% proof alcohol should keep for 2 years. You may want to label your bottles with an expiration date or date made. I use vodka because it is odorless and colorless and relatively inexpensive.

A Calendula tincture could be used as a treatment for conjunctivitis (pink eye). Just soak a gauze pad in a well diluted (1 part tincture, 10 parts distilled water) and apply to the infected eyes as a compress. Bathe styes with the same diluted tincture. The main reason for a Calendula tincture would be to preserve the herb in a way ready to use in diluted form.

How To Make A Cold Infused Oil...

Again use all clean and sterilized tools.

Cold infused oils can be used as bases for ointments, massage or bath oils.

Fill a large canning jar with tightly packed flowers or leaves. Pour over enough vegetable or olive oil to cover. (NOTE: I use canola oil or almond oil) Screw on the lid and leave on a sunny window sill for one month, shaking the jar daily. Strain the mixture through a cheesecloth onto a clean container. Gather up the residue in the cloth and squeeze out remaining oil. Pour the liquid through a funnel into a dark bottle. Store in a cool, dark place. Keeps up to one year.

How To Make A Hot Infused Oil...

This method is quicker than cold infused oils and more suitable for moist, juicy herbs such as borage. For hot infused oils, use 1 pint oil for 8 oz dried herbs. Put herbs and oil in a glass bowl over a pot of simmering water. Heat very gently for about 3 hours (keeping a check on your water level) Strain as above and keep in a dark sterile bottle - again keeps for a year.

Calendula Ointment...

Put 3.5 ounces of infused oil into a glass bowl and heat over a pan of boiling water. Add 1/2 inch cube of beeswax and stir until the wax has completely melted. While still warm, pour into ointment jars (dark glass or opaque plastic). Leave to set in cool dark place. Keeps for one year.

Ready to Use Calendula??

Calendula Ointment is great topically for many conditions: athlete's foot, for sore nipples when breastfeeding, diaper rash, cuts and bruises, hemorrhoids and eczema.

The fresh/dried herb is used for: irritable bowel syndrome (with chamomile flowers, and aerial parts of agrimony and lemon balm- use two teaspoons of mixed fresh herbs or one of dried herbs to a cup of boiling water...Drink 2-3 times a day).

You may make a tea of fresh or dried herbs or tincture to help treat hemorrhoids internally. Drink a cupful three times a day.

We hope that this will help you get started using those herbs in your garden...until the next time! Enjoy!

In The Herb Garden...A Little About Rosemary

By Subscriber Leslie Smith

This article has a little story! While I was in Dallas/Ft. Worth in October 1999, I was illustrating the idea that we REALLY need to KNOW a topic before we can write on that topic well. I shared that although I write a good bit and know HOW to write, I would have a difficulty writing on any topic that I do not know about. (DO keep this in mind as you encourage your young writers...they desperately need PLENTY of time to get to know some topic in great detail before they begin to write confidently MUCH less creatively...especially if we want for their writing to be deep, meaningful, and fun for them!) I asked for someone to give me a topic so I could illustrate what it would be like for ME to brainstorm something about just any topic. Leslie spoke up and suggested that my topic be Rosemary. Ohhh, the illustration of my ignorance and now this illustration of her expertise definitely show that those who KNOW their topic can draw us into their work! I learned soooo much from the moments I spent at the feet f Leslie! I think that this will prove to be a treat for all of you as well!

I do want for to especially thank Leslie for her sweet spirit...she sent me this article as a personal email to help encourage me after my visit! I was in such AWE of the wisdom in her email to me that I could not fathom keeping this all to myself! So, here is a peek behind the scenes. Enjoy!

Dear Cindy,

I came home full, so full in fact that I am having trouble reading any email with any level of intelligence, but I did want to tell you how precious this weekend was for me.

It's amazing how Christians who have never met can fellowship and enjoy each other's company so much. I must confess that I felt that way toward you and so many of the ladies I met this weekend.

I think that the most meaningful part of this weekend has been simply watching you minister to others. I learn so much from godly examples, and thank God that I have had the chance to learn from you. I have been a herb enthusiast for years, many more years than I have been homeschooling, and I grow Rosemary. I wanted to share some of what I know about Rosemary with you and also a Rosemary recipe.

A Little About Rosemary...

Rosemary is a wonderfully fragrant and beautiful evergreen herb with needle-like green leaves which grows native in the countries around the Mediterranean Sea. It blooms in early Spring, for me this means in the Winter (January), and has small bell shaped light blue blossoms. In some areas it is used as a fragrant landscape plant. The upright form of rosemary grows well in my part of North Texas, though sometimes it will die because of a particularly cold Winter.

I once grew a Rosemary plant that was about 4 feet high and 6 feet across. One year we had a Winter when the temperatures went well below 20 degrees Fahrenheit for a couple of weeks. The plant died, but it was worth growing.

Rosemary is a polite plant and doesn't spread all over the place. It puts up with heat well and loves

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sunshine...even the blistering Summer heat and blazing sunshine of our fourteen hour North Texas Summer days. It is not quite so tolerant of humidity. I understand that the higher the humidity level in South Texas makes growing Rosemary more challenging.

Since you are in Northern Alabama, you might be able to grow Rosemary fairly easy. Rosemary prefers an alkaline soil, and you will need to provide it with good drainage. This is extremely important and is especially important in humid climates. What this usually means is that you should either plant it on a slope or in raised beds. Rosemary (and most other herbs) should not be grown in any area where the water will puddle. Rosemary will need regular watering in dry weather or it will die. It likes to be watered but hates to have wet feet, so to speak. If you have a clay type soil, like we do, add a good quantity (a proportion of at least 50%) of organic matter like compost to the soil so that there will be more air in the soil. Don't add gravel or sand because this basically creates a concrete type mixture! If you have sandy soil then you should add organic matter (compost is the best) to improve the soil.

I have grown rosemary in a pot. In fact, my huge rosemary started out as a tiny nursery plant. I transferred it to a 1/2 gallon pot where it grew vigorously for months during the early Spring before I moved it out to the raised beds in the garden. However, I don't like to use pots permanently because the soil in the pot gets too hot during the Summer and stresses the plant. Any plant grown in a pot in North Texas requires daily attention during the summer. When I grow plants in the ground with adequate (2-4 inches) mulch, their roots stay much cooler. I have more success keeping plants through the Summer without working too hard.

How To Use...

My husband dearly loves Rosemary biscuits. Whenever I make biscuits, which isn't all that often, he usually asks for Rosemary biscuits. You can make them by simply chopping up some (1/4 cup) fresh or dried (4 tsp) rosemary into a basic biscuit dough. I usually also add sugar (1/3 cup, if you like sweet biscuits, or less as preferred) to make sweet Rosemary biscuits. Since Rosemary has a fairly thick leaf, I blend the fresh rosemary into the liquid from the biscuit recipe (either milk or water) to remove any possible coarseness. You can add Rosemary to muffins or cake in the same way.

A good rule of thumb is to use about 1/3 as much dried herb as you would fresh herb. One Tablespoon fresh is equal to one teaspoon dried.

You can use fresh or dried Rosemary to season chicken, beef or lamb and a number of vegetables like potatoes, carrots, and green peas. Rosemary with Garlic on lamb is a classic combination. Fresh Rosemary is much better than dried Rosemary. I will often add a sprig when I marinade some meat or chicken. I tend to be lazy so I will simply place one or more sprigs (5 inch pieces) in whatever I am cooking and then fish it out later whenever possible. It is not possible in baked goods, so I usually chop or use a blender on the leaves before adding to a recipe.

Some Great Sources...

One of my favorite books, *Heavenly Herbs* by Lane Furneaux, suggests simmering Rosemary in pineapple juice to get a Rosemary concentrate, which can be added to many fruit dishes. I suppose you could add it to a punch or even tea!

Many herbs have meaning when given in bouquets (Another name for a bouquet with herbs is a tussie-mussie.). Rosemary's meaning is remembrance (from Shakespeare). Other meanings associated with Rosemary are hope and fidelity (particularly for newlyweds), as well as, love and friendship.

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Rosemary and other herbs make a pleasant and fragrant addition to bouquets. I have given bouquets to people I wanted to honor and encourage. In those times, I have added herbs and included a short message with a key to the special message hidden in the bouquet.

I hope you have a chance to sample Rosemary sometime. I find it a delightful herb.