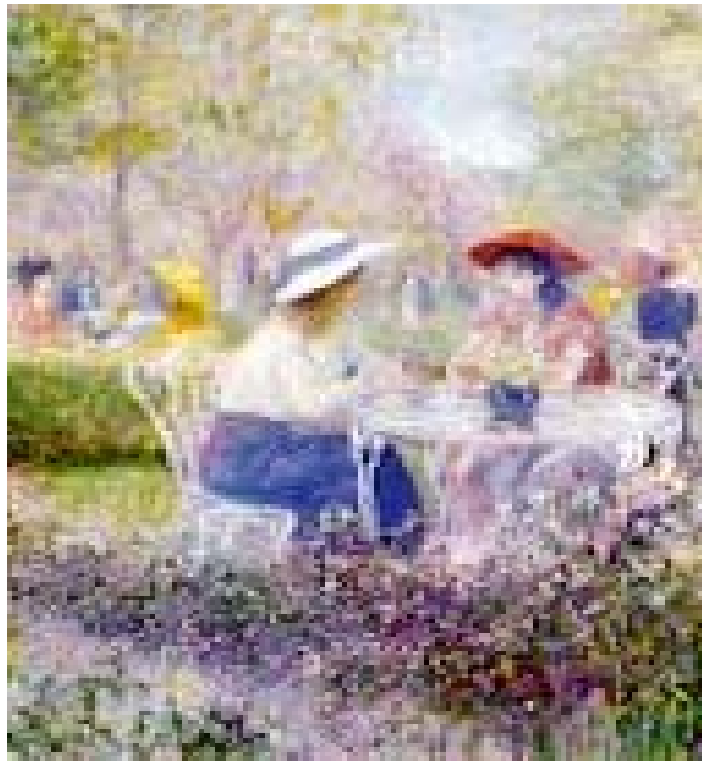


Time for Tea
Reprint Book of
Articles From
Volume 5



By Cindy Rushton



Time for Tea Reprint Book Volume 5

Time for Tea

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Our Email Discussion List...

Time for Tea Online!

We welcome you to the parlor where it's always teatime - the sideboard is full of fresh pastry, the candles are lit to compliment the fire on the hearth and the hostess sits ready to pour. There is beautiful music from the CD player, original art upon the brocaded walls, fresh flowers upon each tea table. Sit down in a comfortable chair, relax a few minutes in your busy day, and chat with other Charlotte Mason families. Your hostess is the Cindy Rushton, noted Author and Editor of the popular magazine **Time For Tea**.

Conversation, companionship, and encouragement are the topics here. Questions on homeschooling with a lifestyle of learning are welcome at any time. You will also find us discussing articles from the magazine, or other beautiful thoughts - poetry, art, music, recipes and handiwork. We even plan to talk about how we apply the philosophy of Charlotte Mason to enrich our lives. Come join us for this little treat in each day...our Time for Tea!

To subscribe see our link at our website: www.cindyushton.com



Time for Tea

Why is this magazine called *Time for Tea*???

We began *Time for Tea* as a "long-distance" mom-to-mom time of mentoring and sharing. Little did we know that God would use this simple little periodical to reach to the utter ends of the earth!

God has made us with a need for companionship... friendship... mentoring. There is NO greater means than TEA! But, this is not a magazine about tea (well, not always!) Tea is the PERFECT concrete illustration of abstract thoughts. EVEN God uses practical, everyday items to teach us great truths. Not to mention, God uses the means of companionship, friendship and mentoring to minister encouragement and biblical teaching. This is what we are here for!

Our prayer is that you will begin to see a glimpse of how special you are to the Lord. He loves you so very dearly. We also pray that you will find a friendship through the miles. A friendship that God can use to inspire you to keep on, on those days you are weary and worn, troubled and perplexed, broken and hurting. A friendship that will encourage you to always see WHO you are in Christ and keep on reading toward the prize set before us!

You are a vessel that God can use mightily. God planned from the foundation of the world to use YOU as a woman of immense influence. Yes, we each and every one can be used by our loving Heavenly Father, just as we are! He says in 2 Timothy 2: 20-21 (Amplified Bible)... **"But the firm foundation of (laid by) God stands sure and unshaken, bearing this seal (inscription): the Lord knows those who are His, and let everyone who names [himself by] the name of the Lord give up all iniquity and stand aloof from it. But in a great house there are not vessels of gold and silver, but also [utensils] of wood and earthenware, and some for honorable and noble [use] and some for menial and ignoble [use]. (ignoble means dishonorable, evil, common... Common means average, standard, traditional, familiar, conventional, customary.) Whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work."**

God wants for us to become vessels that HE can use! NOT because we are perfect... NOT because we have certain qualifications... NOT because we have any certain abilities... BUT because it is through marred vessels such as us that HE can be most glorified! Remember 2 Corinthians 4: 7? **"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the**

excellency of the power may be OF GOD and NOT OF US!"

Our prayer is that you will see JUST this truth in the pages of *Time for Tea*. We are all earthen vessels that often question our abilities and our capabilities, but God doesn't. He counts us as treasures that He CAN use!

As you snuggle up for yet another issue of *Time for Tea*, our prayer is that the Father FILL you, until your "**cup runneth over.**" I have no idea what your need is as you open the pages of this issue, but my prayer is that He will FILL you with comfort... abiding love... mercy... inspiration... joy... grace... ideas that overflow into all areas of your life...and deep encouragement for your awesome calling.

Go now to the Father with your cup...let Him cleanse...let Him repair any cracks, rough edges, or chips...and let Him pour into you. Let Him fill you until you can declare with great joy, just like David, that today YOUR "**cup runneth over!**" For truly, it is once again, *Time for Tea!*



Welcome To Our Time For Tea Fall 2000 Issue!

Fall! At last! I have to tell you that this is a long awaited time of year for me! As I snuggle in to finish the last bits on this issue of *Time For Tea*, I am surrounded all around me by the Awesomeness of God!

The leaves are gently falling down covering the barren, dry land with lush color. I am tempted, as I was all those years ago as a little girl, to go outside and roll in the leaves! The nip in the air seems to bring with it almost that same smell of Mama busy in the kitchen trying out new recipes, while dependably fixing all of those oldies that make every holiday—a holiday! The leaves, the color, the air...all bringing back precious memories built through the years while challenging me anew to build sweet ones in the lives of those dear ones all around me.

Isn't this one of the treasures of womanhood? WE get to build memories! Anything will do! Tea...a great book...pie...a walk in the woods...a fun game complete with giggles...a day on the boat...oh, even stones! Remember Joshua 4: 1-9???

"And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man: And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel: That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever. And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the LORD spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day."

What do you think of when you think of home? What gives you that cozy feeling? Is it the smells drifting from the oven in the kitchen into the very crevices of your bedroom?? What about those precious family stories that you heard over and over and over? What about those bedtime stories and late night talks all cuddled up in Momma and Daddy's bed? Could we go on and on?

God knows that one of the things that builds a strong home are the memories we make with our loved ones. Memories give us identity...we find our story. Memories give us security...they provide us with the anchor that holds us when the sea is raging. Memories give us delight and joy...they give us that joy in the soul that keeps us going through all the storms that may rage in life. Memories give us strength...they remind us that we made it through other trials and we can keep on, keeping on through this one! Memories pull it all together.

Our homes can have relationships. Our homes can have structure. Our homes can have routines. Our homes can have plans. Our homes can have direction. BUT without memories we lose the tie that binds!

Want a strong home?? Want a strong family?? Want strong children?? Tie strings all along the way! Tie strong cords with your family! Establish your family traditions and rituals... bedtime stories... games... tea... long discussions... walks in the woods... family jokes... read alouds... adventures... family stories... prayer journals. Work together...in and around the home, in ministry, in business. Take time for fun...for giggles...for snuggles... for sweet memories!

The memories that we build in these days are the stones that our children will come back to use when teaching *their* children about...priorities...commitment...life ...marriage... about the ties that bind. Pick up the stones and leave them for your children. They will be the memorials that will reach out for generations to come! They will be those treasures that will come back to mind as your children go on through the seasons of their life!

Teatime Thoughts...

By Cindy Rushton

The package was a complete surprise. On just an ordinary day. No hint that anyone had given a thought to me. Yet, there it was! My dear friend had moved away to Colorado just months before leaving a big hole in the lives of our entire family. There would be no more giggles over the funny things that Austin said CONSTANTLY. There would be no more intimate times over tea (or coffee!). Those moments we could steal away would be as rare as the finest gem.

But Loretta had not forgotten me. In fact, as she went into a local tea shop in Colorado, all she thought about was me and all of our special times together pouring out our hearts, souls, and minds over cups overflowing with tea and coffee.

As she perused the shop, one cup just jumped out at her. It had the words, "*Time for Tea*" written on the beautiful cup. Yes, you have it! She thought of how our tea time now would be across the miles in the pages of *Time for Tea*, our rare letters and cards, and phone calls. She had to have the cup for me.

As UPS drove up with this special goody "*just for me*," I was in complete surprise. But there was more than a surprise for me. There was a lesson.

I gently opened the package to find a box with a tea cup and saucer. Only as I opened the box, I found that the cup was chipped and the saucer was broken into pieces, beyond repair. My stomach knotted up. What would I do? Not just any tea cup could mean so much to me...this one was hand-chosen by Loretta. This ONE was meant for me. Not another hundred could be as special, because this one would always remind me of our special friendship. As I sat there in tears of blessing and disappointment, God impressed upon me that THIS cup and saucer would be very, very special. I must keep them. They would have a story much like all of the other cups in my collection, only their story could offer hope for the hopeless, comfort for the mourning, peace for the fretful, purpose for the broken... This cup would be used by God to pour forth God's truth.

What About You???

Where are you my dear friend? What kind of a vessel are you? What condition are you in today?

I have simply terrific news for you! It does not matter where you have been...where

you come from...God can use you! It does not matter what state you are in...chipped, broken, marred, dusty from sitting in the back of the shelf...ANY state, God can use you! Your story of how you have come to be what you are is NOT EVEN a hindrance, because God already KNOWS and His specialty is the little insignificant people, the most wretched of the wretched...God can use you! EVEN YOU!

I love the passage in 2 Timothy 2:19-21 (Amplified Bible) **"But the firm foundation of (laid by) God stands sure and unshaken, bearing this seal (inscription): the Lord knows those who are His, and let everyone who names [himself by] the name of the Lord give up all iniquity and stand aloof from it. But in a great house there are not vessels of gold and silver, but also [utensils] of wood and earthenware, and some for honorable and noble [use] and some for menial and ignoble [use]. (Ignoble means dishonorable, evil, common. Common means average, standard, traditional, familiar, conventional, customary.) Whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work."**

What kind of a vessel are you? Do you want a noble purpose? To be one that is set apart for the Master's use? Think about the story of my little tea cup and saucer. IF I, a master that cannot even FIX my vessel, can use a broken or chipped vessel for a great purpose then, how much more can our Master, Who is Jehovah Rapha, The Great Physician and Mighty Creator, use each and every one of His vessels for special purposes? No vessel is past hope. No vessel is excused. No vessel is exempted. The Master takes them all, using them for their very own special work. The Master only requires that those vessels that are to be used for His noble purposes, rather than the ignoble purposes of the world, be cleansed...

...from sin!

...from the traditions of this world!

...from the things that are familiar!

...from what is common to our culture!

...from the ways of the world!

...from what is conventional for the standard person!

...from all that is customary!

Our Master wants a vessel He can use. He wants YOU! So, my dear friend...what condition are you in?

Chipped? You have not been handled correctly, so now there is that one spot that is sharp, cutting to those that get a little too close? Sure, you look good from a distance, but you hurt those that get too close?

Broken? Others were not careful. They did not realize how fragile, tender, and precious you were, that you were a vessel that God would use mightily...now, you are broken. Crumbled to pieces. Unusable. In deep need of repair.

Unused...Unready for use? You are not chipped. You are not broken. But you are still not ready to be used. You have set back on the shelf for far too long and you are full of dust. No one could drink from you because you are need a good, fresh washing!

Don't match? You are completely different from any other. You are ready to go, but you look at the other vessels and realize that you are different. You don't even match! In fact, you don't even "deliver" the same drink—you serve coffee instead of tea!

Where are you? Who are you? What is your excuse, my dear friend? The Master can take you RIGHT where you are and make you into a vessel He can use!

YES! YOU! A Vessel He CAN Use!

Chipped and broken? Look at Psalm 51: 17, **"My sacrifice [the sacrifice acceptable] to God is broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart [broken down with sorrow for sin and humbly and thoroughly penitent], such, O God, You will not despise."** You may see yourself broken, beyond repair, without any possibility for use; but God sees you as precious. He does not despise you. He wants to bring healing. He sent His Son to die for you so you might be healed! In Luke 4: 18-19, Jesus said, **"The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon Me, because He has anointed Me [the Anointed One, the Messiah] to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed [who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity, to proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound."**

If you have sat back with your excuses of why God can't use you, my dear one, your time is up here. Jesus has been anointed to release you from any and all of the bondage and heartache that keeps you bound and broken! The enemy has held you captive for far too long. NOW, you are free to be healed completely!

I love the passage that Jesus was quoting from in the above passage. There is NO ONE left out of the hope that is in Christ Jesus! Dwell on this passage from Isaiah 61...

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor, and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord [the year of His favor[and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to grant [consolation and joy] to those who mourn in Zion—to give them an ornament (a garland or diadem) of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, the garment [expressive] of praise instead of a heavy, burdened, and failing spirit—that they may be called oaks of righteousness [lofty, strong, and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice, and right standing with God], the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified. And they shall rebuild the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former desolations and renew the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations...you shall be called the priests of the Lord: people will speak of you as the ministers of our God. You shall eat the wealth of the nations, and the glory [once that of your captors] shall be yours. Instead of your [former] shame, you shall have a twofold recompense; instead of dishonor and reproach [your people] shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double [what they had forfeited]; everlasting joy shall be theirs. For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrong with violence or a burnt offering, And I will faithfully give them their recompense in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant or league with them. Ad their offspring shall be known among the nations and their descendents among the peoples. All that see them [in their prosperity], will recognize and acknowledge that they are the people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as [surely as] the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring forth, so [surely] the Lord God will cause rightness and justice and praise to spring forth before all the nations [through the self-fulfilling power of His Word]."

Find yourself in there? My dear one, God has a plan for you. He hates for His precious children to hurt. He is a Just God. He is a Holy God. The limitation of His justice and holiness is that He must limit Himself to allow men and women to *choose* the way that they will go. That can bring much pain, heartache, and brokenness to ourselves and others within our sphere of influence. The limitations however are nothing compared to the grace and healing that the Lord promises in His judgment!

Broken? Got some raw edges? He wants to bring you good news today that you no longer must remain in captivity. Today is your day! You can have joy today for it is THE

MORNING! You can have beauty for those ashes of yesterday! You can have the oil of joy to minister healing to the depths of your sad, grieving soul! You can wear praise instead of that cloak heavy with burdens that God never wanted for you to carry! You can now stand strong, planted in the Lord, and used by the Lord as HIS precious vessel.

A Little Dusty??? You Too!

Now, maybe you are not thinking that you are not that far gone, that you have been doing fine sitting here in YOUR corner on the shelf. But you are a vessel that has been set back on the shelf for far too long. You may not be chipped. You are not broken. But you are still not ready to use. No one would drink from you, because you are full of dust and dirt. You need a good, fresh washing!

My dear friend, you can be washed clean at only one place...by only One Person!

Need to be cleansed from your sins? Titus 3: 3-5 says that there is only One Place! **"For we also were once thoughtless and senseless, obstinate and disobedient, deluded and misled; [we too were once]slaves to all sorts of cravings and pleasures, wasting our days in malice and jealousy and envy, hateful (hated and detestable) and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour to man [as man] appeared, He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but because of His own pity and mercy, by [the] cleansing bath of the new birth regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, which He poured out [so] richly upon us through Jesus Christ our Saviour."**

How did He give new birth? New life? 1 Corinthians 6: 11 says, **"But you were washed clean (purified by a complete atonement for sin and made free from the guilt of sin), and you were consecrated (set apart, hallowed), and you were justified [pronounced righteous, by trusting] in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God."** Accepting the cleansing and the freedom that comes from the cleansing of Jesus Christ makes all the difference in the world. I remember that incredible weight rolling off of me as I bowed my knee to Jesus Christ as my Lord of my entire life and Saviour of my soul for all eternity. He took ALL of me. All of my sins, as filthy as they were. All of my shortcomings, as nasty as they were. All of my future sins, as vile as they would be. He took ALL and gave a new life in exchange.

No one could have took a sip from my cup prior to salvation. What poured forth was tainted by what was inside of me. Even now, after my salvation, I must have a continual cleansing daily, a continual "in-pouring" or what pours forth easily becomes stale, nasty, and tainted. There is only one place you or I can find this cleansing so that what we pour forth is nourishing and filling to others...Only one place—dwelling on His very words

(Ephesians 5: 26-27)! "...as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of the water with the Word, that He might present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such things [that she might be holy and flawless].

As we are filled up, we can, and ARE to, pour forth into the lives of others. Acts 22: 14-16 will fire you up..."The God of our forefathers has destined and appointed you to come progressively to know His will [to perceive, to recognize more strongly and clearly, and to become better and more intimately acquainted with His will [to perceive, to recognize more strongly and clearly, and to become better and more intimately acquainted with His will], and to see the Righteous One (Jesus Christ, the Messiah), and hear a voice from His [Own] mouth and a message from His [Own] lips; for YOU will be witness unto all men of everything you have seen and heard. And now, why do you delay? Rise and be baptized, and by calling upon His name, wash away your sins."

Jesus' plan is not just to merely save YOUR soul, although He would have died JUST for you! His death was personally for your greatest and most minute sin. But, your salvation and sanctification ARE a message for OTHERS! He wants for you to be a vessel that pours forth living water into the lives of others! He has not forgotten you as you have sat on that shelf. He has a great plan for you! Sit at His feet! Be washed by His Word! Be filled to overflowing with His Spirit! Pour forth into the lives of others!

Different? Don't Match??? YOU TOO!

So, still left? You are not broken...not chipped...not even dirty...you just don't match up? You are completely different from any other vessel around. You are ready to go, you would like to be used, but you look at the other vessels and realize that you are different. You don't even match! You have read enough about the "Fine Art of Tea" to know what is proper and what is not. You just stick out! In fact, you don't even "deliver" the same drink as others...oops, you serve coffee instead of tea!

One of my passions is the delicate time each day of Tea. However, you might would be surprised if you came to "Tea" in our home. I have only a couple of sets that match in their entirety with the cups, saucer, tea-pots, and all the "fixins." Very rarely are those the vessels of choice. You see, I open up access to all of the cups in my collection to anyone who "takes tea" with me. Each takes the one that appeals the most to them. Very rarely do any of the cups match. In fact, the sweetest tea times are those in which all we have is used, which cannot possibly match, but the atmosphere is still the same. You see, it is not in what we pour into, the focus is on what is *poured forth* from the living vessel...the LIVING WATER! Thinking back over the many times we have had tea in our

home, tea was actually sweeter when the vessel had a story, not when the vessel was costly, aged, beautiful, or even matching! In fact, I believe that the sweetness of the tea time had very little to do with even what was IN the cup at the moment. There is such a "legalism" in tea, just as in Christianity. The most awesome tea times are not necessary the "traditional" ways. Those moments curled up with my son (before he developed a passion for REAL TEA), reading with him gently sipping from his MUG full of HOT CHOCOLATE! I had to meet him where he was...and take him to where I am. How about all of those mornings that my vessel of choice was a mug FULL of Coca-Cola?? It met the need of the moment!

Likewise, God is an Awesome God. He knows what each and every person needs. He knows what each and every one of us can offer. He uses vessels of His choice to meet others where they are. He pours into vessels messages that often we would question as appropriate, yet it is the Word in due season for the life that gets the overflow that pours forth. Just when WE think we know the proper way, God breaks down the walls to show us a better way! Just when WE think we can't possibly be used by God, He shows us that indeed WE are that perfect vessel that He has planned to use all along in a mighty way!

What About That Cup and Saucer???

Well, what ever happened to that tea cup and saucer? I still have it! In fact, when I am on the road ministering, I carry it with me. Why? They are a treasure to me. I love them JUST the way they are! They are a sweet reminder that God loves each of us just as we are! They remind me that in spite of how much we try to protect and guard vessels, life is sometimes so HARD that we break from the load...the jarring! But that is not all! With God when we are broken, NOTHING is too tough for Him! He wants to mend and bring complete healing so all His vessels can be used! As a matter of fact, this particular vessel—still broken, has probably been used more than all the rest. It has probably brought a greater message than any of the others because it could MINISTER to the depths of my heart, it could "break" through the layers necessary to get to MY heart!

Yes, this dear cup and saucer remind me that every cup is precious. Each and everyone of them have their own story. It is that unique story that bonds hearts and makes the tea party come alive to minister encouragement from our Father.

As I look at the broken pieces of this beloved gift, I am reminded anew of Isaiah 61. That the call begins with ME. That I am called to minister reconciliation for those in need of a relationship with God! That I am to proclaim the gospel! That I am to comfort the weary, sad, and mourning. That it begins with ME to proclaim the liberty and bring freedom to the captive! That MY greatest message will give beauty, joy, and praise in

exchange for those ashes of yesterday!

How about you? Will you step forward as a vessel that God can use? He wants for you to plant and to build. To raise up the former desolations. To repair the waste cities that have been desolate for many generations!

There is nothing in your past, nothing in your person that can hinder God from using you as His vessel...He will take you as you are! He will go with you each step of the way! He will give you all the gifts you need. He will give you all the words you need. In fact, Isaiah 50:4 is a special word to anyone afraid that they will not **KNOW what to say or do in ministry...**[The Servant of God says] **The Lord God has given me the tongue of a disciple and of one who is taught, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens me morning by morning, He wakens my ear to hear as a disciple [as one who is taught].** He will wake you morning by morning, giving you an ear to HEAR so you can share **THAT DAY** the words that will minister to the weary...the hurting...the broken!

So, are you ready? Lift up your cup to the Lord today...just as it is! Allow Him to mend...to cleanse...and to use you for His glory. You, **YES YOU** are certainly a vessel God can use!

Recommended Resources by Rushton Family Ministries...

Looking for MORE goodies that will encourage you???

Check out the following tapes/tape sets by Cindy...

Encouragement for YOU Wherever You Are In The Journey...\$10.00

Fill Your Cup Back Up! \$12.95

Fill Your Cup Full of Encouragement (2 Tape Set)...\$10.00

Perfect Preparation for Imperfect People (Exodus 2-3)...\$5.00

Stepping Up to the Call...Lessons from Exodus (2 Tape Set)...\$10.00

Stepping Up to the Call: An Overview of the Book...\$5.00

The Great I AM: Everything You Will Ever Need...\$10.00

Who?? ME?? A Virtuous Woman???...\$5.00

YES! YOU! A Vessel God CAN Use!...\$5.00

Also see our teaching notes from above workshops!

EXODUS

Sent by Email...TOO Good!

Moses and the people were in the desert, but what was he going to do with them? They had to be fed, and feeding 2 or 3 million people requires a lot of food. According to the Quartermaster General in the Army, it is reported that Moses would have to have had 1500 tons of food each day. Do you know that to bring that much food each day, two freight trains, each a mile long, would be required! Besides you must remember, they were out in the desert, so they would have to have firewood to use in cooking the food. This would take 4000 tons of wood and a few more freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day. And just think, they were forty years in transit. And oh yes! They would have to have water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would take 11,000,000 gallons each day, and a freight train with tank cars, 1800 miles long, just to bring water!

And then another thing! They had to get across the Red Sea at night. (They did?) Now, if they went on a narrow path, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and would require 35 days and nights to get through. So, there had to be a space in the Red Sea, 3 miles wide so that they could walk 5000 abreast to get over in one night. But then, there is another problem. Each time they camped at the end of the day, a campground two-thirds the size of the state of Rhode Island was required, or a total of 750 square miles long...think of it! This space just for nightly camping.

Do you think Moses figured all this out before he left Egypt? I think not! You see, Moses believed in God. God took care of these things for him. Now do you think God has any problem taking care of all your needs?

Recommended Resources By Rushton Family Ministries:

See Our Exodus Series Listed In The Back!

Includes...

Stepping Up to the Call: An Overview of the Book

The Incredible Fruit of Suffering (Exodus 1)

Perfect Preparation for Imperfect People (Exodus 2-3)

Introducing I AM...Everything We Will Ever Need (Exodus 3)

Quick Tips for EASY Record-keeping!

By Cindy Rushton

Record-keeping! Does your hair stand up when you think of record-keeping? Do you begin to grind your teeth? Did you feel like skipping this article just because it seems impossible for "EASY" and "Record-keeping" to ever go together??

Relax. I know that there is not a "one size fits all." I know that in spite of how hard we may search, there is not a perfect system for every mom! That is OK! My prayer is that if you are in need of some ideas to make a couple areas a little easier or if you have no idea of where to begin, that you will find a few ideas as you come home with us to see how simple record-keeping CAN be. Ready for some quick tips??? Here we go...

Use What YOU Like Best!

Every mom has her favorite method that works JUST for them whether a planner with reproducible pages... a ready to use planner...or, like me, a simple spiral notebook... binders...a filing cabinet...computer...etc, etc, etc! Before you consider anything else, look at who you are. What makes you feel more comfortable? What helps you to feel more accomplishment? Whether formal or informal...detailed or not even written down...YOUR way is the best way! Decide what works best for you!

Keep a Journal...

Talk about Record-keeping...The EASY Way??? We simply buy a new spiral notebook every year. I keep a log of all we do in it. I simply journal the pages that we cover each day in Math, Latin, Language Arts, etc. I journal the books that are read each day. If you are like us and find that your children seem to read TOO many books for you to keep up with, you may want to keep a separate notebook with a list of books that each child reads in addition to the journal entries of your daily read alouds as a family. Also, I found that we had SO many wonderful events that take place just because we are AT HOME (or on the road ☺) that if I was not careful, I would be writing all day in my journal and NOT enjoying the journey at hand (I am intensely FUNNY about wasting time on recording what we are doing instead of DOING IT!). Finally, I decided to keep my OWN "day timer" or organizer (whatever you would want to call it) with all of my yearly, monthly, weekly, and daily plans. I jot down bookings, extra-curricular activities, family events, Harold's off days, and special events. This is where the "real" world meets

"school records." I have made it all work for me. I simply store the old calendars away with my journals and the children's work. Talk about helping me to REALLY see what we are accomplishing...this has helped me to put into perspective WHY we may have missed "table time" for two weeks or why it took so long for a book to be finished! Sure helps chase away that self-condemnation!

Make Timelines!

These are some of our favorite treasures! We recently revamped our timelines so we could begin new ones—since the children are now so much older than when we first began. Timelines are excellent for recording what we are studying in our lessons/read alouds, but they are much, much more. We use ours as much for review as we do for recording. The children remember MORE than they ever would by a test. Not to mention, all of history and all of the other studies come together perfectly as we see History fall together into place. The reason that I mention timelines here is that they are great for record-keeping and evaluation. As you see a timeline coming together, you can see subjects or time periods that have not been covered yet, or not as extensively as you would like. You can easily plug the gaps, while bridging all of history and all areas of life together. You may not get to a certain time period in YOUR timing, but you will see where you need to work toward in the future. Sure makes planning easier!

Scrapbooks-Yearbooks!

These are some of OUR favorites. You have probably noticed by now that we will use Scrapbooking for ANYTHING! Yes. We are hopelessly addicted! We have found that making Scrapbooks/Yearbooks for our school year is not only fun, but it helps to preserve the memories of ALL that we are doing in our family. One year we even made copies for the grandparents so they could see all that we were doing. They LOVED them! So, you have fun...keep memories of what you are doing...AND have great gifts! Ready to pull out the stickers??

Make Notebooks...

One final way that you can record what your children are REALLY doing is my favorite way—NOTEBOOKS! We keep ALL of our written work in a binder of some sort. Then, we take it further...we keep ANYTHING that can be pressed in binders. Anything left?? Yes! Then, we take pictures and keep THEM in the binders! (Hehe!) ANYTHING and EVERYTHING that can be studied can also be kept in Notebooks in some way. We keep anything that would expand a study and build a great collection of information on topics

we study...great quotes, definitions about a subject being studied, diagrams, character sketches, pictures, coloring sheets, art prints, poems, Bible verses, narrations, Bible word studies, on and on! Our main reason for notebooking in this way is that if our children are going to spend their time **DOING** something, it ought to be worthwhile enough for us to **KEEP IT**. This teaches them to value their work, do a great job on all they do, and that **ALL** areas of life are truly educational.

What About You??

So, what about you? Still scared about Record-keeping? Why not think through **YOUR OWN** way? Try your spin. Use what is easy, simple, and will give you more time with your little ones while helping to keep things in place for you. Most of all, find a way that can capture all of these precious memories of these days for you so you will have them to look back upon tomorrow! Have fun! **EVEN** with Record-keeping!

Recommended Resources available from Rushton Family Ministries...

*We have tried to find the **VERY BEST** resources to help make record-keeping easier. Our list is growing all of the time! Let us know if you have found any others that make record-keeping easier. If you are needing some help **NOW**, this is a listing of all the products we have **IN STOCK!** See more details in our new catalog!*

Planners...

A Garden Patch of Reproducible Homeschooling Planning and Educational Worksheets By Debbie McGregor... Book \$20.95...CD-ROM \$29.95
Educating the Whole Hearted Child by Sally Clarkson...\$20.95
Keeper's At Home Organizer By Michele Autry... \$35.00
Senior High: A Home-Designed Form+U+la by Barb Shelton...\$28.95
The Homeschool Planner By Joy Griffin Dent...\$14.95
The Homeschool Organizer by Ericka Brown...
 Complete Organizer...\$35.00
 Refill Package...\$30.00
 Report Cards...\$.50
 Blue-Jean Cover/Carrier for Organizer...\$10.00
The Learner's Journal By Virginia Knowles...\$9.95

Help for Notebooking...

Notebooking! **YES!** You **CAN** Be a Binder Queen by Cindy Rushton...\$20.00
A Garden Patch of Reproducible Homeschooling Planning and Educational Worksheets By Debbie McGregor... Book \$20.95...CD-ROM \$29.95
Booklet Building Book...by Barb Shelton...\$8.50
Language Arts...The **EASY** Way by Cindy Rushton...\$20.00
Nature Study...The **EASY** Way by Cindy Rushton...\$25.00

Make Your Own Timeline Series...

(see the back of this book for more details!)

Timelines...

Make Your OWN History Timeline Notebook by Cindy Rushton...\$18.95
A Garden Patch of Reproducible Homeschooling Planning and Educational Worksheets By Debbie McGregor... Book \$20.95...CD-ROM \$29.95
Greenleaf Timelines (available for each study guide...see below)
Historical Timeline Figures Book...\$25.00
The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide...\$34.95
Uncle Josh's Outline Map Book...\$19.95
Wall-Chart of World History...\$16.95

The Story of My Knife Business

By Matthew E. Rushton

Hi, my name is Matthew Rushton. I have my own knife business. All this began when I was three, at which time my grandfather gave me my first knife. I cherished it. I carried that old knife absolutely everywhere showing everyone. I was so proud of that knife and the trust that I received with it. I am glad that my dad and mom trusted me at such a young age. They taught me that yes, the knife can hurt you, but if you take care of it by oiling it or sharpening it or not throwing it around, that same knife can take care of you by doing what you want for it to do.

The hobby had started to grow with my second knife, and third, and fourth, and fifth. It was every time I saw my grandfather or every time I had a birthday until this hobby has grown to be inseparable with me and I had thirty or more knives. I cherished all of them for their own purpose.

Finally, a man that I did business with several times told me of the company that he orders from and gave me all their information so that I could have a knife business of my own. I have placed several orders from the company. One of the most important of which was the one that I purchased my Buck Lighting HTA II knife. When I received it there was a note in it from Mr. Chuck Buck, the owner of Buck Knives, with his mailing address in it. I then, mailed him a letter telling him how happy I was with his product. Well, then I received a letter back from him that said that he was glad that I had enjoyed his product and furthermore that he noticed that I was a Christian from the way that I had signed my letter "In Christ Jesus our Lord." He said that God was the only thing that kept him going through the thick and thin. This really impressed me and challenged me as a Christian.

As my business has continued to grow, I have learned lessons that will help me in the future. I have learned how to take inventory, add up money, budget for more inventory, figure taxes, and to pay my bills in a timely manner. Most importantly, I have learned how to treat my customers as I would wish to be treated, which is with respect and honor. Through it all, just the same as Mr. Chuck Buck, I have learned that God will take you through all and direct your way. To think that it all began as my dad and mom gave me that large bit of trust with such a small knife. Thank you.

-Matthew E. Rushton, the owner of
Matthew's Cutting Edge

Give Me a Burden, Lord... YOUR Burden!

By Cindy Rushton

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest, [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. For my yoke is wholesome (useful, good—not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne." Matthew 11: 28-30

Feel weary? Heavy laden? Overburdened? Pressed? Harsh? Like life is just too hard? Don't you just LOVE this passage?

It was at a time when I simply felt that I could not go on that this verse became MY verse! My precious Lord was gently calling to me... *"Cindy...dear...COME TO ME! You are laboring. You are laden down with a load that is too heavy for you. You are overburdened by a load that I never meant for you to carry. Oh, dear child, if you would only come to Me, take My yoke upon you, learn from Me, you could have rest...relief, ease, refreshment, recreation, blessed quiet for your weary soul. Oh, Cindy...I never intended for you to carry a harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing load. I only want good for you. It can all be light and easy...will you come to Me????"*

My dear friend, where are you? Are you sitting there thinking, *"Oh...I wish this could be mine! I only wish things could be easy and light and just a little fun!"* Is it hard to believe? Are you feeling that tug in your heart that pulls you to and fro?? Why not pull aside for a moment to sit at the feet of Jesus? Listen to Him. Learn OF Him! You will quickly find that things will lighten... ease... simplify AS you come to Jesus. As you learn of HIM. As you take HIS yoke upon you! No fear. His yoke is easy...His burden is light!

Want a new burden...one that is light and easy to be born??? There are five areas that need constant simplification. Let's take a look at them...

Purpose

Generally I have seen that all homeschool families are desirous of two things with their children...excellence in education and excellence in character/godliness. Good news! You can have both! Let's look at Matthew 6: 33... **"But seek; ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."**

Yes. FIRST, before all else, seek the kingdom of God. How can that teach Math?

How can that teach your child Grammar?

I have absolutely NO explanation for why this works or how this works. All I know is that it is a principle from Scripture that holds a promise from God. IF we seek God first, THEN all of these things will be added!

Just recently, I have struggled in the area of teaching my daughter to read. I had already taught Matthew how to read...so it was not that I was not ABLE to teach Phonics. Elisabeth was an extremely bright child...so it was not that she was not ABLE to learn to read. We both were genuinely trying to learn together. It was our heart's desire so Elisabeth could glorify God with her ability to read. But, there was a hindrance. The hours of learning the basics were not meshing. She would "get it" one day only to find the next day with no apparent ability to read.

At that same time, I noticed that she seemed to be in the "mully-grubs" more often than not. You know those by the self-pity...insecurity...and frustration on every angle. As I shared in *Ministering to the Heart of Your Child*, this was not common for this easy going, carefree child. We knew something was not quite right.

As we went to the Lord, He revealed one day that she needed more than ever for us to concentrate on ministering to her heart. Well...that is easy! We thought we were ministering to her heart. Yet, as we dug into the Word to see what It said about the heart...ministering to our children...building up others, we found many areas that did indeed need some work. As we began to seek *first* God and His ways, all else came to us. She was back to the old Elisabeth, well actually almost a new creature with all the things that made her so precious *and* a new confidence and sense of purpose! Her lessons began to sink in *and* stay. And, you have got it...she learned to read! Actually her first passage she read was some "begats" from the KJV! Yes, when God says ***"But seek; ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you,"*** He means ***"ALL these things shall be added unto you!"***

Yes! Seek to begin with God. You will find the purpose that is needed to make your homeschool a success. You see my dear friend, whereas God's plan for your child *includes* Math, Language Arts, Science, Art, Music, Grammar, History, etc; it does not *wrap around* those subjects. Whereas God's plan *includes* you developing your philosophy of education, it does not *wrap around* your philosophy of education.

Instead, as we go to God, we find that His purpose is much more vast than the inferior goals of our culture. He has an awesome plan for the lives of our children. ALL *wraps around* His plan for each individual child. If we want to hear Him, we must come directly to Him...pouring out all we have and all we are...yielding for Him to refill us with all we
