

through her obedience and commitment to her own home!

Want influence? Do it God's way! Rest in Him! Don't strive or struggle to be "seen." Be content in your own home. Build those relationships with God, your husband, and your children. Center all around your family. Your home needs to be in order so others can see how God's Word can affect a home! Those relationships need to mirror the beauty and peace that is available for all in God's way!

Now, all of this, but one of the most common arguments or criticisms for the godly woman who does step up to the call to build her own home comes from another Scripture verse. I am sure if you have been in church very long, you are familiar with Matthew 28: 18-20. You know, "**Go ye therefore into all of the world...**" So, wondering just how does Matthew 26 and Isaiah 54 match up? Do they contradict one another? OR do they confirm one another?

I believe that they work hand-in-hand! Sure, Christ has commissioned His followers to be the ONES who take the gospel to the whole world. He passed the torch to His followers everywhere to disciple those in the world. BUT, going back to Isaiah 54, I have some great news as to how WE, as godly women step up to this call.

First, build your home, your tent! Then, enlarge the place of your tent! Isaiah 54 says that "**thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.**" True light shines forth to those that look into the home and see that something different. That is why we are to go forth into all the nations...so, there are families influencing those around them. Influencing those that look into their family life. Not, "tramping" around the world talking a big talk. Rather, being a light right where you are. Of course, God will call SOME to go into other areas. But, the greatest needs are right in our very own communities!

So, how do we have influence in our own communities???

Again, let's go back to Isaiah 54 and glean some tips. ...

♥**Be happy to be barren!** Barren! No way? What does this mean? How can a "mother" be barren? I believe that this passage is all about being barren in WORKS. Being sold out to God. Being a woman with great influence, actually the greatest influence. To be these things, we must lay down our ideas, our ways, our methods, our interpretation of how things should be. We must accept God's plan and His yoke. (Matthew 11: 28-30) Then, we will find that HE does the work and brings the harvest!

♥**Give up trying to create your own ministry.** As God has enlarged the place of my tent, I have to issue a warning from what I have seen along the way. I know that there is an appearance that one "ministry" is greater than others. For example, a teaching ministry, rather than the sweet ministry of a woman pouring forth to one woman at a time through her home. The greatest temptation that we, as women, have is to covet what others have. It is simply too enticing to covet another's "garden" that is full of fruit and flowers in all of the most beautiful of displays. What we do not see is the work and the pain that is the cost long before the first flower blooms or the first fruit appears. This is for the smallest to the largest ministries out there! It was not until I completely died to my OWN ideas of what a

ministry should be like and began the hard work of planting, hoeing, pruning, protecting, and nurturing my own garden that God was able to finally show me each step of the way a glimpse of what our ministry was to be and become. Of course, even now I believe that I still only have a glimpse, but I also have the REST that only God can give to those that trust HIM and walk in relationship with Him rather than pursuing a ministry. The ministry is not the THING I am reaching for. My focus is on falling more and more passionately in love with God every day. I want to KNOW Him even greater every day. I want to be there for Him to share His heart, His passion, His pain. I want to be so cued into HIM that we have a real relationship. You know, as I have looked in the Bible, these are the key qualities that God looks for as His vessels that He uses. You can't MAKE this kind of a ministry. You can't WORK your way into this kind of a calling. You must be "barren," letting GOD increase the size as the "home" can handle the growth. You must first enlarge the place of your tent. Then, it is able to spread!

♥**Stop working to build your own influence.** Another kin to trying to "make a ministry" is "to work to build influence." All we do is in vain if we neglect the most important ministry...our homes. God's plan is not for us to build our own influence. He wants for us to pour ourselves out for those we love, influence is just a fruit of what we sow. Stop working for influence and it will come as a fruit in its season!

Does this sound like our world? Absolutely not! God simply does not follow the manuals. He has THE way to truly impact our culture! Do it God's way! Rest in Him! Don't strive or struggle to be seen. Be content in your own home. Build those relationships with God, your husband, and your children. Center all around your family.

Build memories. Strengthen the ties that bind. You will very soon be lengthening those cords. They must be strong enough to hold as you stretch forth your influence. Cutting them too early only collapses the tent. If they are weak or tattered, they can't hold growth! Build those strong ties, they are essential for "enlarging the tent!"

Yes, enlarge the place of your tent. You can be a woman of influence within your own home. Don't swap this power for any artificial substitute! You are the **maker** of your home. You set the thermostat. You set the pace. Slow down so you can make your home great. Slow down so all in your home can endure. Slow down so you can build your greatest work, your home!

Pour ALL Into Building Your Own Home!

Finally, pour ALL you are and all you have into your home! We willingly find the best to use in building our earthly houses. We give our houses the best available. Yet, something happens when we build our own "homes"...it is so easy to give seconds, thirds...well, complete left-overs! The wise woman gives ALL! She pours her all into her home!

God has given you Spiritual Gifts that are so needed by those within your own family! Your encouragement may be the one thing that your husband and children need more than anything. Your background in Bible Study can really stick when you "teach" your own family. Your servant leadership can train your children in real life ministry! Any Spiritual Gift you may have can be used in your family to build your home. Pour your gifts into your family!

What else? It takes MUCH to build a home! God has made no mistakes! He has called us to give our very best to our home—to those within our own tent. God wants for us to pour ALL into our own home! Our godliness...our love... our wisdom... our abilities... our creativity...our passion—all! He wants for us to pour ALL we have into our homes! All that makes you, you, is needed to minister to those in your own home!

Build Your Home!

"Through skillful and godly wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built, and by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation], and by knowledge shall its chambers [of every area] be filled with all precious and pleasant riches." Proverbs 24: 3-4

So, ready to build? I have no idea where you are today. You may be standing in the ashes of a dream that has long fallen to pieces. You may be exhausted because you have been "building" for so long and had no idea that "this project" would take this much commitment. Or, you may be very, very content, satisfied with your home that has been built through the years and filled with precious and pleasant riches.

EVERY wise woman builds! It is never too late! You can always re-build! You can always begin anew!

Don't stop now! Don't let weariness get you down! Gird up! Take courage! Draw near to your Source! He has so much in store for you! So, ready? Want to begin anew? Let's do it...together!

"Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands." Proverbs 14:1

Preparing for Christ

By Betty Dickerson

There's an old hymn by E. Elliot and T. Matthews that says in the first verse:

*Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity:
O come to my heart Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee.*

The Lord left everything when He came to earth, but the world didn't recognize Him. Those that did recognize Him, like Anna and Simeon in the temple, were able to do so because they were prepared for His coming. They were looking for it and ready for it. Think for a moment, about all the preparations that were going on that evening: Mary had swaddling clothes prepared for her coming baby and then prepared the manger to place the Lord Jesus in, the shepherds were probably preparing to go to sleep—getting the sheep all quiet and secure, the wisemen had probably already prepared gifts for the new King and were preparing for their trip, and finally, the angels had already prepared their songs to declare to the world the Lord's birth and the hope He brought with Him.

The holidays today are either stressfully busy or painfully lonely. Many times these situations or emotions blind us to the real object of our worship during this holiday. That's why Advent is so important. It usually occurs during the four Sundays in December and it simply means "the coming". It is a time where we do special things to commemorate the Lord coming in the flesh, His second coming to judge the world, and His coming to each of our hearts to find a place dwell. It is a chance to prepare our hearts and get our minds in the right frame for Christmas.

Now, when I'm expecting family from out of town, I have to make a lot of preparations. I have to make sure I have clean sheets and towels, I have to stock the bathroom with toiletries, I plan out my menus for that week and shop, I make sure the house is clean, and I may even prepare some fun things to do. It's a lot of work having company, but it's a joy as well. Each visitor leaves a piece of himself with us and leaves us with many wonderful memories each time they stay. But it can't happen without some preparation.

How can we approach Christmas with any less effort? Will we too not recognize Him when He comes this Christmas? Actually, He comes to us everyday. He may be sitting in your living room in the morning when you wake up, or sitting in the empty chair at the dinner table, or even sitting on the edge of your bed as you sleep. He is waiting to fellowship with you (I know He's not always sitting!). Jesus came to earth and died just so that we can have fellowship with the Father. Unfortunately, once we become Christians, we think that this is the end of our journey. This is the BEGINNING of a relationship with Him and we must prepare ourselves to meet Him everyday. He may come to us through the phone call of a friend, the kindness of a cashier, the empty parking

space at the mall, a verse in the Bible or a song, the words of our children, or the peace of His presence when we would have otherwise fallen apart. We must prepare our hearts with His Word and prayer, and live waiting to see Him work in our lives. He's promised to be with us always and He is involved in every detail of our lives, but we must involve Him in our thoughts if we are going to recognize Him.

The Bible says that the Lord Jesus is at work doing two things for us right now! He is interceding and praying for us before the Father (Romans 8:34), and He is preparing a room for us in heaven (John 14:3). That first verse of the hymn I quoted from prays to the Lord that He come to the room in our hearts we've prepared for Him. For those He dwells with, He has prepared a room in heaven as we see in the last verse of the hymn:

*When the heavens shall ring and the angels sing,
At Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me home, saying, "Yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee."
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, when
Thou comest and Callest for me.*

We have so much to be joyful for. Let this hope carry you through the holidays and let it be evident to those who see you. There's more to this holiday than the world knows!

I Corinthians 13: The Christmas Version...

Author Unknown

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But giving the gift of love will endure.

Merry Christmas

A Heart For Home: Awesome Activities!

By Julie Druck

Each year I try to make some sort of Christmas ornament with the boys. They really enjoy doing crafts, and this allows them to add another ornament to the little trees that each of them put in their rooms. Below you'll find two ideas that we've used in the past...

Beaded Candy Canes

These ornaments are great to do with 3- or 4-year-olds - they'll just need a little help. Older children can do this all by themselves. **To make the candy canes:** you'll need to buy a pack of clear tri-beads and a pack of red tri-beads. You'll also need some pipe cleaners. To begin, simply bend the end of the pipe cleaner over just a bit to keep the beads on. Then simply string on a clear bead, then a red bead then a clear, etc., until you reach the top of the pipe cleaner. Again, fold the other end of the cleaner over a bit to keep the beads on. Now bend the entire pipe cleaner into a candy cane shape and hang on your tree. You could also do beaded wreaths with green tri-beads.

Cinnamon-Applesauce Ornaments

We did these last year - they make the house smell wonderful!! This recipe comes from my friend, Cris - thank you! Mix 1 cup of unsweetened applesauce and 1 cup of cinnamon (buy the really cheap stuff at Aldi's!). Mix it well, roll out the dough, and use Christmas cookie cutters to make the design you want. Don't forget to make a hole at the top for a ribbon - a straw does the job nicely. They are very delicate at first - it takes a few days for them to air-dry. We flipped them over once a day to dry evenly. If you desire, you can paint them when dry. We left ours' plain and added a thin red ribbon to each before the boys gave them away. By the way, if you only display these ornaments for the holidays, make sure you pack them away properly. The mice love these things. You can wrap them in tissue paper and store them in a tin or other air-tight container.

Great Christmas Read-Alouds

By Cindy Rushton

Excerpted from *Christ-Centered Christmas*

We are intense readers at our house! I have always loved to read and my little ones have inherited that love. Every year we read Christmas Stories from Thanksgiving until the New Year! We usually buy one really nice book each year to add to our collection. You can get really good "deals" after Christmas, so that is a great time to start your collection. If money is tight, which mine always is, just go to your local library. There will be a massive selection of wonderful books for the holidays. If you are not sure what you should choose try some of these:

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

The Gift of the Magi by O Henry

Take Joy by Tasha Tudor (I LOVE Tasha Tudor! This book has a collection of many wonderful stories. She also tells of her wonderful family traditions and shares her family recipes! This is on my list of "To buy my own copy!"

Christmas by Alice Dalgliesh (This is another collection of Christmas Stories)

Becky's Christmas by Tasha Tudor (Keep in mind reading this book that the real life Becky is Tasha Tudor's daughter Bethany. This story is about the Christmas Celebration that was common to the Tudor home! It will certainly get you in the spirit of Christmas!)

"The Fir Tree" by Hans Christian Anderson

Raphael, the Herald Angel by David Appel and Merle Hudson

The Little Drummer Boy by Ezra Jack Keats

The Gifts of the Christ Child by George MacDonald

Let's Keep Christmas by Peter Marshall

Little Lost Angel

The Polar Express by Chris Allsburg

The Story of the Other Wise Man by Henry Van Dyke

A Cup of Christmas Tea by Tom Hegg

Martin the Cobbler by Tolstoy

A Christmas Dream and How It Came True by

Louisa May Alcott

Baboushka

The Shepherd's Reward by Leonard Wibberly

"Mr. Edwards Meets Santa Claus" by Laura Ingalls Wilder

"Mr. Pickwick on the Ice" from The Pickwick Papers By Charles Dickens

"The Night Before Christmas" by Clement Clarke Moore

"The Tailor of Gloucester" by Beatrix Potter

How the Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Seuss (This is to encourage the giggles!)

Kitchen Korner!

This section of our magazine is always a blast to collect! So many of you are faithful homemakers, keeping your kitchen HOT as you create beloved dishes that not only fill the tummies of your loved ones with healthy foods, but also create precious memories as you spend your time with your family. These wonderful recipes are submitted by subscriber Wendy Dewerse. Thanks Wendy for sharing your favorites with us! MY FAMILY appreciates your ideas! Oh! Have a great recipe? Send it in! If we use it, we will extend your subscription by one more issue! Next issue, we are collecting recipes for keeping you warm on those COLD winter days! Send your recipes in now!!

Pumpkin Cake Bars

2 cups sugar
2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. soda
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
2 tsp. cinnamon
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup vegetable oil
15 oz. can of pumpkin
4 eggs

Combine first 6 ingredients. Add oil, pumpkin, and eggs; beat 1 minute at medium speed of an electric mixer. Spoon batter into a greased 15 x 10 x 1 inch jellyroll pan; bake at 350* for 20 to 25 minutes. Cool completely and frost.

Fluffy Cream Cheese Frosting:

1 (3-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup plus 2 tablespoons margarine, softened
1 tablespoon orange juice or whipping cream
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups sifted powdered sugar

Beat cream cheese and margarine until light and fluffy; add orange juice and vanilla, and mix well. Gradually add powdered sugar, mixing until light and fluffy.

Pumpkin-Chocolate Chip Cookies

1 cup shortening
1 cup sugar
1 large egg
1 cup canned pumpkin
2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate morsels

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped pecans (optional)

Beat shortening at medium speed with an electric mixer until fluffy; gradually add sugar, beating well. Add egg and pumpkin, mixing well. Combine flour and next 4 ingredients; add to pumpkin mixture. Stir in vanilla, chocolate morsels, and pecans, if desired.

Drop dough by tablespoonfuls onto lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350* for 13 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool completely. Yield: 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen.

Delicious Pumpkin Bread

5 eggs
1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups vegetable oil
1 can (15-ounce) solid-pack pumpkin
2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 packages (3-ounces each) cook-and-serve vanilla pudding mix
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt

In a mixing bowl, beat the eggs. Add oil and pumpkin; beat until smooth. Combine remaining ingredients; gradually beat into pumpkin mixture. Pour batter into five greased 5 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 inch loaf pans. Bake at 325* for 50-55 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool on wire racks. (Note: Bread may also be baked in two greased 8 x 4 x 2 inch loaf pans for 75-80 minutes.)

Consider The Sixty-Six Books of the Bible Unknown

In Genesis, He is the Creator God. In Exodus, He is the Redeemer. In Leviticus, He is your sanctification. In Numbers, He is your guide. In Deuteronomy, He is your teacher.

In Joshua, He is the mighty conqueror. In Judges, He gives victory over enemies. In Ruth, He is your kinsman, your lover, your redeemer. In I Samuel, He is the root of Jesse;

In 2 Samuel, He is the Son of David. In 1 Kings and 2 Kings, He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, In 1st and 2nd Chronicles, He is your intercessor and High Priest.

In Ezra, He is your temple, your house of worship. In Nehemiah, He is your mighty wall, protecting you from your enemies. In Esther, He stands in the gap to deliver you from your enemies.

In Job, He is the arbitrator who not only understands your struggles, but has the power to do something about them. In Psalms, He is your song-and your reason to sing. In Proverbs, He is your wisdom, helping you make sense of life and live it successfully.

In Ecclesiastes, He is your purpose, delivering you from vanity. In the Song of Solomon, He is your lover, your Rose of Sharon. In Isaiah, He is the mighty counselor, the prince of peace, the everlasting father, and more. In short, He's everything you need.

In Jeremiah, He is your balm of Gilead, the soothing salve for your sin-sick soul. In Lamentations, He is the ever-faithful one upon whom you can depend. In Ezekiel, He is your wheel in the middle of a wheel-the one who assures that dry, dead bones will come alive again.

In Daniel, He is the Ancient of Days, the everlasting God who never runs out of time. In Hosea, He is your faithful lover, always beckoning you to come back-even when you have abandoned Him. In Joel, He is your refuge, keeping you safe in times of trouble.

In Amos, He is the husbandman, the one you can depend on to stay by your side. In Obadiah, He is Lord of the Kingdom. In Jonah, He is your salvation, bringing you back within His will. In Micah, He is judge of the nation. In Nahum, He is the jealous God.

In Habakkuk, He is the Holy One. In Zephaniah, He is the witness. In Haggai, He overthrows the enemies. In Zechariah, He is Lord of Hosts. In Malachi, He is the messenger God.

In Matthew, He is King of the Jews. In Mark, He is the servant. In Luke, He is the Son of Man, feeling what you feel. In John, He is the Son of God. In Acts, He is Savior of the world.

In Romans, He is the righteousness of God. In I Corinthians, He is the rock that followed Israel. In II Corinthians, He is the triumphant one, giving victory. In Galatians, He is your liberty; He sets you free. In Ephesians, He is head of the Church. In Philippians, He is your joy. In Colossians, He is your completeness. In I Thessalonians, He is your hope.

In II Thessalonians, He is your patience and discipline. In I Timothy, He is your faith. In II Timothy, He is your stability. In Titus, He is the truth. In Philemon, He is your benefactor. In Hebrews, He is your perfection. In James, He is the power behind your faith. In I Peter, He is your example. In II Peter, He is your purity. In I John, He is your life. In II John, He is your pattern. In III John, He is your motivation. In Jude, He is the foundation of your faith. In the book of Revelations, He is your coming King.

From the beginning of the world to its end, there is no place you can look and not see Jesus. He is everywhere. He is everything. "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."
- Colossians 1:17

Life and Death Are In The Tongue Unknown

A group of frogs were traveling through the woods, and two of them fell into a deep pit. All of the other frogs gathered around the pit. When they saw how deep the pit was, they told the two frogs that they were as good as dead.

The two frogs ignored the comments and tried to jump up out of the pit with all of their might. The other frogs kept telling them to stop, that they were as good as dead.

Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the other frogs were saying and gave up. He fell down and died.

The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it OUT!

You see this frog was DEAF, unable to hear the other's shouts. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time.

This story has two lessons: There is power of LIFE and DEATH in the TONGUE!

An *encouraging word* to someone who is down can LIFT THEM UP and help them make it through the day.

A *destructive word* to someone who is down can be what it takes to KILL THEM!
Be careful what you say! Speak life to those who cross your path.

The Power of Words...

It is sometimes hard to understand that an encouraging word can go such a long way. So, from now on...

Think before you speak!

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue..."
Proverbs 18: 21

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom: and in her tongue is the law of kindness."
Proverbs 31: 26

Making Memories At The Mall!

By Cindy Rushton

There is something about this time of year that always seems to do this to me...I begin to wear red or green EVERY day! I HAVE to have "cinnamon" wafting through the air from the time I wake up until those last moments I have every day dosing off to sleep!

Even right now, I am sitting in a big comfy couch, cuddled up with Harold, Elisabeth, and my darling laptop...right smack dab in the middle of our new coffee shop in historic Tusculum as gorgeous Christmas music plays on the piano and I sip from my AWESOME Strawberry-White Mocha LATTE(!!!!). I love the colors. I love the smells. I love the "coziness" of this time of year!

Just SWEET Memories...

I think it is because of the sweet memories that have been made over the years during this time of year. As far as I can remember, my mother has ALWAYS made the WHOLE holiday season special—every single day of it! Growing up, our family has always become their very best at the holidays! Laughter. Those family stories that I would DIE over as a teen when they were told, yet something now CRAVES to hear them every single year! Those same old dishes, that now symbolize MY LIFE!

Oh, that is not all! I remember that first day I saw my darling sweetheart—two days before Christmas back in 1984! Our first date was on Christmas Eve, just as soon as we could break away from our separate families (Who would figure that we were actually beginning our OWN family tradition that year?!). Harold proposed to me over Christmas 1985! We found out that we were expecting our little Matthew only days before Christmas 1986! AND Elisabeth was even conceived during the Christmas season of 1989!

The giggles. The stories. The adventures finding Christmas trees. The hours baking. The long car rides looking at Christmas lights on the way to see Grandparents. Oh, the memories!

What about your holiday time? Does it move your heart to think back over the memories? To want to MAKE sweet memories?

Well, this year, I don't know if I was getting the holiday spirit early OR maybe God has just been working on my heart all year round, but Back in the early Fall, God renewed my entire weary spirit as He showed me the importance of making memories ALL year long...and in the oddest of places, even the MALL!

A Big Year! Big Surprises!

This past year has been simply beyond wonderful! We have had a nice balance of traveling and time to relax, spend time together, and even time devoted to allowing me to write (we hope to

have even more time NEXT year!)! Our children have grown up SO much! We have been slowly transitioning into Harold coming home in retirement (so he thinks!!!!) to join our ministry full time as our new CEO! And, we even end this year building our new offices that we have dreamed of building for ten years on our property!

Mid-year we did have a snag! Actually we did not know it was a snag until the end. And even now, we only view it all as a blessing...well, let me explain. We were thrilled to find out in June that we were expecting a little Rushton. Our whole family was ecstatic! We immediately began treatments with our infertility doctor so we would ensure that every detail was being monitored. In the midst of treatment, our bloodwork revealed that I would need Progesterone therapy (as I did with other pregnancies that had ended in losses) and the stunning news that I had Lupus Anticoagulant Antibodies resulting in a need for additional therapy and accounting for many of the past losses. We were SO thankful to find this culprit and to be treating it early in this pregnancy. All was going great. We went through all of the treatments and tests only to once again lose another little baby.

As you can imagine my heart was crushed. I was wore out. The loss was extremely painful and exhausting. But, that was not all. I was also faced with a need for surgery that would end this season of childbearing. It was all almost too much! My cup was empty and sitting under the tap was not seeming to fill it fast enough!!

I am so thankful for the ministry of others at times like those. The cards. The big hugs. The shared tears. The letters. The prayers. They are all so precious in the midst of the storms of life. Pain is just so much more bearable when you can lean on others.

Once again, the greatest ministry of all came from those the closest to me, my precious husband and children. They were so good to MAKE me rest and talk and even cry! But, the sweetest thing was a little vacation...and the life lesson that came my way during the trip!

A Little Vacation...

One of the things that Harold did in the midst of my recovery was to bring me along on his trip to Florida, where he took (and passed! Hoot! Hoot!) his private pilot test. The trip meant a WHOLE week of rest and renewal, but I had no idea how much I would be renewed! I had no idea that revival for my weary soul was coming on this journey!

The trip was wonderful. The whole way down to Orlando, we plugged in and listened through several audio tapes that we had wanted to hear as a family. We brainstormed through future plans for our family, ministry, and business (Harold will officially retire in December and join our ministry as the BIG BOSS!). It was incredible to have uninterrupted time to "pow-wow" as a family! But, the best happened while we were in Orlando!

Harold got permission for Matthew to attend the classes with him. During the classes, a passion was birthed in Matthew for aviation! (more on that in another article sometime!) He mentioned to us last week that the Lord was really moving in his heart to finish training and serve missionaries with that skill! (Hallelujah!) The guys had a blast—father and son learning together

and developing intimacies together! But, that was not all!

We still have Elisabeth and ME (and the point of this article!)? My goal for the trip was to rest and really just spend time with God and my family. I took several writing projects to work on. Plus, LOTS of books to read. (I always over-plan!) I did nothing but the primary goal—refreshing huh? Only I did more of it than I even could ever dream!

The Girls on the Loose...

The first day, we got up, took the guys to breakfast, came back to the room and I did some writing while Elisabeth did her daily lessons—found out later that she did them all for the week! At lunch, we “spiffed up” (Don’t think there is a spelling for that word. It is a word my mom used to mean “got all dolled up”) and picked the guys up for a nice lunch. After we took them back, we decided to drive to Starbucks for coffee, but we got sidetracked by a Scrapbooking Store on the way! The most heavenly stop you could imagine! Oh, we were not side-tracked that long, after that stop we were able to manage coffee for two and a wonderful local Christian bookstore. We were able to take our time and stop at ALL of the places we WANTED to stop at all along the way. We giggled. We talked. We had a “girl-day!” Or, so we thought!

Elisabeth is always the child of mine who has been more spontaneous than any child in the world could ever be. Actually, I think that her idea of heaven is a MALL...yes, mine is a BOOKSTORE! Oh, I used to love the mall, when I could fit in the clothes they had for sale! Now...well...it is just a job now...not that fun...I think it is those insulting numbers on the tag!

Elisabeth, as I said, LOVES the mall. Every birthday for the last 12 years has been met with one request—go to the mall! I never “got” the mall thing. In fact, I wondered where she even learned there was a mall—she HAS been homeschooled all of these years! Something in her just fell in love with the whole atmosphere. I never understood it. Well, until the trip to Orlando!

I did not mention that the first day, we saw the mall, but did not have time to stop at it. Elisabeth begged to just go to the mall the next day. Since it was OUR pick for what would fill our days that week, we decided to venture to the mall.

Well, we got up the second day early again to carry the guys to breakfast, then their class. Getting back in the car with ANOTHER “girl-day” before us, I asked my little “queen-for-the-day” what she wanted to do. I have to tell you that I just KNEW the day would be spent at the mall if she had a choice!

Yes, there I was with silent dread as I asked her what SHE wanted to do! She looked deep in my eyes, smiled that precious little smile of hers, and said, “Well, I was thinking about...going back to sleep!” Hoot! Hoot! For the first time in I guess years, I went back to bed after I was perfectly dressed and going for the day. We sleepily dosed off while watching the oldest movie on the cable television at that moment.

You will giggle when you hear what was next! Nope, not the mall! But, instead, we woke up and had only 10 minutes to get all the way to the guys for their lunch date with us!

We freshened up, but completely unable to hide the visible "look" of just waking up, we picked up the guys and I could tell they were puzzled. You see, we looked like the image the world has of homemakers. You know, sleeping till noon, waking up just in time for the soaps, and eating bon-bons at the MALL! AND, we did not even watch a Soap...or get to the mall...YET! In fact, I don't even know WHAT a bon-bon is, but I will take a Strawberry White Mocha Latte ANY time of the day!

There was something almost giggly about me. Goodness, you know like a teen who did not have the responsibility for educating her Jr. High and High School student OR writing about the life of the godly Homeschool mom. We did not even crack a book that morning! We both snuggled up and just simply SLEPT IN!

I have to admit. I DID feel guilty. Always do when I do not match up to my "image" of what I should do in a day. Well, I felt guilty until the guys asked us over lunch, "Sooo, what have you two done all day?" To REALLY get the context of this question, you would have to go back in time to Rushton Family History BC... Before Children. Before Homeschooling the Children! Those words were big no-no's back then! In fact, imagine that western drawl saying, "Them's fightin words, cowboy!"

It just always seemed that my days were never filled with anything worthy of an answer to such a HARD question, well until we began to homeschool! After that point, all I had to do was review my journal for lots of worthwhile answers.

There we were, all four of us. The guys were studying "deep things" like fundamentals of aerodynamics, meteorology, federal aviation rules and regulations, pilotage, navigation, aircraft systems, reciprocating engine design and performance, and so on. We went back to sleep...until maybe 12 minutes before THE question!

I did it! I told them the whole empty story! Matthew, my 15-year-old teenager, was stunned. Never heard such a thing as ME sleeping! Harold sat there and blessed me through and through when he hugged me tight and said, "Good for you! That is wonderful! I am SO glad!" He knew that if there was one thing that I NEVER did, it was to get enough rest, much less without being sick! He was so proud that we were having fun and really getting a real live break! Well, beloved, he had not seen nothing yet!

We had a wonderful meal, then we took the guys back to the old grind, then back in the car... I looked at our little princess and asked that question AGAIN. Oh, yea! This time when I asked, "So what do YOU want to do?" Elisabeth promptly squealed, "GO TO THE MALL!" I took off for a trip to the mall that would change my perspective of mothering and life in general! I had no idea of the merits in a trip to the mall! Your whole life can be changed at the mall—really! Well, let me continue...

All ready for a shopping adventure down to our walking shoes and "fanny packs," Elisabeth and I began our journey of her dreams. It did not take 20 minutes inside before we began to giggle about some of the new "styles." I was excited that we were laughing AT them...they were so ugly that I would have died if she had liked them! Then, it began!

The memories! Imparting my heart to hers. Hearing, uninterrupted by the whole world around me, hearing her heart! The more I heard her, the more she soaked me up! I was about in tears, this was what I really wanted in our relationship and so often I am too busy to have it!

I saw her through and through. My little girl is growing up so fast! I don't have very much more time with her at home. Our relationship will not always be like it is today. I want a firm foundation for her to grow upon. I want a strong tie between us as best-friends as she steps into womanhood. I just forget what I really want in the middle of my every day life. I get so caught up in the STUFF on my calendar and in the daily routine that I do not have time, that kinda TIME, with her. It all gets mundane, empty, a passing of days...days without making a memory for life! There I was in the middle of the MALL, experiencing REVIVAL!

Oh, we had a blast! Time went by so fast that we were ALMOST late again to get the guys! No worries, I made it there on time, on two of the four wheels—saving tread???

When we showed up, it was written ALL over our face! I knew from the moment that Harold saw me that he could tell what I had been up to!

He asked that question again, this time with a sparkle in his eyes that said he was very, very pleased, you know THAT question, "Soooo, what have you two done all day?" I giggled and slowly recapped, "Got up...took you guys to breakfast...went back to bed—ALL MORNING....took you two to lunch and back to class...thennnnn....we went to the MALL!" He leaned over and gave me a great big kiss and said, "Good girl! I am proud of you! So very proud!" He could tell that his prayers for my week were being answered!

What did we do the rest of the week? Well, the next day...we got up and did it all again! We made memories!

I really think that looking back over our entire marriage...over all the years of motherhood...over all of the special "days" that we have made memories throughout the years...that week was one of my favorites ever! No agendas. No expectations. No responsibilities. No plans. No real preferences. Just my family. Just doing "our" thing!

I have thought about it over the last few months. I do not go to the mall enough! I do not cuddle up to sleep in enough! I do not laugh enough. I do not let the world go by while I make the memories that will be with me long after the rest of life goes by.

This New Year, know what MY first resolution is? To make MORE memories, more often...maybe even IN THE MALL!!

"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever, humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18: 2b-4

Just What Is Godly Womanhood

By Beth Holland

When you think of the term "Christian Womanhood," what do you think? How do you describe what this really means today, as it is lived day-to-day? For most of us, I think it has been defined this way: church attendance three times a week, being involved in the women's ministry, attending Sunday School, perhaps being in the choir or helping with the children's ministry, etc. Then we are to continually search for "our" ministry, defined as an area bringing us recognition, using our God-given talents and abilities, but which keeps us on the road and away from home. But does this fit the Biblical model of Godly womanhood which GOD described? Just how DOES God define Godly Womanhood?

God's definition of our role is found in several Scriptures, so let's take a look at what He's said...

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One. Wives, be subject - be submissive and adapt yourselves - to your own husbands as [a service] to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife as Christ is the Head of the church, Himself the Savior of [His] body. As the church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. (Ephesians 5:21-24)

I Peter 2:12-28 talks about honoring those in authority over you and even patiently bearing injustice. Then, it talks about Jesus doing the same; that He was sinless, yet suffered on the cross for sins He didn't commit! OUR sins. Then it picks up with:

In like manner you married women, be submissive to your own husbands - subordinate yourselves as being secondary to and dependent on them, and adapt yourselves to them. So that even if any do not obey the Word [of God], they may be won over not by discussion but by the [godly] lives of their wives, when they observe the pure and modest way in which you conduct yourselves, together with your reverence [for your husband. That is, you are to feel for him all that reverence includes] - to respect, defer to, revere him; [revere means] to honor, esteem (appreciate, prize), and [in the human sense] adore him; [and adore means] to admire, praise, be devoted to, deeply love and enjoy [your husband]. Let not yours be the [merely] external adorning with [elaborate] interweaving and knotting of the hair, the wearing of jewelry, or changes of clothes; but let it be the inward adorning and beauty of the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible and unfading charm of a gentle and peaceful spirit, which (is not anxious of wrought up, but) is very precious in the sight of God. For it was thus that the pious women of old who hoped in God were (accustomed) to beautify themselves, and were submissive to their husbands - adapting themselves to them as themselves secondary and dependent upon them. It was thus that Sarah obeyed Abraham (following his guidance and acknowledging his headship over her by) calling him lord - master, leader, authority. And you are now her true daughters if you do right and let nothing terrify you - not giving way to hysterical fears or letting anxieties unnerve you.(I Peter

3:1-6)

Let's break these two Scriptures down into a list of the traits mentioned within them. To our husbands, we are supposed to have or be:

1. Subject
2. Submissive (said twice)
3. Adapt ourselves to them as a service to the Lord (said twice)
4. Subject to them in everything
5. Make ourselves secondary to them
6. By our **ACTIONS** we are to be examples by which they can come to Christ if unsaved
7. Pure
8. Modest conduct
9. Reverence for husbands
 - Respect
 - Defer to
 - Revere
 - Honor
 - Esteem
 - Appreciate
 - Prize
 - Adore
 - Admire
 - Praise
 - Be devoted to
 - Deeply love
 - Enjoy
10. Inward adorning
11. Beauty of the hidden person of the heart
12. Incorruptible and unfading charm of a gentle and quiet spirit
13. Not anxious or wrought up
14. Dependent upon
15. Acknowledge his headship
16. Let nothing terrify us
17. Don't give way to hysterical fears
18. Don't let anxieties unnerve us

This seems an almost impossible list and most of it has been covered in a previous article (ED: see other back issues!), but for now, let me ask you this, where on this list do you see the traits listed in the first paragraph of this article? Are those things listed anywhere in GOD'S description of Godly womanhood? If not, then WHY do we think this is Godly womanhood? Is it possible that we have been unknowingly misled into practicing a form of religion, but having lost the power (and thus, truth) thereof? I think we have.

Several years ago, the Lord led us away from our local church to a church that was an hour away. We were also told that we were there only for a short season. This was really a blessing to us as we were totally burned out from being so active in our local church, the hour drive gave us some

real family time, and we were too far away to get pressured into being "involved." (though they did try!)

After leaving this church, I had months of seeking God for many reasons. This time of seeking God was so precious! Not having to be on the road for three services a week, not being involved in all the "ministry" stuff gave me SOOO much more time to spend with my Lord!! That time of communion with Him was more precious to me than I can tell you! AND I also had time to LISTEN to what He wanted to speak to me! No more flying prayers as I frantically ran out the door on my way to "church." I can't tell you how many times we had ARGUED our way out the door to go "worship God!!"

The most important question I constantly asked the Lord was whether or not we were being deceived by the devil on the path we had taken. During this time, I got a really interesting perspective from the Lord. The first answer He gave me when I asked this was: "Beth, I only EVER required ONE day." I thought about this, and you know what? He was right! God DID say,

"[Earnestly] remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy [withdrawn from common employment and dedicated to God]." (see Exodus 20:8-11; Exodus 23:12; Deuteronomy 5:14)

Do we keep it holy? Do we set it aside, do no work that day and rest after the example He set? He didn't require us to set aside any other day as His, just the Sabbath.

The next time I was going around and around over this issue, the Lord spoke this to me,

"Man was not created for the Sabbath, but the Sabbath for man." (Mark 2:27, "And Jesus said to them, The Sabbath was made on account and for the sake of man, not man for the Sabbath".)

God created the Sabbath for us to REST, not for man to serve the Sabbath!

If we follow the Scripture as God has given it to us, perhaps there would be less strife in our homes. Perhaps our husbands and children would be less pressed and even less cranky! And what about us? Don't we also need a day for "temple maintenance?" God did! Isn't this a way that we can accommodate ourselves to our husbands?

It has been my experience that it is mostly the women who feel pressured to be at church "every time the doors open," not the men! And in so doing, just who are we obeying? Our husband, or the preacher? Check our list, above, and see if there is any description of you obeying the preacher over obeying your husband! Is it there? NO! Scripture clearly states that we are to be subject to our OWN husbands in EVERYTHING!

So, why do women feel such pressure to be there? One reason is peer pressure-OUR peer pressure. We're "expected" to be there and our own school and social experiences have trained us to conform to the expectations of others. Another reason is because the preacher tells you he expects you to be there from the pulpit! Generally, women are very susceptible to "guilt trips",

which is why the Scripture in Romans 8:1 is SO important to us!

"Therefore [there is] now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus who live not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit."

Scripture never contradicts Scripture, so this tells us that when those "guilt trips" come on us, they are not of the Spirit!!!!

Well, isn't my pastor a godly man? Why would he do this if it isn't "of the Spirit?" For a while, this one stumped me, too, until one day the Lord reminded me of Habbakuk 2:3:

For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.

I believe that these men who truly love God have the same failing I have, and I'm sure many of you do, too. When God speaks something to them, gives them a word of direction or even shows them what He wants THEM to do, they are SO excited about it that they bring it to the congregation to share what God has said. Then, they encourage you to join them with this new thing God has revealed. This makes us feel guilty if we don't feel the same "umph" to join in on this project, knowing that we'd have to squeeze more time out of our busy lives in order to accommodate this new thing and then the pastor is disappointed and disturbed when the congregation doesn't "enthusiastically jump on board."

Unfortunately, Habbakuk says to proceed a bit differently! If we moved according to the above Scripture, the scenario would look like this: the pastor gets a word from God and knows that it will not fail because God spoke it. So, as it tarries, HE TARRIES, bathing God's project in prayer and asking God to supply the right people to fuel this new thing. Then, he can sit back and watch as God miraculously provides for His project, with His people, in HIS time!

The pastor isn't stressed, the congregation isn't stressed, and when people show up telling the preacher, "God told me to come to you to help you with a project He has given you," the preacher KNOWS the people whom God has sent, avoiding wolves among the sheep and strife for all, and most importantly, GOD gets ALL the glory!

Isn't that a much better scenario than having to live up to expectations that exhaust you and your family and keep you under stress and on the road? This also provides a "checks and balance" for the church. This will only happen if this is truly God's plan and thus, this provides protection for the minister, as well.

Am I slamming pastors? NO! I am writing this in order to teach you a Biblically sound way to be guilt free when you are NOT called to "be at church every time the doors open" and to live a much less pressured life! This way, you can concentrate on the God-given calling that is spelled out in Scripture: your husband and children - your FAMILY!!

One day my eldest daughter was pressured to go to the youth group at the church that was an hour away. I told her I'd pray about it, but she knew what the Lord had told us, and I doubted that

He'd changed His mind and not told me.

The instruction the Lord had given my husband and myself was that the children were to stay with us in the service. This particular day, my husband was out of town and we were riding with some friends, whose teenaged daughter was involved in this request. The mother of this family had given me a book written by an M.D. in order to read a passage from it about a nutritional issue. This book also contained the testimony/interview with a woman who had been heavily involved in the occult, but who had gotten saved. As I flipped through the book, I came across a passage in which this former witch said that one of satan's cleverest tactics is to separate the family at the church door. The children go to children's Sunday School, the women to women's classes, the men to men's, the children go to children's church and the parents to "big" church. The children NEVER see their parents worshipping God, nor do they participate with them! I turned to my daughter, and told her to read that passage. I never heard another word about going to youth group!

Our children need to see us model our walk with Christ! They need to see that God is the TOP priority in our lives, they need to see us broken and repentant, even on our faces weeping before God; they need to see us praising God with our whole hearts.

Scripture tells us that King David danced before the Lord in worship, and that his wife, Michal (Saul's daughter) despised him for doing this! Why did she have this attitude? Because she had never seen HER father do it and therefore didn't value it! This attitude also brought God's judgment against her.

How can we expect our children to be MORE, to be a generation ready to do the work of God at the end of the age, to harvest the "fields white to harvest" if they have no foundation upon which to build? It's the PARENT'S responsibility to build this foundation, not the "church!!" As we have all heard, children copy what they SEE, not just what they are told.

As I have said before, it is my goal for my children to be MORE in love with the Lord than their father and I, to want to serve Him MORE, to want MORE of God.

One day in school, we had watched a science video by Dr. Kent Hovind* and immediately afterward, we were reading *What's Her Name*, a Lamplighter book I had gotten from Cindy. All of a sudden, I got a "flash" from the Lord and we entered a unique conversation. I told my girls that I felt that we should take notes on the videos of what really jumped out at us, because it has been my experience in the past that the things that grab my attention are ultimately the very thing I'll need at a later date when talking to someone about the Lord! I also told them that the only people who had ever "intimidated" me were those who were really smart where I was really not; science and math. But, I felt that with the information we were getting from Dr. Hovind, who has a love of Science combined with a passion for the Word of God, we'd be able to learn what we didn't know and therefore be able to stand up to ANYONE, "always be ready to give an account for the hope that is within you." If we are at home with our children homeschooling them, doesn't it also make sense that we will teach them about reaching others and disciple them in HOW to go about doing this?

(*HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! See his blue video series at www.drduino.com)

If we are home, then we can also fulfill the calling God has on us as wives and mothers! First, we have time to meditate on the Word, to seek the Lord and, as I learned, to LISTEN to Him! Turn off the TV, the radio, the stereo and DARE to be different and spend time with the Lord until He speaks to you! It is SO worth the price and once this happens, you'll never be satisfied without it!

Time also allows us to make our home the center of our family life AND the center of ministry! I have seen the Lord bring people to whom He wanted me to minister to my very door! I didn't have to go out looking for ministry; it is right here in my home. An open heart, a listening ear, a cup of tea and time with a sister-in-Christ can be a precious blessing, not just to the one who came, but to the giver, as well! I cannot tell you how blessed I have been by some of my dear sisters who have come to me. They think they got the blessing, but I know the truth! It was I who received the biggest gift!

What about your unsaved neighbors? What about their children? It takes time to pray down strongholds. It takes time to even find out what they are! Why haven't we won our street for Christ? We're "too busy"! We have an open field to reach the lost for Christ right in our neighborhood! We can open our homes to love them, we can send food when they are in need, we can visit them when they are sick! Being home allows our entire family to minister to them! BUT, we have to invest time into getting to know them and their needs.

We can't do this if we are always running to "church". Most of the unsaved will never darken the door of a church, but they'll visit you, neighbor, in your home! They'll begin to see you and wonder what makes you and your children so different. What about your respectfully loving relationship with your husband? Wouldn't THAT open a few doors?!!! Once they see you living under the Lord's leadership, they'll begin to observe you and ultimately, ask questions. You don't have to beat them over the head with the Bible or God! Just live your relationship with God and your family before them, love them with the love of Christ and watch as God whets their appetite for what YOU have!

[One note: if you are in a love relationship with the Lord, walking with Him in intimacy and obedience AND it is His plan for you to have a "large ministry," do you really think He'd allow you to miss it? No! He has a much larger stake in this than you do because God's coin is souls and lives lived in holiness! For the most part, I think the body of Christ has a misconception about this "ministry" issue. We've sought the ministry over and more than we've sought Him and sought to know Him. We are to seek GOD, not just what He can give us.]

There is one more Scripture in Titus 2 that is specifically directed at women. It says,

Bid the older women similarly (to the men mentioned in the verses above) to be reverent and devout in their deportment, as becomes those engaged in sacred service, not slanderers or slaves to drink. They are to give good counsel and be teachers of what is right and noble, so that they will wisely train the young women to be sane and sober-minded - temperate, disciplined - and to love their husbands and their children; to be self-controlled, chaste, homemakers [keepers at home], good-natured (kindhearted) adapting and subordinating themselves to their husbands, that the word of God may not be exposed to reproach - blasphemed or discredited. (Titus 2:3-5)

Whew! WHAT a list this gives us! Did you see any repeats from that first list? So, what do you think, now? Is this consistent with what God has given us in the other two Scriptures? Do you think that just because we live in the 21st century that God has changed His mind about this? (If so, please read Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8!)

Several years ago, God called me to break the above verse down, word by word; to go to the Greek words and find out what each one meant. I was SO surprised to find that one of the definitions of "keepers at home" in the King James, literally meant, "stayers at home!" So, why would this be important to God?

I can think of several reasons, some of which we've already covered. But in addition to those, at home we have been removed from many temptations! We are in a place of God's protection! If we are at home, we are much more protected from gossip, jealousy, anger, offenses, division, factions, immorality, etc. (see Galatians 5:20-21)

"Oh, Beth! These are **WORLDLY** things!" Really? Let me ask you this, have you ever experienced any of these or been **HURT** by any of these at "church?" I don't think you can live on the planet and not experience these, even at "church!"

How do we get over these hurts? How do we proceed as Godly women? First, we obey the Scriptures we've covered by acknowledging what God has said and changing our lives to be in compliance with Scripture. Go to you husband and share with him your desire to "de-involve" and see what he says! Most husbands will welcome this move! Next, we take another look at Titus 2.

This passage brings forth an interesting idea: older women are to teach younger women. This is an idea with which most homeschoolers are familiar as those further down the HS path reach back to help those who are newer. And this is the essence of what Jesus practiced with the twelve! What do we call the twelve? **DISCIPLES!** Discipleship is God's model throughout history. God talked to Moses, Moses to the seventy, the seventy led the thousands. The Father talked to Jesus, Jesus disciplined the twelve, and the twelve changed the world! We are to re-establish this model today, for God hasn't changed the model He's given!

Why isn't this happening on a large scale? Partly because, "My people perish for lack of knowledge." (Hosea 4:6) The ball was dropped somewhere in the past and today there is a lack of mentors, indeed, there is a general lack of women who have truly investigated the Scripture and chosen the difficult path of dying to self to live for Christ. Most women haven't even died to self to accommodate their husbands! But God IS turning this around!

He has called and there are women who have heard the call, paid the price and have been trained by God to teach other women to live Godly lives, how to love their husbands (even when they are or act like jerks! °Ü°), how to raise their children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" and to love them in a Godly manner. You all know at least **ONE** of these women, or you wouldn't be reading this magazine!! And, I'm sure you can think of others. Not all are well-known, either. Indeed, I would venture to say that most of them are quietly living their lives as unto the Lord, but when you meet one, you'll recognize her! She'll be **VERY** different from everyone else **AND** she'll bring you a breath of fresh air; you'll feel the burden lift from your shoulders, you'll be inspired to do