

at the table? Is it what you need for this particular year? What will work best for you this year?

### Consider Your Money!

We all know that choosing curriculum is confusing. Let's simplify by first choosing resources for our basic skills...reading, writing, and math! Once children learn the basics of reading, all they will need is practice. There is no greater text for reading than the Bible. Writing can be easy and inexpensive as well. Just take a look at some of the old paths that have worked from the beginning of time, such as Copywork, Narration, Notebooking, Creating Homemade Books, etc. Not only are those methods EASY, but once you learn how to teach Language Arts this easy way, the only costs are for paper and pens, but the fruit is priceless! As for Math, choose a curriculum that is home-friendly...challenges the children to think and reason...and can be done without swallowing up a large portion of each day! Then, consider ways to teach that are inexpensive and fun for the other studies. You could use anything from your local library, your own library, and other educational options that are free like museums, historical sites, festivals, and so on!

### Take The Ideas From Each Approach That Will Help You Meet Your Goals!

Don't feel that you have to identify yourself with one approach for life. Although we are primarily using ideas straight from the

Bible mixed with ideas from the Charlotte Mason/Lifestyle of Learning Approachs, we still use many resources from the Classical Approach and Principle Approach for original source documents. We occasionally do a Unit Study. Plus, we have a text for Greek and Math. We combine the aspects (that FIT US best) of each approach to make our own Simplified Approach to Real Learning. You can do the same! Use what is most comfortable and most natural for you and your family! Feel free to use the best resources from each approach! Glean ideas from all...especially the ones that you see in EVERY approach...Whole Books... Notebooking... Copywork...Real Life ... Character Training!

### Choose Resources That Will Appeal to YOU and YOUR CHILDREN!

The first thing I learned when we began homeschooling was that learning would have to be a lifelong process. Just because I hold a diploma, did not mean that I was finished learning. Rather, it meant that I had the ability to continue learning for life. I had to stay passionate and excited about learning!

As you select curriculum, decide to become a lifelong learner! Become a fellow student with your children! Choose resources that will appeal to your whole family...YOU and YOUR CHILDREN. C.S. Lewis said, "No book is really worth reading at the age of ten which is not equally (and often far more) worth reading at the age of fifty and beyond." Pick the greatest resources...those



Our GAW-geous Southern Belle!

that your entire family will enjoy while they build wonderful memories!

### **Adapt What You Have In Your Home To Meet Your Needs!**

I have shelves and shelves of books from our childhood.

Some are beloved stories that my mother read aloud to me as I grew up. Some are old textbooks from college. Some are resource books from the years of homeschooling. We need not feel that we need to purge our shelves of all that we have because we use a few ideas from a certain approach. For

example, although I am completely confident of approaching language from the more natural methods of Copywork, Dictation, and Narration, I still have my old resources from College for reference. Although I primarily teach History and Science through Real, Living Books, I still have textbooks when I need an outline! We can all use EVERYTHING that is in our home to make homeschooling fun and workable!

### **Not Wanting To Go All The Way With A New Approach?**

If you are not interested in completely changing from the your way of doing things but you would like to bring a breath of fresh air, try just implementing *one idea at a time*. You might not want to jump entirely into the

Charlotte Mason Approach, but you might want to establish a family reading time using whole, living books. Or you may want to begin Picture Studies once a week! I especially recommend this in areas in which you are really struggling—what is there to lose? Oh, but look at the gains! Give it a try for 6 months. See if it doesn't breathe life into the studies that are drudge now!



Matthew's FIRST time to fly AND land! Watch out Wright Brothers!!

Another option that often gives a much needed break is to try using the approach over your school breaks. You might try Nature Study during the

summer...Whole books during Christmas...Unit Study during Spring Break! If you find that this approach is what you want, you can learn more and adapt more into your home bit by bit!

### **Be Sure to Get Support...**

There is a lot of priceless support available to homeschoolers today. Use your support! I treat myself to subscriptions to kindred newsletters/magazines. You will find mine with water spots from coming along for long hot baths at the end of the day...or sand from our many trips outside...or pressed flowers tucked inside from moments stolen away at our local park! These are my dear friends that I can take along with me to cheer and encourage me along the way!

I also must admit that I am a "Hopelessly Addicted Conference Attendee!" I get weary just as you all do! I have been amazed at the way I am ministered to through the wisdom of others shared through conferences and workshops! I am *always* that person on the front row!

One other 'addiction' is our monthly Mom's Study Group. Just as my children need a constant supply of ideas, so do I! My mind is fed as I consider great ideas and as I feed on the simple how-to's that are working for *real* moms in the trenches!

If that did not sound like enough, we have just birthed another addiction! We began a list for a daily mom-to-mom *Time For Tea* online! It's purpose is to encourage and inspire women to enjoy their calling. We also have a wonderful email list and message board—*Homeschooling The Easy Way*-- for those needing more help and ideas in their homeschool journey. Plugging in on those tough days is always an encouragement to my weary soul!

Take a look around you at all the wonderful options to encourage you along the way! You

will find many practical ideas, specifics on teaching, and inspiration and encouragement along the way!

### Keep In Mind That GOD Gave Your Child To You!

This is probably the most important point I could share with you! This is probably the most important point I can ever make. We have to keep in mind that God gave us our children.

God has confidence in our ability to teach our own children. His desire is not for us to give them all the best that money could buy. His desire is for us to give them contact with Him through His Word and direct contact with our own heart through deep home relationships! He wants for us to give OURSELVES...Our FAITH, Our LOVE, Our NURTURE, and Our WISDOM!

The gift of yourself is more precious than anything that money could buy. Choose today to trust yourself, your interests, your child's interests to make your own individual approach to education! Choose today to be humbly submitted to God for His plan for your child! Then, you CAN make homeschooling great!



### Need MORE Help?



We can help!  
Check out the following books by Cindy's:  
*Homeschooling! Digging Into ALL of the Options...*  
*Homeschooling The EASY Way Manual*  
*A Charlotte Mason Primer*

Also check out Cindy's workshops on audio! We have a HUGE listing in OUR COUNTRY BOOKSTORE!

# Our Easy Family Bible Reading Plan...

By Cindy Rushton



Do you really want to instill the habits of daily Bible Reading and quiet times with your children, but have NO IDEA of *where* to begin or *what* to do? Well, here is a little bit of help!

♥ **Pray...** Never begin a time of Bible Study on your own! As everyone settles in for read alouds, go to the Lord in prayer! Ask Him to teach each of you. He will be faithful to meet you every time you come to Him!

♥ **Review from your last reading...** As we read through our Daily Bible Reading, we begin by reviewing the passage from the day before. I allow our children to do this. They love this!

♥ **Read aloud from the Bible!** Yes, directly read from the Bible. Choose YOUR FAVORITE version. Begin wherever you prefer. Need suggestions? We recommend beginning in the book of John or Psalms. As for versions, we use a wide variety of versions. Since my children have gotten older, we often read the same passage from different versions. Talk about enriching our reading and discussion! We begin anew each year reading through the Bible. Each day we read the passage that leaves off from the day before until the "story" or section ends. Some sections are not as friendly for making a "story." We read until we get to a good stopping place. The next day we pick up where we leave off.

♥ **Narrate the story or discuss the principles from Scripture...** This is simply letting the children re-tell what the passage is about. If it is not a passage that is easily shared in a story, then let them share their insights into the passage!

♥ **Discuss ideas, any questions, and any difficult words.** Look up any new places on a map. This is WHY you should read/

study Scripture WITH your children. This is when you will share insights with one another... glean deeper truths from Scripture... really search for more than the casual glance at Scripture!

♥ **Mark your daily reading in your Daily Bible Reading Log.** We designed a Daily Bible Reading Log for our children to see HOW MUCH they were (and weren't reading!!) each year! It has been awesome to see how much Scripture we are reading together, individually, and even in our church studies. If you need a log that is ready for your family to use, check out our pricelist. They are wonderful!

♥ **Pray...** Finally, end your Bible Reading time in prayer. Ask God to really work in your lives to make your study applicable in your lives!

# Homeschooling The EASY Way...

## On eBay!

By Rhea Perry



One of the easiest and fastest ways to learn about the world of commerce is to buy and sell on eBay.

Over a billion and a half visitors a day buy everything from real estate to comic books in this virtual marketplace.

In his excellent book *The Clipper Ship Strategy*, author "Uncle Eric" explains the wisdom of finding a need and then moving to be under the spout where the opportunity pours out. As jobs dry up all over the United States, Americans are fortunate that we don't have to move very far at all to tap into the economic opportunity available with eBay and you don't even need a website!

Besides the obvious potential to make money, teaching your children to use eBay effectively will show them the need to master these skills, to name just a few:

- ~ Typing
- ~ Composition
- ~ Market knowledge of your specialties
- ~ Basic HTML, if you want to get fancy
- ~ Geography
- ~ Electronic banking, if you use PayPal or other options
- ~ Responsibility in following through on commitments
  - ~ Figuring rates and shipping products
- ~ Using your profits wisely - tithing, spending, investing

At our house, we don't give our children an allowance because we don't want them to learn to work for money. Instead, we want them to learn to be masters of their money rather than being slaves to it so we allow them different economic activities.

eBay gives them the opportunity to create money for themselves. They also learn the lesson that if you don't work, you don't get paid. It encourages their creativity because every category offers a completely new market.

To learn more about eBay, I took my 11 year old daughter and my 14 year old son to eBay University, a day-long traveling seminar eBay sponsors to teach its members how to use it better. Classes were offered for beginners or advanced students. We attended the advanced classes and learned so much, including the basics of HTML.

The biggest mistake I see people making with eBay is buying but not SELLING! Everyone is an expert on something and if you learn to market what you know, your profit is unlimited.

## Just a Few Stories

I found four Sue Barton nurse stories ex-library books for 25 cents each and thought I would offer them to some ladies I used to sell books to for about \$5.00 each. I didn't know what the market value of them was so I thought I would put them on ebay first and if they didn't sell, then I would offer them for \$5.00.

Seven days later, the four different auctions closed for a total of \$186.00!

I had no idea they were collectible.

I told a friend that story and she said, "That's nothing." Her neighbor had bought a china tea cup at a yard sale and taken a picture of it to show that the rim was chipped in one place. She didn't want the buyer to be disappointed or feel misled. Seven days later, the china tea cup sold for \$2,000.

## The Perfect Market

Anyone can sell on eBay at

any time. We have found that our books sell better on the weekends so we try to make our auctions go through at least one weekend. Others find that their products sell to business people during the week. It doesn't take long to



learn your market.

And we've found that winter seems to be the best time of the year to sell because most folks are stuck in the house bored and don't want to face the weather outside to go shopping. But actually, there isn't a "bad" time to sell on eBay. There's ALWAYS millions of folks out there cruising.

To open an account to buy or sell, you must be 18 and the account must be supervised by a responsible adult. eBay has wisely built in a self-regulating accountability system with its Feedback.

For every transaction, buying or selling, both parties are asked to give feedback on the transaction. If a seller gets three negative feedbacks, they are banned from doing business. Some sellers will not even do business on higher ticket items with a buyer who doesn't have a certain number of positive feedbacks.

Every time your user ID is displayed, it is followed by your feedback number in parentheses

Our user ID is boer-goatman (114) and that means that we have received feedback comments from at least 114 other eBay members.

The Feedback Rating system is easy. You receive:

- +1 point for each positive comment
- 0 points for each neutral comment
- 1 point for each negative comment
- A star icon for 10 or more comments.

If you click on the number inside the parentheses, you can read the feedback comments left for that user.

Users are also awarded colored stars for achieving different numbers of positive feedbacks.

### Here's What We Do

My 14 year old son scans the books we sell and my 11 year old daughter types the descriptions. She also enters most of the information although much of it is remembered by the eBay system.

When they are finished, I skim the entry and hit send. Then I record the auction number in a 3-ring binder along with the title, price I paid for the item, price it sells for, cost of shipping, eBay fees, and profit. I leave about 4 lines of space to write in the buyer's mailing address and user name. To be responsible, you don't want to lose that information before the item is mailed if your computer crashes. And crashes often occur when you don't need them.

### Automate It!

If life at your house is anything like life at our house, you don't need One More Thing To Do. So the easiest

way to simplify the listing process is to automate it.

There are auction programs you can use that allow you to enter several auctions while you are off-line and go back



to them to edit later if you want to. Then when you have them all finalized, you upload the entire list at one time and you can even stagger the ending times.

eBay's own free program is Mister Lister. Requirements to use it are that you must be a registered eBay user who meets the following requirements:

- \* Maintain a credit card on file with eBay or be ID Verified.
- \* Feedback rating of 10 or more
- \* Registered on eBay for 60 or more days

Auction Submit is another program many folks use.

eBay now has many other auction management tools to help sellers.

### How Do I Get Started?

Before you decide what you want to sell, buy something on eBay to learn the bidding process. Make sure you mark "Watch this auction" if you find some interesting items you might like to buy.

You can either Browse categories or Search for a specific item. Browse

categories by selecting one such as Books, then Children. It will list the featured items first, then you can sort the current items by "new today," "ending today," and "going, going..."

Or you can click on Search to find something you are specifically looking for, such as "Moby Dick."

Once you've bought a few items, then ask yourself, "What do I know?"

I heard of a man who buys boxes of broken VCRs for \$5.00 each, then takes them home, fixes them and sells them individually on eBay. Of course, he mentions in the

descriptions that they are rebuilt.

I met a man who sold his antique mall and now sells baseball cards, Nascar memorabilia and anything else he runs across that he knows appeals to collectors on eBay.

I once bought a book from a lady in a town an hour away and had her meet my husband to pick it up and save shipping. He asked her where she had found that rare book. She told him that she had no idea what the book was. She and her friend go to yard sales, estate sales and auctions on the weekends and buy

boxes of whatever they think will sell if they can get them for a fairly cheap price. Then at home, they list each item individually. At that time, they were planning to quit their day jobs. She was a psychiatric counselor.

I watched an auction for a washing machine one time just to see how successful an auction that didn't include shipping the product would be. A lady had bought a house in the Dallas area that had a new washing machine. She listed her old washer which

was in perfectly good shape on ebay, stating that the buyer would have to come pick it up from her front porch because she would not ship it. She started the bidding at \$5. Seven days later, it sold for about \$125.

So one idea to find items to sell would be to de-clutter a



few closets or that garage you can't wade through and post what you find. If you need encouragement to de-clutter, I'd like to introduce you to The Flylady. Her daily emails will crank your tractor.

To post books, you need a scanner. To post other items, you need a digital camera or a 35 mm camera (but then you have to take your pictures to be developed.)

If you don't want to spend money to buy One More Gadget, consider it an invest-

ment in your children's education. Every tool you have in your house increases your children's technological knowledge and experience.

Or, let them buy it with their money!

### Set Up An Account

Before you go to the eBay page to register, think of a cute user name that describes you or your family.

My son chose our name when he set up our account to buy solar panels and it has caused many folks to ask what on

earth it means. (We raise boer goats - meat goats - so he called himself boergoatman.) He rarely goes to eBay now and the rest of us who do were left with his name!

You might want to skim through some auctions to see what others have chosen to use.

If you've never bought anything on eBay before and don't have an account, it is easy to set one up. Just see our website for information.

You might also want to set up a PayPal account because buy-

ers are more apt to buy a product if they can pay for it quickly and receive it quickly. When we first started selling on eBay, many buyers would send us checks or money orders. Now it seems that folks want to send payment electronically. And some buyers will spend more to have an item shipped overnight than the item costs!



## Want More Details??

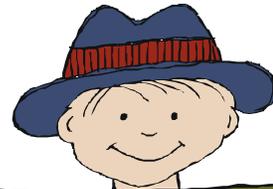
Join Rhea online for much, much more help! Her website is [www.educatingforsuccess.com](http://www.educatingforsuccess.com). On her site, you will find great help for encouraging your young entrepreneurs! ALSO! Keep her in your prayers as she finishes her awesome book full of practical help and ideas for encouraging YOUR young entrepreneurs!

PLUS! She has an **eBay Discussion Group**—just contact her through her website to sign up! Harold and I just signed up and this list is simply wonderful! Lots of eBay entrepreneurs helping work out the kinks so that eBay can best help businesses grow to their max! AWESOME!

That is not all! Rhea can help you to get more information about building a family business on eBay or information on making your current business great through helpful training at eBay University! Just check out her website and you will find your way to our favorite resource—RHEA PERRY!

## Did You Know???

### We have a Cindy Rushton eBay Store!

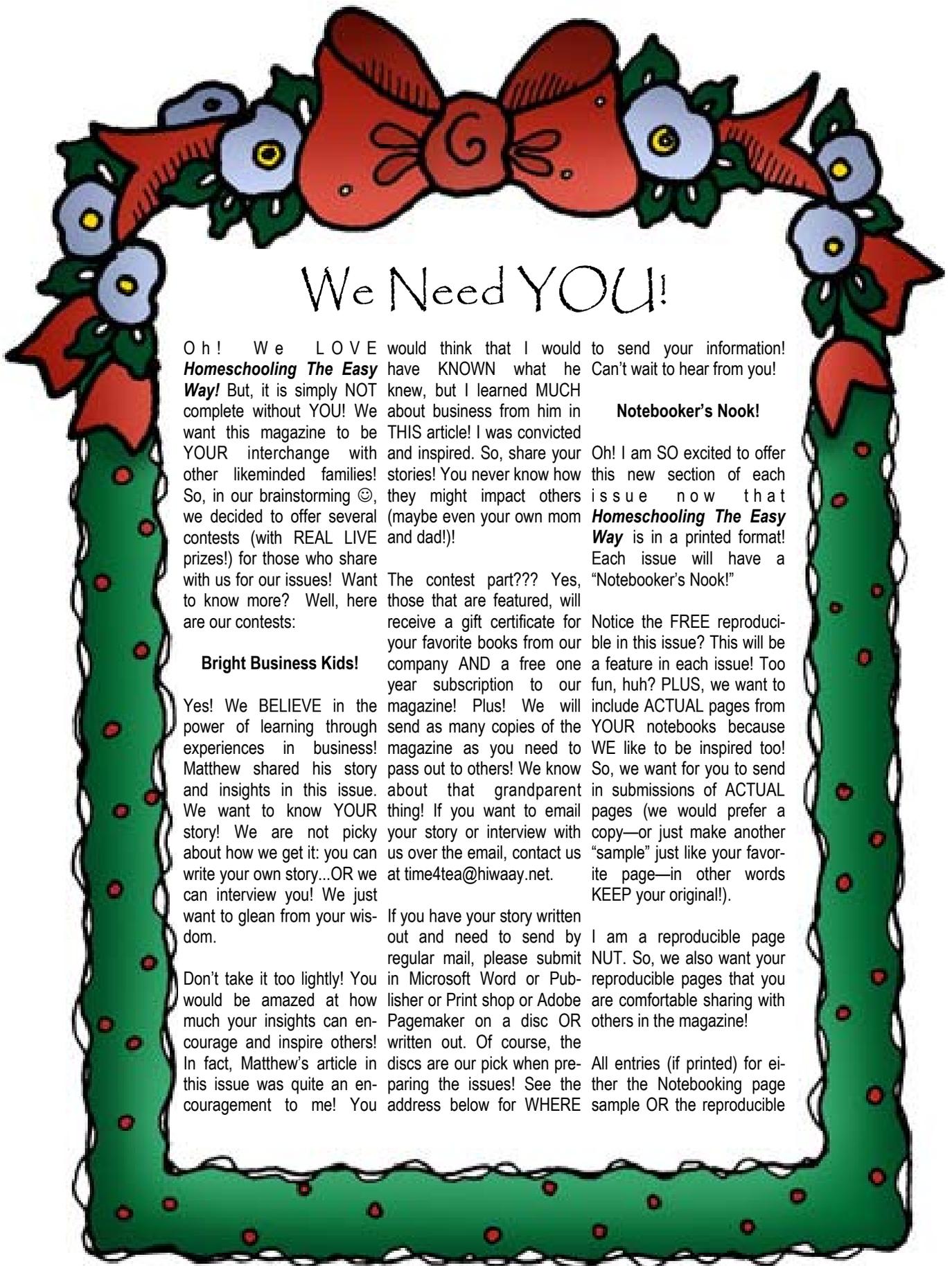


**NEW!  
CHECK IT  
OUT!**

We followed Rhea's great advice and NOW you can see our very own **Cindy Rushton eBay Store** where you will find great deals on our books and other things that my crew finds along the way! Our eBay Store is an extension of our ministry. I think you will love it! So, don't forget to check us out too!

## Tell Us About YOU...

OH! Have your OWN eBay business already? Tell us about it so we can check you out! Tell us your story and we will share it with others! ESPECIALLY if your eBay business is a central part of your homeschool! SHARE!



## We Need YOU!

Oh! We LOVE would think that I would to send your information!  
**Homeschooling The Easy** have KNOWN what he Can't wait to hear from you!  
**Way!** But, it is simply NOT knew, but I learned MUCH  
complete without YOU! We about business from him in  
want this magazine to be THIS article! I was convicted  
YOUR interchange with and inspired. So, share your  
other likeminded families! stories! You never know how  
So, in our brainstorming ☺, they might impact others  
we decided to offer several (maybe even your own mom  
contests (with REAL LIVE and dad!))  
prizes!) for those who share  
with us for our issues! Want The contest part??? Yes,  
to know more? Well, here those that are featured, will  
are our contests: receive a gift certificate for  
your favorite books from our  
company AND a free one  
year subscription to our  
magazine! Plus! We will  
send as many copies of the  
magazine as you need to  
pass out to others! We know  
about that grandparent  
thing! If you want to email  
your story or interview with  
us over the email, contact us  
at [time4tea@hiwaay.net](mailto:time4tea@hiwaay.net).

### Bright Business Kids!

Yes! We BELIEVE in the power of learning through experiences in business! Matthew shared his story and insights in this issue. We want to know YOUR story! We are not picky about how we get it: you can write your own story...OR we can interview you! We just want to glean from your wisdom.

Don't take it too lightly! You would be amazed at how much your insights can encourage and inspire others! In fact, Matthew's article in this issue was quite an encouragement to me! You

If you have your story written out and need to send by regular mail, please submit in Microsoft Word or Publisher or Print shop or Adobe Pagemaker on a disc OR written out. Of course, the discs are our pick when preparing the issues! See the address below for WHERE

### Notebooker's Nook!

Oh! I am SO excited to offer this new section of each issue now that **Homeschooling The Easy Way** is in a printed format! Each issue will have a "Notebooker's Nook!"

Notice the FREE reproducible in this issue? This will be a feature in each issue! Too fun, huh? PLUS, we want to include ACTUAL pages from YOUR notebooks because WE like to be inspired too! So, we want for you to send in submissions of ACTUAL pages (we would prefer a copy—or just make another "sample" just like your favorite page—in other words KEEP your original!).

I am a reproducible page NUT. So, we also want your reproducible pages that you are comfortable sharing with others in the magazine!

All entries (if printed) for either the Notebooking page sample OR the reproducible



page will receive a free tape of your choice! AND a free one year subscription to our magazine! Plus! Again we mention that we will send as many copies of the magazine as you need to pass out to others!

All we need is your page sent in HARD copy unless you have a good "scanned copy" that you can email. We can open most programs if you send your submission by email. To send it that way, just email [time4tea@hiwaay.net](mailto:time4tea@hiwaay.net). Of course, regular mail copies can be sent to our office (address below!)

In order to receive your tape or subscription, please specify your WISH list AND include your mailing address! We will randomly draw ONE entry of those that are printed in each issue as a WINNER of a GIFT CERTIFICATE toward any of our books! Just a small way to say a big thanks for your help in making this magazine yours!

**Homemade Books!**

Ok! This is yet another great contest! We have had a vision for several years to of-

fer a service for international promotion and distribution of books created by Homeschooling students. Matthew and Elisabeth have enjoyed sharing their books through our bookstore. I know that many of you would love it too! You never know how many other students may be looking for YOUR book for their study! PLUS, your books are dependable with your godly worldview!

So, this is your chance! The only way that others will get to know about your book is if you get the word out! We want to help you!

So, IF you are a homeschooling student who has written a book, send us a copy of your book AND a little story about how your book "came to be." Let us know the story behind how you developed your interest in your topic...steps in writing and producing your book... and any other information that will help us get to know YOU!

Our plan is to feature YOU and YOUR book in an issue of **Homeschooling The Easy Way**. If you are a featured writer/book, you will

receive a gift certificate good toward your purchase of any book in our inventory! Also, you will receive FREE space for an "ad" about your book/how to buy it. Plus, if you want for us to "distribute" your book in our Kids Korner, we would LOVE that opportunity! AND a free one year subscription to our magazine! Plus! We will send as many copies of the magazine as you need to pass out to others! It would make the grandparents proud! So, if you are interested, get your information to us by mailing it to our office! We can't wait!

**Now For That Address:**

OH! For all of the contests! Here is our address:

**Rushton Family Ministries**  
1225 Christy Lane  
Tuscumbia, AL 35674  
[Time4tea@hiwaay.net](mailto:Time4tea@hiwaay.net)  
[www.cindyrushton.com](http://www.cindyrushton.com)  
256-381-2529

# Getting Your Homeschool Organized!

By Jennifer Steward



By July we're starting to look forward to September...summer's half over - time to think about "school!" And I begin to feel the need to get organized - EVERYWHERE in EVERY WAY! I also feel this way around December and will often "take" the time over the holidays to regroup so I may be fresh for the new year and able to finish the school year more happily...without grumbling!

School and life in general will go a lot smoother when we:

- 1) know things are clean and in order
- 2) feel like we have accomplished something / projects
- 3) don't have to think about & take care of extra "stuff"

Areas to organize:

- ♥ House - make shelves, get bins & baskets (a place for everything and everything in it's place!) Binders for: medical stuff, phone numbers, anything you grab alot!
- ♥ Clothes- go through everyone's clothes periodically. Go through closets and "hand down" items that don't fit. Someone can use them. Keep clothes in storage bins (winter and summer) and exchange at the proper season.

### TIPS:

- \* Be a ruthless thrower-awayer!
- \* Clean, sort and organize one room at a time.
- \* Get help!
- \* Trade with a friend or pay your children...it's worth it!

♥ Bills - file everything (bill basket) His and Her baskets.

♥ School - binders and boxes...teaching tips and ideas binder (contains books you want to get, ISBN# etc.), file boxes of unit study topics, maps, copies.

\*Get small plastic stacking drawers for : glue sticks / scissors / tabs, colored pencils, markers

\*Finish last year's notebooks / put away on shelves or in plastic file crates (available at K-Mart for a few dollars and fit under some beds!)

\*No room for notebooks? TIPS: take unit study contents out of the

binder (including cover), punch a hole in the top corner and put a ring through it and place in a 12 X 15 inch gold envelope and store in a box. This way you can pull them out and look at them from time to time without taking up shelf space, and the ring will allow you to flip through without getting papers out of order.

- ♥ Library - organize home library...books get dusty and out of order
- ♥ Chores - a big area and since we are "home" living in our mess, we need to get chores under control. *The Choreganizer* (authored by us...The Stewards) is a good place to start. Some of the issues? When to start? Early - those little ones are willing so teach them and tap into their eagerness. Why start? It's biblical. Just read Proverbs - there are plenty of Scriptures that point out what happens to the sluggard! So much more could be said about this issue, but "many hands make work light!" Work together and train children to have a servant's heart.
- ♥ De-Junk- If you haven't used it in 2 years, throw it away! Take a trip to the dumps and don't look back.



## Welcome Jennifer Steward!

LOVE Jennifer??? Oh! When I met Jennifer, we became INSTANT friends and kindred spirits! I guess you can see why? We welcome her to our magazine! AND want more of her great help and wonderful ideas?? Check out her books and tapes!! We now carry ALL of her wonderful resources in our "Country Bookstore!" Check them out! You will love them!

## TOO FUNNY!

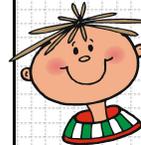


### In Trouble...

"At the end of the day, I parked my police van in front of the station. As I gathered my equipment, my K-9 partner, Jake, was barking, and I saw a little boy staring in at me. "Is that a dog you got back there?" He asked.

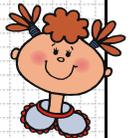
"It sure is." Puzzled, the boy looked at me and then towards the van.

Finally he said, "What'd he do?"



### Prayer...

One four year old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."



### Shhhh...church!

A Sunday School teacher asked her children as they were on the way to the church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

### 10 Commandments...



"A Sunday School class was studying the Ten Commandments.

They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shalt not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."

HEY MOM! You WOULD LOVE HOMESCHOOLING THE EASY WAY! Just ask for your sample copy TODAY!



Subscribe Now! Don't Miss ONE Issue!

INTRODUCING!!!

# Home Schooling The EASY Way!

## Just WHAT IS Homeschooling The Easy Way???

Just to give you a little background...HSEW is now wrapping up its second year. Although **HOMESCHOOLING THE EASY WAY** is a young magazine, this is actually our 7th year of publishing our magazine. Sound crazy???

Well, originally all of our homeschooling articles were published in each issue of our **TIME FOR TEA** magazine. As time went on, TFT grew so much that we faced the dilemma of "what to do" in order to minister the best to all of our subscribers. God led us to separate the magazines and expand our vision for each. What you see now is part of that vision, a magazine devoted ONLY to Homeschooling the EASY way!

learning that returns to the OLD PATHS that have worked for centuries. Topics range from hearing God in your homeschool to balancing all of the many demands that the busy homeschool mom faces day-to-day to teaching lessons in a simple, EASY way to VERY practical ideas that are sure to make homeschooling in your home EASY too! You won't want to miss a single issue!

**One-year subscriptions** are available for both of our magazines for **\$15.00 each** or **\$25.00 for both (US, \$25/\$40 International)** **Regular Mail OR FREE by email.** ( Let us know if you would like to receive TFT or HSEW complimentary via email and we will gladly add you on the list!) A **sample issue** of either magazine is **\$4.50** or FREE with any order. Please specify which magazine sample you prefer.

The focus of **HOMESCHOOLING THE EASY WAY** is to encourage a return back to God's design for the godly home and homeschool! Each issue includes articles that encourage homeschooling with a lifestyle of real

Our prayer is that when you join us during that quiet moment of your day, you will be encouraged and fed in your soul, mind, and spirit! We pray that each and every issue will encourage, inspire, and equip you better for your Homeschool journey! Our greatest desire is that you will be encouraged by ALL of our resources to seek to follow the Lord as a godly wife and mother! Ask for YOUR a copy (AND grab your cup of tea!) today!

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HOORAY!  
HOORAY!  
HOORAY!  
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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 (Amplified Bible)

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Hey! You are **GOING** to **LOVE** Homeschooling The Easy Way!  
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# Restoring Balance To Completely Overloaded Lives!

By Cindy Roushton



Ever had an "unbalanced tire?" Recently, I had a tire that was driving me crazy! It made the ride horribly rough. I was worn-out just from trying to drive to town because it kept pulling me off the road—obviously in the wrong direction! Just a simple trip to town was completely stressful. My hands were blistered from trying to hold on to the steering wheel the whole way to town and back! I was certain that my car was about to blow up... that something was permanently wrong! Imagine my relief to find that my problem was from one tire that was out of balance! Easy to fix. The smooth ride only took a few moments to restore.

Ever had an "unbalanced life?" Well, the similarities are unbelievable! Talk about a rough ride! Talk about a pull in the wrong direction! Talk about stress! Sure it is easy to fix—but, oh so hard to do!

We are overloaded! Every area of our lives suffers from overload: commitments... possessions... work... information... relationships!

We are a culture that can be characterized as overloaded! We are busy. Hurried. Overworked. Stressed. Rushed. We exceed our limits. We take on WAY TOO MUCH! As my pastor says, "We write checks that our body and mind cannot cash!" Our productivity suffers. Our bodies suffer! Our vital relationships suffer. We no longer can hear God as He whispers direction, encouragement, and wisdom along our path. We miss the best! We wonder why we end our days empty and without meaning or accomplishment.

We forget what is most important—or at minimum, put it off

for another day. The important seldom screams for attention, but the urgent, often insignificant, constantly screams for MORE and more! We get so busy and distracted doing the urgent and demanding in life that we lose the opportunity to impact the important, that in which we are given to leave a legacy!

So, how on earth do we get out of this rat race? How are we to restore balance? If we could restore balance, how could we maintain balance? How could we make life really count for something? Here are some things that the Lord has been teaching me this year as He has pulled me back from so many GOOD things to restore balance and keep me on the path to leaving a legacy!

**SLOW DOWN!**

Does that one hurt or what? We are so fast

paced! We live on the "fast track!" Think of to make the most of our time. HOWEVER, the rat race we live in: one-hour print...ten-minute oil changes...instant cameras...instant potatoes...instant MICROWAVE meals! Our homes have dishwashers, slow-cookers (don't be fooled by the name—turn them on as you run out the door for work and have a healthy meal ready to serve at the end of the day!), microwaves, and computers! Oh, and the computer thing! Yep, I am on my computer now (at our local coffee shop—yep, priorities are nice at times!) enjoying the benefits of my blessed computer complete with its battery, cd-writer, and all of the other MUSTS that I am so spoiled with! BUT! For heavens' sake...think of how spoiled we REALLY are! The computer age has taken over sweet little country stores! We have the Internet (which has faced the demand to have MORE instant connections—remember all of those ads this summer?), E-mail (to instantly communicate!), E-books (to instantly receive our products so we don't have to wait for the dreaded postal service to deliver!!), E-zines, Auto-responders (didn't REALLY think those were REAL people there all hours of the day and night??!!), Auto-processing of orders/credit cards, and don't forget Instant Messenger—for those who find Email to be too slow!

We have "Drive-Thru's" for EVERYTHING—food, cleaners, pharmacies, oil changes, and even (PLEASE GASP WITH ME!) funeral homes! Well...that is where I drew the line! Drive-thru funeral homes! Where are we as a culture? On the fast track!

What do we do? Why not Sllllloooooowwwww DDDDoooooowwnnnnn?? I am not advocating that we STOP using technology. Rather, we should use those tools to make life easier and



Ephesians 5: 15-16 says, "*Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as the wise (sensible, intelligent people), Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil.*" What does this look like? Well, let's go back to Genesis 33 for a look at the life of Jacob after he completely surrendered his entire life to the Lord. "*My lord knoweth that the children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me: and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die. Let my lord, I pray thee, pass over before his servant: and I WILL LEAD ON SOFTLY, according as the cattle that goeth before me and the children BE ABLE TO ENDURE, until I come unto my lord at Seir.*" Want to slow down, but how? Where do we begin? What can really make a significant difference? Try these:

♥ **Decide what is MOST important!** Think over life for a little while! What is it that only YOU can do in this life? Why did God create YOU? What is your life purpose? What is it that God created YOU to do? What can go? Just as our house cannot be cleaned without getting rid of the clutter—otherwise all we are doing is shuffling the clutter around—likewise, we must take an occasional inventory to de-clutter our life! I find this to be a battle JUST as

many of you probably do and trust me, this is a life principle that I really stick to! Long ago, God impressed upon my heart that if I were going to be able to truly fulfill my calling that He had for my life, I would HAVE to only do the things that \*ONLY I\* could do—if it were something that anyone else on earth could do, it would have to go! Still, I will go through periods of my life and begin to get overloaded again only to find when I evaluate the value of all that I do, there are things that sneak into my schedule that vie for my focus and energy! Usually that requires that I take out those really tough pruning shears again to cut back—either by delegating the tasks to someone else so I can be more productive at what ONLY I can do—or even more difficult, get rid of what is overloading me! I know that this is hard, but it is SO key! Take a deep look now at what you are doing. Is it really eternal? Is it the "main thing?" Is it essential? Can anyone else do it? Is it hindering you from the very best? Decide what is most important. You won't be sorry!



♥ **Examine Your Lifestyle!** Take a little while to jot down a journal of what makes up your day? Your week? Your month? Your year? REALLY BE HONEST! Do those things count? What are the days filled with: things that are really important...or lots of fires to put out? Take a bit longer to write out what you would REALLY like to be accomplishing. What do you think that a "perfect day," if it were possible, would look like? How can you change your day to really slow it down so your life

really counts?

♥ **Examine Your Motives!** Motives will fool us in a heartbeat! Scripture is so very true as it warns us to beware of our heart. We simply cannot trust our hearts. They will lead us astray every time! What really motivates us? What drives us? If we can determine this, we can evaluate activities and obligations much more effectively! So, what drives you? Ambition? Your life call? The desire to be in control? Don't trust others to do things? Passion? Guilt? Ego? Insecurity (Can't say "no"? Afraid that you have no value unless you are "seen" busy?) Constantly trying to please others? Revenge? Money? Oh, I could go on and on...motives are so very deceptive and there are so many. What is your motive? What drives you to do all you do?

Busyness does not mean that we are accomplishing. Nor does busyness guarantee fulfillment. Often, busyness is the very thing that keeps us from the very things that will bring us satisfaction, fulfillment, and contentment. Busyness, given the chance, will keep us from fulfilling our life purpose!

It is all up to us! We can choose which way to go! Enjoy the journey or wait to enjoy the brief delight of the destination? A wasted, bitter, defeated life or a life full of purpose and meaning? Burn out or real accomplishment? Deep, passionate relationships or very real regrets?

Why not slow down? Relax? Enjoy the whole journey—the process getting there AND the destination! Build deep relationships! Stick

to those priorities! Simplify life so you reach for the very best! Seize each moment!

### Redeem The Time!

Time! Friend or foe? Have enough time in your day? Or are you a truly kindred spirit, asking God for just a few good 80-hour days

and the energy to use them to the fullest? Hal! I have a good feeling that if your prayer is for that one, that you will also find that God will whisper sweetly in your ear to say that the problem is not that we do not have enough time...or that we are using time to the fullest...or even that we waste time.

Rather, He would say that we need to make it our ambition to redeem the time—each and every moment we are given!

A few months back, my pastor taught a series of messages entitled *From Burnout to Balance*. In his series, he challenged us to look at time as a great big "bank account." He said that this account is one that we are guaranteed to have daily deposits made on our behalf by God each and every day. We each get our fair share. No one gets more. No one gets less.

Think of this awesome gift! Each and every day we are given a gift that can impact all of eternity—or be squandered away into oblivion. Each day we are given this gift without any regard to our stewardship from the day before! TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! ONE-THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED, FORTY MINUTES! EIGHTY-SIX THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED SECONDS! Deposited in our "account" each and every day!

And...with this gift, we are free to use it in any way we choose. We can waste it or use it wisely. We can make a difference---or misuse it! But! One thing is guaranteed each day with all that is deposited on our behalf—it must be used up before the end of the day...it cannot be carried into tomorrow!



We all have 24 hours put into our spending account each and every day. What we do with that time is in our hands! Will we be faithful? Will we use it wisely? Will we make it count for eternity? Will we use our gift to the fullest? Will we use our gift for what really counts?

If we want to live a life of balance, we must guard this precious gift! We must measure our time as one of our greatest resources we have to invest in this life! This requires that we go back to our precious Giver and seek HIM for how we can most faithfully invest each moment! We must let Him be the Lord of our schedule, our to-do's, our calendar. We must commit our way---ALL OF OUR WAY—to Him from our work to our studies that we pursue to our commitments to our books that we read to the activities that we participate.

We must be careful to set a guard on our time to be sure that we do not flippantly do without thinking or take on too much that we forfeit the best! We need to purpose to really do those things that are "NEEDFUL" (remember Luke 10: 38-42?) and not just the "stuff" that we think MUST be done! We need to constantly evaluate our choices and weigh them to see if they are truly those things that help us to reach our life call.

Time...what do you think? Redeem this precious gift so our lives can be balanced? You bet!

### Sell Out COMPLETELY To God's Will!

Does this scare you to death? Are you seeing visions of little grass huts...no electricity...bugs...complete with the stench of underarm odor?

Oh, beloved! My first image of total surrender to God admittedly envisioned life on a continent that was far, far away from all of the comforts of home. Still have no idea if there is a continent that could be as disgusting as my visions were. Sure, I trusted God for eternity, but never thought of heaven in the same way that I thought of my life on earth totally surrendered to Him!

Now, as we move into our 11<sup>th</sup> year as a ministry (and Harold finishes up his 1<sup>st</sup> year FULL-TIME with us!), I HAVE to tell you that God has a very, very good plan for us! He does not call us, equip us, and then send us to an assignment that forfeits our trust and confidence in Him! In fact, one thing that I am thrilled to say is that although there IS work in our calling, there is delight and fulfillment that cannot be found in anything else under the sun! Seeing His provision is unbelievable. Watching His anointing fall is indescribable! Plus! No grass huts so far!

Give your ALL to God! Sell out! Don't hold anything in reserve! Abandon ALL for the call!

Scared? Just give Him a try! Take a look at Jeremiah 29 in *The Message Bible*. God says to us, "I know what I'm doing, I have it

all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. When you come looking for me, you'll find me. Yes, when you get serious about finding

me and want it more than anything else, I'll make sure you won't be disappointed." Oh, beloved, not only will you never, ever be disappointed, but you will find that His GOOD plan will be truly good--satisfactory for you, satisfying, fulfilling, completely sufficient!



Wonder JUST WHAT could YOU do? Too young? Too old? Too poor? Not qualified—or so you think? Well, beloved! Know that God has called each and everyone of us to function in His Body. We are the mouthpieces here on earth for Him. We are the feet for Him. We are the hands here in our community for Him! He has called and equipped each and every one of us to be a part of His Body here on earth! We each have talents, spiritual gifts, natural gifts and interests, and experiences that can minister to those that are growing in the Body AND those that need to join the Body of Christ! God needs ALL of us working and functioning properly if His Kingdom—His way of doing things—will come to earth! He needs for us to be that light that shines in the darkness to bring others to Him. Just go into a dark, dark room... Light one candle... See what a difference YOU can make right where you are!

Have no idea what His plan is for you? Take a look at Romans 12: 1-2. He promises in verse two that YOU can know His good, perfect, and acceptable will for you! Yes, YOU

can know that plan! How? Going back through this passage, we see how:

♥ **Become a living sacrifice—EVERYDAY!**

Completely yielded. Completely dedicated. Completely committed to Him and His Way! Giving Him our ALL! *All* that we are: our plans...gifts...bents...

talents... ambitions... ideas... methods... techniques... fears... delights... concerns... *all* presented to God as a living sacrifice EVERY SINGLE DAY! If we truly desire to *know* the good,

acceptable, perfect will of God for *ourselves* or *our children*, we must first obediently present ourselves as a complete, living sacrifice. There may be things in our lives (things that are very precious and difficult to get rid of) that must be burnt up as a sacrifice for us to be prepared to receive God's very best OR we may find that what we bring to sacrifice before the Lord is acceptable in His sight and can return home with us (like Abraham as he willingly prepared to sacrifice his beloved Isaac). However, the key is not in what God does with our sacrifice, it is in our heart coming before Him daily, presenting ourselves and all that we have before His throne!

♥ **Don't not conform to the world; but conform to Christ!!** Yep! We either conform to the world or to Christ! We cannot live for one without forsaking the other! Want to know God's plan?

Let go of the world's standards, the world's ways, the world's requirements, the world's traditions, and the world's bondage. Let go of the lies of the world! We must stop serving the world at the expense of becoming ALL that God wants for us to become! If we want to live an abundant life—a balanced life—the world's

way will never work! Only God's way brings balance, freedom, and true, abundant LIFE that we are really searching for! As we grow in relationship with Christ, daily become LIKE HIM, we find security and LIFE! We find peace! We find hope! We find the di-

rection that we have been looking for all along the way! We find freedom to become ALL that God designed for us to become! Talk about LIFE! We move beyond balance to abundant life!

♥ **Be transformed by the daily renewal of your mind!**

The last key to getting to know God's plan! However, this one is SO VITAL! If we truly want to live a balanced, abundant life, we must sell out to God's will. BUT, however much we want to sell out, unless we truly let Him change our life, we will just spin our wheels in the same ruts, never becoming all that God wants for us to become! How is our mind transformed? Life changed? This life transformation begins as we sit at the feet of Jesus. As we daily immerse ourselves in His Word, we will begin to be transformed. Then, we will soon have different priorities... different beliefs... different ambitions... and soon, we will be able to



prove what is good, acceptable, and 2 Corinthians 1: 8-9, "For we do not want you perfectly in the will of God. If we to be uninformed, brethren, about the never experience this transformation, affliction and oppressing distress which we will always find ourselves burdened befell us in the province of Asia, how we under a yoke of bondage. We will al- were so utterly and unbearably weighed ways find ourselves looking in all the down and crushed that we despaired even of wrong places for direction, approval, life itself. Indeed, we felt within ourselves meaning, purpose, and rest! We will constantly battle overload. We will find life bumpy and pulling us into life's "ditches!"



that we had received the very sentence of death, but that was to keep us from trusting in and depending on ourselves instead of on God Who raises the dead."

God has a precious plan EVEN for you! Surrender ALL to Him! Let Him have it all! Let Him do His work in you!

Don't rush! Don't drag around! Don't run from it! Live EACH day letting Him have your ALL in complete abandonment! Balance will come—but, beloved there is so much more that will rush into your life! Purpose, meaning, abundant life! Go for it!

### Build Margin—Breathing Room— Into Your Life!

Ever been at rock bottom? We see many of our favorite Bible characters that we get to know during good times, but I think my favorites are those that we get to see when they are rock bottom, with NO breathing room, at the point that my mother would have said, "I've HAD IT!" Ever just "HAD-IT?"

Imagine for yourself the grief and utter pain that Job was experiencing as he cried out in Job 3:26, "I have NO peace, NO rest, NO quiet!"

Drop into the conversation with Paul as he declared that he got to his "breaking point" in

Finally, journey back to 1 Samuel as we are first introduced to Hannah at the point of utter desperation—you probably know a bit about her story. Barren. Broken. Taunted (by her husband's other WIFE!! Who had NO problem bearing children!). Empty. Crushed in soul. Oh, let's join her at the point that she had "HAD IT!"... "Crushed in soul, Hannah prayed to God and cried and cried—inconsolably. Then, she made a vow: Oh, God-of-the-Angel-Armies, If you'll take a good, hard look at my pain, if you'll quit neglecting me and go into action for me by giving me a son, I'll give him completely, unreservedly to you. I'll set him apart for a life of holy discipline..." As she was praying, she sunk even lower as she was completely misunderstood by the priest, who thought she was DRUNK! We hear more of her heart in her reply to him... "Oh no, sir—please! I'm a woman hard used. I haven't been drinking. Not a drop of wine or beer. The only thing I've been pouring out is my heart, pouring it out to God. Don't for a minute thing I'm a bad woman. It's because I'm so desperately unhappy and in such pain that I've stayed here so long!"

Relate? I know that these precious vessels were crying out in the midst of trials and life events that were too much. However, I don't think that we find ourselves at the point of desperation without first pushing limits for quite some time! We haven't got margin to deal with the daily-ness of life—much less those life struggles, crisis situations, losses, and persecutions that inevitably knock most of us off our "rocker" into despair!

Think about it...if you are the average person in our society today, you live on fast-food, crazy hours, no sleep. You are chronically rushed (or late), overworked, exhausted, overloaded! What is the solution? Build MARGIN! Build some BREATHING ROOM! Simplify life so there is room for change...space for disruptions. How? Here are some suggestions that I am trying to implement in my own life:

♥ **Accept HUMAN Limitations!** Can you sense how HARD that is for ME to type? Oh, here it where it gets harder, it is not MY idea, it is the Word of God too: "I have seen that EVERYTHING HUMAN has its limits and end no matter how extensive, noble, and excellent." (Psalm 119: 96a) OUCH! If there is a battle for balance (and YOU KNOW there is!), this is one of the biggies! We ALL have limits! But, where we need more margin is that we don't say "NO" when we face limitations! As I shared above, we "write checks our body and mind cannot cash!" The world says, "You can have it ALL!" "You can do it all!" Even the church gives the illusion that

"I can do ALL THINGS through Jesus Christ." However, the Bible is very clear that we can ONLY DO those things that are HIS THINGS—HIS WILL! WE have limits! We have space limits. We have body limits. We have emotional limits. Jesus does not give us a blank check to do ALL THINGS. Much less, Jesus WILL NOT

empower us to do ALL THINGS. He only empowers us to do those things that HE CALLS us to do. He never gives us anything that is beyond our abilities and resources to do. One clear way to judge what we are called to do from those things that we are not called to do is to look at our limitations: our

red lights, shut downs, overloads, crashes. We need to look at those warning signs: pain, fatigue, stress, irritability, frustrations. Our human limitations are God's boundaries in our lives that help us to know that we are overextended and writing checks our bodies and minds cannot cash. Respecting human limitations will restore balance to even the most overloaded life!

♥ **Expect Interruptions!** Proverbs 22:3 says, "A prudent man sees trouble coming and ducks—a simpleton walks in blindly and is clobbered!" If there is one thing in life that is FOR SURE, we can be sure that life seldom goes as planned. Life cannot be predicted. Just think about it...what truly messes up your schedule? Traffic? Car trouble? Delays? Crisis situations? Special needs along the way? We must plan for interruptions or our lives will constantly be out of balance, our schedules will never



work, and much of life will be squandered! Expect interruptions and plan room for them into every day!

- ♥ **Put SPACE Into Your Schedule!** Ever had your PDA/Planner/Calendar/ Briefcase complain about an overstuffed schedule? Actually my planner looks so much more "professional" when it is **PACKED OUT!**

Only I don't handle it so well! For the last few years, I have really evaluated what I was doing that was causing me to get off my schedule and not get around to all of my to-do's. Now, granted, some days it is



ME or my darling little ones! But, overall, 95% of my schedule woes are also the culprit behind life getting just way too busy—**OVER-SCHEDULING!** Schedules, like daily life, only work when there is **SPACE** in each day! Just like we see with the life of Christ (see Matthew 5-10), our life is filled with distractions, interruptions, crisis situations. We can battle against these **OR** we can add margin (space) into our lives that gives us room to use these as **THE MAIN THING**—opportunities for ministry, opportunities for the very best lessons, teachable moments, hands-on discipleship! Not only are we able to step up to the call as it beckons us, but we are less likely to spin out of balance constantly!

- ♥ **Prune Life To Yield MORE Fruit!** Several years ago, one of my dearest friends bought her **DREAM** land. Every time that I go to visit her, our family laughs because

just driving up her driveway I begin to see a view that rivals that of the gorgeous view on *The Sound of Music*, thus tempting me to begin to sing—"The **HILLS ARE ALIVE...with the sound of music...**" The land is gorgeous. But it is more than that. It is also productive! However, at first it wasn't. Rhea bought the land, complete with an orchard. Sound ready to

go? Well, not exactly! Needing a bit of help with her fruit trees, she called in a professional. To her shock, she looked outside to find her precious orchard looking like a bunch of sticks in the dirt. Pruning began to have a whole new meaning! What looked like

devastation actually was the key to those best fruit ever! Bigger fruit! Sweeter fruit! **MORE** fruit! I remember the year that Rhea was getting her first fruits after the pruning. It was a year that I needed that practical example of pruning just so I would have the nerve to let God loose with His pruning shears! I can't say it was easy! It was probably one of the most challenging times in my entire life. I had lived my life pretty much just without much thought. However, God was wanting for me to yield up **EVERYTHING** so He could prune back all that was diseased...all that was broken...all that was zapping my strength...all that was causing double-vision...all that was keeping me from bearing the fruit He had planned from the foundation of the earth. 1 Corinthians 6: 12a says, "**Everything is permissible (allowable and lawful) for me; but not all things are helpful (good for me to do,**

expedient and profitable when considered with other things).” There are many GOOD things that God would not have a problem if I were to do them. However, those good things can keep me from producing all of the fruit that I can bear. It becomes a *choice* thing for me. I can choose whether I will allow Him total control of my entire life—even the schedule... commitments... my going... my doing. I am the ONE who can sit down, yield to the shears, and stay ready to bear more and more fruit. Likewise, I can also resist. But...I don't really like that alternative!

At the end? At your limit constantly? "HAD IT?" Take a good look look at life! Check for margin! Not enough? Build margin! Create space! Watch what happens!

### DE-STRESS!

Yep! Gulp! De-stress! This one got you out of whack before too? You are not alone, beloved!

Want to know the #1 complaint in our culture? What about among homeschool moms? The booger behind despair? The reason that most quit? The reason that many never begin? You have got it! The stress! The chaos! The mess! The lack of organization or ability to "keep it together." Want to battle for balance? This little devil will give you quite a challenge!

Yep! If there is a need among the body of Christ, this JUST might be it! But, how? Here are some quick tips for restoring balance when it all gets bumpy from the stresses of life...

♥ **Find Your Stressors!** What throws YOU for a loop? What takes you into a "nose-dive?" What "stalls" your flight? What are



your biggest stressors? What causes YOUR stress? Identify the REAL culprit—HINT: it is NOT your husband (!!) or your children (!!) or God (!!). Look at your life honestly! What REALLY stresses you out? Holding onto your stress? Carrying a burden you do not have to carry? Anx-

iousness? Discontent? Strife? Expectations? Willfulness instead of willingness and total surrender and total abandonment? Find YOUR stressors! Know what REALLY "punches" your buttons!

♥ **PLAN!** Plan ahead! Well in advance! One saying that always pops into my head when I think of the word plan is, "If we fail to plan, we really plan to fail!" Nothing brings MORE stress than living life without direction, without a plan, always under "crisis" management, making decisions on a moment-by-moment basis. If this is stressing you out, try to plan ahead! Plan out your goals. Plan out your schedule. EVEN the mundane things—plan out those daily routines, even going so far as to write them out! How does this help? Well, decisions are made, saving those precious brain-cells for other uses! Trust me this works WON-