

A STRING OF PEARLS

The Proverbial Woman



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Calling all PW!

- *I'm really interested in recipes, helpful hints, stories of your families. Please take a few moments and jot down something to share in an upcoming edition or on the website. I love it when we all come together.*
- *Have a prayer request? Send it too.*

A Single Pearl from Cerise

Spring is here and with it I'm feeling the urge to clean out closets, launder my drapes and do a good in depth cleaning. My kitchen had a good once over during Passover as I cleaned out the refrigerator, freezer, cupboards, oven and drawers of leaven. Actually I'd like to also get outside and plant some spring flowers, but I'm not sure I have the luxury of that sort of project. I may just take the time, as I stay just a little too busy working for my taste. I do my best to balance between the Mary and Martha in me, but sometimes Martha shines a little too brightly.



I hope this newsletter will inspire you to clean out a closet or plant a row of flowers. I hope you will desire to spend more time with the L-rd, or perhaps your children. May you be inspired to spoil your husbands just a little more or do something special for yourself. How about an older family member? Is there someone alone in a nursing home that you could read to? How about a single person who might enjoy a home cooked meal with your family? Have you told your pastor and his wife you love them? Let's make this springtime the time when we do something special in the name of Yeshua. Why not do something kind for someone who has really irritated you in the recent past? I'm challenging myself as I write.

A pearl of great price is a rare thing. If you find one, sell what you have and buy it. So is the word of G-d.

Something Old

I have a book about manners and cultures from 1892. I thought it would be fun to examine the ways things were done back then. I'm amazed at how unrefined we have become. Here are a couple snippets from the "conversation" section of the book:

Whispering In Society:

"It is considered extremely ill-bred when two persons whisper in society, or converse in a language which all present are not familiar. If you have private matters to discuss, you should appoint a proper time and place to do so, without paying others the ill compliment of excluding them from your conversation." Read Romans 1:29 KJV

Interrupting A Person While Speaking:

"Never interrupt a person who is speaking. It has been aptly said that "if you interrupt a speaker in the middle of his sentence, you act almost as rudely as if, when walking with a companion, you were to thrust yourself before him, and stop his progress." Read 1 Corinthians 13:5 NIV

I find it sad that although both of these are still true, we rarely practice them.

That Little Blessing

I've been amazed to see folks who have a houseful of children who can't bear to spend an additional second with their children. Most send their kids off to school and only see them from around 4:00 in the afternoon till bedtime. They rush them to a thousand different extracurricular activities and then look for babysitters for the weekend so they can get away from the little "rug rats". I don't understand this sort of lifestyle, but it seems to be the "norm".



Caption describing picture or graphic.

Being somewhat of an oddball since I can remember, I loved spending time with my daughter. When I had a son, I was absolutely thrilled. When he died suddenly after only two months in our home, I was devastated. I realized then and there that children are only lent to us, that they are blessings to be cherished, nurtured and cared for as precious gifts from G-d. I suppose if I were to wrap up what I learned, I'd say "you don't appreciate what you have till it's gone".

Anyway, my heart is to encourage parents to let G-d shine the light of his love into their hearts and see if there isn't a hard place where it comes to their children. If we show our children real love, give them the attention they deserve, raise them in the reverence and admonition of the L-rd, we will bring more godly men and women into the kingdom of G-d; this should be our goal, this should be our life. Here are some verses to meditate on and help you focus on those little blessings G-d has given to you.

Proverbs 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. **NIV**

Ps 127:3-5

3 Sons are a heritage from the L-RD, children a reward from him.

4 Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth.

5 Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.

NIV

Ps 127:3-5

3 Behold, children are a heritage from the L-RD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth.

5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

NKJV

Faith or Resignation?

My grandson had his first of several operations this week. While I was praying I heard the Father say to me "Are you in faith or resigning yourself to this situation"? I was shocked at what He said, but immediately began examining my thoughts and prayers over the past few days. I have to be honest and say that I've been through some real challenges to my faith, but surrendering to the situation had never been a choice I thought I'd take. With my grandson's situation I realized that resignation had sunk in once I heard those words from the Father. I had resigned myself to the situation rather than believing G-d for His protection and directions. I was rather shocked at myself, and am now working on this issue. I'm really examining my heart and in a real search for answers in the word.



Now, Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

"To her who much is given, much is required."

Bless Your Blessing

Why not do something special for your child? Here are a few ideas that can implement to show your child/children just how much you love them.

1. Wake your child with a kind word. "I love you" should be said everyday.
2. Put your child to bed with a word of peace and love. "I'm glad G-d gave you to me, you're so special I have to pinch myself I'm so blessed". [If you've never done this you may be uncomfortable, but you can get over the discomfort by disciplining your flesh and pressing through that wall. It only exists because this is unfamiliar to you.]
3. Ask your child about his/her dreams and really listen.
4. If you have to spend long hours on the phone, don't hush your child continually. Excuse yourself to the adult on the phone and take the time to speak to your child.
5. Examine whether you're the one with the problem if you spend too much time on the phone, or doing some other task.
6. Find a local museum and visit it with your child. Hold hands, not to control, but to make contact with your child.
7. If you have more than one child, always make individual time for each individual child. Never lump your children into one pile.
8. Don't exclude your child from housework just because you do the better job. How will your child learn if he/she isn't allowed to try and to make mistakes? Mistakes are learning tools not failures.
9. Never threaten. Make your word good for punishment and reward.
10. Go to the library with your child and pick out books together. Explain why certain books aren't good. Teach your child to discern between good and evil.
11. Use everyday tasks as learning tools. Don't shoo your child away when you're paying bills or straightening the garage. Draw them in. Paying bills is stewardship and kids should know that everything you own has a cost and required work. The garage is usually a storage place. Teach your child about the "storehouse".



See Tommy chase the ball.

Order That Frees

I can't say that my house would pass the "Martha Stewart" white glove test, or that I'm the most organized woman on the planet, but I do believe that organization can make life so much easier. One of the best ways to create some order in your life is to use a day planner of some sort. I use my computers to keep my life in order as well as a PDA (personal digital assistant). I also print out a monthly calendar with all my appointments shown. You don't have to have a computer to be organized. All you need is an inexpensive notebook or desk calendar and a few moments each week to pen in your tasks.

On Sunday afternoon, I will go to my calendar and add all the upcoming events I know about. If I have monthly meetings I will put them down for as many months as I know the dates of. I also put in rest time and times when I want to do specific things that would be hard to explain to someone else. I hate saying "no I can't help you with your computer, I have scheduled some gardening in that spot", but I can say "I'm sorry that time is taken". I have a clear conscience, as I need to take rest time as much as they need their computer fixed! It is a legitimate appointment and I get the rest I need! I haven't scheduled in bible or prayer time, but some folks need to do so. I have always gotten up early to do that and don't have trouble setting aside that time. I will also make a "to do" list and write the most important things and then things that should be tackled and last but not least, things I'd like to get done.

These are just ideas that work for me. You will find your own way of doing things. My suggestion however to schedule time for yourself or your family is vital to a peace-filled home.

1 Corinthians 14:33 For G-d is not a G-d of disorder but of peace. NIV



*Depression is
controlled by a spirit.
We're told to put on
the garment of praise
for the spirit of
heaviness.*



Don't forget to schedule quiet time.

Food For Thought



Homemade food is best for you. It has less preservatives, less processing and pulls families together.

Here are a couple recipes to add to your collection. One only works if you have a microwave with a “potato” setting. I have a fairly new microwave and the Holy Spirit walked me through a fast way to make boiled potatoes.

Cut as many potatoes as you have mouths to feed:

Cut in quarters each potato and then cube into bite sized pieces. Put in a microwave dish with a lid. I use a Correlle casserole. Pour in 2/3 cup of water. Place in microwave with lid on. Press the “potato” button. Depending upon how many potatoes you have this can be a really fast way to make boiled potatoes. You can also make it a little bit ahead and when your microwave says “2 minutes” open the door. Then the last two minutes of whatever you’re cooking press the start button again.

I call this recipe “Spaghetti Soup”, but it doesn’t have spaghetti in it. I use spaghetti sauce in place of tomato sauce and it makes a yummy Italian flavored soup.

Spaghetti Soup

- 1 medium onion
- 2 cloves of garlic (crushed)
- 1-2 T. canola oil or olive oil
- 1 bell pepper diced
- 3 boneless breast of chicken (cut into cubes)
- 1 T. Italian seasoning
- 1 can of beans (navy, kidney, or garbanzo)
- 1 can of black olives (sliced)
- 2 cups of cooked pasta (shells, elbows or rotini)
- 1 26 oz can of Spaghetti sauce (with or without mushrooms)

Sauté onion and garlic in oil till onions are transparent. Sauté bell pepper till soft. Add chicken and cook till it is no longer pink inside. Add seasoning, beans, pasta, spaghetti sauce, olives, and pasta shells. Served with French bread and fresh fruit you have a complete meal.

Simmer for 20 minutes. Serves 4-5

Suzy Homemaker Hints

Keep your cut flowers longer!

Want to keep your cut flowers for a longer period of time? Especially those beautiful roses you will be getting on Shabbat? Take 2 tablespoons of white vinegar and 2 tablespoons of sugar and mix in a quart of water. Use this water in your flower vase. It should extend the life of your flowers for a few days longer! And, before you place the flowers in the vase, be sure to cut each stem at the bottom at an angle.

Crayon Marks on Walls

Have Kids? Do you have crayon marks on your walls? I used to teach pre-school so I know about crayons. Try taking a damp cloth and sprinkle some baking soda on it. Gently rub the crayon marks away. Pencil Marks can be removed by using an art gum eraser. (You can get Art gum at your art supply store.)



Have you seen my new washing machine? Isn't it lovely, no more scrubbing!

“Think about some of the best times you’ve had with family. Most probably revolved around a meal prepared with loving hands.”

Suzy Keeps on Cleaning

Do you have shirts with ring around the collar?

Take a small paintbrush and apply shampoo to it! Brush on the stained collars about 10 minutes prior to going in the wash. Another method is applying a paste of vinegar and baking soda and let set about 15 minutes. Then follow with the regular wash.

Which came first, dusting or vacuuming?

If you dust before you vacuum you may find that everything is coated with dust from your vacuum. If you dust after you vacuum you will find you dust less often.

Wet or Dry?

A dust rag that is soggy with furniture polish is less effective than a predominantly dry rag. You end up with a muddy rag. Just spray enough polish to help make the rag cling to the particles of dust.

Mess Of Recipes?

A quick and easy way to organize collected recipes from magazines or newspapers is to file them in photo albums that have clear plastic self-adhesive pages. Simply peel back the plastic sheet and press the recipe in place. A three ring binder works best since you can add or remove pages a necessary. Why not look for such albums when they are clearanced and buy several?



This new handy dandy, super duper, carpet sweeper has everything a woman could want! Except maybe someone else to do the vacuuming.

Kid's Corner

Creative Clay

Ingredients:

1 cup corn starch
2 cups baking soda
1-1/4 cups cold water

In a saucepan, add 1-cup cornstarch and 2 cups baking soda. Mix well. Add the water and heat until mixture is a moist, mashed potato consistency. Remove from pan and put on a plate. Cover this with a damp cloth. Let cool. Knead the clay, as you would bread dough. How to shape your clay: you can form the shapes with your hands, or you can roll out the clay to 1/4 inch thickness and cut with a cookie cutter or knife. Before the clay hardens, you can poke a hole near the top so you can add a string for hanging. Have fun making your shapes! This clay can be painted when dry with watercolors, poster paints, or markers. After painting, you can brush on nail polish or shellac to protect your artwork! This can be stored in a tightly sealed container for later use. These are perfect for Feast and Festival projects. Why not get a star of David cookie cutter, a cross, or heart and make decorations for around the house?

Silly Putty

Mix 2 parts white glue with 1 part liquid starch. Let it dry a little before using. This will store well in an airtight container.



"There's nothing better than coming home to a clean house and a happy family. Ask your husband!"



You children will run home from school if you spend time with them. They'll look forward to seeing you.

THE PROVERBIAL WOMAN

A virtuous woman, who can find?



Feel free to write with thoughts, recipes and ideas. I love interacting with other Proverbial Women! Know the story of a PW? Send it to me at the address below.

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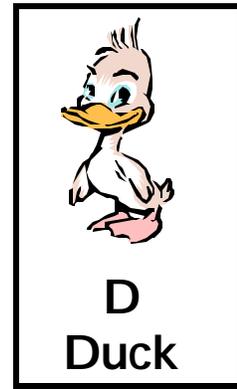
Magazine Scavenger Hunt

What you will need:

- Index cards
- Children's safety scissors
- Glue stick
- Old magazines

How to:

- Have each child write one letter of the alphabet on the top of each index card.
- Tell children to hunt through the magazines to find pictures that begin with the letters of the alphabet.
- Have children tape or paste pictures under the correct letters on index cards.
- You can make it a race or just have a quiet playtime full of learning! (I believe we have too much competition, so I frown on pitting one child against another all the time. Siblings have to resist jealousies and don't always know how. Be aware that this is a spiritual thing and consider when playing games with more than one child.)
- For older children, have them write out the names of the pictures.



A Poem of Choices

**Cleaning and scrubbing can wait till tomorrow
For children grow up, much to our sorrow
So quiet down cobwebs, dust go to sleep
I'm holding my baby and babies don't keep.**

Anonymous

