

S.I.L.L.Y. (Sisters In the Lord with Lots of Young'uns)

November 2008
Issue No. 2

“Her children arise up and call her blessed....” Proverbs 31:28

“God does extend special grace to those of us caring for little ones. He will not frown on us if we use the mundane moments of life—washing dishes, running errands, or even changing diapers—as our chances to talk with Him.”

--from A Mom Just Like You by Vickie Farris

For Breast-feeding Assistance:

I am an RN with 10 years of experience in labor and delivery. I miss the breast-feeding support and instruction that was such a huge part of my job, now that I stay home full time. If I can answer questions, or talk you through something, please call or email.
brantjamison@hotmail.com
or (419)452-6077

How Many Eggs Make it Into the House?

“Uh....Mom....I’ve got a problem!”

My son stood in the doorway of the kitchen, arms akimbo, looking down at his left pant leg, which was wet and....shiny? “You see-ee, I was climbing over the fence and I had two eggs in my pocket...” he continued. With a heavy sigh, I handed him another pair of clean jeans.

It is my son and oldest daughter’s job to gather the eggs every morning. We have 11 hens that are laying, and most of them produce an egg every day. That does not mean that I end up with 11 new eggs in my fridge every day. The stories are endless, Bodey’s most recent mishap is only another example. But it started me thinking about something that I do.

I don’t know if you all are like me, but I’m usually reading about five books at once. Titles in the stack beside my “nursing chair” right now include: Lies Women Believe, by Nancy Lee DeMoss, A Mom Just Like You, by Vickie Farris, Does the Birth Control Pill Cause Abortions?, by Randy Alcorn, and Sheparding a Child’s Heart, by Tedd Tripp. ...And then there’s the stack beside my bed....

I read all these wonderful books, and gain all these invaluable insights, but how many of them actually get put into practice in my everyday life? *How many eggs make it into the house?* All the wisdom in those books will do me no good if I don’t find a way to implement it!

Some practical suggestions for keeping the things you read from getting lost in the shuffle:

1. If you own the book, write yourself notes, highlight, and underline. This will help you find what you were looking for if you need to refer to something later.
2. Copy key concepts onto index cards and put them where you can see them throughout your day. (This works great for Bible Verses, especially). I personally dislike the messiness of notes taped to my walls, so when I cleaned out a box of extra decorating stuff recently, I came across several small picture frames. It gave me an idea. I am typing up verses and quotes in a pretty font and printing them out on cardstock. Then I pop them in the frames and set them all around the house. Voila! Inspirational and decorative!
3. Keep a Reading Notebook, with the highlights of each book you read, and page through it often to keep them fresh in your mind.
4. Ask someone you know to read a book or do a Bible study along with you, and then discuss what you learn on the phone, in person or via email. You will be much more likely to retain and put into practice what you talk about with a friend. If it is appropriate, you can keep each other accountable by asking “How’s it going?”
5. Just do it! Don’t wait for the perfect day, just get started and keep trying. And most importantly, Pray that the Lord will help you do the things that He wants you to!

Prayer Requests:

We'll post these new every month. If you would like one to stay on the list, please re-submit it each month, with updated information if possible.

* Karen Blocher and family—for healing from burns. Karen is now in rehab and has made miraculous progress!

* For our missionary families, especially the family of Dave Clapper, who was recently killed in a plane crash.

* For the leadership in our country as we approach election

* Angie Heisey—for healing with transverse myelitis, Angie recently received a second opinion that she does not have MS. Praise the Lord!

* For Cheryl Reed, fighting cancer that is now in her bones

* For Leadership Conference this month

* For this newsletter, that it would be used of God to help sisters who are raising young children

*I'm sure there are many others, send them in!

School Daze:

I would just like to recommend the book "Mudpies to Magnets" to anyone with a young son needing motivation. I use the incentive of getting to do an experiment from this book to help my son buckle down and do the "boring stuff." The ones we've tried so far are easy to do, fun and inexpensive. (Most use things that are just found around the house.) Some of the concepts will not be understood completely by young children, but it will provide a foundation for later learning in science.

Kids' Korner:



We recently acquired a tree frog. He was sitting on our kitchen floor, (I don't want to know how he got there!) We put him in the pickle jar where the tadpoles used to live, gave him some moss and stones and planted a small plant for him to sit on. We put a jar lid with some water at the bottom, and we get crickets from the pet shop to feed him. He shoves the legs in with his little hands when he eats them. It's very gross/cool! If tree frogs live in your area, you can probably catch one, otherwise, they sell them in pet shops for less than ten dollars. He's lots of fun.

Tips Appreciated!

Submitted by sister Kirsten Wertz

Does anyone else identify with this wild-eyed woman with the fake smile on Sunday morning? Several years ago, I decided she... had...to...go....away! Saturday evening prep for Sunday morning is the key! I don't always do this perfectly but I'm learning. I try to lay out my clothes and my younger children's clothes, including shoes, hair stuff, etc. I try to gather all the stuff I need to return to so-and-so and stick a post-it note in my Bible of anyone I need to visit with at church. I plan my Sunday dinner menu and try to do anything I can ahead. I also take a minute sometime on Sat. to read the Sunday School lesson. I set my alarm (I used to try to sleep in on Sunday...bad idea!) and try to get to bed at a decent time. When we get up, either Brad or I take a minute to get some music going on the stereo. This helps the general mood and atmosphere. Now, everyone has a job to complete before church, so we leave with a clean table (even set for dinner sometimes), a swept kitchen floor (so at least we're not crunching on breakfast) and someone else helps dress the littlest ones as I get dressed. When we get to church, I take a few deep breaths and try to think about what I'm singing and whisper a prayer that God will speak to my heart through the service and that He will use me to bless someone after the service. These things are helping to change the wild-eyed woman into a wiser woman. Just don't ask my husband if I'm always perfect at it yet!

Grandmas Fill Gaps

In the first issue I mentioned my mother and father-in-law's tradition of "Grandchild of the Week." My mother-in-law, Beth Jamison, sent this to add:

I would like to share how Rusty and I got started with that project. A couple of years ago, I became well acquainted with a woman from Pennsylvania. Joyce is the mother of four grown children and they are the combined parents of at least 22 (the last I knew) grandchildren. Their son and his wife have 15 (+) of those children. Joyce shared with me that she and her husband Morgan were fearful that some of the children would feel lost in the shuffle. She shared how the Holy Spirit led her to a special picture frame just the right size for a wallet size picture and a small silver carved box, also just the size of a wallet picture. She keeps current pictures of each grandchild in the box and rotates them weekly for the current "Grandchild of the Week". During that week, she and Morgan make a special effort to contact that child, by phone, letter or have them over if possible. They share about what is going on in his or her life and ask for special prayer requests.

I was so impressed with the idea that I started looking for a picture frame. Our "Grandchild of the Week" frame holds quite a number of pictures with one showing through a wooden frame. Each week I change the front picture to remind us which child's week it is. This frame stands on our dining room table so we see it at every meal and even though we pray for every grandchild, we specifically pray for that one that week. We encourage them to share prayer requests, praises, and things that are going on in their lives. The children all love the one-on-one time and so do we! We pray that we are not only making memories, but that we are forming a foundational relationship in which we will always be a safe haven for them to come to for encouragement, support and spiritual growth. I am amazed how much we grow by their examples before us!

From the Mouths of Babes

When my son, Bodey, was about two, he talked very clearly....too clearly sometimes. Facing us in the produce aisle, bending down to examine the melons, was a heavy, "well-endowed" woman in a tank top. Bodey was standing in the cart, so he had a bird's eye view. In a very loud, very clear voice he proclaimed, "Mom, that lady is NAKED!" I made a u-turn and headed for the canned goods at warp-speed, but he was not to be deterred. "DID YOU HEAR ME, MOM? SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANY CLOTHES ON!" He bellowed, hanging on to the side of the speeding cart. I was so embarrassed, but as my husband pointed out later, the woman who inspired Bodey's outburst should have been more embarrassed!

Faith Builders: by Kirsten Wertz

My three older boys (ages 10, 12 and 12) play contact football on Saturdays, so when Saturday rolls around they, being very responsible boys, (no, they just really love football) begin to gather all their gear for the game several hours early. Several Saturdays ago, my Corey came to me a couple of hours before game time, panicked. He couldn't find his red game jersey. We tore the house apart looking for that jersey. As game time became closer and closer, even I (who don't really love football) became concerned. There seemed to be nowhere left to look. So we sat down to pray (I know, we should have done this first). I think Corey thought I was crazy, praying that we would find a lost shirt, but I prayed that his and my faith would be strengthened in a great God Who is in control of all things, even lost game jerseys. Even our five year old, Libby, prayed for that silly shirt, because, as she reminded us, Grandma found her lost purse at church when she prayed that God would help her find it. Wouldn't you know it, within just a few minutes after praying, Matt started whooping and tossed that jersey off the balcony at me. He'd found it in his clean clothes basket! (Don't even ask why no one would have looked there!) You should have seen the look on Corey's face! It brought tears to my eyes! God is good, and He still would have been good even if we'd not found the shirt, but it was fun to praise Him for finding that lost shirt for us!

