

# S.I.L.L.Y.

S I S T E R S I N T H E L O R D W I T H L O T S O F Y O U N G ' U N S

## The Miracle of the Moment

“Life is not like your VCR—there is no pause, stop, or rewind. A moment cannot be recaptured, relived, or improved upon. There may never be another day so rich in opportunities and possibilities as today. Right now a moment of time is passing by. Seize it! Become the moment.”  
 ~Sue Augustine

*...And He has given us a treasure called right now,  
 And this is the only moment we can do anything about.  
 So breathe it in and breathe it out,  
 Listen to your heartbeat...  
 There's a wonder in the here and now  
 It's right there in front of you,  
 And I don't want you to miss  
 The miracle of the moment...*



So goes the popular song by Steven Curtis Chapman. Being fully present in the current moment is one of the greatest gifts we can give ourselves, and our families. It sounds easier than it actually is. How many times a day does this happen in your home? One of your children says, “Look, Mom!” while trying to show you their latest trick, drawing or treasure, and you absent-mindedly mumble, “That’s nice, Honey...” without taking your eyes off the task at hand. I know it happens to me. Sometimes, I get so caught up in the busyness that I hardly notice what’s going on around me. I even feel...numb at times. Like a motherly zombie, going through the motions of caring for my children, my home and my husband, but with no real feeling put into my actions. In talking with other women, I know I am not alone in this. Where are our minds and hearts? Consumed by the mental grocery list, “to do” list, the nagging worries, the checking account, and the constant cycle of prioritizing everyone’s needs? Sue Augustine says this in one of her devotionals, “We fall into a trap: believing that something else has to take place before we can truly be in the moment and enjoy it for what it is....how often we are somewhere in body but somewhere else in our thoughts!” So how do we change? She suggests writing the letters “BHN” on cards and posting them around the house. It stands for “Be Here Now.” Augustine recommends being more mindful of our senses; really listening to the notes of music or the sound of our children’s laughter, savoring smells, tastes, and the way things feel. She says that when you notice your mind wandering, gently draw it back. In trying to make this part of my own life, I have also found this helpful: I focus my inner dialog with God on what is happening or what I am doing in that moment. For example, as I’m folding laundry, I thank God that I have enough clothes for my children, that they are growing and healthy when I see something that’s getting too small, and that they are able to run and play when I find holes. I don’t always succeed in keeping my mind on the present, but with God’s help, I feel more able all the time to agree with H.L. Menken when he says, **“We are here and it is now.”**

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# THE FRUGAL WIFE

By Sister Caralorenz

Proverbs 6:6 "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways and be wise."

As "feeble" as the ants are, we can learn a number of important lessons from them. Some areas in which ants serve as illustrations for us include wise planning, frugality, doing what is needed, etc.

Proverbs 31:27 "She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness". Also study the rest of Proverbs 31 verses 10-31 for more encouragement and advice on how to be a virtuous woman.

As is probably the case with most of us ladies, my husband is the "bread winner" in our home and I am the "homemaker". At times I struggle with feeling guilty that I am not contributing financially; so this is how I do my part to help out with our budget.

\* The first and foremost thing I do is clip coupons. The Sunday paper is usually the best place to find several coupon inserts but you can also search online, swap with friends, get them out of magazines, etc. One of the biggest tricks to really saving \$ with coupons is to shop at stores that offer double coupon savings or head over to Target (if there's one in your area) where you can use a Target coupon and a manufacturer's coupon both on one item.

\*Check out [hip2save.com](http://hip2save.com) to keep up to date on the latest free samples, sales and coupons available.

\*Garage sale and go to thrift stores. You can usually stock up on some or all of the clothing items your children need for the next season; depending on their ages of course. It's usually easier to find smaller size clothes than bigger sizes, however.

\*Have a garage sale of your own or give away unused/out-grown items to friends and family. If you have a garage sale, consider making it a fun family project and then use the profits to go out for supper or ice cream together.

\*If there is a children's consignment shop in your town, take your children's outgrown clothing and sell it there. Use the proceeds to buy items (shoes, underwear, etc) that your children need. This way your children's clothing budget can kind of replenish itself.

\*Become a 'barber' and cut the men and boys' hair in your family! This seemed so scary to me at first but practice makes



Kevin and Cara's children: Abigail, Faith, Gabriel, and Timothy

perfect! To get started, I would suggest checking out 'hair cutting' books from your local library.

\*Learn to make your own laundry soap, dishwasher soap, etc. Again, check out books from your library or search on-line for different recipes.

\*GARDEN! Growing your own fruits and veggies not only feels rewarding, it really does save dollars. For example, if you calculate how much it would cost to buy enough green beans or corn from the grocery to feed your family for a year, versus how much it would cost you to grow and can/freeze your own, it really is a big savings!

\*Which brings me to my next frugal tip...can and freeze! It is a lot of work but not only does it taste better, it's easier on your wallet.

\*Cook ahead! If you have meals made ahead and frozen, you will be less likely to order in pizza or go out to eat if you have something you can pull out and pop in the oven.

\*We all enjoy a 'cooking night off' now and then. So, if you are treated to a meal out at a restaurant, save a few dollars by: drinking water, eating at a restaurant that you have a coupon for, split a meal with your husband, or choose a restaurant that doesn't require tipping. (Fazoli's, Panera Bread, fast food establishments, etc.) Another idea would be to order a pizza-to-go, bring along your own drinks and paper products, then head to a local park for a pizza picnic!

"At times I struggle with feeling guilty that I am not contributing financially; so this is how I do my part to help out with our budget."

## Kiddie Klassics



What do you think of when you see a candy cane? A fun book to read with your children at Christmastime is "The Candymaker's Gift" by David and Helen Haidle. This book tells the legend of the candy cane and some of the possible meanings of this traditional Christmas candy. Now when I eat a candy cane, I hold it upside down. Read this book with your children to find out why!

### A "Happy" Mess?

A section from "Homeschooling at the Speed of Life" by Marilyn Rockett....especially as Christmas time comes...

There's a difference between destructive, chaotic clutter and what I call "happy messes." If you home school, have a family who loves to learn, have hobbies, or just live life, you will have to deal with messes, even creative messes.

Knowing the difference in clutter or junk and happy messes is important. To determine the difference, ask yourself these questions:

1. Is the mess temporary?
2. Is it a mess created because of a project that will have a definite beginning and ending?
3. Is it serving a useful purpose for body, mind, or spirit?
4. Is it ministering to or serving the people around you?
5. Is it being currently used and enjoyed?

If you can answer yes to these questions, you have a happy mess. If not, you can't classify the mess as useful clutter no matter how much you rationalize. Creative messes are temporary or useful; determine if that applies to your various piles.

Selected by Sister Kirsten Wertz, Quinter, KS



Bodey, Bella and Brecken with their Great-Grandma

*A Question for those further down the path than I am....*

*Can you give those of us mothers with teenage sons ideas for ways to connect with our boys, to have fun with them, to get them to talk to us, to obey and respect us, etc.*

*Any advice for moms of teenage sons would be greatly appreciated!*

*~Sister Kirsten Wertz*

## She Bringeth Her Food From Afar

### Deviled Turkey

1/2 Teaspoon Salt per pound of turkey\*

2 Tablespoons Black Pepper

2 Tablespoons Sage

2 teaspoons Curry Powder

2 teaspoons Garlic Power

2 teaspoons Dried Parsley

2 teaspoons Celery seed

1 teaspoon Paprika

1/2 teaspoon Dry Mustard

1/4 teaspoon Allspice

3 or 4 Bay Leaves, crumbled

Mix all ingredients together. Rub bird well inside and out with vegetable (or Olive) oil. Make pockets with a sharp knife in the breast. Put dry mixture all over bird. Any mixture left over, rub in cavity. Let set over night in fridge. Roast as usual.

\* I use MUCH LESS salt.

This is extra delicious when roasted this way-

### Slow cook Method from

Emilee Barnes

### Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Wash turkey well, dry turkey with paper towels. Salt the cavity.

Rub outside of turkey with olive oil.

Stick meat thermometer into the turkey. (or not.)

Place breast down on a rack in your large roaster.

Roast one hour at 350 degrees to destroy surface bacteria.

Adjust heat to 180 to 200 degrees for a turkey of any size.

Roast one hour per pound.

Once the turkey is done, it will not overcook. You can leave it in the oven for an additional 3 to 6 hours and it will not overcook.

This is Crystal Trujillo's favorite turkey recipe!

"A household has to be tended if it is to flourish and grow. Housework is never "done" in the same sense that gardening is never done or that God's providential involvement in the world is never done. Housework and gardening and God's providence itself are exercises not in futility but in faithfulness."

~from Keeping House by Margaret Kim Peterson

### Buckeyes

#### Whip:

1 lb. margarine/butter

#### Add:

2 lbs. peanut butter

1 lb. powdered sugar

3 tsp. vanilla

Blend together mixture and knead in 2 lb powdered sugar. Make into 3/4-to 1-inch balls. Place in freezer until dipping chocolate is ready. Melt milk-chocolate melting wafers in the microwave. Next, remove only part of the balls from the freezer at a time so that they don't get too soft. Use a daring needle (or other small utensil like an orange peeler) and dip each ball into the melted chocolate, leaving a small spot uncoated to resemble a buckeye. Let dry on wax paper before storing.

Note: I love this recipe because most Christmas candy recipes take so much work, but this one is very easy to make and they usually go fast at Christmas parties!

P.S. Even though I'm now a Hoosier (whatever that is... no one seems to know), I still have my Buckeye spirit! ;-)

~Sister Amber Carpenter



### Pepperoni Dip

1/2 lb sliced pepperoni

2 (8 oz pkgs) cream cheese

2 cans condensed Cream of Celery Soup -- do not dilute

Cut pepperoni into quarters; add cream cheese & celery soup Put in small crock-pot on LOW & Cook for at least 2 hours, stirring often as it begins to boil. It's done when the cream cheese turns orange from the pepperoni.

Serve with plain nacho chips or your favorite crackers.

~Sister Beaty Sweitzer



**Special Occasions, Special Recipes!**

**Green Chili Roll-Ups**

- 8ozs (1 cup) sour cream
- 1 (8oz) pkg. cream cheese
- 1 (4oz) can diced green chillies (drained)
- 1 (4oz) can chopped black olives (drained)--OPTIONAL
- 2 cups shredded cheese
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 5 (10 inch) tortillas

**Salsa**

Mix all ingredients together except for the tortillas and salsa.

Spread mixture onto the 5 tortilla shells. Roll up ...Wrap in wax paper and then in saran wrap. Refrigerate overnight.

In the morning use an electric knife and cut the roll-ups

about 1/2 inch thick. Serve with Salsa! Enjoy!!



**“You shouldn’t spend all your time cooking and cleaning – those things are never done. You have to make something! What will you leave your daughters? A cell phone?”**

from Keeping House

by Margaret Kim Peterson



**Smoke Flavored Cheese Ball**

- 2 (8ozs) pkg cream cheese
  - garlic powder--as desired
  - 1 T Worcestershire sauce
  - 2 T liquid smoke
  - 2/3 box Velveeta cheese (room temp)
  - 1 T onion flakes
  - 1/2 T seasoned salt
  - 1/2 cup bacon bits or 1 pkg dried beef or 4ozs smoked salmon
- Mix all together and Chill. Serve with Crackers!!

Thanks to Sister Rhoda Martin, Cornerstone Congregation, for all the great recipes on this page!

**Homemade Cappuccino**

- 2 cups vanilla caramel creamer (dry)
  - 1 cup French vanilla creamer (dry)
  - 1 cup regular creamer (dry)
  - 2 cups dry milk
  - 3 Tb instant chocolate mix
  - 3/4 cup instant coffee
  - 2 cups powdered sugar
  - 1/2 tsp cinnamon
  - 1/2 tsp salt
- Mix together real well.
- 1/3 cup to 8 oz. of hot water.
- Stir and Enjoy!!

**Rice Krispie Candy**

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 (7oz) marshmallow cream
- 1 2/3 cup rice krispies

Mix all together.

Form into balls. Dip into melted dipping chocolate.



## For Sipping While You Read ...

### HOT SPICED CIDER:

2 1/2 qt. apple juice  
1 3/4 qt cranberry juice  
juice of one lemon  
1/2 c. brown sugar  
4 cinnamon sticks  
1/2 tsp. cloves

Pour it all into a kettle and simmer to make your house smell wonderful and then enjoy when you are ready!

### HOT CHOCOLATE MIX:

2 c. powdered sugar  
10 c. powdered milk  
24 oz choc milk mix  
8 oz. non dairy creamer (use a Christmas flavored one for something different and fun)  
Mix it all together. Use 1/4 c. mix to a mug of hot water.

Contributed by :

Sister Janelle Trujillo

## Worth Reading

A book recommendation from Sister Janelle Trujillo:

We always anticipate Christmas for a long time at our house. One of the things we have enjoyed over and over is reading the book "Cosmic Christmas" by Max Lucado. To give you a little taste of what it's about, I'll quote from the front cover.

"....Do we know the whole story? (of Christmas) What about the hidden happenings that might have led to our Savior's birth? Was the arrival of Jesus a quietly profound event, or could it have been the result of heavenly battles, angel armies and a scheming Satan? Envision a confrontation in Heaven be-

tween the King of creation and the rebellious Satan. Threats. Challenges. A gauntlet laid on the floor of the sky....Angels battling Satan's armies as they transport the essence of Heaven itself....see what might have taken place one Cosmic Christmas."

It's the most inspiring Christmas book I've ever read!



***BRRRRR!! Good thing this is snuggling weather, Dad!***

***(Brant with Bronte and Brielle last year)***

## Another Kiddie Klassic



One of the Trujillo kids' favorite Christmas books has a wonderful lesson,. It's called "The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey." The story is about a lonely, grumpy wood carver and how his heart is softened by a young boy and his mother who order a nativity set from him. It is well written with enough fun and humor to keep the children's attention.

**Last Thanksgiving, we ladies got all the supplies to make a fruit topiary for the center piece. It was a fun thing for us to do together while the food cooked and it looked quite festive and "fruity" on the table! This year I found lots more ideas on the Better Homes and Garden's website. You could include the children in creating it, too....if you have the patience and choose one that is easy enough for them. Remember, it's more about the fun and experience of doing it than making it look "picture perfect!" ~Sis. Janelle Trujillo**

## Give Your Children the Gift of Prayer



### 31 Biblical Virtues to Pray for Your Kids

from Sister Kirsten Wertz

1. **Salvation.** "Lord, let salvation spring up within my children, that they may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory." (Is. 45:8, 2 Tim. 2:10).
2. **Growth in grace.** "I pray that my children may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18).
3. **Love.** "Grant, Lord that my children may learn to live a life of love, through the Spirit who dwells in them" (Gal. 5:25, Eph. 5:2).
4. **Honesty and integrity.** "May integrity and honesty be their virtue and their protection" (Ps. 25:21).
5. **Self-control.** "Father, help my children not to be like many others around them, but let them be alert and self-controlled in all they do" (1 Thess. 5:6).
6. **Love for God's Word.** "May my children grow to find Your Word more precious than much pure gold and sweeter than honey from the comb" (Ps. 19:10).
7. **Justice.** "God, help my children to love justice as You do and act justly in all they do" (Ps. 11:7, Mic. 6:8).
8. **Mercy.** "May my children always be merciful, just as their Father is merciful" (Lk. 6:36).
9. **Respect** (for self, others, authority). "Father, grant that my children may show proper respect to everyone, as Your Word commands" (1 Pet. 2:17).
10. **Biblical self-esteem.** "Help my children develop a strong self-esteem that is rooted in the realization that they are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:10).
11. **Faithfulness.** "Let love and faithfulness never leave my children, but bind these virtues around their necks and write them on the tablet of their hearts" (Prov. 3:3).
12. **Courage.** "May my children always be strong and courageous in their character and in their actions" (Dt 31:6).
13. **Purity.** "Create in them a pure heart, O God, and let that purity of heart be shown in their actions" (Ps. 51:10).
14. **Kindness.** "Lord, may my children always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else" (1 Thess. 5:15).
15. **Generosity.** "Grant that my children may be generous and willing to share, and so lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age" (1 Tim. 6:18-19).
16. **Peace-loving.** "Father, let my children make every effort to do what leads to peace." (Rom. 14:19).
17. **Joy.** "May my children be filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit" (1 Thess. 1:6).
18. **Perseverance.** "Lord, teach my children perseverance in all they do, and help them especially to run with perseverance the race marked out for them" (Heb. 12:1).
19. **Humility.** "God, please cultivate in my children the ability to show true humility toward all" (Titus 3:2).
20. **Compassion.** "Lord, please clothe my children with the virtue of compassion" (Col. 3:12).
21. **Responsibility.** "Grant that my children may learn responsibility, for each one should carry his own load" (Gal. 6:5).
22. **Contentment.** "Father, teach my children the secret of being content in any and every situation, through Him who gives them strength" (Phil. 4:12, 13).
23. **Faith.** "I pray that faith will find root and grow in my children's hearts, that by faith they may gain what has been promised to them" (Lk. 17:5-6, Heb. 11:1-40).
24. **A servant's heart.** "God, please help my children develop servants' heart, that they may serve wholeheartedly, as if they were serving the Lord, not men" (Eph. 6:7).
25. **Hope.** "May the God of hope grant that my children may overflow with hope and hopefulness by the power of the Holy Spirit" (Ro. 15:13).
26. **Willingness and ability to work.** "Teach my children, Lord, to value work and to work at it with all their heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Col. 3:23).
27. **Passion for God.** "Lord, please instill in my children a soul that 'followeth hard after thee' (Ps. 63:8), one that clings passionately to you."
28. **Self-discipline.** "Father, I pray that my children may acquire a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair" (Prov. 1:3).
29. **Prayerfulness.** "Grant, Lord, that my children's lives may be marked by prayerfulness, that they may learn to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Eph. 6:18).
30. **Gratitude.** "Help my children to live lives that are always overflowing with thankfulness and always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:20, Col. 2:7).
31. **A heart for missions.** "Lord, please help my children to develop a desire to see Your glory declared among the nations, Your marvelous deeds among all peoples" (Ps. 96:3).

## MY HEART HAS LEARNED GRATITUDE

BY SISTER RACHEL MARKS, MCCLAVE, CO

As Thanksgiving approaches, I think back over the year... pondering all of the things that have happened. Things have not been rosy this year! At times I have asked God if He *really* knew what He was doing... if not, I had some pretty good ideas! He always assured me He knew exactly what He was doing. Through the events of the past year, I have learned an entirely new way of looking at things, how to "Give Thanks" in *everything*. I believe that was God's intent.



In March of this year, our children were sick and feverish, *again*. They seemed to be fighting colds all the time. We knew the house we were living in had black mold. My mom suggested it could be the mold that was making the kids sick all the time and we should move in with them for a couple weeks to see if that would help. One week after we moved in with my parents, my son had stopped coughing, his eyes had cleared up and once again he had energy! The fevers were gone! I was thrilled.

Because we were not prepared to move out of our other house, we just continued to live with my parents, "until we could find another place." Life happened and there just never was another place. We prayed about it and decided to build a house. Our plans were simple, nothing extravagant. All I wanted was a place where I could keep my children healthy and clean! We started the paperwork, but it seemed to drag on forever! I felt extremely frustrated because I couldn't do anything to speed up the process. Trying to be a family in my parents' home was taking an emotional toll on all of us. I knew that I had to just give it to God. But there was something in me that wanted to grab it back and tell God that I could do it better! Why was God taking so long to work things out? Why wouldn't He just snap His fingers and make it all fall into place?

I knew that I had to just give it to God. But there was something in me that wanted to grab it back and tell God that I could do it better!

Garden planting time came, and it seemed that since I couldn't control the house thing I had to control the garden thing. I was determined to have the best garden I had ever had! I worked hard on it. At least my plants would have no excuses. I was so excited when they started coming up! Finally, I *could* make something happen! However, God wasn't nearly finished with the lesson He wanted to teach me. He still wanted me to learn to let it all go to Him. In reality, I can do nothing without Him. But I sure thought I would try. I nearly drove my family nuts with my obsession to get this garden to produce! Then, when the plants were just getting big enough to really look pretty, guess what? Yes, a nice hail came and wiped it out. Almost everything. I cried.

I was so upset. I told God, "Fine, if I can't do this then you have to. You have to make the house work out. If You want me to have a garden, You have to make it grow and produce." I really was trying to give it over to God. So I replanted. Once again, when the plants were about to start producing, along came another hail. That was the breaking point. God was showing me that I had still not given my garden, or my life, completely over to Him. When the hail started, without even thinking, I ran out and started trying to put buckets over my plants. My husband looked at me as if he had no idea who this crazy woman was! With the hail coming down, I got as far as the back yard gate. Then I stopped and thought, "No, I am not going to cover the garden. It doesn't matter if I do cover it! If God doesn't want me to have a garden it will not produce no matter what I do." It was a little comical but also made me realize how unrealistic I was being.

At that point, I truly gave all the tiny details in my life to God. And the big ones! I relaxed and was totally filled with peace. All those worries I thought about every day were of no value. Unless God made something happen, it wasn't going to happen! Over the next few months God worked on sowing that belief deep into my soul. Every time I got a vegetable out of my garden I praised God for it! Every time I filled my skirt with cucumbers, squash and zucchini, I was filled with gratitude. It was *only* God who made that happen. At last, I was able to give everything over to Him. I could lie down and sleep in peace every night!

## MY HEART HAS LEARNED GRATITUDE (CONTINUED)

BY SISTER RACHEL MARKS, MCCLAVE, CO

Recently, I experienced quite a test on this lesson God taught me. I woke up on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 am to the sound of my daughter, Kristen, crying and wanting out of her crib. Although groggy, I went to get her right away so she wouldn't wake Braden up. I picked her up and she asked me for cereal. I told her, "After you lay down with Mommy for a little bit, I will get your cereal." She laid her head down on my chest and fell asleep. I was stroking her head and noticed it was drenched with sweat. Maybe she was running a fever, I thought. I put her down on the bed and got up to get dressed. Leon had left earlier to go bow hunting for deer, so he wasn't there. Braden came in at 6:00 and woke Kristen up. She looked a little funny but I thought she was just sleepy. She asked again for cereal, so I picked her up and we went out to get breakfast. Kristen didn't want me to put her down so I carried her on my shoulder. She fell asleep again almost instantly. Because she felt so limp, I pulled her down into the crook of my elbow so I could see her. She was very pale and her head had stopped sweating. I tried to wake her up to eat. Kristen didn't wake up, but thinking she was sick, I didn't try very hard. I got the thermometer and took her temperature. It said 96.6. "No fever...that's strange." I thought.

Thankfully we were living with my mom and dad! I got Mom to come look at her. Mom pinched my daughter's toe really hard and she didn't flinch. Mom said "I am going to call the ambulance." It didn't matter what I said or did, Kristen wouldn't move. She felt so cold. She was dying before my very eyes and I had no idea what had happened! While we were waiting for the ambulance, Dad, Mom and I laid hands on her and prayed for God to intervene. At that point, she opened her eyes briefly, but she was still unresponsive. It seemed to be taking an eternity for the ambulance to get there. I tried to comfort Braden and all the while I was thinking that if the ambulance would just get there they could fix her. They could warm her up and get her better.

When the ambulance finally arrived, I ran out to meet them with Kristen in my arms. After I laid her on the cot, I could see that the EMT was as flustered as I was. She seemed to be trying to figure out what to do. The emergency squad staff's inability to save Kristen hit me then. "My baby will die unless God chooses to let me keep her longer." I thought. As we sped to the hospital, I held Kristen's head, trying to keep it a little warmer. I prayed the entire way that we would be able to keep her a little longer, if it was God's will. I realized that the baby girl lying there on the bed was not mine. She belonged to God. I thought, "He has allowed me to be her mommy, but Kristen is not mine. He has numbered her days and when He calls her home, she'll go." I thought of all of the parents I know who have had to deal with the death of a child. I felt a shadow of their pain.

Kristen's blood pressure was dangerously low. I kept praying. When we walked into the ER I saw two of the best nurses that work there. I knew that God had my little girl in the palm of His hand. Nothing was going to happen to Kristen except He allowed it. I was overwhelmed with peace! I knew that God loved her more than I did and that He would direct the doctors and nurses. They got her I.V. in on the first try. The doctor asked, "Did you check her blood sugar?" They checked it and found it was very low. He told them to put sugar in her I.V. and Kristen woke right up! She started crying and I decided that was the most beautiful sound I've ever heard!



The way God orchestrated all these events has strengthened my faith tremendously. It has opened doors to share God with people that I wouldn't normally approach. I am thankful that God has allowed everything in this last year to happen. I've learned to rest in Him. I don't have to know the whys. I just have to know that He has created me for His glory and I can fulfill that purpose wherever He puts me, and whatever happens in my life! Thank You Lord, for the things that aren't so rosy, thank you for the trials, the things that make me reach out to You.

## A CHRISTMAS CANDLE TRADITION

BY SISTER LAURA HAWBAKER

When a Funk family Christmas dinner is being planned, a certain part of the menu never changes. The vegetable and dessert may vary from year to year, and the hostess might adventurously stray from our favorite fare of turkey and dressing. Bowls of cranberries and olives find their way to most of our family gatherings, but the one thing unique to our Christmas dinner is the gumdrop candle holders. I'm not sure when my mother started this tradition or where she came up with the idea, but they have been a part of our Christmas custom for years.



Bodey and Breck

A word of caution: boys are fascinated with flame.

The gumdrop candles are easy to make. You will need a large red or green gumdrop for each guest, white life savers and white or red birthday cake candles. Using a sharp knife, cut a slit in the side of the gum drop, just large enough to insert a life saver. This becomes the handle to your candle holder. Next, use your sharp knife to bore a small hole in the top of the gumdrop and insert a birthday candle. Make sure you have extra candles as they break easily. You now have a cute Christmas candle holder. Write the names of your guests on small slips of paper, loop the paper around the candle and secure with a drop of glue. These can be placed, unlit, around the table as name cards.

Toward the end of the meal you can have a candle lighting ceremony. To make this successful you may want to remind your guests not to eat their candle holders during the meal. Turn off the lights and have one centerpiece candle burning. Designate one person to light his candle from the centerpiece and then offer his flame to the person sitting next to him. As the flickering flame goes around the table, it is amazing how much light is made in the darkened room.

When all the candles are lit, a song is the next part of the ritual. Any Christmas carol would be appropriate; our family warbles though "This Little Light of Mine." The simple words of this children's song remind us that Jesus is the true light and that individually and together we can offer hope to this sad world.

A word of caution: boys are fascinated with flame. It seems that every group of boy cousins down through the years (boy cousins dominate in the Funk family) have not been able to resist the temptation to not only light their neighbor's candle, but also his napkin or left over roll. Dads should keep a close eye on the group of boy cousins before and during the candle lighting ceremony.

Have fun making gumdrop Christmas candles this year!

## Dad Dollars



Brielle, Bronte, Bodey and Bella take a close look at their new baby brother, Brecken

I read this neat idea in my Family Fun magazine. There is a website you can go to, [festisite.com/money](http://festisite.com/money), where you can upload any photo and place it in the center of a dollar bill. (or pound, yen, etc.) Then you can print them off on your home computer. Did I mention this is free? The mom who wrote the article then used these "Dad Dollars" (she put her husband on the bill) to pay her children for extra chores, etc. They could redeem them for special treats or privileges, like a game of catch with Dad, an extra story at bedtime, and so on. Here's an example:



**"Children long for connection with the real things of the real world, for work that is real and satisfying and that can help them become creators and producers rather than simply spectators and consumers of the labor of others."**

from Keeping House by Margaret Kim Peterson

## Preventing H1N1

An email I received from a friend gives the advise of Dr. Vinay Goyal on how to help avoid being infected with the H1N1 flu.

The only portals of entry are the nostrils and mouth/throat. In a global epidemic of this nature, it's almost impossible to avoid coming into contact with H1N1 in spite of all precautions. Contact with H1N1 is not so much of a problem as proliferation (growth and multiplying of the virus within your body) is.

While you are still healthy and not showing any symptoms of H1N1 infection, in order to prevent proliferation, aggravation of symptoms and development of secondary infections, some very simple steps, not fully highlighted in most official communications, can be practiced (instead of focusing on how to stock N95 or Tamiflu):

1. Frequent hand-washing.
2. "Hands-off-the-face" approach. Resist all temptations to touch any part of your face until after you wash your hands.
3. Gargle twice a day with warm salt water (use Listerine if you don't trust salt). \*H1N1 takes 2-3 days after initial infection in the throat/ nasal cavity to multiply and show characteristic symptoms. Simple gargling prevents proliferation. In a way, gargling with salt water has the same effect on a healthy individual that Tamiflu has on an infected one. Don't underestimate this simple, inexpensive and powerful preventative method.
4. Similar to #3, clean your nostrils at least once every day with warm salt water. Blowing the nose hard once a day and swabbing both nostrils with q-tips dipped in warm salt water is very

effective in bringing down viral population.

5. Boost your natural immunity with foods that are rich in Vitamin C (citrus fruits). \*If you have to supplement with Vitamin C tablets, make sure that it also has Zinc to boost absorption.

6. Drink as much of warm liquids (tea, coffee, etc) as you can. Drinking warm liquids has the same effect as gargling, but in the reverse direction. They wash off proliferating viruses from the throat into the stomach where they cannot survive, multiply or do any harm.



Brie loves shuffling through the leaves

### Birth Announcements

~Brecken Samuel Jamison on October 22, 2009, to Brant and Bonny Jamison, West Fulton, OH Isn't he wonderful?



~Sydney Hope Noecker on October 30, 2009, to Lyndell and Rita Noecker, West Fulton, OH Isn't she wonderful?



### Prayer Requests:

\*Rhoda Martin requests prayer for: my husband, Moine, to find a job, my father (Ed Gingerich) who has been in the hospital with double pneumonia, and us as a family that we would know God's will for our lives and that we would follow the path that He has chosen for us.

\*For this newsletter, that God would use it to speak to and encourage mothers, that I would have time to put it together, and that others would be inspired to write.

Dear Sisters,

Thanks for all the prayers, congratulations and cards after the birth of our son! Also, a big thank you to the many of you who took time to contribute to this issue of S.I.L.L.Y. I have really enjoyed putting this one together, and hope you will enjoy reading it just as much. For the "New Year's Edition" send in your ideas for cleaning, organization, eating right, and making daily Bible study and prayer consistent. I hope to send it out around the first of January. Please excuse any extra typos this time. I typed a lot of it with one hand, while nursing Breck!

Love in Christ, Sister Bonny

### The Kiss on the Ortonville Road

My husband kisses me in the middle of the street. We started this habit several years ago when we discovered an "x" carved in the middle of Ortonville Road. We often enjoy an evening stroll on our country road, which bears the uncreative name of 270<sup>th</sup> St. Our gravel road intersects with the paved road labeled R16 on the map, but better known as the Ortonville Road, named after the long defunct Orton Brothers Circus. The intersection of these two roads marks the turning point in our walking path and it was there we saw the "x."

At first I thought the "x" was mysterious—like a secret code or something, but my logical husband explained that it was a benchmark, put there by surveyors. Apparently surveyors mark certain areas as fixed points from which to figure their calculations and measurements. Although logical, my husband is also romantic, and he decided the "x" in the middle of the road would be a good place to give me a kiss.

Thus began our tradition, we always kiss on the "x" on The Ortonville Road. I am sure the surveyors have no idea their "x" is anything more than a benchmark, but we enjoy our little tryst. Sometimes, my husband playfully threatens more than just a kiss! There is something daring, yet comfortably familiar with this ritual kiss.

This past summer the Ortonville Road experienced a complete

make-over. Enriched by stimulus money, the county decided patching the pot holes and cracks would no longer suffice. This stretch of road was due for a major overhaul and every inch of aging concrete was to be torn out and replaced with a new, smooth roadway. My husband and I still took our evening walks, checking construction progress and stepping around the orange barricades to see if our "x" still survived. The huge equipment bore closer and closer to 270<sup>th</sup> Street crushing concrete in its path, leaving bare road behind. Of course, our "x" was eventually pulverized.

New concrete was poured and we wondered if the surveyors would replace the "x". With new methods of mapping like global positioning, surely carving an "x" in the middle of the road was obsolete.

Several weeks after the barricades were removed and the road was again open for travel, the "x" reappeared! Magically, I think.

Although "kissing in the middle of Ortonville Road is probably not on the list of top ten romantic dates, it has become a special ritual to this middle-aged, young at heart couple!

~Thanks to Sister Laura Hawbaker