

Serving God and Family

Volume 1 ~ Number 2

28 August 2008



Still Figuring It All Out

By: Crystal Sewell

Starting a new website is exciting,

time consuming, exhausting and can bring on some stress when it doesn't go as I want it to! Does this sound familiar? This is life my friends! I am learning a new lesson in patience with this ministry. I am learning that the enemy will attack anything that we do to glorify the Lord. I haven't received any "hate mail"...yet. I do expect it at some point though. This means that I need to keep my focus on the Lord and not on the attacks (potential or inevitable) the enemy will throw at me.

The past few days have proved to be a trying time in that I have been challenged for several days on my passionate position on the issue of "homeschooling". My husband and I just recently purchased two MP3s and a DVD set by Dr. Voddie Bauchman on the homeschooling issue. We agree with Dr. Bauchman that Christians should think twice about placing their children in the public school system.

I encourage you to take a look at the links I have provided on the website for more information on this topic and to purchase Dr.

Voddie Bauchman's MP3s that are only \$1.99. My husband and I are not in the habit of telling people to "buy" anything, but these purchases were well worth it. Dr. Bauchman provides informative statistics done by the P.E.E.R.S. test on the effects of a public school education on a Christian child's worldview. The results are frightening!



I love this picture of a mother teaching her two young daughters. It is such a sweet depiction of a mother's influence on her daughters.

Seeking To Know God

By: Crystal Sewell



I must admit that “being still”

is not something I am good at. Being asked to be still in the midst of chaos and wait on the Lord is not easy for me to do. I would go as far as to say that “no one” has perfected this. In our selfishness and holding on to feelings of entitlement we sometimes forget to let go of the reins and remember that God IS in control. If we could just remember this every time we see the tidal wave rising up ahead of us, then we may not panic as much as we do. Knowing that God is God should bring us much comfort and peace. He knows the end from the beginning, which tells me only He is capable of getting me through the trials and tribulations that find me. He knows the absolute best direction in which I should walk to get through the maze of a trial. This does not mean that I can close my eyes as a scared child afraid of the dark. I need to keep my eyes on Him. As He walks us through each trial there are lessons to be learned that can only be grasped if we are paying attention.

There is something beautiful about the way the Lord desires for us to rely and depend solely on Him. It shows us His jealousy for us. He will not allow us to treat Him second best. His jealousy is a righteous and justified one. I can only imagine what it must feel like to watch your child go astray and love something else more than you. I look at my children and cannot fathom the pain I would feel if I ever heard them blatantly call another woman “mommy”. The sheer thought makes my heart cringe. When we do not put God first in our lives this is essentially what we are doing. We are abandoning our first loved us. Our ability to love and the One Who first loved us is caused by God not have the first clue know love and to love the Lord is caused by God not have the first clue loving us first. We would what “love” is or how to have it for someone.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your might and with all your strength.”

Deuteronomy 6:5

As with any relationship the only way to get to know someone is to spend time with that person. Get to know their likes and dislikes. As you continue spending time with that person you will eventually come to know them inside and out. The only way to know the Lord in this intimate way is to be in His Word. The Lord gave divine inspiration to many men to pen the scriptures for us. This wasn't to give us a book of “do's and do not's”, but a book that will allow us to “know” Him intimately. The primary way the Lord speaks to His children is not through a mystical fuzzy feeling, but through His Word. As a mother of two young children making special time for this one on one encounter with the Lord is difficult. I must admit I have not been doing well in this area. I have neglected my first love for a couple more minutes (literally only minutes) of sleep in the morning. I have shared my convictions in this area with my husband and he has been so gracious to encourage me. He knows that I have a longing to love the Lord with all of my heart, soul, and might. However, having this desire and actually “making” the time are two separate things. I am determined to make the time for the Lord that He is entitled to.



Featured Recipe

A friend of mine emailed me this cute idea for a sweet treat. I have not actually tried it out, but thought I would share it with you all anyway. This way we can all try it out at the same time! I would love to hear how this all worked out for you!

Minute Chocolate Mug Cake

1 Coffee Mug
4 tablespoons flour (that's plain flour, not self-rising)
4 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons baking cocoa
1 egg
3 tablespoons milk
3 tablespoons oil
3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)
Small splash of vanilla

Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly. Pour in the milk and oil and mix well. Add the chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla, and mix again. Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts. The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed! Allow to cool a little, eat in the Mug or turn mug over & put on plate. If desired, add Vanilla Ice cream (this can serve 2 if you want to share!)

And why is this the most dangerous cake recipe in the world?

Because now we are all only 5 minutes away from chocolate cake at any time of the **day or night!**



Final Thoughts

I pray that you have enjoyed this edition. I know that it isn't very long. I have posted three of my newest "Contributing Writers" bio's on the site. I hope to incorporate their writings into the newsletters soon.

We will be evacuating this weekend due to Hurricane Gustav gracing us with his presence. Please pray for everyone's safety on the coast and that the storm would not get too strong or cause much damage.

Let us always keep one another in prayer. Feel free to email me with your ideas and questions. I cannot promise to always respond, but I will certainly make every effort to. My husband and my children come first!

Until next time...

Serving God and My Family,
Crystal <><

