

Raising Mothers

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850.941.0482



Photo by E. Costales

“All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother.” *Abraham Lincoln*

“My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her.”

~ *George Washington*

FAITH: SOUL FOOD FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH *Betty J. Winters, CA*

Happy New Year and blessings to each MOMSWEB reader! I hope that each of you had a wonderful and blessed Christmas as you joined with family and friends in celebrating Jesus; and that you are looking forward in great anticipation to a New Year of beginnings.

As we reflect on the past year, I am certain that many of you, as well as I, had some spiritual “storms” in 2007. Perhaps some were self-induced and some caused by someone else; nevertheless, they were storms. If it had not been for God on our side, I am sure there were some circumstances that would have “drowned” us. It is for this reason that I want to encourage you to acquire a stronger **FAITH** in 2008—the best soul food for spiritual growth.

There is, and rightly so, a greater concern about our physical well-being than ever before. Just as our bodies ingest certain foods that provide vitamins, minerals, and nutrients to grow physically, we need to ingest the soul food



What's on
your mind?

from the Plenary **WORD** of God in order to grow spiritually.

Faith is one of the “soul foods” that makes us grow strong spiritually. In II Cor. 13:5a the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write these words: “Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith; prove yourselves...” As we traverse these earthly shores self-examination is certainly necessary for our faith will certainly be tested in various ways. To have our faith work at its fullest capacity, we need to realize what faith is. In Hebrews 11:1 we read, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” What does this mean? My personal interpretation of this verse is simply this, “Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” We cannot please God in 2008 (Heb. 11:6) if we do not maintain our faith. True faith is based upon Scriptural facts. If our faith is not established on facts, we have no more going for us than mere conjecture, superstition, speculation, and presumption.

We have nothing spectacular to offer God, and nothing pleases Him more than to be the Father of children who completely depend upon and trust Him, knowing without a doubt that He is able to keep that which we have committed unto Him against that great day.

Whatever circumstances come your way in 2008, watch Him stretch your Faith in the valley to grow and strengthen your faith with hinds’ feet to “scale” the mountains.

KEEP THE FAITH!

Kay from Michigan says, “We can gain a more passionate love for our husbands, children and even in our homemaking if we are more intimately and actively aware of them. We can pursue a greater knowledge of what they are and of what our homes are made of by making ourselves students of our husbands, our children, and our homes.”

Lara from FL has comfort for mothers of teenagers.

“I have one thing to say about mothering teenagers: this too, shall pass...and then they will have kids of their own and we can say HA! I think we all want so badly to “make our kids happy.” But this is NOT our job as parents. Our job is to feed them, guide them, and impose consequences as necessary so they can negotiate the real world when it is time. I hope other moms who are struggling with their teen issues can recognize this simple truth - although, the mom-guilt creeps in on all of us every now and then!”

Nine year-old Brooke from Florida had a revelation! “Mom, I finally realized what God is; God isn't a shape and doesn't look like humans...God is everything and in everything; the wind, the trees, the rain, the sky, and the universe.”

Kila from Ohio shares her thoughts.

“Everyday I keep my thoughts in line with what I WANT to happen in my life and so far it is moving me forward at light speed. Decide on what you want to happen in your life, even if it seems impossible. All things are possible. The motto of Chriman Academy, my family’s homeschool, is ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE! Be careful of how you judge hard times. Many times, those are the main catalysts to get us where we need to be. The more you fight against something, the harder it will be for you to overcome it. Accept yourself where you are and see yourself where you want to be until all your decisions are in line with where you are headed.”

Celebrating Your Children

Tori McCollum, CA

In a world where child pornography and pedophilia run rampant, we as mothers are reminded that our children are precious and their lives should be cherished, while realizing that they're only with us for a short while. Remember how they loved to play, laugh, read with you, and shower kisses on your face! How they would follow you everywhere, wanted to be with you in every place, and longed for your attention and your pride. Now, if you can get a kiss and hug from them without embarrassing them in front of their friends, you've met your objective on the Mom-O-Meter...don't forget to contribute toward the bake sale, remember you're the Carpool Mother this week, and don't embarrass the children with incessant kisses and hugs while they're with their peers!

What about the plethora of sporting events you attended; providing snacks and beverages for the team when it was your turn. Funny how time just slips away, they don't stay babies forever, but you can rest assured that every day of their lives should be a celebration of them; their accomplishments, their strengths, and their weaknesses. To love a child means to love them unconditionally for they are fearfully and wonderfully made by God. [Continue Reading](#)



“My actions are more powerful than my words. My example sets the foundation for character development. My love builds confidence and self esteem. My hands are God’s tools. Being a Mother is my greatest challenge, yet my greatest fulfillment.”

LaVender Williams, FL

Remembering Alicia

Submitted by Patricia Rock, FL

My daughter, Alicia Dumas-Waites, was always a joy and grew to be an amazing woman. God gave me 26 wonderful years of her life that will always be cherished in my heart. Alicia was born in Nurnburg Bavaria, Germany, February 1, 1981 and went home to be with the Lord on December 14, 2007. She accepted the Lord at an early age, being about His business throughout her life. She was active in school activities and church activities at St. John Baptist Church and then Greater Little Rock Baptist Church, both in Pensacola, Florida. After high school, Alicia joined the U. S. Army for a short time and got married. She took up residency in Grand Prairie, TX, attended Friendship-West Baptist Church, Dallas, TX (Dr. Fredrick D. Haynes III, Pastor) and worked fulltime with the Army Corp of Engineers. She was currently a single mom sharing the raising of her three boys, Josiah, Kaysaan, and LeCoreyan Waites while pursuing her degree in law at Texas Wesleyan University, Dallas Texas. In her quiet time, she wrote a lot of spiritual poetry. One to share:

MY CLOSET

By Alicia Dumas-Waites

In my closet, I find peace.
I sit and meditate on God; and on His word.
My closet is my safe haven, my sanctuary, my pyramid of emotions.
When I am anxious, annoyed, and I need to get away....
I let go and let God, in my closet.
I relax, relate, release, in my closet.
My crying doesn't cease, in my closet.
My prayers are shouted aloud, in my closet.
I stand on solid ground, in my closet.
I catch the Holy Spirit, in my closet.
God's voice, how I can hear it, in my closet.
I dance for joy, in my closet.
My praise deploy, in my closet.
And I lay, with open arms, open heart, and open mind, Awaiting for the anointing. God has for me...In my closet.

Words of Wisdom for the New Year

Author unknown

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight, and height.
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.
3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain die.
4. Enjoy the simple things
5. Laugh often, long, and loud.
6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on.
7. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it is family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever.
8. Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
9. Don't take guilt trips. Go to the mall, the next country, a foreign country, but not the guilt country.
10. Tell the people you love, that you love them, at every opportunity.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.



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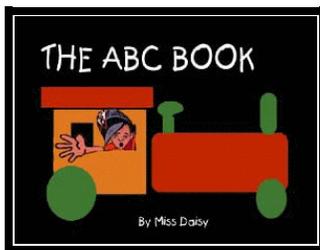
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