



The Apple's Core

Keeping Christ at the Core

Organized Reality

By Melinda Bargery

When Wendy asked me to write an article on organization and balance in life, my first thought was, she sure doesn't know me very well! My second thought was, how many weeks do I have to whip my life into shape so that I can be completely truthful with these other moms! I then mentioned it to several family members and got similar looks of disbelief and confusion. My daughter, Haley, with a smidge of sadness said "Well... We are somewhat organized, but I am not sure our family is the one to write an article on it." The best reaction though came from my dear mother who is still getting over that I am a mentor mom in the first place! J She said rather matter-of-factly, "Well, did you just tell them that you couldn't do it?" As I was making my bed one morning (yes, I have made my bed everyday since Wendy asked me to write the article), I glanced at the bookshelf in my bedroom. I must have 20 books on the subjects of organization and balance!

The reality... Organization and balance

are two areas of my life that have always presented a struggle for me. I was not born with what I would call the organization gene, and balance is something I strive for but often seem to miss the mark a bit. Talking with a good friend who was born with the gene, I realized that all of us feel like we fall short in these two areas. She even had the audacity to say she was not really organized! GASP!

The point is, over these 20 years of marriage and raising a family, God has made it clear to me that organization and balance are simply tools to help me more efficiently travel down the path He has for my life. They are not an end unto themselves or something to be worshipped. God is not at all surprised about who I am or that I would struggle with this desire to have a picture-perfect life. He wants us to place our trust and hope in Him and for our lives to reflect that He is the answer to the equation of life. Although I most certainly don't have this all figured out, God has patiently used my struggles to re-

veal certain truths to me regarding life's balancing act.

1) It's a marathon, not a sprint! HOORAY! We get to keep improving. Yes, our deepest desire is excellence before God in everything we do, but God reminds us that we are works in progress. Run this race of life with God at the center, and you will see the fruit of that in your children and your relationship with your husband. Keep running hard after God, striving to be more like Him in everything you do.

2) Patchwork is the best kind of quilt! God created each one of us! He knit each of us together in our mother's womb. He makes no mistakes, so He knew that my talents and gifts would be uniquely mine. Over and over again, He has placed people in my life that provide a complement to my strengths and weaknesses. I could be intimidated or jealous of these people, but I am filled with thankfulness that God allows me to learn from my friends and be built up in my faith this

(Continued on page 2)

March



2007-2008

Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your



Have a question for the Mentor Moms? Drop it in the "Ask the Mentor Mom" basket at one of our meetings or send it to: e-moms@immanuelbible.net

**“Nothing
substitutes
for knowing
that this day,
this hour, in
this place we
are doing
the will of
the Father.
Then and
only then can
we think of
all the other**

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(Continued from page 1)

way. Be open to what God might be showing you through your friendships. Allow Him to work through others to accomplish His will in your life.

3) Costco cookies sometimes taste better! Kids don't know the difference; they just know it's chocolate! Living in the (703) is not always easy. Trust me, I lived in laid-back Arizona before moving here. Thrust into the pace of life in Northern Virginia, I had to re-evaluate and reprioritize. God is all about relationships, and I made the decision that for me, relationships will always trump my busy calendar. Given the choice of having coffee with a friend who needs a listening ear or making sure Mary Margaret has a homemade snack for preschool, I will always choose the coffee! Prioritize your days to make the best use of your time for His glory.

4) Couldn't all our lives be a sitcom? My children have said many times that we could have won the reality television show, "My Life is a Sitcom." The thing is, they say it with pride! Don't try to trick your family (or anyone else, for that matter) into believing you are somebody you aren't. Being real with your family and friends will draw you closer together, not farther apart. My kids and I are pretty open about most everything, and they know my insecurities and faults, probably better than I do. Thankfully, they love the Lord and understand grace. Teach your children, and remind yourself, to laugh when faced with imperfections in your organizational abilities. Teach your children to apply that same Amazing Grace in their relationships with others.

5) Keep your head out of the comic books! The truth is, super woman is not real and neither is "super mom!" As women we are impatient with ourselves and long to micro-manage in style. We want to revamp all areas of our lives instantaneously, when in reality, we cannot reorganize every closet in one day, especially not alone! Remember the importance of small victories! God wants us to succeed. Pray to Him and ask Him to specifically help you with a certain task. Challenge yourself, without setting unattainable goals; compartmentalize and take time to celebrate your successes! Let others know that your joy comes from the Lord.

In conclusion, evaluate the areas you are strong in, the areas in need of improvement, and bring them all back to the feet of the Lord in praise and petition. Then, and only then, will we see God molding our lives past mediocrity and closer to His good and perfect standard. I am thankful there will not be a need for matching socks in Heaven!

Coffee, Tea and Chai

Connecting Across the Generations

May 18, 2008, 1:00 — 4:00 pm

The Waterford in Springfield



Can you remember a time when you felt strongly connected to a body of women? True unity within the body begins with getting connected; then, Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, unites in a way that only He can accomplish. Please join us for coffee, tea or chai – whichever you prefer – as we begin to reconnect. The afternoon will include:

- Enjoying savories, sweets and good conversation
- Being entertained by ALIVE, young ladies ensemble
- Hearing the life stories of two ladies who were greatly blessed by their connections to other women
- Exploring Amani Ya Juu marketplace.

Registration available online or through the Women's Ministry office. Questions? Contact Patricia Croll, 703-495-8370, or the Women's Ministry office, 703-813-1955.

Resources

The E-moms Book of the Month for March is The Search for Balance, by Jill Briscoe. This little book contains a several different articles with useful guidance on setting priorities and using your time wisely — by God’s standards. You’ll find encouragement in reading what other moms have discovered about how they believe God’s wants them to use their time.

Looking for more ideas to help you in your quest to “keep first things first”? We also recommend these:

Disciplines of a Godly Woman, by Barbara Hughes deals with disciplines of soul, character, relationships, and ministry.

Pathway to Purpose for Women, by Katie Brazelton is about connecting your to -do list, your passions and God’s purposes for your life.

Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives, by

Richard Swenson is a great resource when you need to re-evaluate the hectic pace of your life.

Your Time-Starved Marriage: How to Stay Connected at the Speed of Life, by Les Parrot and Leslie Parrot

Surrender: The Heart God Controls, by Nancy Leigh DeMoss

Secrets of the Vine: Breaking Through to Abundance, by Bruce Wilkinson



Buy the Book of the Month at tonight’s meeting for only \$5.00 — get ‘em while they last!

PLEASE NOTE: *This book is out of print and not available at the IBC Bookstore, though you may be able to find it online...*

Getting to the Core

Do you sometimes have trouble setting priorities? Does your schedule show that you have time for God, or is He regularly crowded out?

Why not take a hard look at your regular schedule and examine your motives? Think about why you do each activity and whether or not you feel God is leading you to con-

tinue and why. Write down your conclusions so that you can periodically look back on them and re-evaluate if the purpose is still being fulfilled.

Take time to reflect on Jesus’ ministry by reading the Gospels. You’ll find that He took time for prayer and rest, and that He spent time with friends as well as personally con-

necting with people in need as they came into His path. Does your schedule indicate that you value the same things Jesus did?

Ask God to lead you to HIS priorities for your life. As you become more purposeful in how you spend your time—He will be glorified and you will be blessed!

THE SOLE SOURCE

In February we asked for your ideas on how you keep your friendships strong and relevant in your busy life. Consider the wisdom in these suggestions from other E-moms!

- Make time once a year for a “girls only” weekend. You’ll cherish this time with friends!
- Pray for your friends regularly and stay in touch by email or phone, by a schedule, if necessary!
- Join the same group as your friend — like E-moms — so you can go together!

Check us out on the web at www.immanuelbible.net/family/parenting/emoms.php for the complete list of this month’s “Sole Source” ideas!

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up.



Keeping Christ

E-Moms is a Ministry of
Immanuel Bible Church
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Springfield, VA 22151

Questions?
703-941-4124 or
e-moms@immanuelbible.net

E-Moms is a ministry for mothers of Elementary-aged children. We aim to encourage, refresh, and inspire moms! You will get the opportunity to meet face to face and develop relationships with other moms in the same stage of life who are experiencing some of the same parenting joys and challenges as you. Our monthly meetings provide you with great food (all prepared for you), encouraging speakers (all relevant to you), and stimulating discussion (all geared toward you). Come join us!

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB! YOU'LL FIND THE SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS FOR THE YEAR, GREAT IDEAS FROM OTHER MOMS ON TOPICS YOU CAN RELATE TO, AS WELL AS E-MOMS RECIPES AND THE ELECTRONIC (PDF) VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER!

WWW.IMMANUELBIBLE.NET/FAMILY/PARENTING/EMOMS.PHP

90 Minutes

The theme for the 2007–2008 90 Minutes season is "Dad's Toolbox". Our reference is Chip Ingram's popular book, "Effective Parenting in a Defective World". Come join us on April 7th from 7-8:30 pm in the Terrace Rooms to hear Bob Poliquin presenting Parts 4 & 5 of "Lessons to Live By." All fathers and grandfathers interested in being more purposeful in their parenting are invited to attend. Contact us:

ninetyminutes@verizon.net

Coffee Break with Mentor Moms



Questions about discipline issues? Sibling rivalry? Homeschooling? Our experienced Mentor Moms—Melinda Bargery, Enid Walker, and Jan Yantz want to help with the parenting challenges you're facing!

Please join us for coffee on April 11th at 10:00 am at Einstein Brothers Bagels 8317 Old Keene Mill Rd

Kids welcome!

E-Moms

The next E-moms meeting will be on April 28th from 7-9 pm in the Terrace Rooms. Pam Sanders will be speaking to us on the challenges of "Patience: Having to Walk When I'd Rather Run". Come join us for an evening of refreshments, encouragement and fellowship!

We love our children, but please remember that our meetings are for moms only.



Women of Faith Conference

Women of Faith is coming to the Verizon Center this summer and IBC's Women's Ministry has reserved a block of seats! Are you looking for a time to be spiritually uplifted as well as have fun? Then mark your calendars for July 11-12 and join other Immanuel women at the Women of Faith Intimate Grace Conference. To find out more visit our webpage at www.immanuelbible.net/family/women or contact the Women's Ministry office at 703-813-1955. We hope to see you there!