

A FAMILY JOURNAL

by Rita Munn

Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."


*Rebuild, rejoice, relief,
remarkable, rehearse,
reaffirm, renew,
rededicate, rewind,
retrieve, retreat,
rethink, remember,
remit, remodel, reopen, replenish, replant, replace,
reposition, resend, resilient, resort, resource, retake,*

Refueling the Peace Lamp

*retell, rest, respond, return, re-try, reverse, review,
reward, reword, repot, recall, refuel,
remount, remark,
remake, recycle,
reattach, restore,
recalculate, renovate,
reshape, recess,
relapse, reawaken,
recall, reconsider,
resolve, reinvent,
reschedule...*

As the formal school year winds down and the kiddos are eagerly awaiting the days when they are free to pursue the pleasures of leisure time I think that it is important (vital would probably be a better choice of words) to refuel the peace lamps of we moms. I believe that we are called to concentrate on this time of renewal allowed and honored by the Lord. I have thought over my own objectives for the summer-time and decided that perhaps you and I may have some of the same goals in mind.

1. What shall I do if the resolve of September needs a remake in May? Perhaps it is best to recycle your books, learning strategies, and inspirations using only the best of what you are presently facing with regard to the curriculum, etc. that you are




presently using. For example, have the children show you their three favorite books and spend time finishing the goals of these materials. I was surprised one year to find that my daughter's favorite textbook was her science book. Concentrating on this book alone instead of the supplemental materials that were designed to complement the science textbook allowed us to finish up the textbook with ease. Sometimes I think that I spend far too much energy trying to reinvent the wheel when I should remember that homeschooling doesn't eliminate challenges but may actually illuminate those challenges making them easier to manage. A set time for study is essential and such discipline works and the rewards are great. The time doesn't have to be long, but consistent, and most importantly the time should be made the child's responsibility as it is far more important that our students learn self-discipline rather than depending upon mommy disciplining their efforts.

2. Reappointing my time with the Lord is always the best place to start. When I am trying to save time or feeling pushed it seems that I am tempted to forgo my morning rosary walk and time with the Lord. I want to renew my efforts to carve out personal prayer time.

3. Summer reading is essential to maintaining a child's love of learning and keeping the spark of adventure alive in their spirits. Making sure that my girls are reading worthy materials and spending time in sustained silent reading is vital to cultivating a heart for knowledge.

4. Rethink the challenges that I am currently facing and with the Lord's grace see these challenges in their proper light. If we are behind in Math then understand that a mere 30 minutes a day through out the summer (most children would rather do a little school work than housework) will make an enormous difference in the long run. I do not want to burden my children with expecting too much of them and therefore setting up a mindset of weariness with regard to their school work. I must make sure that I do not allow the time that I ask them to study to go beyond the agreed amount of time.

5. Recalibrate and realistically examine how much my dear children have accomplished. Sometimes I forget that my children are doing much better academically than I am able to understand. I suppose I find it is hard for me to see the forest of progress for the trees of challenge. This emotion is apt to be more pronounced as I am weary or discouraged. My husband Ronald is a test engineer and he tells me that he must constantly examine his equipment and recalibrate it in order to get the most accurate reading and determination of progress.



6. Rezone my school area. Taking down the posters, the projects, books, etc. and putting formal schooling away for a season mentally allows that my students see a completion. This feeling of closure will make the renewal of the school room in the fall more exciting.

7. I want to spend a leisurely afternoon with a highlighter and the CHC catalog. It is important to make a realistic list of our needs. I believe that it is more prudent to order through the summer as my husband's paycheck allows. Perhaps I can not get everything I want but I am sure that there will be resources for our needs.

8. I will remove doubts, believing that these are of the Tempter and counterproductive to proactive solutions. I will not let negative comments from others discourage me or sway me to leave the journey that I trust the Lord has called me to follow. I will pray for the empowerment and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I will remember how very much I love the very roots of our lifestyle. I want to treasure all that the homeschooling lifestyle allows, surrounding my children with prayer, goodness, protection and beauty.

Munn Family News

Megan and Bart are parents. The labor was easy and unmedicated. I was able to be there with the two of them. Bart's coaching was superior and my contribution was words of encouragement and lots of back rubs. ☺ Lucy Ann was born April 9th at 3:45 p.m. She weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 inches long. She nurses like a pro and though Megan and Bart received several handy gadgets to put a baby in, Lucy prefers mom's arms and snuggles peacefully between Bart and Megan each evening. Oh the sweet, sweet days of soft cheeks and that special little kissable place on the nape of a baby's neck. I praise You Lord and thank You for Your kind generosity and the health of mom and baby.

I offer up each and every challenge and sorrow this day for those dear moms who are experiencing difficult pregnancies. Lord please surround them with your tender care and let them feel the power of Your strength when they are weary and sad. Amen

SOAP,*

Rita Munn

P.S. I will write to you again in the fall semester.

Home to Homeschool Ideas

Find a time this summer to invite a few of your friends over for a time of renewal and rediscover the best of one another's inspirations. Kindred hearts are uplifting and encouraging. I believe that listening to one another and taking the time to share personal challenges and solutions is time spent in the Holy Spirit as He empowers us to go forward. Send a note that asks each mom to prepare a sack lunch for herself and her children and in this way no one mom is over burdened with preparations. These types of gatherings are best held outside with easy sight of the children as they enjoy the fresh air and play time. The moms should prepare a simple list of their best ideas and inspirations as well as resources.

*To learn more about the SOAP ministry, see April 2004's "Family Journal" at www.chcweb.com.

Rita's book, *A Family Journal: A Homeschooling Mother's Companion*, is available through CHC: www.chcweb.com.

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About the Munn Family

Ronald and I were married in 1973. I had just graduated from St. Dominic School of Nursing and he from Mississippi State with a degree in Aerospace Engineering. The Lord was very generous when we prayed to have a family. He blessed us with 10 children and now 2 grandchildren.

We began homeschooling in 1996. Children are a gift from the Lord and He designed them to begin learning the moment they are created. It continues to be one of the greatest pleasures of my life to spend my days with my children. The Lord is so good!

