

Women's Life



May 2005

Spring has sprung, and with it, come more *opportunities*. If we're running faster and more often, we seem more...what? Fulfilled? Busy? Successful? Peaceful? So many choices make prioritizing essential.

Recently I had to take a hard look at reducing my physical activity and making changes in my lifestyle, so I went to the bookcase and pulled out *The Tyranny of the Urgent*. Charles E. Hummel wrote this 13-page gem in 1967, and I reread it whenever life gets out of hand. It reminds me that I can easily slip into completing activities labeled *urgent* and miss the truly important things. Instead of just bemoaning life in the fast lane and wishing we had more hours in our week, maybe the Lord wants us to stop and listen to Him *before* we launch into spring and summer.

When Hummel talks about jumbled priorities, he reminds me that many things vie for my time and energy. If I don't set some God-directed priorities, the urgent repeatedly out-shouts the important. I find that getting priorities right involves more than my 4x6 cards written out each night, or a palm pilot or a Day Runner. (Have you ever stopped to consider the *name* of that planner?) While sound bites bombard us, the Lord still relies on His still small voice that we must stop and listen for if we are to align our lives with God's plans.

I worked for a very wise principal who often reminded me that we all need processing time. A trip, concert, play, good book or sermon – all need time to seep into the soul. If there is no down time, when do we mull over and actually absorb the marvel of those events/thoughts and allow them to strengthen us within?

We consume a host of experiences like we consume most products— voraciously! If I plug in daily time to pray (10 minutes) and time to study God's Word (15 minutes), and actually accomplish the

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Eating Out

Diego's Authentic Mexican Food California Style
Reviewed by Suzy Florence

Since Chris and I have made it our hobby to explore every Mexican restaurant within a 50 mile radius, and since so many of you have provided us with places to explore, I have been asked to report back to *Women's Life* on our experiences. Take what you like and dip the rest in salsa!

Our first escapade was at a little Shopping Center Cantina called Diego's, located right next to the Donut Shack in Severna Park. We got the heads up from our good friends, Joy and Trip Beans! So, here's the whole enchilada:

Location: 497 Ritchie Highway, Severna Park

Price Range: \$2.00–\$11.00

Favorite Entrée: Shredded Beef Enchilada (yummy)

Service: Good if not busy.

Parking: Very limited in front, plentiful around back.

Hours: Sun–Thurs 6am–9pm, Fri/Sat 6am–10pm

So, a little about our experience...

When we entered Diego's we noticed a picture of the owner and her son (in his naval academy uniform), which gave it a nice, family atmosphere. As we waited in line to order, we were delighted to see a wide variety of things from tortilla soup to carne asada on the menu. Keep in mind, they also serve breakfast, and we all know that Mexican food is its own food group!

You might want to brush up on the ingredients in Mexican food beforehand as the menu doesn't list them. Being well acquainted with such things ourselves, we ordered the shredded beef enchiladas, beef taco, rice and beans. We also had chips, salsa and Pico de Gallo from their salsa bar as we waited for them to call our number. The chips were a little thick and hard, but not too salty. The medium salsa was not too spicy, very thick, chunky and "tomatoey," and the Pico de Gallo was mild, yet good (but needed more cilantro).

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Eating Out *(continued)*

First thoughts as we picked up our food: the styrofoam plates and plastic cutlery weren't our preference, but the portions were perfect—not too gluttonous, but enough to fill the belly and gladden the heart! We returned to our seats and enjoyed the music as we dove into our tacos. They were shredded beef, and a little too dry. I would have preferred the traditional ground beef with a little more sauce. However, the enchiladas were also shredded beef and very, very bueno! The refried beans were very tasty, not too overwhelming, and not too dry or soupy. The Spanish rice was mild, yet tasty, and not too tomatoey (very important). The shredded beef enchiladas definitely stole the show!

Let me know if I left out any key info, and please “help us help you” by supporting our hobby with places to try. FYI: They have a kids menu, consisting of Mexican food only. Not that that is a problem for our little *senorita* who's first word was *taco*!



Spring has sprung *(continued)*

two spiritual exercises, I may check them off my to do list with a sense of satisfaction, but did I spend time with the Lord or run to the tyranny of checking off another two items from my chore list? The Lord's grace calls us to more than that.

John 8:32 says, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." Depending on the Lord and waiting for His instructions can free us as never before. Take the time for down time – time to merely sit, rest, think, sing the words to a favorite hymn, watch the sun go down, open your Bible without a clock near by and read, pray, or ask the Lord to speak to you through His Word. When we stop running to the tyranny of the urgent, we often find the time to do the really important.

Flo Wolfe

Bulletin Board



Got a blended family?

Check out the new book from NavPress: *You're NOT My Mom!: Confessions of a Formerly "Wicked" Stepmother* (by Kali and Elizabeth Schnieders)



This month's great events:

Post-it notes were made by accident in May, 1980
Coke invented—May 8, 1886

First merry-go-round—
May 17, 1620
Levi Strauss' first pair of jeans—May 20, 1874



All EP churches women's retreat

March 31-April 2, 2006

The speaker will be Carolyn Custis James (*When Life and Beliefs Collide*).



Looking into
the future

May 18: *A Faith That Works* begins (it will meet the 3rd Wed. of each month).

June 11 FLASH Seminar

July 23: Home Management Seminar



Women's Life deadline

Be sure that Micki has your information by the 15th of each month.



Things change

Be sure to check the bulletin each week for up to date information on activities.

Why Garden?

I find pure pleasure in watching things grow! The rhubarb plant in my garden appeared several weeks ago as a round bud peeking out of the soil, and each day its red stems elongate and crinkly leaves unfurl to the sun's warming rays. Daffodils everywhere brighten the cool, cloudy days, and I mark spring on my calendar when the weeping cherry tree blooms in cascading glory.

Putting seeds in the earth is another thing—an act of faith, of patience, of believing that tomorrow will come. “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” (Genesis 8:22) So the promise of garden-ripe tomatoes starts with a seed and tended with care will yield, in time, its harvest of delicious fruit.

Seeds are so tiny. They seem lost as we bury them in the ground. But somehow they are transformed, given new life as the first “seed leaves” emerge. Have you ever noticed that those first two leaves look different than the ones that grow later? At first, it's hard to distinguish the broccoli from the kale from the cabbage. As the seedlings grow they find their unique identity, and differences become more obvious.

When we are born again, when the seed of God's Word grows in the good soil of our hearts, at first much seems confusing. When the true leaves emerge, as we feed on the “spiritual milk of the Word”, then God's plans for our lives become plain. With the care of the Master Gardener, the Holy Spirit, each of us will bear a harvest of fruit for the glory of our Creator. Guess what's inside the fruit. Yup—seeds!

Karen Larson



What to write for *Women's Life*?

There are just a few rules:

- 1 - Be encouraging. No guilt trips please.
- 2 - Be practical and where-we-live.
- 3 - 500 words or less. Ever wonder why *Women's Life* is a quick, easy read? It's because the articles are kept short.
- 4 - Deadline = 15th of each month.

Connecting with our kids

Susie Conord says: “When our children were young, our family (all a bunch of hams!) enjoyed acting out Bible stories. We kept a box of “dress-uo clothes”, a bizarre mix of everything including hats and wigs, and after reading a portion of scripture, we would all dive into the box, dress-up, and illustrate the passage.

Another fun activity was coloring together and then sharing how our artwork illustrated the story and truths.”

Sue Helms says: “One of the ways that we have found to be fun, as well as successful, in building connections with our children has been in playing games. So much can be learned, educational lessons and sportsmanship, through the many games that are available to us.

When the children were young Candyland helped with counting and colors. Later, Checkers, Chinese checkers, and Monopoly encouraged us to think creatively, plan a bit, and negotiate with others. Scrabble, Boggle, and Scattergories became favorites, as the children grew older. Today we enjoy everything from croquet to cribbage.

We find that conversation becomes very relaxed and easy as we wait for someone to take his or her turn. I won't say that there has never been a shouting match or that no one has ever been a sore loser, but the good news is that the game playing continues even now with the children all grown up.”



Help your daughter turn her interests into a career

The Call is an online career assessment tool for young adults (16+) from Focus on the Family. It evaluates spiritual gifts as well as intellectual abiblites. Go to: www.focusonyourchild.com for more information.



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