



Christian Chronicle

A publication to inspire young ladies in their walk of faith

Vol. 2, Issue 4

"HOME LIFE"

Summer 2005

Please understand that I am far from perfect in any area that I have written about, do write about, or include in the publication, All the articles and various content are as much for me as for any other girl! As Paul said, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after...I press toward the mark..." (Philippians 3:12,14). ~Karissa ☺

Features this Issue:

- Sarah/Grace Mally: *Friends—Brothers & Sisters*
- Abigail Burnett/Lisa Bode: *Purpose for Parents Review: Influence of the Older on the Younger*
- Tammy Sellin: *Strong Sibling Relationships*
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Editorial Column

Greetings in the name of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ! I pray that you would be blessed through the ninth issue of the Christian Chronicle.

This issue is the longest ever (10 printed pages, whereas before it averaged about 5), because it has lots of articles. I encourage you make time to read through all the articles, because they are very good. This issue deals with home life; that is, how you act in your own home—behind closed doors, so to speak. It is so important that we treat our family right! We must start everything in the home—being two-faced will not be helpful in our spiritual walk. Of course, the home is generally where we can be more casual, but let's be ever conscious of our actions and attitudes in the home!

You may enter the contest by emailing your entry through the "Contact" link. This may be the last contest. (At: thechristianchronicle.com/contests.htm)

Note about the MODESTY issue: Much feedback has been received. I thank you all, and I have appreciated the advice given. If anyone else has any questions, comments, or concerns, I ask that you please email me, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. My parents, who are the co-editors, are of much help in editing/approving both each issue and each reply. ☺

Karissa

About Us

Co-edited by my parents, this publication is edited and published by Karissa Hiebert. Contact me at:

freewebs.com/christianchronicle/contact.htm.

Beautiful Girlhood

(From Mabel Hale's Beautiful Girlhood: A Timeless Guide for Christian Adolescence)

"A Sunny Disposition"

Mabel Hale

A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance.

Once I looked upon the face of a dear little boy whose bright eyes and sunny smiles cheered my heart. I asked him what his name might be, and he answered, "Papa call me Sunshine John." Then I knew that the merry smile I saw was, as I thought, an index to the sunny little heart. Any home is blest if it has a sunshine maker.

Every girls owes it to herself and to her associates to be sunny. A happy girlhood is so beautiful that it cannot afford to be spoiled by needless frowns and pouts. There are clouds enough in life without making them out of temper. A girl who is full of smiles and sunshine is a fountain of joy to all who know her. The world has enough of tears and sorrow at best, and her sweet, smiling face can scatter untold clouds. Could a girl ask for a better calling than that of a joy maker for all about her?

Every girl must meet her share of bumps in life. If they do not come soon, they must

come late. It is impossible that she should pass through life in the sunshine all the time. She must have her share of shadow. She cannot escape it. But it is not the deep shadows that generally cloud a girl's life and make her unhappy and sullen. It is the little things, insignificant in themselves, and which could have been passed by with hardly a thought if resisted one by one, that irritate the temper and mar the happiness. Every day our girl will meet with circumstances in which she has her choice between frowning and sending back a stinging retort or smiling and passing them by with a kind word. If she can pass these little bumps and keep sweet, then she has mastered the art of being sunny.

Betty comes in with a bucket of water and by some chance knocks the bucket against the stand and spills some of the water on the floor. Mother is tired and has perhaps only just finished mopping, and she speaks up quickly, reproving Betty. "Betty, you careless girl, can you not do anything without making a mess?" Now is Betty's chance. She can frown and send back an angry rejoinder as she flounces out of the room, leaving her mother sorry for her own impatience and grieved at Betty's hatefulness; or Betty can look up with a smile and say, "Sorry, Mother, truly, that I was so awkward, but you will see that I can set it right." The smile that will come to Mother's face will be reward enough to Betty for her soft answer. Or, again, when the smaller children are cross and fretful, Betty can become cross also, scolding and threatening till she increases the uproar; or she can begin a romp or a story and turn their minds into new and pleasant channels. But before Betty can do this, she must have control of herself and a bit of sunshine in her heart.

If our girl can each morning have a song in her heart and a smile on her lips, and be ready with a bright "good morning" for each friend or family member she meets, and an encouraging smile for the old or ill

or those otherwise in need of encouragement, then she has found a sphere of usefulness that will make many people bless her.

There is a real art in smiling. Some people smile, or grin, all the time, and it becomes monotonous to those who look at them. These grinning people never seem to think who or what their smile is for. It is as if their mouths were made in that form. Other people have the kind of smile upon their faces that suggests sarcasm. But there are still others, and I have met girls who had mastered the art, whose smiles are tear chasers. There is something so understanding in their glance and smile that they make you feel that they care for you and want you to be happy. Sometimes when I have been discouraged or depressed by trials all my own, a bright, hopeful smile from someone has cheered me amazingly. In fact, we are very much dependent upon each other for courage and happiness. Then let us be dispensers of joy as we go through life, smiling and glad. If I am in trouble, having acted foolishly in something or other, then I do not appreciate the grinning smile. I would rather the face that looked into mine would express a little understanding and feeling for my trouble or that it would not notice my foolishness at all; when I find a friend who can meet me this way, then that friend becomes a real comfort and joy to me.

Smiles and gladness are like sweet peas in that the more you gather and give away, the more you have. Leave your sweet peas on the vines, and the flowers are soon gone, but gather them closely each day and they will blossom the more and last the summer through. So save your smiles for special occasions, when there are joys abroad, and you will pretty nearly run out of them altogether, but give them out at every opportunity, and the joy vines of your heart will thrive and grow.

Live in the sunshine. Look on the bright side, for always there is a bright side. No matter how a girl is situated in life, she can find something to be thankful for. If she is the daughter of a poor father, she is saved many of the temptations that come to the rich, and she has many opportunities for helping in burden-bearing at home. If she is a daughter of the rich, many opportunities

for doing good are open that never come to the poor girl. Is she strong and well? She then has a heritage that can be used to good advantage in this busy world, but if she is weak and frail, her life can sweeten the shadows of home. Often the sick one is the most cheery of the family, in spite of her pain. Everyone can be a sunshine-bearer. God smiles on all who are willing to carry His smiles on to others.

In one home, the daughter is a willing helper, ready to do all that her young hands can do to lighten the load, and she is a constant blessing to her mother, but she forgets to carry with her a cheery, sunny smile. Her heart becomes vexed and unpleasant, and her words sharp and cutting. The little ones watch Sister's face to see if she is cross. Mother's gentle voice often has to speak to her in soothing tones, "Daughter, I know you are tired, but do not make it unpleasant for the little ones. We have much to do, but love lightens it all the way." How often I have wished that to her other graces this dear girl would add sunshine.

The faces of our friends are like mirrors. We can look into them and see the expression of our own face. If we come to them smiling, we see a smile in return, but if we meet them with a frown, they will frown back at us. Try catching the eye of one who is looking sad and out of sorts and meeting her look with a smile, and see if it will not soon answer back in her face.

Especially when children are to be dealt with, it is necessary to learn to smile and be pleasant, for if you come to them cross, they will be cross in return. Be cheery, sunny, and happy—both for your own good time and for the sake of others. ☺

"Home Life"

Mabel Hale

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

Not every language has a word equivalent to the English word "home," but instead uses a word meaning about the same as "house." How much more the thought of home brings to our minds than merely the thought of the house in which we live! The beloved ones living there and our association with each other, our hopes

and fear and joys and sorrows, all mingle together in one place of rest and sweet communion—home.

Home is a little kingdom with ruler, laws, and subjects, each with a part to perform in order that life there shall be perfect. The form of government of the home is the oldest known on earth, the patriarchal. Here the father is the head, the lawgiver, and the judge. He divides almost equally his authority with the mother, and they two, together, govern the little kingdom. This is the only form of government that is suitable for the family, for the children are too young and too inexperienced to make laws for themselves. Not only have the parents the full control of the family, but upon them also rests the responsibility of the family's support and of their conduct. If they do not properly care for or control their children, they must suffer reproach and shame.

To be able to fit into the home life and submit to the home government is one of the most noble traits of beautiful girlhood. This is not always accomplished without a struggle on the girl's part, for when the years of fickle, changing youth are with a girl, she finds that something in her nature rebels against the restraint of home. She finds that in many instances she would take a different course from what her parents are taking, that what seems most needful to them and upon which they insist seems needless and superficial to her, while other things which she thinks are very necessary they call foolish and silly. She wants to do many things of which they do not approve and will not permit and require of her what is irksome and hard. She feels as if she were being pressed into a mold that does not fit, while her whole heart cries out for freedom to come and go and do as she pleases.

Some girls accept their own point of view as correct and contend and argue for their own way until all the beauty and peace of the home life is destroyed. This is a grievous mistake and one that can bring only sorrow and regret in its wake. Other girls despondently give up to their parents' way and develop no mind or character of their own. This, too, is a mistake, which weakens the nature of any girl. But other girls submit to their parents because it is right that they should do so, yet holding, weighing, and considering their own opinions, really

trying to learn what is best. A girl who will do this will soon develop judgment and discretion that her parents will be glad to honor. I have in mind a sweet girl of eighteen who for two years and more has not only helped to earn the family living, but has done practically all the buying and planning of the younger children's clothes. Her mother is not afraid to trust the care of the children to her when they go out, nor does she fear that her oldest daughter will misbehave when not in her presence. She does practically as she pleases because she has by thoughtful consideration developed judgment and wisdom sufficient to be given that liberty. How much of the happiness of this home rests at the door of this sweet girl we cannot say.

The young daughter in the home has it in her power to make home a sweet, comfortable place to live, where laughter and sunshine will cheer the cloudiest day, or she may turn all its pleasures to bitterness and bring sorrow and heartache. If she can submit to her parents' control, and can be obedient, kind, and thoughtful, she is a constant comfort; but if she is always contending and arguing, speaking up in a saucy manner when she is crossed, or scolding and quarreling with the younger children, she makes home almost unbearable. If she has a separate set of manners for her own people from what she uses when with company, she is a constant disappointment. I never like the blank look that a mother's face takes when someone commends the gentle kindness of a daughter of this type. She does not wish to lower her daughter in her friend's estimation, nor can she heartily agree as to her daughter's kindness.

A girl should have her full share of responsibility in the home. She should go about her work willingly, not as if it were an irksome duty which she was ill-disposed to perform. She should count herself one of the family, one of the children, having only equal rights and privileges with the rest.

A girl and her father should be good comrades. Too often this is not the case, but they live lives entirely apart from each other in interest and enjoyment. This is not always altogether the girl's fault, but it is a condition she can remedy to a great extent by a little thoughtful kindness. Father very

often has been too busy to keep acquainted with his growing daughters and finds them rather out of his range. They seem as much strangers to him as are their young friends whom he meets in the home. He thinks they do not care to have him about, and takes himself off to his room or chair or on the porch, and leaves them to themselves. One girl who found herself thus a stranger to her father formed the habit of going to meet him each evening she could get off. She was either at the corner or, at least, at the door when he came, and when she could she was at his office that they might have the whole way home together. It was only a little while until homecoming was the happiest part of both their days, and many loving confidences were exchanged, which would never have been possible without her first step.

Another family had the "father's hour," as they called it, the first hour after supper, and both he and they planned their day to have this hour together. Fathers do like to be counted in.

Any girl who will speak disrespectfully either to or of her father is lacking in one of the first principles of real womanhood. She should always remember that Father has the right to direct her life, to say what she shall and shall not do, to forbid her to go anywhere that is not proper. His word to her should be final. His approval to her should mean much.

The daughter and her mother come into closer relationship. They touch each other on many more points than do daughter and father. And if the daughter is safe from the temptations and allurements of sin about her, she is a girl who makes her mother her chief confidant. To her goes every secret, every hope, and every fear. All the perplexities of her young life are threshed out by Mother's side.

But Mother has to look after so many departments of Daughter's life that her overseeing becomes a trial to the girl. There is a certain portion of a girl's life when her mother has to be responsible for the way she arranges her hair, for the dress she wears and the way she gets it on, and for her whereabouts and who she is with practically every hour of the day. I do not mean that only in childhood does the girl need this oversight, but while she is in her youth also.

Not until her judgment and discretion develop along with the wisdom and prudence can a girl be safely left to look out for herself. Because Mother is obliged to direct so much of Daughter's life, it sometimes happens that it appears to Daughter as if Mother met her on every hand with restraint, as if she gave her no liberty. Sometimes the relations between them become strained. This is hard for the mother and discouraging for the daughter. But Mother can hardly give up her responsibility so long as Daughter is not able to carry it properly herself. Now is the time for Daughter to submit, to wait, to look well to her ways. Only when her parents see that she can bear responsibility will they willingly give it to her.

One of the sweetest places a young girl may have in any home is that of a big sister. What a field of happiness and usefulness is open to the girl with little brothers and sisters! They are ready to look up to her as a guide and a pattern in everything. If she manages rightly, she can have unlimited influence with them.

Have you seen her, the ideal big sister? She is every ready to kiss away the bumps and bruises of little heads and hearts, she knows just how to mend broken dolls and balls, she likes to pop corn and make candy for little people to eat, she knows such wonderful stories to tell or read, she will pick up and put out of sight those evidences of childish neglect that might bring little people into trouble, she understands and is a companion for every one of them. Yes, many homes have just such older daughters as that.

The girl who is learning day by day to be a good daughter at home and a good sister to the younger children is also learning day by day how to make, in time, a good wife and a good mother. She is getting ready for the greatest work a woman can do. It was a woman who had given her life for a noble and far-reaching work, and who had never married, who, when someone commended her for the much that she had accomplished, said, "I would give it all for a pair of baby hands." There is no work so good for any woman as making a good, true home for somebody.

Every truly beautiful character is its best at home. Let us never neglect the home life. ☺

Featured Articles

All articles in this section this issue are taken from www.thekingsdaughtermag.com

Why Should I Be Under Authority? Understanding the Purpose for Parents Abigail Burnett and Lisa Bode

Lisa:

If you were to describe your relationship with your parents, what would you say?

I think many of us would have to say that it isn't what the Lord wants it to be. He never intended our relationship with our parents to be a major source of frustration, conflict, or strain. Yet so often, that's what it becomes, and our failure in this one area keeps us from happiness, from success, from maintaining a close relationship with the Lord.

Whether or not I am under authority will impact every area of my life. It makes a world of difference.

Being under authority is one of the most important topics we could ever address – and also one of the most difficult. This article has been a tough one for me to write. I am far from perfect in this area, so please do not feel defensive or think I am a self-righteous snob here to lecture you into submission. ☺ I simply need to share with you what the Lord has taught me – and what I am still learning.

* * *

I think every little girl thinks at one time that her parents are perfect – her daddy is the strongest man on earth and her mommy is by far the most beautiful. ☺ Then she grows up a little more and realizes that parents aren't perfect. They make good decisions, and they also make mistakes. They have wonderful strengths, and they also have weaknesses.

When I grew up enough to realize this, I decided I was just as good as Mom and Dad were, old enough to rule my own life, and no longer needing their direction. The result of this kind of thinking was, of course, conflict. My mom and dad didn't take a hands-off approach to my life (and I'm now glad they didn't!), and they frequently made decisions I didn't agree with.

Then I would argue about it. And after arguing there would be a strained, uncomfortable kind of silence because everyone knew I still didn't agree. From my perspective I was 100% right and Mom and Dad were 100% wrong. I would magnify and criticize their weaknesses and never stop to show gratefulness for their strengths.

At the same time, as a new Christian, I wanted to grow closer to God and to do what I thought was His will. I wanted ministry opportunities and ways to glorify Him in my life. But that didn't happen. Instead, my life was being eaten up in frustration and rebellion. I put myself through miserable days and continual strain because I refused to be under authority. Rather than experiencing any kind of freedom, I felt like I was constantly in chains.

I did not understand how God works. I never stopped to ask myself, "Why did God give me parents, anyway? Is this situation really what He intended?" I thought God worked independent of authority, showing me His will and then requiring me to convince them and rebel against them if they didn't agree.

But that system wasn't working. In getting out from under my parents' authority, I'd gotten out from under God's authority. God in His mercy gave me several sledge-hammer-like hints until I realized the sad results of my bad decisions and how far off track I'd become. He gave me a new perspective. He showed me how He really works. He healed my relationship with my parents.

Perhaps you are right now in the same place I was. I pray that the Lord will use this article to bring you back under authority and into the sweetness of living life His way.

* * *

Abigail:

Growing up, I was a pretty good kid. By nature I was a "people pleaser", so I always tried to do what my parents wanted. I wanted them to be proud of me and pleased that they had such a good daughter.

When I reached the age of sixteen, though, I decided I had had enough of being "Miss Goody Two Shoes". I loved being noticed and at my youth group at church it seemed only the "bad" kids got the

attention. The youth sponsors seemed to be more interested in reaching out to them, talking with them, joking with them, getting together with them.

(I am not putting down the importance of reaching out to those with broken homes and lives. This is a vital ministry, but at the same time it is important not to forget that even people who look like they have perfect lives still need help. They still want to be noticed and listened to.)

I got the very clear message that in order to be noticed, I would have to rebel and become a trouble kid. For the next little while, life was pretty miserable. My mom and dad were deeply hurt and confused at the sudden change in me. I was full of guilt for going in a direction I knew was wrong. When Mom and I would argue, it made me feel even worse. I really did love my family and I didn't want to hurt them, but I wanted to be accepted and noticed by my peers.

I felt frustrated and trapped, because I was trying to fulfill basic God-given desires in a way God never intended me to. The Lord was gracious to me during that time, and I am eternally grateful to Him for opening my eyes to the foolishness of what I was choosing, before I really did something bad that could have harmed me for life.

There are a lot of voices out there we can choose to listen to, both good and bad. We have to decide now who we're going to listen to, who we're going to follow and obey. God and our parents are the authorities we must follow in our lives.

Are we listening to the right authorities in our lives? It is possible for us to make our teachers, pastors, or friends the authority we listen to. There are times when God does speak to us through people like these. But if we don't listen to our parents and accept their final leadership, these other authorities might be a bad influence. We need to take what other people have told us back to our parents, and ask them to help us evaluate the wisdom or folly in others' advice.

We must know whose authority we are under. Is it a good and proper authority? Is it a Godly authority? Do these other influences in my life encourage me to obey God and my parents, or do they tell me to do what I want?

* * *

Lisa:

The first step toward getting back under authority came in the form of questions like these: Do I trust God's character (Heb. 11:11^b)? Do I believe that He is sovereign and in ultimate authority over every person and every circumstance in my life (Rom. 13:1)? Do I believe He loves me and works everything for my good (Rom. 8:28)? Do I believe He has a plan for my life far superior to my own (Isaiah 55:8-9)?

As I answered "yes" to each of these questions, I realized something. My parents did not choose me and I did not choose my parents. God gave me to them and them to me. He didn't flip a coin or draw a name out of a hat. He has a purpose! Rejecting my parents' authority is the equivalent of throwing God's gift back in His face.

The next question then was, "Why did God give me my parents?"

"The king's [or Dad's or Mom's or any authority's] heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will." – Prov. 21:1. My parents are God's tools, like a hammer and chisel He holds in His hands to make me into His jewel. This is why He gave my parents to me - not to hurt me, but to help me.

God works through my parents (not despite my parents) to:

1. Sharpen/correct me. God sees weaknesses in my character, and rather than coming to me in person and correcting me, He often speaks to me through Dad and Mom. But too often, instead of seeing a loving God at work through them, I just see them. I see things they may misunderstand, situations they may not be aware of, traits that may irritate me, and I become defensive and upset. Instead I should rejoice that God is at work and listen to them.
2. Teach/prepare me. The Lord knows what I need to learn – both practically and spiritually – to prepare for the future, and He gives my parents ideas like, "Lisa, you should learn how to type fast." (Now when would I ever use that skill?©) I am only able to learn,

however, when I have a teachable spirit.

3. Provide for me. God gave me parents to make sure I would have food, shelter, clothing – basic necessities and multiple blessings.
4. Protect me. Being under my parents' authority gives me not only physical protection, but also emotional and spiritual protection. When I obey their rules – even those rules I don't like – the Lord supernaturally protects me. When I step out from under authority, even though I think I have a justifiable reason, I get out from under that protection and temptations overwhelm me.
5. Direct me. God does not leave me groping around in life on my own, desperately trying to figure out what to do, and I am sure glad! He's given me an incredibly easy way to answer the question, "Is this God's will?", and that is, "What does Dad think?" To be perfectly honest, his opinion sometimes seems very strange or surprising. But to this day I have looked back on every single decision Dad's made for me and thought, "God really did work through that!"

Perhaps you are thinking, But my parents aren't perfect! Of course they're not! [Dad's note: Neither are Lisa's!] But does that mean that God cannot control them and work through their mistakes? The Lord has blessed me with wonderful Christian parents. But I know that no matter who your parents are, the Lord is able to use them for good in your life when you are under their authority.

* * *

Abigail:

There was once a wealthy merchant whose prize possession was a beautiful Arabian stallion. The merchant was afraid someone might harm or steal his precious stallion. So he carefully chose from among his many workers and assigned two of his most trusted and skilled groomsmen to watch over and care for his treasure. They brushed his coat until it shone, oiled and

cleaned his hooves, and fed him the best food. Even with the stallion in good hands, the merchant never failed to keep an eye on it.

I'm not sure what got into that stallion's head, but one afternoon when he was let out to run in the meadow, he took off like a lightning bolt across the field, over the fence, and into the great world beyond. The trusted groomsmen did their best to chase after him, but to no avail.

The merchant was extremely sad – not at the financial loss – but that his beloved stallion had so little love for his master and would run off like that after everything his master had done for him. The merchant mourned for days, continually looking out the window, searching the fields, hoping the stallion would come back.

The stallion had a great time kicking up his heels, going wherever he wanted, wading in rivers, rolling in mud, eating his fill of grass and clovers. For three days he kept on the move, wandering farther and farther from his home.

On the fourth day he came to a rocky road. A large stone caught in his right front hoof. He rolled on the grass beside the road and kicked his legs, trying to loose it, but it wouldn't come out. He had no choice but to limp along, and every step hurt. His beautiful glossy coat was no longer lovely, but covered in mud and bits of grass. His mane and tail were tangled.

The next day he was caught by a mean and greedy man and put to work like a common workhorse. He was fed terrible food. The man never bothered to brush and comb him, nor did he even care to remove the stone from the poor stallion's hoof. The stallion began to dream of getting back home and wondered why he had ever run away.

Finally the day came when the man failed to lock the barn door and the stallion was able to escape. He moved off as quietly and quickly as his poor leg would let him and began to walk towards home. It took him twice as long to get back as it had to run away. Not only did his leg hurt, but also his whole body from the bruises and beatings he had received while slaving for the evil man.

The merchant saw him slowly making his way up the lane. Racing out the front door,

he ran to him and threw his arms around his neck. He sent for the two trusted groomsmen and placed him back in their hands. He gave careful instructions for how to care for him. They were to be as gentle as possible in putting salve on the bruises and removing the stone. It would hurt the stallion, but in the end it would make him much better.

Soon the stallion had recovered the weight he had lost. His coat shone, and his mane and tail were brushed and braided. He was still a bit stiff, and he did have a limp, but his bruises and sores were healing. He never ran away again. From experience he had learned that being under authority is the best way to live.

This fictional story has important truths in it. God is our Master, and He has given us parents to carefully raise us up in the ways He would have us go. It is dangerous to get out from under their protective authority.

The evil man waiting to capture the stallion is like Satan waiting to ensnare us when we rebel and run our own way. If we reject God's way, there is only one other way to go – Satan's.

For awhile being out from under authority might feel great, like it did for the stallion. He thought he finally had found what freedom was all about – doing whatever you want whenever you want. But before long he paid the price for his foolishness and walked with a slight limp for the rest of his life. All his pain and suffering could have been prevented. If only he hadn't taken his eyes off his master, he wouldn't have begun to desire what he shouldn't have.

For each of us God has a specific, unique, and special plan in mind. His plan for me is different than His plan for you. Am I – are you – willing to trust Him to reveal His plan through our parents?

* * *

Lisa:

God has intended my parents to be a gift to benefit my life and a tool to perfect my character. He wants me to benefit from our relationship by obeying Biblical commands such as the following:

1. Obey them (Heb. 13:17). Many times I have been out from under authority while deceiving myself

into thinking I'm obeying my parents. How? I would connive a way to obey the letter of what they told me while completely going against the spirit of what they wanted. That isn't obedience. Being under authority isn't based in my actions – it's based in my attitude. Quiet rebellion with an obedient exterior may deceive my parents, but it will ruin my life. An obedient attitude is one that discerns my parents' true desires and cheerfully obeys or respectfully appeals.

2. Thank them (Col. 3:12-15). Gratefulness goes a long way in healing a broken relationship and maintaining a good one. It means noticing the good in my parents and thanking them for it, instead of complaining when they fail to meet my expectations.
3. Pray for them (1 Tim. 2:1-3). I don't have to worry and argue and cry and rebel when my parents do things I don't like or understand. It is God I am dealing with, through my parents. My first response to any difficulty in our relationship should be prayer, a direct appeal to the One who controls and works through my parents for my good. Beyond this, I should daily pray for my parents' physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.
4. Be open with them (Luke 8:17). Hiding things from my parents is a signal that I'm not under their authority. Secrecy strains a relationship like almost nothing else. The Word says that my hidden secrets will one day be revealed.
5. Honor them (Eph. 6:1-3). Honoring my parents is an essential attitude that will reveal itself in my actions. Do I show respect when I talk to them? Do I honor their desires? Am I concerned about their feelings? Do I build them up when I talk to others about them?
6. Listen to them (Prov. 12:15). Very basic, very important, and also –

very hard to remember (for me, at least ☺).

7. Resolve conflicts with them. Two practical tips I have found to work very well in getting over inevitable bumps in the road: 1 – focus on what I did wrong and ask forgiveness; 2 – wait to resolve differences and discuss misunderstandings until I'm no longer angry and have had time to pray.
8. Support them (Eph. 4:1-3). Supporting my parents goes beyond obeying and honoring – it means being a team with them. I need to be helping my parents reach their goals, encouraging them, enjoying their company, getting to know them as people. I need to be a daughter they can not only trust and rely on, but also confide in and appreciate.

The Lord will hold me accountable for my response to my parents. I am not responsible for what they do and don't do, but for what I do and don't do. These are Biblical commands I must obey in order to be happy and blessed.

* * *

Abigail:

One day my sisters and I helped our dad carry firewood from the front yard to the back. I filled my wheelbarrow with wood as full as I thought I could handle and set off across the yard. At first it felt fine and I was sure I could do it. Then it began to feel heavier and I noticed how far I actually had to push the crazy thing!

On my second trip across the yard, my dad filled his own wheelbarrow with wood and we walked side by side. Amazingly, his very presence made the job easier for me to handle. Suddenly I didn't notice the weight of my own wheelbarrow nor the distance we had to go. Teamwork, going in the same direction with a common goal, made a big difference. We were both pushing together, and seeing the bigger load my dad had to push made me realize I was barely doing anything.

It's like that with family. I can be going in the direction my parents want me to, wearing the clothes they think are

appropriate, doing the school program of their choice, etc. But if my heart isn't in it, if my actions are just actions and have nothing to do with my attitude, I am not fully under their authority.

Sometimes it's just plain tough believing our parents really know what's best for us. They're human after all, and humans do make mistakes. But God never makes mistakes. He knows every day of my life and just exactly what is going to happen. Before the world was created He had my entire life plan marked out. The closer we grow to the Lord, the easier it is to trust Him to work through our parents – to even work through the mistakes they may make.

Do I want real peace in my life? Do you want real peace? Then together we need to learn to do as the song says, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, than to trust and obey."

* * *

Lisa:

Staying under authority yields huge rewards. Let me share with you a few I personally have experienced:

1. Greater faith in God. It's no longer me trying to persuade my parents a certain way – it's me trusting God to guide me through their decisions.
2. Certainty I'm in God's will. When God gives me a vision and confirms it through His Word and my parents, I know with unshakable confidence that I am doing the right thing.
3. Deliverance from wrong paths. I've wanted to do things and go places I later realized wouldn't have been God's will for me – and He kept me from it through my parents.
4. Protection from evil. God warns me through my parents' cautions and uses their rules to keep me out of trouble.
5. A peaceful home. Having a good relationship with my parents makes home life a lot more fun!
6. Lasting friendship. My parents and I have fun together! We enjoy each others' company and encourage each other spiritually.

7. Countless other blessings! Blessings I want you to be able to experience as well. ☺

Making Brothers and Sisters Best Friends

Sarah and Grace Mally

In August 1999, Lisa Bode traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to help lead a children's seminar. It was there she met the Mally family and was instantly impressed by their obvious love for God and for each other. She watched all week as they served together in ministry and set an example for everyone regarding quality family relationships.

"Sarah, Stephen, and Grace Mally have since written and published a book entitled Making Brothers and Sisters Best Friends. This is a fun-to-read, realistic treatment of an important topic, and would be an asset to any family's library. Much of this article is excerpted from their book.

"You can contact the Mallys via their website, www.brothersandsisters.net." – Lisa

Sarah (24):

I was an only child until I was six years old; I really wanted a brother or sister. Every day I would pray that God would give us a new baby. I assumed that once I had a brother or sister we would get along perfectly. It never crossed my mind that we might fight; I was sure that we would be best friends. But then one day God answered my prayer – I was thrilled to have a brother (and, soon after, a sister). It didn't take me long to learn of their amazing talents: they messed up my stuff, bothered me constantly, and displayed unbelievable amounts of energy. I soon learned that although brothers and sisters really are a blessing, they often come in disguised packages.

A brother and sister were traveling in the back of a small station wagon on their way to Florida. The girl was nine years old and the boy was three. About five minutes down the road the arguing began. From the backseat their parents heard continually, "Don't poke me."

"Gimme my thtuffed animal back!"

"Mom, he keeps bothering me!" The two children were crowded, uncomfortable, and easily annoyed. Finally the two of them made an agreement.

"This half of the car is mine and this half is yours," they decided.

"There is an invisible line down the middle."

"Now don't you touch my side," said the girl.

"K, an dif ith my thide. Thtay off!" came back the reply.

Things were peaceful until the little boy "accidentally" crossed his foot into enemy territory. "Mom, he touched my side!" was promptly heard and the debate continued – all the way to Florida. I was this little girl and my brother, Stephen, was this little boy.

Do not be surprised if you have struggles with your brothers and sisters. It is a common problem for almost all families. However, common does not mean acceptable. My brother, sister, and I have been more and more concerned about this as we have noticed the way brothers and sisters often treat each other. Do not allow yourself to believe that it's okay for your relationship to remain substandard or that it cannot be improved. Most families fail to realize what a powerful ministry team they can be when the brothers and sisters are best friends.

Our Heavenly Father is personally concerned about His children; He is working in even the little details of our life to mold us to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:28-29). Our Father is more concerned about our inward character than our outward achievement, and He has a specialized program to train each one of us. This training program begins at home. God's classes come in many unexpected ways, at unexpected times, in unexpected locations, and often through unexpected people – like brothers and sisters. If we cooperate with His training program, we will be ready and prepared for the exciting future He has in store for us.

Several years ago I was annoyed with Grace because I felt that she was always asking me to do things for her. "Why can't she do these things herself?" I wondered. "Why is she always asking me?" One particular afternoon when she asked me to go downstairs and get something I was

especially annoyed. Outwardly I tried to just do what she wanted, but inwardly I was getting upset.

Then I stopped and asked the Lord, "How should I respond to this? What are you trying to teach me?" The Lord reminded me that I wanted to work on being a servant. In fact, I remembered that I had recently prayed and asked the Lord to help me learn this. He showed me that He was giving me a perfect opportunity to practice being a servant. Then I realized, "Maybe the Lord is allowing Grace to ask me to do things in order to teach me character and help me become a servant." I decided to delight in doing things for Grace.

Grace (14):

As Sarah said, we have been concerned as we observe the way many siblings fight, argue, are irritated with each other, and miss out on the close relationship that God intends for them to have. Even in Christian families, most brothers and sisters don't realize what a treasure and blessing their brothers and sisters can be!

A friend of mine was trying to get rid of all the mice in his garage, so he set a trap. This trap was designed so that it didn't kill the mice; instead the mice would go after the cheese and fall into a box – one mouse at a time. The day after he set the trap, he went to look and see how many mice he had caught. He was in for a surprise. There were many mice, but only one mouse was still alive. When all those mice were confined together in such small quarters, they would fight and fight until all but one was dead. This same thing happened every time our friend set his mousetrap.

Brothers and sisters may feel as if they are confined together, just like these mice, and they can easily irritate each other. But God designed us to be in families for our good, so that brothers and sisters can support and strengthen each other – not cut each other down. I am hoping this article will help you so that your family will not be like mice in the box!

I'm not saying that this is easy. One time, my grandma was in the car with a little girl. As the girl looked out the window, she saw a telephone pole and exclaimed, "I love Jesus so much, I think I could climb right up to the top of that telephone pole!"

"Well, you know," Grandma said, "I don't think Jesus would want you to climb the telephone pole, but I know something Jesus does want you to do."

"What?" asked the little girl eagerly.

My grandma answered, "I think He wants you to be nice to your brother."

"Oh, that's too hard!" the little girl said.

If you consider getting along with your family to be impossible, then your whole future is not off to a very good start! If you can't get along with your family, how will you be able to maintain good relationships with others later on? It is true, as this little girl said, that being a good sister can be a very difficult thing to do. But the Lord is always faithful to help us and strengthen us. "It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect." – Psalm 18:32.

Do you ever have a day at your house when everything is going wrong? Maybe you have too much work to do, and you have a wrong attitude, and then you're irritated with your brother, and then you say something disrespectful to your mom, and then you take it all out on your sister, and everything seems to be like one big, sticky mess?

Well, one time my mom was exhausted. She had been very busy all day and had just arrived home. Now all she felt like doing was getting a snack and taking a relaxing, hot, luxurious bath. No work, nothing to worry about, just take a bath, and then go to bed. Does your mom ever feel like that?

As she was fixing her snack, she went into the closet to get some honey. We have a lot of honey because we bake lots of bread. We keep it in a big, five-gallon bucket. Mom must have been overly tired because somehow the container slipped, and about 60 pounds of honey spilled on our closet floor. And, of course, it soon escaped from the closet into the next room. Now Mom was exhausted, tired, and stuck to the closet floor – and she really wanted a bath. What a sticky mess!

On some days in our family it may seem like everything is just one big, sticky mess! Maybe we need a new perspective! Is it a disaster, or is it part of God's training program? Is it just another family problem, or is it a new opportunity to learn? Sometimes God's assignments seem huge, but the rewards are even bigger!

On the other hand, many times God's assignments seem small. Sometimes they seem so unimportant (like doing our brother's chores) that we wonder why we have to "waste" our time doing these little things. It is easy for us to want to do the "big" things for God – the things everyone notices. But I think that God is more pleased when we are also willing to do the "little" things for Him. Right now, God has placed each of us in our families for the exact training we will need for our future life work. At home is the most important place for us to be kind, loving, patient, and willing to serve – even if we get no recognition.

Sarah:

"Lord, I don't want to settle for just average in my relationship with Stephen and Grace. I desire Your best. Is there anything I could do to strengthen our relationship, get closer to them, and encourage them?"

This is what I prayed several years ago. Even though I felt like I had a good relationship with Stephen and Grace, I was wondering what I could do to make it even better. The idea that the Lord gave me at that time has been amazing to me; I am excited to share it with you. Because of the many benefits this has brought to our family, I would like to encourage you to do the same thing with your brothers and sisters.

The idea was to start a group called ATTACH. This stands for Advancing Together Toward Accountability, Christ-likeness, and Harmony. The purpose of ATTACH is to provide a "one-on-one" time for brothers and sisters to encourage each other and learn from each other. I wrote a letter to Stephen and Grace inviting them each to a picnic to begin ATTACH with me. Both Stephen and Grace responded by saying they wanted to be a part of ATTACH. They came with excitement each to their own picnic, and I surprised them with an ATTACH journal which I had made. This journal was simply a medium-sized, decorated spiral notebook that was divided into the following tabs: Journal, Bible Study, Prayer, Accountability, and Projects.

Those picnics were just the beginning! We have continued to have ATTACH

meetings and have found them to be very special. I thought I was starting ATTACH to encourage them, but I was surprised how beneficial it was for me. ATTACH has given Stephen, Grace, and me many meaningful times together. It has also given us a perfect opportunity for many good conversations which we wouldn't normally have in "everyday life." If we miss out on the friendship and fellowship of our own brothers and sisters, we are missing out on one of the biggest blessings in life!

There are many different ways to "attach" with your younger brothers and sisters, but here is how ATTACH has worked in our family. Every so often (once a month is a good goal) we go out for an ATTACH meeting. We try to do something special such as go out for breakfast or go on a picnic. We eat, talk, and go through each section of our notebook. It is helpful to have a notebook because it gives you something to do at the meeting and it produces good topics for conversation.

After I started ATTACH, I was so excited about it that I wanted to encourage others to start ATTACH groups. Some of the girls I teach in my girls' discipleship group have started ATTACH with their younger siblings, and they have come to me with very good reports. If you start ATTACH and would like to share a testimony about it, or if you need encouragement and would like to read about other groups, come to the ATTACH page of our website at www.brothersandsisters.net. If you would like to do something like ATTACH in your family but simply do not have the time, then I urge you to re-evaluate your priorities!

Grace:

I was sitting in the car one day when Sarah said to me, "Grace, I have an idea. I think we should write a book to help brothers and sisters get along."

I thought, "Oh boy! Here we go – another one of Sarah's big ideas!"

But since everywhere I looked, families seemed to be having trouble, I knew this would be a worthwhile project. Stephen and I agreed to Sarah's idea of writing a book, and as we started writing it, we began to be excited about how the Lord was fitting all the details together. It was a huge project

and took us about a year from the time we started until the time we received a finished copy. But we all learned and grew a lot through the project, and we became more convinced than ever about the importance of this topic.

Actually, we shouldn't be surprised if it's hard to get along with our brothers and sisters. Cain and Abel, the very first siblings that ever lived on this earth, didn't get along. Their fighting probably started when they were little. The good news is that it doesn't have to be that way. God has the answers we need. Our brothers and sisters are blessings and gifts from the Lord.

I think the very hardest part for us, as we seek to have a good relationship with our brothers and sisters, is when we feel that we are wronged by our siblings. When anyone teases me, says something that is not very nice to me, or annoys me, my natural reaction, of course, is to become upset inside and say something back. Recently, one verse that has helped me a lot in this area is Romans 12:21: "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Once I heard a speaker who said that when we react to a person who offends us and become bitter and upset at that person, we actually put ourselves into a prison. We allow this person to control our thoughts and emotions. (Now, instead of being happy, we are upset because of what this person did.)

All of us are sometimes hurt or irritated by our siblings. This is an opportunity for us to overcome evil with good. When someone says something unkind, or does something I don't like, I have been trying to forgive this person (Col. 3:13) before they ask, and then to reward the evil with good (say something nice back or do something nice for them and not hold it against them). I've been amazed at how much joy and freedom this brings every day. If we should overcome even what is evil with good, then of course we should also overcome little irritations and annoyances with good!

Whether you are the youngest like me, the oldest, or somewhere in between, you have many ways you can invest in the lives of your family members. One thing I have also found to be beneficial in my relationship with Sarah and Stephen is to look for ways to do little extra things for them. A few years ago, I wrote a note to

Sarah on the computer. I had forgotten about it, but one time in a conversation she brought it up. She showed me how she had printed it out and saved it in an envelope and told me how much it encouraged her. I had no idea that it had meant so much to her. Most brothers and sisters do not realize how much of an impact they can have in their siblings' lives!

Sarah:

The benefits to the Kingdom of God will be tremendous if we are willing to seek His best in our relationships with our brothers and sisters. Few people realize how much influence they have on those around them. John 13:35 says, "By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Imagine the things you normally see in a grocery store. I often see parents yelling at their kids, unhappy faces, anger, teasing, selfishness, and brothers and sisters who are fighting and arguing. I remember one time sitting in our car, in a parking lot, waiting for Stephen. I was trying to study but was very distracted by the people in the van next to me; I could hear screaming and yelling. Needless to say, the family in that van was not getting along. They were literally screaming at each other in intense anger. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. It is sad that this is what many people are used to and even expect. But think of what a contrast families will be who show the humility, kindness, and love that Jesus commands – especially if they show it even to their own brothers and sisters!

Wherever you go, as a strong, functional family, you will be so rare that you will stand out brightly. Do not underestimate the importance of this testimony. By obeying the Lord in your relationship with your family, you will be lifting up a banner for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ that will be seen by many.

This is not just for your sake, not just for your siblings' sake, not just for your parents' sake – but for the glory of the Lord, for the defeat of the enemy, and for a dynamic testimony to the lives of everyone with whom you come in contact! Godly families are few and far between in this "crooked and perverse generation" (Phil. 2:15) in which brothers and sisters are looked upon

as irritations, unsolvable problems, and blemishes in your life.

As you purpose to get into the battle and serve the Lord, your brothers and sisters can be your best partners in the work. God intended for siblings to be close, so much so that He refers to Christians as brothers and sisters in Christ. Partners need to work together, to help each other, and to be united in heart and mind. We must not settle for anything less. The work is too important. There is too much at stake. ☺

More Than Getting Along: Brother-Sister Relationships

Jana Marie Baldrige, Timothy Baldrige, Sarah Bayer, Lisa Bode, Avery Hitch, John Leskowitz, Sharon Leskowitz, Joelle Schmidt, Bethany Tiss, Abigail Vander Hamm, and Emily Williamson

Whether older or younger, one or several, brothers can be a challenge! But God's purpose for brothers isn't to drive us to frustration, to fill our lives with conflicts, or to bring us to our wit's end. God has given us each of our brothers for a special purpose. He wants our relationship with them to be more than just "getting along". It should be a source of encouragement, spiritual growth, and even fun – for him and you! Brothers are a wonderful blessing!

How do we develop – and maintain – this kind of relationship?

* * *

Joelle (19): I stared in amazement at the paper I held in my hand. It had been seven years since I read it. I had totally forgotten about it.

Yet there written in bold lettering was a list my father had given me as a plan of encouragement for my younger brother. At the time I was twelve, and encouraging my nine-year-old brother did not look like a feasible task. I remember thinking to myself, This will never happen! But I told my dad I would try.

Sarah (15): My brother and I used to fight like a cat and a dog! I would provoke him, and he would lash out. Sometimes we would just argue for no real reason.

I remember reading in The King's Daughter of a girl who said she and her

brother were best friends. I remember thinking, Yeah, right! Whoever would have their brother as their best friend?! Her mother probably made her say that! But now I can truly and honestly say that my brother and I are best friends! How did it happen?

Here's the secret: sibling harmony starts with – (guess what?) – you! ("Oh, no, not me! I mean, he's the one that started it...")

The reason I struggled with this for such a long time was because of my pride. Proverbs 13:10 says, "Only by pride cometh contention...." God also promises to bless us if we humble ourselves. "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." – Luke 14:11.

So the secret to having harmony with your brother is to first deal with yourself. I still struggle with this, but it's important to not give up. The Lord can work in us even when we make mistakes. Failure is not falling, but rather failing to get up when you fall. So keep at it and don't give up. Shoot for the goal, to be like Christ. "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." – Phil. 3:14.

Emily (17): What makes a Christ-like sibling relationship? Avoiding conflicts is not enough. Nor should our motive be to appear right in the eyes of others. Hypocrisy will soon show through. A genuine, loving, brother-sister relationship means daily giving of ourselves, laying down our own desires to benefit our brothers.

This is a foreign concept to the world. The world will tell you that it is only natural for brothers and sisters to fight, bicker, and pester each other – "all siblings are like that". Well, they are right – it is the natural thing to not get along. It takes the supernatural power of God to be something different!

Joelle: An essential step in both developing and maintaining a good relationship with your brother is accepting him for who he is. We must accept him at whatever age, whatever his skills, whatever his interests, and whatever his attitude toward us. To start developing a good relationship with my brothers, I first had to come to this point.

Acceptance is truly the essence of love, as we read in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil...beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth...." Love gives without motive of being rewarded, loves even when the love is not returned. Truly, love is the key to any good relationship.

Jana (18): Bear with each other in love (see Eph. 4:2). Pray for your siblings!

With your younger brothers, realize – not with a high and mighty attitude, though ☺ – that your brother is simply just younger than you, and needs time to grow up and be guided by the Lord. It wasn't until I was fifteen or sixteen that Timothy and I began to see our similarities more than our differences.

I will be the first to admit that this is easier said (or written) than done. God knows how much I don't always think positively toward my brothers. But He wants me to be an example for them to follow. I can love them, show instant obedience to my parents, watch my tongue, and even do special things for them.

Lisa (17): I used to focus on all Jonathan's weak areas, playing boss and taking it upon myself to inform him of all his character flaws. Needless to say, my tirades didn't achieve the desired result. When I picked Jonathan apart, he would become defensive, because he could see the same sins in my own life.

Our relationship started to improve as I learned to focus on my sin, not his sin, and to work on my own heart. I needed to recognize that God loves me more than I can ever understand, and forgives me more than I can ever repay. And He wants me to show that same love and forgiveness to Jonathan! I should be able to overlook offenses or irritations because I love Jon and want his ultimate success in life more than my comfort for the moment.

I've found to my amazement that when I keep my mouth shut and focus on being a good example, Jon changes for the better.

When I stop ragging on him and start loving him, he often ends up showing the qualities I wanted him to in the first place! “Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.” – Prov. 10:12.

My heart attitude is most important. I can say or do all the right things, but if in my heart I’m angry, resentful, or selfish, it doesn’t work. Unconditional and selfless love is the key.

Sharon (19): “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren [and sisters!] to dwell together in unity!” – Ps. 133:1. I’m ashamed to admit that I’m quick to find fault with my brothers. I get impatient and criticize their little quirks. John (16) is taller than I am now, and very talented. Michael (10) is quiet and thoughtful; Isaac (8) has so much energy he doesn’t even sleep still. Benjamin (6) takes life in stride and never ties his shoes, I think. Stephen’s the baby, so he’s mostly perfect, of course. ☺

“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” – Prov. 17:17. Daddy likes to quote this to us girls. Sometimes it’s tempting to think brothers were born to cause adversity, but Daddy explains that brothers were born to help you out in adversity. We have to learn to let them help us out, and to encourage them.

Daddy has taught me to respect and praise the boys, even though they’re younger than I am. He taught me to let them treat me like a lady. Now that my brother John is older, he opens the doors for me, advises me on what to wear (and not to wear), carries my bags, and is my “protector” when we’re out. I appreciate him.

My mother is so faithful to remind me when I am frustrated with my brothers. She encourages me that I can try again, even if I’m impatient now. It’s not too late, she tells me, to develop friendship, love, and respect for each other. She keeps reminding me that God specifically gave my brothers to me, with the admirable qualities and the quirks that they have, to teach me things I couldn’t learn any other way. If I don’t learn to love them now, she tells me I’ll probably end up with a husband with all of those quirks and have to learn it all over again!

Mother tells me not to respond on the same “level” as the boys do. If they irritate

me, I want to get irritated! I’d like to think it’s all their fault, but most of the time I find it really is mine. “It takes two to make strife,” Mother tells us. “As coal are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.” – Prov. 26:21.

Strife happens when I carry around “fire” inside, and my brother happens along with the “wood”, and then we get angry. When I don’t carry around that fire (which is usually all the rights I have to the things I want), I am not as easily angered. I can hear the Holy Spirit prompting me to respond with love, and I don’t cause the conflict that otherwise would happen.

Timothy (16 - Jana’s brother): “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty....” – Prov. 16:32. This verse is critical to ending fights at home. It is the key to the old proverb, “It takes two to make a fight.” So, if your brother or sister starts a fight (or even disagrees with you), just walk away and it will be over.

You may think, But I like to see him/her mad. Then may I ask you why? Does it give you satisfaction to see your sibling expel extreme amounts of emotional passion? Matthew 5:9 says, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” Do you want to be blessed?

Remember that we will have to give an account for every word we speak. Let’s strive to make our words and actions pleasing to God and not offensive.

Emily: What are some practical ways we can foster a loving relationship with our brothers?

Pray for your brother. How often do you take the time to sincerely pray for your brother – his future, safety, and spiritual well-being? Do you ever thank God for him?

Do things with your brother. This means taking personal time and dropping our projects to do what he enjoys. My brother Luke (16) and I enjoy biking, rappelling, playing Ping-Pong, and exploring the nearby woods and countryside. Recently we both became licensed to operate HAM radios. Luke is a terrific brother!

Work together. Whenever you and your brother are assigned the same job, work with – not against – him to complete it. Often working with your brother allows you to get to know him better.

Thank him for the things he does for you. What? There isn’t anything your brother does worth thanking him for? Look again, closer this time. Perhaps you need to let up on your expectations for perfect results. I am thankful to have a wonderful brother who will help me and put up with my sometimes crazy antics. ☺ For example, thank your brother when he builds you a flower press or does some other kind thing. (Note: this is not the time to complain of its inefficiency or remind him that it has been eleven months since you asked for it.) ☺

Don’t do things that humiliate and annoy your brother. This is probably the one I need to work on the most. As much as I hate to admit it, I have often found pleasure in being a nuisance. ☺ We must show discretion to avoid irritations. This may mean giving up “rights”. For example, last December I learned to play the recorder. That instrument was such an annoyance to my brother that I ended up laying it aside and taking up the harmonica instead.

Speak highly of him to others. Don’t talk down your brother. Avoid sharing embarrassing memories. Be sure to give him praise and credit, especially when you receive a compliment for something that was a joint effort.

Do special surprises for him. Plan an extra special birthday celebration or activity.

Joelle: One of the most important things in my relationship with my brothers is for me to be an active listener. Although I am by no means perfect in this area, I strive to listen to them, even when it involves things that I either don’t understand or really am not interested in (like the flight controls of an airplane or the snake they found in the creek)! It is important for me to actively participate in the conversation despite the topic or their maturity level.

It means so much to our brothers when they realize that we value what they say. This involves more than saying “yes” and nodding our heads. We must demonstrate our desire to be interested in their lives. Sincerity means that we have no hidden

motives and truly want to listen – not to just pretend we are! They will easily discern our real motives!

Bethany (14): I am very thankful for my two older brothers! Soon after I turned nine, Ryan (23) moved away. I wish I had spent more time with him when he was home. I really miss him, as we only see him now about three times a year.

Since Jeremy (20) still lives at home, I sometimes take it for granted that I get to be with him. But it won't be like that forever! Don't take your brother(s) for granted. They are wonderful blessings from the Lord.

Just recently Jeremy and I started playing hymns on the guitar and flute together. It's a fun way to spend time with each other and has helped us develop brother-sister harmony.

Look for nice little things you can do to help your brother. Take him a cold drink when he's working outside, iron his clothes for a surprise, or just ask if you can help him with anything.

With God's help, I hope to love my brothers the way Jesus wants me to.

Joelle: Be a sincere encourager to your brother. This involves praising him for things he does right or complimenting him when he does well. Often it is much easier to see the things my brothers do wrong instead of the things they do right. Yet when I praise them for their positive qualities, it is so encouraging to them. This is particularly true when I praise them for specific character qualities. This motivates them to show that quality again!

Being an encourager also means praising his achievements to others, like at the family dinner table or when talking to a friend.

Encouragement doesn't always have to be verbal. I love to write special notes of encouragement and place them in secret places like in my brothers' math books or under their bed sheets.

Jana: I believe that having common interests can greatly enhance a good relationship with your brother. This does not mean that sisters have to become computer geeks, nor that brothers need to suddenly have thirty pen-pals. ☺ But why not start with books? Timothy and I have

been reading the G. A. Henty books and studying the battle of Gettysburg together.

We've had many discussions about this, talking when I'm making lunch, or even at 10:30 at night. Our different reactions and thoughts – much of which is influenced by our personalities – makes for a good balance. And we love to laugh together – which is why dishes time with us can get – er – loud. ☺

Abigail (13): My older brother Kalaan (17) and I have a lot of things in common. We enjoy bike riding, jumping on the trampoline, and doing fun things together.

My little brother Seth (4) is cute as can be. I enjoy reading books to him or kicking a soccer ball. A tip to getting along with younger siblings is doing something they enjoy instead of making them do things you enjoy. Take some time to get to know them. They sure have a lot to tell you if you will listen! ☺

Pray for your brothers daily, and let them know you appreciate them.

Sharon: Talking together about things that are important to my brother and me builds our friendship. I invited my brothers once to our "Sisters Tea Party", when we sisters like to talk, but we decided it wasn't such a good idea after that first try! ☺ Now we talk with brothers at other times! When John and I talk together about things that are important to us, it not only builds our friendship, but it develops our relationship with the Lord.

John (16 - Sharon's brother): I can see, as I look back, how my older sisters have made a tremendous effort over the years to be interested in my hobbies and jobs. No matter what I happen to be doing, they always listen to me talk (even though it probably doesn't make sense to them), and then they go even further to ask questions and give suggestions for how I can be more successful. Through all of this, they show respect for my views and opinions (no matter how stubborn!), and in turn, earn my respect. Now I wouldn't think other than to take their advice. Who knows where I'd be if I didn't!

Joelle: Be a faithful supporter to your

brother. For me this has meant being there at his sports events, taking the time to see his science fair project, or going to the airport to watch him land the plane. It usually means that I have to yield what I want to do to invest in his life.

Yet it is so worth it! For then in a sense his successes become my successes and his achievements my achievements. (Like when I was watching my brother solo the plane for the first time, I felt like a part of me was flying, too!)

Avery (14): My big brother Nick (17) and I have a great relationship. He is a wonderful brother and so much fun to be around! I have always looked up to him. We have a relationship that the world could never expect a brother and sister to have, and it is because of God in our lives. I am greatly blessed by Nick every day.

Nick and I do many things together and have formed a lot of habits that keep us close. Often we do work around the farm together. Nick somehow keeps us all laughing while we do unpleasant chores, often creating wonderful memories! And whenever I get the time, I offer to go with him to town to run errands. This gives us a chance to talk and laugh.

My favorite thing that Nick and I do together is talk. I don't know how this habit got started, but quite often he will show up and sit down and a conversation will soon begin about anything and everything there is to talk about.

It takes unselfishness on both of our parts in order to remain in a good relationship. I am very grateful that God has blessed me with Nick, and that our relationship is so strong. For anyone who may be wondering what to do to get along with your brother, I advise you to just seek God and put your brother first in your relationship.

Joelle: Picture achievements for your brother. An example of this would be saying, "You will make an excellent father someday" or "I could see you being a pastor when you grow up". Let him know that you want him to succeed and be all God wants him to be.

A teacher of mine once said, "Reach for the stars, but if you only hit the light post, that's okay!" Encourage him to reach for the

stars, and if he fails or only hits the light post, reassure him and encourage him to try again.

In some cases, supporting him may also mean defending him when others are putting him down. My parents have always encouraged me to stick up for my brothers in group situations. Sometimes it was hard, because I often wanted to look good in my friends' eyes. Yet the result of my supporting them has been well worth it. Now that one of my brothers (Andrew – 16) is bigger than I am, he willingly defends and protects me!

Outings are one of my favorite things to do with my brothers! Whether it is taking a trip to the grocery store, going on a bike ride, or going out for ice cream, this has helped me to get to know my brothers on a more personal basis, so I can better relate to and encourage them.

Lisa: Jonathan (15) is growing up alarmingly fast! © Suddenly I find my “little brother” outside putting in a hard day’s work, or discover he’s almost as tall as I am. A few times these last few months I’ve heard a deep voice in the house and thought, I wonder who’s here? Oh, it’s Jonathan!

As Jonathan grows older, I have recognized more of the potential in our relationship. I want him to grow up to become the man that God wants him to be, not despite me, but partially because of my influence and encouragement. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to hear your brother as a grown man say, “I wouldn’t be the person I am today if it weren’t for my sister”? It almost gives me the chills! ©

I’m working on being interested in the things Jon’s interested in, visualizing achievement for him, never cutting him down with my words, actions, or attitudes, but instead building him up. I’ve tried to come up with ideas to help him fulfill his goals, to introduce him to people who I think will be a good example, and to help him get started in various ministries.

Jonathan has become a great brother to me. Taking the time to talk together has helped us become closer. So often we’re together in the car or in the kitchen. Instead of working in silence, I’m learning to take the time to talk with him. Asking him his

opinion, listening to him, or just having fun with him – it encourages me!

Joelle: I want to caution you not to try to develop a good relationship with your brother in your own strength. So many times I have tried to apply something in my life, yet within a few days I’ve given up in frustration. Why? This was the result of not asking the Lord for His grace to help me in the first place.

The same holds true in your relationship with your brother. You cannot do it in your own strength. You must ask the Lord to give you a love for your brother. And if you really mean it from your heart, He will! God can transform your relationship with your brother into something that you could never have imagined – something that will last a lifetime!

Sharon: I tried to think what I like best about having brothers. I thought of finding rubber-bands in the bottom of my milk glass, digging dirty socks from under beds, mending countless pairs of knee-less jeans, raising tadpoles on the kitchen counter, scrubbing creek water out of white Sunday shirts – memories of brothers.

Then there are the fonder ones – brothers opening the car door for me, little boy hands holding mine, reading stories together, trying on cowboy hats, smashing bugs, playing piano duets where only a brother can take the bass part, getting my lap full of dandelions, and enjoying good laughs.

I wouldn’t trade having brothers for anything! ©

Ten Keys to Having a Strong Relationship with Your Siblings

Tammy Sellin

1. Praise them. We all like to be accepted, and it feels good when others praise the things we do or make.
2. Write thank you notes to them. Do this at least once a month. My friend encouraged me to write notes of praise to my siblings. Thank them for a character quality that you have seen them showing. Thank them for helping you in

some small way. They need your encouragement!

3. Be a good example to them. I struggle with this one every day. Ask God to help you be a good example. Our younger siblings look up to us; what they see from us, they will usually do themselves! See Proverbs 4:26.
4. Speak softly to them. I notice that when I give a command in a harsh, loud voice, my brothers and sister usually won’t obey. Be patient with them. See Proverbs 15:1 and 25:11.
5. Spend time with each one of them. It means so much to younger siblings when their older sister plays with them. Since I have six brothers who still live at home, I get to play in the dirt pile, play basketball or football, play trucks and cars, and do all those wonderful boy things with them. Spending time with them can be just simply sitting down with them, playing a table game, or reading a book to the younger ones.
6. Share your things with them. When I share my things with my siblings, I build a stronger bond with them. Our things have been given to us by the Lord, so we are really sharing God’s things with our siblings. See Philippians 4:19 and Colossians 1:10.
7. Stand up for them. Even if all your friends are making fun of one of your siblings, be the first one to stand up for him. You may also be teased, but if you do it for the Lord, you will get your reward in heaven. See Colossians 3:17.
8. Pray for them daily. See 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.
9. Be a listener and a helper. When your siblings have a problem or a question, be willing to listen, answer, and help! This builds up trust. When they come to you for help, answer them kindly. Don’t ever be too busy to help them or listen to them.

10. Be quick to forgive. Christ forgives us when we ask His forgiveness. Let us follow His example and be willing to forgive our siblings. “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” — Ephesians 4:32. ©

Breaking the Trail
Cheryl Stahl

The Lord has recently laid on my heart the realization of the impact I can have on my younger brothers and sisters. I am the oldest of five children, soon to be six, and I have two brothers and two sisters. I have the desire to “break” a right trail for them to follow. Because I’m the oldest, they will have the opportunity to follow in my footsteps. Am I leading them in the direction of the cross and maturity in Christ or in the ways of the world?

The Lord has motivated me to make sure I am worthy of their following. Is everything right between me and the Lord? Am I doing all I can to grow in Christ? Do I have the daily disciplines necessary for spiritual maturity? Am I under my parents’ authority? If you and I can answer “yes” to these questions, then, and only then, can we have a positive influence on those around us, especially those in our homes.

I have put together a list of some ways I have found to be extremely helpful in guiding younger siblings. Of course, the list could go on and on, but I pray that what I do have here will be a challenge and an inspiration to you.

1. Teach them to memorize Scripture and then perform it together with motions. Hiding God’s Word in our hearts is a key to spiritual success. Adding motions makes it fun, and performing gives experience in public speaking.
2. Sing together. Joining our voices in song is a testimony to the harmony in our souls and in our family. The old hymns are so peaceful, uplifting, and powerful! What a tremendous treasure we have been given by dedicated Christians!
3. Read books together, i.e. classics, biographies, etc. Last year, I read a book to

my sisters as a way to get the required number of classics for my school program read. We all enjoyed it! As “experienced” readers, we can provide guidance in choosing good, clean books. I was damaged too much by reading romance novels. It all started with seemingly-harmless Christian juvenile books with guy/girl relationships in them and gradually advanced to romance novels with graphic descriptions. I have warned my sisters against certain “Christian” books that contributed to my downfall.

4. Teach them practical skills. Sewing, cooking, handcrafts, etc., will aid a girl in one day creating a happy home. My fourteen-year-old brother will eventually have the opportunity to teach our three-year-old brother masculine skills here on the farm.

5. Don’t hold grudges. Be quick to forgive. Your siblings are your closest relatives, and for some reason, conflicts flare up easily. Bitter roots and bitter-root judgments (expecting them to hurt you again) are so damaging to family relationships.

6. Be willing to say, “I’m sorry.” Asking for forgiveness is hard to do, but is so healing.

7. Encourage them to live up to the meaning of their name.

8. Find out what their spiritual gift is and motivate them to excel in it. This and number seven go hand in hand. My younger sister’s name, Rachel, means “Little Lamb” or “Motherly”, and her spiritual gift is serving. She loves to help people, and sometimes it’s hard for me to accept help from a six-year-old, but I’m working on being more patient in order to stimulate this great character quality of hers.

9. Be an example of femininity to your sisters. Teach them to value feminine things. Let Me Be a Woman, by Elisabeth Elliot, will be of great help in this area.

10. Pray together. You can teach them how to pray as well as enjoy spiritual communion.

11. Serve someone in need together. This will show your brothers and sisters what is really worth our time.

12. Compliment them on achievements, character, clothes, ways they have done their hair, etc. My ten-year-old sister, Rosene, especially likes it when I tell her she looks nice. I know for myself it’s a great

boost of self-esteem. While we must be careful not to put too much emphasis on this step, we need to encourage our siblings to do what they can to look neat.

13. Teach them to play a musical instrument, or to do any other fine arts you are skilled in. I am teaching my sisters how to play piano, and I know I’m learning almost as much as they are!

14. Be aware of what their talents are and motivate them to develop these. I remember when I was about ready to give up piano lessons because it seemed so discouraging, a superb pianist encouraged me to keep at it. That man could never know how much his words benefited my life. I am so grateful that I continued cultivating this talent, or I would have missed an innumerable amount of blessings.

15. Encourage good behavior and character. Never reward them for whining. If my youngest brother Peter asks for something in a whiny voice, he will not get it. Of course, your example is the best teacher. Your walk talks louder than your talk talks.

16. Teach them good manners. Make sure your siblings say “Please” before they receive something and “Thank you” afterward. Be sure that you say “You’re welcome” and practice “please” and “thank you” as well. These words can never be used too much.

17. Take them special places with just you alone. Soon after I got my driver’s license, I found out that it meant a lot to my youngest siblings to be able to go somewhere with me. I had taken Rosene but had not yet taken Rachel. One Sunday afternoon when Rosene had a friend over and Rachel was feeling lonely, I took her for a little spin in the nearby development. It wasn’t much, but she had fun! Of course, you don’t need a license to treat them to special outings — be creative!

18. Play with them. My brother James is constantly asking me to play ball with him, and right now he’s trying to convince me to go hunting with him! While there is a certain limit to what I can participate in, I try to accommodate some of his competitive nature. It does have its benefits, too. Right now he’s attempting to teach me to throw a football long-distance and with the right spiral! I’m actually making some progress!

Interview

"Staying Sweet in the Home" Miss Jody Braun

19. Pray for them. You can have a major impact on your family when you commit yourself to pray for them.

20. Listen to them. In the midst of schoolwork, ministry responsibilities, housework, sewing, etc., it's often hard to take time to listen closely to the little people. But they love it when we do!

21. Show them by your facial expressions whether you approve of what they are doing or not. Only a small percentage of our communication comes from the words we speak. Most of it is the tone of our voice and the expression on our face. Children do not respond well to yelling and harsh commands. It is better to communicate how we feel about their actions with the look on our face.

22. Train them to choose clothes that are modest and neat. The youngest children will always need help in combing hair and choosing clothes to wear. As they get older, teach them what colors match, what clothes are acceptable for certain occasions, what clothes meet your family's standards, and what clothes make them look neat and well-dressed.

23. Give them hugs. Call them by affectionate names. Children revel in warm embraces — they feel secure and loved. Calling them by affectionate names, i.e. sweetheart, honey, dear, etc., gives positive feelings of self-worth. However, some of your siblings may not appreciate this! Use discretion!

24. Discipline wisely. I've found that the best way to discipline a child when I'm in charge is to set them on a Time-Out chair and set the stove timer. If they get off, I just set it for longer. It always works wonders! When there are little spats between siblings, always settle them by hearing both parties and getting other witnesses if possible. Never treat one child better or worse than the others. Always be fair. Never respond in anger!

25. When you ask them to do something and they do it, say "Thank you"! What a detriment to a child's helpful spirit if we never show any gratefulness! A smile and sweet words will reward a child in full! ☺

KH: Please describe the impact you believe a Christian girl can have in her home.

JB: A Christian girl can have an eternal impact in her home. As our siblings observe the way that we handle exciting moments as well as undesirable circumstances and the way we relate to our parents and how we treat them, we can either be a beacon that will draw them to Christ or an unattractive stink that will push them away from Him. Which do we want?! Yes, on good days and bad, when our siblings are sweet as honey or sour as a lemon, let us all allow Christ to shine His light of beauty through our lives!

KH: How can we girls be the "sunshines" of the home?

JB: I would think that the most effective way would be in maintaining a personal clear, surrendered relationship to Jesus. At times our feelings get in the way of us being this sunshine. This should not be. Our feelings may come and go, but this does not mean that we should be grumpy one day and sweet and happy the next. God has commanded us to rejoice in Him at all times and we need to learn to do this. As we continually rejoice in the Lord and look for things to thank God for we will be a sunshiny testimony of God's goodness.

KH: What are some ways we can treat our siblings?

JB: 1 Corinthians 13 is an excellent guide!

(a) Have responsible authority.

"Now you do as I say right now!"
"Bossy cow"

Have you ever heard this or something similar? Sometimes we as sisters are simply too bossy. There are times when mom and dad are away from home or

possibly not available (on the phone, feeding a baby etc.) that we are given the responsibility to take care of our siblings. This authority is to be handled properly, though. Remember Proverbs 15:1, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Be gentle and loving and yet at the same time firm. If you are unsure of the authority that your parents expect you to have or how you are to use and not abuse this, I would strongly encourage you to ask your parents all that you need to know. It is very important to know how to relate to our siblings in this area. A bossy sister who abuses her authority will very likely not have a loving relationship with her siblings.

(b) Submit to them.

We also need to remember to submit to our younger siblings. In some things they really do know better than we do and at times they are right and we are wrong. When they are right it gives us a wonderful opportunity to humble ourselves and to allow the Lord to teach us the important lesson of submitting to someone that is younger than we may be.

(c) Be interested in them.

Take time to listen to their stories, share in their excitements, do things with them (go on a picnic in the back yard, do a craft etc.), and play with them. Do not consider it immature to sit on the floor and play dolls, blocks, etc. with your brothers and sisters, to swing with them, to be excited to go shopping with your nine year old sister, or to be interested in your brother's talk of tractors, trucks, horses, and so on. In practical ways we can develop a relationship with them by just taking time to care.

(d) Be encouraging.

When someone does a favor for you, does something that you have asked them to do, or gives you something,

make sure you thank them. Be ready with encouraging words for a job well done. When you receive a card from a younger sibling, thank them and find something nice to say. Do not lie. If it is not beautiful, then don't say that it is. But you could say something like, "Oh, I like the blue you picked for the clouds."

(e) Delight in them.

Watch them as they play, notice their sweet actions, smile at them and pray for them. Take time to allow your heart to warm with happiness at their innocent, cute ways and thank God.

In conclusion, ask God to give you the right attitude towards your precious siblings that He has blessed your life with and to help you to relate to them in a God glorifying way.

KH: It isn't always easy to submit to our parents' authority. What makes it easier for you to submit to them in everything?

JB: If we have Christian parents who love the Lord and are training us in His ways we may not struggle with agreeing with them in what the scripture says. How about the every day things though? First of all, we need to ask God for a heart that desires to submit. There are times when we will not feel like submitting, but the fact is that we should and deep down inside we do want to. So what should we do? When this happens, we need to cry out to God for strength to do what we know is right. We should completely disregard our feelings and make a deliberate choice, by God's strength and grace, to submit.

KH: What do you think is the secret of a happy and content daughter/sister who has given her heart to the Lord?

JB: A) First of all, an open relationship with Jesus Christ and all other people in my life. (By using the word, "open", I mean that you have sought to clear up any offence that you have caused).

B) Have a good relationship with my parents in submitting to them, loving them, honoring them, talking to them, receiving their counsel, and enjoying them.

C) Thirdly, an enjoyable relationship to my siblings; serving them as Jesus would.

D) Fourthly, take time to bless others. You could write encouraging notes, visit, smile, and speak words of comfort. Make others happy.

To sum up all the questions:

Jesus first

Others in between

Yourself last

Jody Braun, 17, lives in Cleardale, Alberta with her family of 11. She is homeschooled. Jody is a very sweet girl who is an excellent example of a true Christian. Though she is not perfect, she has a heart for the Lord and is striving to please Him in every area of her life! She is a help in the home, a good influence on her sisters, and a great blessing and encouragement to those who know her. ☺

Practical Applications

1) Work on developing a relationship with your brothers and sisters. Build into their lives; talk with them; do things with them; be genuinely interested in them.

2) Work on developing your relationship with your parents. Don't wait for them to set down rules; be voluntary. We must take the initiative sometimes. For example, if you want them to earn your trust, talk with them, ask their advice, ask their permission for even "little" things, never go against their wishes (even if they do not forbid you to do something, but you know they aren't totally comfortable with it, DON'T!), let them read your correspondence, make sure they approve of who your friends are and what you read, wear, etcetera, and verbally give them your heart. Let them be involved in your life.

3) Honor your parents. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:2 that we are to do so. To honor is deeper than to simply obey! Many of us think it means to do what they would approve of, even if they are not around, and that can be so—but did you ever think of its

profound implications? To bestow honor upon is an accurate picture. How would you treat royalty if they came into your home? I can see you giving up your seat, getting them refreshments, speaking to them respectfully, giving them your full attention, and maybe even doing something you would normally not condescend to, such as washing their feet! If you went for a walk with them in town, you would broadcast their fame to those you met on the street, and you would be very proud to be the host of such people. In much the same way, we girls ought to be bestowing honor upon our precious parents, who have done so much for us. We should be happy to serve them, and more than willing to prefer them over ourselves in all matters (Romans 12:10). They should be more important to us than our friends out of the family. They should be able to be involved in every aspect of our lives. Are you ashamed of your parents? Then you are not honoring them, and thus are in disobedience to the Lord. Let's be proud of our parents, and form habits in everyday life in which we can bestow honor upon them.

4) Speak no ill of any family member, family rule, etcetera. Never say or do anything that will mar the reputation of your family or a family member.

5) Be a sunshine in your home! ☺

Reputable Reviews

"The Influence of the Older on the Younger"
A Video by
Dr. S. M. Davis

Excerpt from the back cover:

"Dr. Davis recommends this video as his most important message for entire families to watch together. ~The main reason the Prodigal Son was a rebel was because he was rejected by his older brother. Most rebels in the Bible and in history were not 2nd borns, but firstborns. When 2nd borns got into trouble, it was usually because they were following their older siblings. ~It is no quirk of nature that firstborns are often very strong willed. God wanted that strong will turned in the right direction so that the influence of the parents and the firstborn cause the 2nd born to move in the right direction; then the influence of the parents,

firstborn, and 2nd born move the 3rd born in the right direction, etc. ~There are 10 key principle form III John that older children should apply in relation to younger children which will bring joy to their own hearts as well as sweet harmony to their entire family. ~This message ends with three moving illustrations of the powerful influence of older children on younger ones."

I would recommend this message to anyone with younger brothers or sisters...or even with older ones!

Park Meadows Baptist Church, 800 Memorial Park Road, Lincoln, IL 62656, 1-800-500-8853. ☺

Harmony For the Heart

Compiled by
Elaine Berry

A review of this thought-provoking, encouraging devotional book can be found at:

freewebs.com/christianchronicle/harmony.htm.

Order from Green Pastures Press (info on page). ☺

Wondrous Words

Ephesians 6:1-3—"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

Romans 12:10—"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another...Recompense to no man evil for evil...If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men...Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

...And lots more!

Our Mission

The Christian Chronicle is a publication for Christian girls 12 and up. Its goal is to provide conservative, wholesome reading material to inspire girls in their Christian walk. If you have questions or concerns,

please let me know personally about them. I appreciate suggestions!

This publication is by no means intended to instill or encourage worldly, foolish, unbiblical, ungodly, erroneous, or opinionated principles, ideology, attitudes, or doctrine. If you come across anything in the Christian Chronicle that fits an above description, please let me know about it.

This issue of this publication has been approved by the co-editors, my parents (Abe and Bernice Hiebert).☺

Next Issue's Theme:

"Christian Living"

May the Lord bless you and continue to strengthen your faith in Him! May you grow to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of His wonderful Word. May He help us all become 'virtuous young ladies for the Lord', striving to become like the woman of Proverbs 31, and to become all glorious within (Psalm 45:13)! May He open our eyes to His important truths as we seek to please, to honor, and to obey Him, trusting Him fully in all He does, knowing He has a plan for our lives and wants to guide us in His will. May Christ use the Christian Chronicle to His honor and glory!
