



Newsletter - Vol. 2, Issue 4

May 2010 Edition

Happy Mother's Day!!

www.MomsAndMoreTinley.com

By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established, through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures.
- Proverbs 24:3-4

UNCOVERING GOD'S HIDDEN TREASURES

During my first year, indeed *the* first year of 'Moms and More,' I was so emotionally overwhelmed at the thought of having found the Perfect Thing, I could barely share it with any coherence. All I knew was that I loved the circle that we formed together, in year one of any intricately organized, everything-thought-of, creature-comforts-for-mommies, education, spiritual, 'we're in this together' Mommy group.

We were taught that being a mommy is a calling, a gift, and our most important ministry.

We shared our struggles and laughs.

We learned about each other's denominations and traditions.

We mourned together for dear children lost.

We celebrated together as children were added.

This year, I have been proud to serve on the leadership team of Moms and More. Mostly, I've been excited to do so because it has meant one extra meeting a month, one more time to gather with women I have come to support, appreciate, look up to, admire, and love....women whom I may not talk to but the three times a month we see each other, but who have had my back at every possible time of need I've had.

One of our recent meetings allowed me the opportunity to step outside and admire everything that is wonderful – everything that works – about 2 hours, twice a month, where mothers of all stages, in all circumstances, come together to share, eat, be creative, love each other's children, and learn how to do it better and how to forgive ourselves when we don't!

Our Titus Panel consisted of three 'veteran moms' with different experiences, perspectives, and personalities, who spent an hour answering our questions with enthusiasm, detail, and humility. What a gift! ~ wisdom from mothers who collectively had seen and done just about everything. They spoke to us and with us without judgment and with gentle, generous, bemused knowledge that can only come from years spent in the trenches.

As they spoke, I tiptoed around the room and captured photographically many of the things that I cherish about this group: its openness, intimacy, collaboration. We're there because we want to have kinship with others like us

– who want to love our children and serve our families as best as we can, who want to be fulfilled as women, and who want to please God, Who gave all these amazing gifts to us.

Together, we are moms, and yes, more...

We drink coffee, eat what we've prepared for each other, and make craft-type-things we'd never do on our own.

We meet those who delight in teaching what they've learned...

...and we take delight in learning from them.

We learn as they share their wisdom and their struggles.

We share our children (I've decided that my 'ministry' at the meetings is holding babies while their mamas make a plate. It's a sacrifice <grin> I readily make!) On the day of the Titus Panel, we had 8 nursing babies in the room with us... what a beautiful image of what we've been blessed with! And we glean, hungrily, from our teachers and our colleagues in this full time job of motherhood.

What you don't see in the pictures: Women arriving at 8:30 in the morning with their sleepy little ones in tow, along with covered dishes and craft materials and birthday gifts, to set up everything from flavored coffee creamers and assorted teas to a lending library, from seasonal centerpieces to take-home family activities. Women delivering meals to new mothers. Loving hands caring for our kiddies so we can have two hours off that make us better moms.

The pictures also don't show what we call the 'afterglow' – when our wee ones come in to munch from the leftovers (they've had their snacks already, but ours are more exciting), the big ones care for the little ones while we clean up and hug and make plans for Monday play dates.

Some of the treasures that have grown out of this group for me are the real friendships – the special closeness I've been blessed to forge with a handful of women I may not have otherwise met. They are here for me in such a way that I feel safe with them – especially when I am harried or have returned from a road trip with my husband, and I know my kids need other kids but I'm so overwhelmed with laundry and fatigue I can't imagine leaving the house. They

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better one

A Tribute

By Kelly Burton
Originally Posted:
mylifeastheglue.com

continued on pg 3

2 * The Kitchen



3/4 c. shortening
1/2 c. sugar
1 (3 oz) pkg. Jello
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
2 1/2 c. flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt

*Jell-o Cookies -
Contributed by
Martha Cavaliere*

Mix thoroughly the first 5 ingredients. Blend in dry ingredients. Roll dough in 3/4 inch balls. Place 3 inches apart on cookie sheet (ungreased). Flatten each cookie with bottom of glass dipped in sugar or roll balls of dough in sugar, then use fork. Bake 10 - 12 minutes at 350 degrees.

** We skip the sugar part and just flatten with a spatula **

** And I like my cookies UNDER-done so I take them out after 7 - 8 minutes. **

** Instant pudding mix can be substituted for the Jell-o.



*Meatloaf Muffins -
Contributed by Kelly Burton*

1 lb fresh ground round
1 egg
1 cup bread cubed
1/2 cup spaghetti sauce
2 garlic cloves finely chopped (I use a garlic press)
12 cherry tomatoes, smashed or 1/2 cup chopped tomato
or 1/2 cup canned crushed tomatoes
1/4 cup chopped parsley
1 teaspoon dried basil
3 slices provolone cheese, chopped

Mix all ingredients in a mixing bowl thoroughly. Make into 8 large balls and place in greased muffin tin. Bake Meatloaf Muffins for 25 minutes in a 375 degree oven. Serves 4-5.

**I double it for my crew. Also...you can modify. I use a bit less bread & tomato. And finally: cheese-what a bonus pairing for meatloaf :)



Warm Weather = Picnic Dinners

Picnics don't have to be a lot of preparation or involve a certain kind of food. Take your spaghetti, chicken & veggies, tacos, or whatever outside. Use washable plasticware so nothing breaks. The kids will be excited and you can clean up easily with your garden hose!

A Tribute | cont'd



drop in and drink coffee, and we let the kids mess and eat crazy combinations for lunch, and we take comfort in knowing that none of us care that the floor is filthy.

This group has brought old friends back into my life and new friends in that will stay. It's brought friendships to my children. It's brought awareness to me about things I might not have noticed or cared about before. It's brought to me nuggets of wisdom that are on Post-Its throughout my house and car and bag and notebooks and practical ideas about prayer and discipline and passing on my faith to my children.

Before this group, in addition to this group, I have friends who are moms, who are stepmoms, who have kids the same age, who travel or are married to singers and ministers. I cherish them as well. And I hope every single one who desires this sort of circle, the strength that comes with unity, will find one.

The Mommies: they make me feel stronger and more capable than I did before; they make me feel blessed to be a woman. And because of them, with them, my children have someone better for their Mommy.

THINGS MY MOM TAUGHT ME

LOGIC..."If you fall off that swing and break your neck, you can't go to the store with me."

MEDICINE..."If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they're going to freeze that way."

THINK AHEAD..."If you don't pass your spelling test, you'll never get a good job!"

ESP..."Put your sweater on; don't you think that I know when you're cold?"

MEET A CHALLENGE..."What were you thinking? Answer me when

I talk to you...Don't talk back to me!"

HUMOR..."When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

BECOME AN ADULT..."If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

ABOUT SEX..."How do you think you got here?"

WISDOM of AGE..."When you get to be my age, you will understand."

ANTICIPATION..."Just wait until your father gets home."

RECEIVING..."You are going to get it when we get home."

JUSTICE..."One day you'll have kids who turn out just like YOU -- then you'll see what it's like."





ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT HOUSEHOLD TIP

Vomit. There. Said it. It's over and done with and we can now proceed without unnecessary squeamishness. If you just use bleach to try and remove the stain, in a few days it tends to start smelling just like bleach... and vomit. Instead, treat

the area with white vinegar. This will neutralise the acids in the vomit and it will also dissipate the smell. Afterwards you can use the bleach to get rid of the stain and any germs.



Do I smell birthday cake?

Happy Birthday, Mama!

[COMING UP]

NIKKI A. 5/24

KENYA F 7/2

JOCELYN J. 3/13

JANA E 7/28

TAUNYA K. 8/18

[BELATEDLY]

AMBER M. 3/2

HANNAH B. 3/3

JACKI L 3/7

MARISA V. 3/14

MAUREEN J. 3/15

ALICIA K. 4/25

In May, we also acknowledge:

Date Your Mate Month

National Hamburger Month

National Salad Month

May 9 Lost Sock Memorial Day

May 16 National Sea Monkey Day

May 18 No Dirty Dishes Day (yay!)

May 27 Sun Screen Day

Nurse's Week - first week of month

May 29, 1953: The first people climb Mt .Everest

MOMS & MORE SUMMER PLAY DATES!

Join us each Friday morning this summer at the following parks to continue friendships, foster new relationships, and let the kids play!



1st and 3rd Fridays at Patriot's Park in Homewood. (187th and Center)

2nd and 4th Fridays at Centennial Park in Orland Park (15600 West Ave.)

We'll plan to meet up around 10am. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch and extend the fun!

Stuff we like:

Alicia K. recommends
Cloth Diapering

Alicia and a number of other south-Chicago based moms have joined together for a cloth diapering support group in Beverly and were recently featured in The Beverly Review. Cloth diapering saves money and is environmentally friendly. To learn more, visit

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cloth-diaperchicago/>

