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PROVERBS 25:13

As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him, for he refresheth the soul of his masters . . .

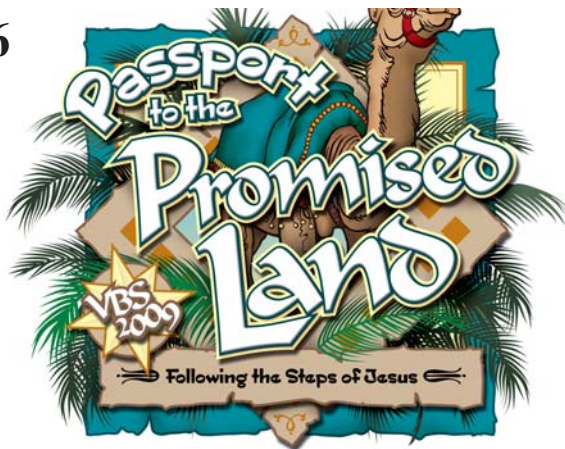
VOLUME 26 May 2009 ISSUE 302

Passport to the Promised Land

Following the Steps of Jesus

June 22 ~ 26

Stay tuned for more information in the June Messenger



Sunday School 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday Service 7:00 PM

- NURSERY PROVIDED -

2707 Sandy Ridge Road
Colfax, NC 27235

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The Messenger



May

Tribute to Pastor Milton Ward Laramore (September 6, 1924-April 12, 2009)

Brother Ward Laramore was promoted to glory on Easter Sunday. His home going occurred on the day commemorating the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Lord proved His great victory over death, hell, and the grave by taking His servant to glory on Easter Sunday!

When I think of Brother Ward, I Think of a Song – “Amazing grace how sweet the sound...” That song constituted the favorite for this preacher. He preached and sang of God’s “amazing grace” for he had experienced it in his life.

When I think of Brother Ward, I Think of a Scripture – “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live...” His favorite verse was Galatians 2:20. He knew of a salvation that identified him with the Lord’s finished work at Calvary.

When I think of Brother Ward, I Think of a Saying – I would ask him, “How are you Brother Ward? His favorite response was, “Saved and satisfied.” You can’t beat that answer! Someone once said, “He whose Head is in Heaven need not fear to put his feet into the grave.”

When I think of Brother Ward, I Think Of a Soldier - As a nineteen year old boy he, along with millions more of his generation, was called to fight in the greatest war our Country ever endured. He distinguished himself and came home with honor! He distinguished himself in a greater way as a soldier of Jesus Christ. He just went home with honor!

Ward had a soldier’s demeanor. He had the custom of walking into the Church vestibule and rendering a hand salute. This said one thing. He was a soldier who learned the greatest discipline of soldiering: “respect”. He had never gotten over military respect. He, more importantly, exemplified Pastoral respect. He was a joy to follow as former Pastor. He was always an asset and never a liability to my ministry here at Smith Grove. Ward was a sweet, humble, prayerful, and a supportive fellow preacher. As a soldier of the cross, he just received his “Medal of Honor” and saluted, personally, his Commander on High!

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from Pg. 1)

Tribute to Pastor Milton Ward Laramore
(September 6, 1924-April 12, 2009)

When I think of Brother Ward, I Think of a Servant – “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.” (Col.3:12) Brother Ward modeled these characteristics of a servant of the Lord.

When I think of Brother Ward, I Think of a Standard – He upheld the standards of: prayer, preaching, and purpose. This congregation knows the emphasis he placed on prayer. This congregation knows the priority he gave to preaching the message of Christ crucified, buried, raised, ascended, and coming again! He furthermore, maintained the standard of evangelizing the lost and teaching his people the importance of Christian growth and service for the Lord. Those called into the ministry under his “watch” as pastor, reflect the blessings of God upon the ministry of this Preacher of the Gospel!

When I think of Brother Ward, I Think of a Satisfaction – He has been restless to go home for some time. He has now heard, “Well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” (Mat.25:21)

Brother Ward now experiences what the songwriter wrote when he penned those comforting words, “THINK: Of stepping on shore and finding it Heaven! Of taking hold of a hand and finding it God’s Hand! Of breathing a new air and finding it celestial air! Of feeling invigorated and finding it immortality! Of passing from storm and tempest to an unbroken calm; of waking up and finding yourself HOME!” —Robert E. Selle

Brother Ward was a good Pastor, choice servant of the Lord and my friend. I will miss you, my Brother, but I shall see you soon and we will both have our next preacher’s fellowship at Jesus feet.



Pastor Chuck Peters

MOTHERS

Real Mothers know that their kitchen utensils are probably in the sandbox.

Real Mothers often have sticky floors, slightly messy ovens and happy kids.

Real Mothers know that dried play dough doesn’t come out of carpets.

Real Mothers don’t want to know what the vacuum just sucked up.

Real Mothers sometimes ask, ‘Why me?’ and get their answer when a little voice says, ‘Because I love you best.’

Real Mothers know that a child’s growth is not measured by height or years or grade..... it is marked by the progression of Mommy to Mom to Mother . . .

The Images of Mother:

4 YEARS OF AGE - My Mommy can do anything!

8 YEARS OF AGE - My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot!

12 YEARS OF AGE - My Mother doesn’t really know quite everything.

14 YEARS OF AGE - Naturally, Mother doesn’t know that, either.

16 YEARS OF AGE - Mother? She’s hopelessly old-fashioned.

18 YEARS OF AGE - That old woman? She’s way out of date!

25 YEARS OF AGE - Well, she might know a little bit about it!

35 YEARS OF AGE - Before we decide, let’s get Mom’s opinion.

45 YEARS OF AGE - Wonder what Mom would have thought about it

65 YEARS OF AGE - Wish I could talk it over with Mom.

The beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair. The beauty of a woman must be seen from in her eyes, because that is the doorway to her heart, the place where love resides....the beauty of a woman is not in a facial mole, but true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul. It is the caring that she lovingly gives, the passion that she shows, and the beauty of a woman with passing years only grows!

May Birthdays.....

02 Ann Dean	16 Amanda Clark	Joanna Dillon
03 Robert Cisom	16 Christopher McCollum	Jonathan Dillon
07 Jacob Clodfelter	26 Eloise McCollum	Steve Dillon
09 Sherrill Crater	31 Jacob Payne	Jesse Holt
09 Logan Kennedy	Chris Bame	Casey Mros
11 Wilma Farrington	Colter Bame	Elaine Stephens
11 Nora Smith	Randy Beeson	Peggy Vaughn
14 Dovie Dull	Timothy Cromer	Duain Whittemore
14 Samantha Tucker	Lucas Damazio	

June Birthdays.....

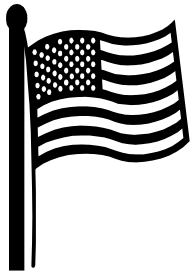
02 Clara Ward	14 Jo Anne Pegram	Priscilo Damazio
03 Heather Pitts	15 Ronald Rayle	Brad Flynt
03 Laura Williams	15 Dreama Moore	Adam Pearman
04 Travis McCollum	18 Cassidy McCollum	Sherri Tilley
07 Kyle Norman	19 Candace Nuckles	Margaret Tucker
10 Jimmy L. Crews	19 Oma Lou Pitts	
10 Tim Pitts	21 Gary Slate	
11 Ann Rayle	25 Geraldine Johnson	
11 Bryan Tucker	28 Waynard Nuckles	
12 Samuel Crater		
13 Angela Cornell		
13 Bobby Key		



May Anniversaries

Rick & Angela Cornell	Homer & Margaret Hulette
Moises & Ruth Damazio	John & Marilyn Payne
Craig and Michelle Hendrix-May 7	Kent & Linda Stainback
Don & Elaine Stephens	
Allen & Sandra Westmoreland	

In the Service of our Country



Matthew Bennett (new recruit in Jacksonville, SC)
 A1C William Holt, US Air Force
 Sheppard AFB, TX
 Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Maine, US Army
 [stationed in Korea]
 Corporal Mel Wright, US Marines, California
 (Nephews of Clarence Redmon)

Ladies' Fellowship

The Ladies Fellowship met on April 7 with 5 ladies present. After a short business meeting, we sang "Christ Arose" and took turns reading from John 18:28 – 20:10. What a blessing as we read the Easter story to each other.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us be ever thankful for all of our godly mothers. If your mother is living, let her know you love her; and if she's not, think of her fondly and share a memory of her with your children and grandchildren so she will not be forgotten in generations to come.

Proverbs 31:10-29 says: *Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.*

She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Happy Mother's Day!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 5, at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We will not meet during June-August but will be back in full swing come September. Love to all!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Smith Grove Seniors

Louise Byrd	Pat George	J. D. Shields
Wilma Farrington	Shirley Crouch	Raynelle Shields
June Freeman	Bud McCurdy	Louise Smith
Ernest Fulk	Mary McCurdy*	Clarence Tucker
		Hettie Mae Westmoreland

Others in Need of Prayer

*Special Needs

Marilyn Alston	Reva Holt	Miranda Petkis
Fred Bame	Raleigh Hunt	Norma Pilchett*
Merl Blake	Daniel Idol	Claude Royal
Roy Boody	Glenn Johnson	Jamie Shell
John Carter	Lawrence Jones	Glenn Tedder
Bonnie Clark	Bessie Kendrick	Eddie Thomason
Aaron Cole	Leighann Kincade	Melissa Thomason
Lib Cooper*	Napha Klepper	Barbara Tucker
Gordon Crouch	Rose Matthews	Kenneth Westmoreland
Louise Davenport*	Richie McCormick	Gordon Wilkey*
Iris Farrington	Mark Midkiff	Arry Wilson
Clyde Gray, Sr.*	John & Dolly Miller	Jessi Wright
Debbie Harden	Laura Nuckles	New converts
Ronnie Holcomb	Don Peterson	The Unsaved

Note: If there are names that you know could be removed from the prayer list, please let someone on the newsletter committee know. Also, let us know if you have someone you wish to add to the prayer list.

Special Prayer Requests

- Those on our Youth Prayer List
- Pastor Chuck Peters
- Wade and Nora Smith (Virginia Beach, VA)
- All the missions & missionaries we support.
- Scott and Melanie Crump ~ Youth Directors
- Preachers, teachers, singers, & workers of our church & Discovery Clubs.
- Our sincere sympathies to the families of Hettie Andrews, Rev. Ward Laramore, and Rubert Westmoreland.



Services Each Week

Sunday School		10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service		11:00 a.m.
<i>Children's Church</i>		11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service		6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Services:		
Discovery Bible Clubs	 <p><i>Memorial Day</i> May 25, 2009</p>	7:00 p.m.
Prayer Service		7:00 p.m.
Thursday Visitation		7:00 p.m.

May 2009



Sat., May 2, 5:30 p.m. Winston-Salem Rescue Mission

Sun., May 3, 12:00 noon Covered Dish Dinner to honor our Senior Saints ~ 75 and older.

Tues., May 5, 7:00 p.m. Men's and Ladies' Fellowship Meetings in the Fellowship Building.

Sat., May 9 Trip to Billy Graham Library/Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens. (We will leave the church at 6:45 a.m.)
Cost is \$45 per person.

Tues., June 2, 7:00 p.m. ~ Hospice of the Piedmont will provide a presentation on the topic of "Advance Directives for Medical Care Decisions" in the Fellowship Building. The Director of Support Services, Jacqueline Parker-Hatch will present this topic which will include answers to some questions you might have regarding the legal documents such as a Living Will and a Health Care Power of Attorney. Forms for these documents will be provided to all attending the presentation. No lawyer is required to complete these forms.

Please sign up in the church foyer so we will know how many plan to attend.

June 22-26 Vacation Bible School ~ "Passport to the Promised Land!"

Discovery Clubs

SPRING IS HERE! What a joyous time to be alive and a servant of the Lord. With every new blossoming plant, we should seize the opportunity to share the “new life” that Christ offers to those who would seek it! During these past weeks, we have faithfully tried to impress upon our youth the importance of grabbing this gift and then sharing it with others. We have also reiterated the need to always be ready for we never know when the clouds will part and we will be called into eternity! Continue to pray that our students will seek Him and the will He has for their lives on a continual basis.

Additionally, the planning for our 2009 Bible School (June 22-26) is well underway. We are so blessed to be able to have Darla and Bruce Freeman back at the helm to oversee the goings-on of this large undertaking. The theme for this summer’s bible school will be **“Passport to the Promised Land!”** Each night we will explore a new facet of Christ’s life. We will begin in Bethlehem with his birth. We will then discover his early life and follow his ministry. After hearing his message, we will witness his great sacrifice. Our key verse for the week will be John 12:26 *“If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be.”*

As we prepare for this incredible outreach opportunity, search your heart and pray about volunteering your time and talents to our children, either in the classroom or behind the scenes. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

“May” your spring be full of God’s glory and blessings!

Be Careful What you Plant

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust
If you plant goodness, you will reap friends
If you plant humility, you will reap greatness
If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment
If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective
If you plant hard work, you will reap success
If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation
If you plant faith in God, you will reap a harvest
So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later.



“Our Honour Roll”

Smith Grove’s ministry to our widows and widowers
“Honour widows that are widows indeed.”
(I Timothy 5:3)

Listed below are May and June Honour Roll Gang members. Please take a moment to send a card, make a telephone call, or do something extra special for our special saints.

Ann Dean 4632 Kendale Road High Point, NC 27265 668-9875 ~ May 02	Robert Cisom 125 Varner Rd. Kernersville, NC 27284 993-4900 ~ May 03	Alta Key 4454 Peace Rd Trinity, NC 27370 431-0079 ~ May 03
Wilma Farrington 572 D Piney Grove Rd Kernersville, NC 27284 993-8576 ~ May 11	Dovie Dull 1026 Madison Place Circle Kernersville, NC 27284 996-6330 ~ May 14	Eloise McCollum 8626 Bull Road Colfax, NC 27235 996-6320 ~ May 26
Clara Ward 4465 Kime Farm Road Ext. Climax, NC 27233 685-4196 ~ June 02	Jo Anne Pegram 710 Lakedale Road Colfax, NC 27235 993-5776 ~ June 14	

EVER WONDER . . .



Why the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
Why women can’t put on mascara with their mouth closed?
Why you never see the headline “Psychic Wins Lottery”?
Why is “abbreviated” such a long word?
Why is it that doctors call what they do “practice”?
Why is it that to stop Windows, you have to click on “Start”?
Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavor, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?
Why isn’t there mouse-flavored cat food?
Why didn’t Noah swat those two mosquitoes?
You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don’t they make the whole plane out of that stuff?
Why don’t sheep shrink when it rains?
Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?
If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?
If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

I Cor. 7:22-24



Gary & Friends Missionary Outreach Ministry

Greetings, and God bless you all. Thank God for His mercy and grace to us and all people (John 3:16). At this writing, on the evening of April 19, I am sick with a 'flu bug – this sickness got me down on Friday. We had a special old time hymns' singing planned in a senior home in Greensboro that evening – thank God for my fellow workers in the ministry, Phil and Jane Shu, and Ron and Kay who went for me and for Christ's glory. I am so thankful to my brothers and sisters in Christ. These folks are all members of a local Presbyterian church, and I am so glad for their testimony of faith in Jesus Christ. Thank you all for the work you do in fulfilling *The Great Commission* that Jesus left for us all.

If you would like to get involved in this ministry, we could easily use six or eight people to help on a weekly or monthly basis. Folks in all our churches need a visit, and this is true in senior homes, also. Please let me know if you want to help. My cell number is 336-707-3367 or email me at TRUSTGodGARY@bellsouth.net or let Pastor Chuck know that you want to help in local church outreach.

In Christ and happy there,
Gary Smith ~ 1Peter 5:7

Remember five simple rules to help you to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred; 2. Free your mind from worries. 3. Live simply.
 4. Give more. 5. Expect less.
- No one can go back and make a brand new start. Anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.
 - God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way.
 - Disappointments are like road bumps, they slow you down a bit but you enjoy the smooth road afterwards. Don't stay on the bumps too long. Move on!
 - When you feel down because you didn't get what you want, just sit tight and be happy, because God has thought of something better to give you.
 - When something happens to you, good or bad, consider what it means. There's a purpose to life's events, to teach you how to laugh more or not to cry too hard.
 - Never abandon an old friend. You will never find one who can take his place. Friendship gets better as it grows older.

Don & Elaine Stephens

Missionaries on the Texas/Mexican Border

Hello from the Texas-Mexico border. We trust this finds you well & blessed by the Lord. The time goes by so quickly and we apologize for being so long in writing. We have had a good winter and are enjoying the beautiful Texas spring weather.

Our church is doing well and growing. We have had several new people coming, with attendance over 80 some Sundays. And we have had a good spirit among the faithful ones. We had revival meetings the 1st week in March with Pastor J. R. Gossett and his wife Carol from Greensboro, NC. We had a great week with them. Our people were encouraged by the messages and we really enjoyed the fellowship. We appreciate them taking the time from their church to come and minister to us.

We completed our first unit on New Testament Survey in our Adult Bible Study, and 11 finished the course. We also are having a New Believers Sunday School class with 12 attending. Our Patch the Pirate clubs are growing, as well as the Teen classes. The Lord has been blessing.

We had a visit from David & Becky DeFord-former director of our mission board. We had a special time of fellowship with them. Dave is feeling better for which we are thankful. We thank the Lord for their faithfulness to the Lord and for their help. Their son Steve has taken over as Director of IBIMI, so please note the new info for the board. The address for our support stays the same-in Keokuk, IA.

We are so thankful for a healthy winter. We know there has been so much sickness this year, but we have been able to avoid it, thank the Lord. Some have been concerned about the problems with corruption and violence here on the border. We cross into Mexico often but we are careful, and we haven't felt threatened as of yet. Continue to pray for this situation.

We appreciate you folks so much for your part in the ministry here and we pray for you. You are a blessing to us and we pray the Lord will bless you.

In Christ,
Don & Elaine Stephens

The Coat Hanger. . .

A woman was at work when she received a phone call that her small daughter was very sick with a fever. She left her work and stopped by the pharmacy to get some medication. She got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys in the car. She didn't know what to do, so she called home and told the baby sitter what had happened.

The baby sitter told her that the fever was getting worse. She said, "You might find a coat hanger and use that to open the door."

The woman looked around and found an old rusty coat hanger that had been left on the ground, possibly by someone else who at some time had locked their keys in their car. She looked at the hanger and said, "I don't know how to use this."

She bowed her head and asked God to send her help. Within five minutes a beat up old motor cycle pulled up, with a dirty, greasy, bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag on his head. The woman thought, "This is what you sent to help me?" But, she was desperate, so she was also very thankful.

The man got off of his cycle and asked if he could help. She said, "Yes, my daughter is very sick. I stopped to get her some medication and I locked my keys in my car. I must get home to her. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"

He said, "Sure." He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute the car was opened. She hugged the man and through her tears she said, "Thank you so much! You are a very nice man."

The man replied, "Lady, I am not a nice man. I just got out of prison today. I was in prison for car theft and have only been out for about an hour."

The woman hugged the man again and with sobbing tears cried out loud, "Oh, thank you God! You even sent me a Professional!"

Philippians 4:19 - *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Taking A Centipede to Church

A single guy decides life would be more fun if he had a pet, so he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a centipede which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good location for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time." But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked him again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?"

But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. He decided to ask him one more time, this time putting his face up against the centipede's house and shouting, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about the Lord?"

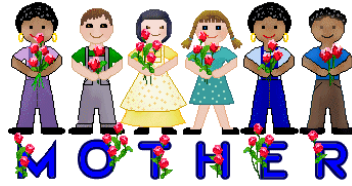
A little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes."

Freckles

An elderly woman and her little grandson, whose face was sprinkled with bright freckles, spent the day at the zoo. Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws.

"You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in the line said to the little fella. Embarrassed, the little boy dropped his head. His grandmother knelt down next to him. "I love your freckles. When I was a little girl I always wanted freckles, she said, while tracing her finger across the child's cheek. "Freckles are beautiful!"

The boy looked up, "Really?" "Of course," said the grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles." The little boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face, and softly whispered, "Wrinkles."



Being a Mom



We are sitting at lunch one day when my daughter casually mentions that she and her husband are thinking of starting a family. “We’re taking a survey,” she says half-joking. “Do you think I should have a baby?”

“It will change your life,” I say, carefully keeping my tone neutral. “I know,” she says, “no more sleeping in on weekends, no more spontaneous vacations.”

But that is not what I meant at all. I look at my daughter, trying to decide what to tell her. I want her to know what she will never learn in childbirth classes. I want to tell her that the physical wounds of child bearing will heal, but becoming a mother will leave her with an emotional wound so raw that she will forever be vulnerable.

I consider warning her that she will never again read a newspaper without asking, “What if that had been MY child?” That every plane crash, every house fire will haunt her. That when she sees pictures of starving children, she will wonder if anything could be worse than watching your child die. I look at her carefully manicured nails and stylish suit and think that no matter how sophisticated she is, becoming a mother will reduce her to the primitive level of a bear protecting her cub. That an urgent call of “Mom!” will cause her to drop a soufflé or her best crystal without a moment’s hesitation.

I feel that I should warn her that no matter how many years she has invested in her career, she will be professionally derailed by motherhood. She might arrange for child-care, but one day she will be going into an important business meeting and she will think of her baby’s sweet smell. She will have to use every ounce of discipline to keep from running home, just to make sure her baby is all right. I want my daughter to know that every day decisions will no longer be routine. That a five year old boy’s desire to go to the men’s room rather than the women’s at McDonald’s will become a major dilemma. That right there, in the

midst of clattering trays and screaming children, issues of independence and gender identity will be weighed against the prospect that a child molester may be lurking in that rest-room.

However decisive she may be at the office, she will second-guess herself constantly as a mother. Looking at my attractive daughter, I want to assure her that eventually she will shed the pounds of pregnancy, but she will never feel the same about herself. That her life, now so important, will be of less value to her once she has a child. That she would give herself up in a moment to save her offspring, but that she will also begin to hope for more years, not to accomplish her own dreams, but to watch her children accomplish theirs.

I want her to know that a cesarean scar or shiny stretch marks will become badges of honor. My daughter’s relationship with her husband will change, but not in the way she thinks. I wish she could understand how much more you can love a man who carefully bathes the baby or who never hesitates to feed, change or play with his child. I think she should know that she will fall in love with him again for reasons she would now find very unromantic.

I wish my daughter could sense the bond she will feel with women throughout history who have tried to stop war, prejudice and drunk driving. I want to describe to my daughter the exhilaration of seeing your child learn to ride a bike. I want to capture for her the belly laugh of a baby who is touching the soft fur of a dog or cat for the first time. I want her to taste the joy that is so real it actually hurts. And most of all, I want her to know the indescribable joy of seeing your child kneel at an old-fashioned altar, and open their heart to Jesus.

My daughter’s quizzical look makes me realize that tears have formed in my eyes. “You’ll never regret it,” I finally say. Then I reached across the table, squeezed my daughter’s hand and offered a silent prayer for her, and for me, and for all the mere mortal women who stumble their way into this most wonderful of divine callings.