



# Enjoy The Ride!

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TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009

## 2008-2009 MOPS STEERING

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## REMINDERS:

Please turn your cell phone ringer off or on vibrate. If you have to answer a call please exit

Babies 3 months and younger are welcome during the meeting. Older children should be in

The food drop off doors will be open again. Look for the door marked "D".

Services at First Free:  
Saturday: "Alternative"  
*Borderlands* @ 5pm  
Sundays: Traditional  
@8:30am and Contempo-

Dear God, Please remind my children that you and I love them.

## Happy Resurrection Day!

I love what Easter represents and everything that we are celebrating. Easter is such an important Holiday to me especially now that I am a Christian. It means so much more to me now that I really know exactly what it means to my future and life here on this earth. Some people prefer to use the word resurrection rather than Easter, which is fine since that is what we are honoring; Jesus being raised from the dead. *He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay (Matthew 28:6)*. I marvel at how God created the earth and how he designed the spring to be the same time that we celebrate Easter. Everything is resurrecting if you will and coming back to life; isn't it amazing how we can relate the two together this time of year. I think it's really evident to me living in the Midwest since we have such a long winter season; then April makes it's appearance and the scenery awakens again with flowers which are vibrant and we begin to hear the birds sing melodies again. If you were to ask me what season my life was like before having a relationship with Jesus; I would have to say winter. I didn't have the hope that I have right now in my life; I didn't have the peace I have now and my future seemed bleak. I asked Jesus into my life on my honeymoon in Hawaii; my mom had passed away on the same day that I rededicated my life. Since then I have had a hope and a peace that I never had before. I really feel like a new person now that I have surrendered my life to Christ. I don't

stress out over what I used to; I know that there is life after this life. I was made aware that I am sinful by nature and that I need a Savior. That I must repent of my sins and then pray to ask Jesus in my life; and when I did that that is when the Holy Spirit took residence in my life. Springtime is really the perfect way to describe what takes place in a heart when Jesus is accepted; then our lives take full bloom and grow into what we were created to be. *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you,...* (1 Peter 1:3-4). God gave each one of us our own free will so we can choose for ourselves; whether or not to accept Jesus or to reject him. *(For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time)* (1 Timothy 2:5). It is so easy to get wrapped up in the day to day agendas that we all have and I'm the first to admit that my kids can make me a little frazzled at times. Some days I would like to just escape to a deserted island all by my self do you know what I'm talking about? Life can be very challenging and just plain hard, let's face it. God didn't promise us a problem free life if we accept Him in our lives, but He did tell us that we don't belong here forever. This world is not where we will be for eternity. *But our citizenship is in heaven. And we*

*eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body (Philippians 3:20-21)*. I am annually reminded at Easter of the reality of eternal life; it really is mind boggling isn't it? We will live forever and ever. Jesus died on the cross for you and me; and that is very humbling to me. I don't know what each of you might be going through at this season in your life. Maybe you feel extremely exhausted by motherhood or perhaps you are completely content with your place in this world at the present time, or maybe you feel like you are a good person and that is enough. Jesus desires a relationship with you and will fill your life with blessing after blessing if you surrender your life to Him. We've all had hard times and may have more to come however our hope is sealed in the promise of what this time of year so beautifully confirms. *He will swallow up death forever. The sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The Lord has spoken (Isaiah 25:8)*. I am so thankful for what Christ has done for us and for the peace that is given through the cross and the resurrection. May we experience Easter and spring this year with a heightened realization of the true meaning behind this Holy time. May we explain the story of the resurrection to our kids as well so that they may know the truth.

## Moppets Information

If you have a child 0-18 months we ask you to bring a box or refill of wipes for their classroom. If your child is 18months—5 years please bring a bulk snack item (ie. a big box of goldfish or bag of animal crackers). Please NO individual packages for snacks. All nametags will continue to be kept outside your child's room until the new system is put in place. We all know we are in the midst of flu season. To keep all of our children healthy, I cannot stress how important how

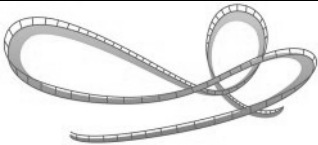
important this is, we ask you to please wash your child's hands with soap and water before entering their room. All children and staff are asked to refrain from attending when ill. Children should not be admitted into class with any of the following symptoms and/or illness; fever or vomiting in the last 24 hours, impetigo, runny nose (unclear), rashes, skin infection-boils, ringworm, measles, mumps, conjunctivitis, diarrhea, coughing/croup, head lice ,including

the presence of eggs or nits. Remember to label all diapers, bags and sippy cups or bottles. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please see one of your steering team members or Teresa Hubbard. FYI - we have a pager system. If you'd like to use it is located in the baby room. Just leave your keys. If you are needed the childcare workers will page you!



Visit our Web site @  
[www.firstfreewomen.org](http://www.firstfreewomen.org)

**“...how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ...” Eph. 3:18**



**“It will be gone before you know it. The fingerprints on the wall appear higher and higher. Then suddenly they disappear” (Dorothy Evslin).**

## “Ferris Wheels And The Tower Of Terror” About Our Speaker: Laura Larson

Today we are blessed to have with us as our speaker, Laura Larson. Laura has been married to Dan for 14 years in June of this year. Laura said she has three earthly treasures; Kyle-9, Anna-2½, Nolan- 4 months, and their heavenly treasure, Kirsten-6. Laura will be speaking to us with the topic being “Ferris Wheels and the Tower of Terror.” Laura became a Christian at 4 years of age with the help of her mom. Laura has rededicated her life several times; Jesus became the center of her life though in her late twenties. Romans 8 is Laura’s favorite book and chapter of the Bible. Laura is currently involved in worship ministries helping to lead worship on Sunday mornings.

“Being a mom of little ones has kept me pretty busy the past few years...but in the past I’ve helped with the: Women’s Retreat, Bible studies, Jr. High, and have been on the Borderlands core team,” Laura said. Laura has been a guest speaker at Moody for the some of the classes there; and she has been a small group leader as well. While Laura can relate to many of us in that she likes to be silly with her kids; she enjoys: reading, cooking, shopping, singing, playing the piano, decorating-especially the kid’s rooms, and walking.

Thanks to you Laura for being here and speaking for our Easter Brunch.



### EASTER FOREVER! Devotional For The Kids! (Veggie Tales Family Devotional)

“Plastic is where it’s at!” declared Mr. Nezzzer at the Easter trade Show.

“Plastic lasts forever! Not like real eggs, which break or rot!”

To prove it, Mr. Nezzzer placed a plastic Easter egg next to a real egg. “Not only can real eggs break, but they can’t be painted by machines...” At that very moment, the real egg wobbled and shook and started to crack. Then out peeped a little baby chick.

“Oooooooooooh,” said the crowd, gathering around the little chick. “Don’t you want to hear more about my plastic eggs?” said Mr. Nezzzer. “Your plastic eggs can’t LIVE forever,” said one man. “This chick is ALIVE!” Mr. Nezzzer had to admit that new life is exciting, after all, new life is what Easter is all about. “The chick is cute,” he said, picking up the bird. When he took a seat, he

accidentally sat on his plastic egg, squashing it flat. But no one noticed—not even Mr. Nezzzer.

#### Happy Endings:

When the baby chick came out of its shell, new life was born. When Jesus came out of the tomb, his disciples discovered that Jesus was alive! New life brings hope. Hope is when we know that no matter what happens in life, God will take care of us. Jesus gives us this hope.

#### What Does The Bible Say?

When Jesus was arrested, he was taken before Pilate, the Roman leader. Pilate didn’t think Jesus had done anything to be punished for. But the people who hated Jesus shouted, “Crucify him!” They had hate, not hope. So Pilate gave in and decided to have Jesus killed. Things were looking

completely hopeless! Jesus was forced to carry a huge, heavy cross to a mountain called the Skull. There, Roman soldiers nailed him to the cross and hung him between two prisoners. One of the prisoners made fun of Jesus. But the other prisoner said, “This man has done nothing wrong.” Then he turned to Jesus and asked Jesus to remember him so he could go to heaven. That prisoner had hope, not hate. “Today, you will be with me in paradise,” Jesus answered. After a terrible, painful time on the cross, Jesus died. But three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. He was alive! He had defeated death. Jesus showed that God has a happy ending for everyone who follows him. When you love and follow Jesus then death really isn’t an ending—only a wonderful beginning.

### Better Moms Make A Better World.

I believe that who we are as moms really does shape our world in such a huge way. What we instill in our children will continue to be instilled in our children’s children. We have a opportunity to leave a legacy with our children. I think about my mom and the values and morals she instilled within me and now I can in turn give that to my children as well. It is so rewarding and fulfilling to see our children begin to possess those values and characteristics that are pleasing to us and most of all God. When we

truly realize who we are as women and mothers we can make a better world. I love that MOPS International exists to encourage, equip, and develop every mother of preschoolers to realize her potential as a woman, mother, and leader in the name of Jesus Christ. I remember when I first came to MOPS and I was very hesitant to come because I only knew one person. I enjoyed the speakers and the friendly people that were here. I have met a lot of people over the years here at

MOPS. I think that God has used MOPS in my life to help me to realize my potential, and also to increase my confidence as a woman and mother and a leader. MOPS helps us to realize that were not alone in this Adventure Of Mothering. We are all on the same ride so to speak and we need to hold on and not let go of our faith that keeps us moving. Andrew Murray said, “The secret of home rule: first being ourselves what we want our children to be.”