

# Enjoy The Ride!



**2008-2009  
MOPS  
Steering Team**

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**Discounted Registration for MOPS 09-10  
Now Open!**

- Register now and get \$2 off your MOPS International Fee (\$23.95 for mom and \$26.95 for mentor moms)!
- Early registration ensures your and your children's spots for next year's first session!
- You will receive next year's theme book and the MOMSense magazine to get a head start on your summer reading!

## The End Is Near...

...Well, just for this MOPS year, at least. I'll leave the days of tribulation to the theologians. But yes, the end of our MOPS meetings is nearing and we, as your Steering team, hope that you have enjoyed your time this year.

We hope that you end out this year feeling encouraged, supported and equipped as mom, wife, and woman. We hope and pray that you made some new friends, got some great ideas about schooling options, feel stronger (or more able to blow a decent bubble) at the Strongest Mom Competition, gained some knowledge on how to deal with anger and depression and your children's fears. We hope that you connected with your loved one at the Valentine's Dinner. We pray that you have improved your

image of yourself and can see yourself as God sees you as his beautiful daughter. We hope that you have gained some crafting skills and feel a little more accomplished as a bag embosser, decorator and flower arranger. We pray that the testimony of Laura Larson at the Easter brunch has given you hope and strengthened your faith as she shared how God brought her through the loss of her little girl, one of the greatest fears of every mother. We also hope and pray that you have come closer to Jesus Christ. Motherhood is not easy, we cannot do it by ourselves nor by our own power. It is only through the strength of and reliance on Jesus that we can be successful as mothers and raise great children. Know that Jesus is there for you. Know there is great peace in

surrendering it all to Him. *"He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently*



*Better Moms Make A Better World*

*leads those that have young."*  
*Isaiah 40:11*

Even though we are near the end of our meetings we are still aiming to end out this year strong and we still have some good stuff in store. Also know that plans are already in the making for next year!

## Things You Might Find Amusing As A Mom... [www.betweenmoms.com](http://www.betweenmoms.com)

- As soon as you pass the last rest-stop for the next 90 miles, someone will need to stop.
- At birthday parties, parents are usually early to drop off their kids and late to pick them up.
- If you had to chose one voice in the world to have instead of your own it would be Daddy's
- If you say, "It looks like I'll get to bed early tonight," you won't.
- An Emmy is never more well deserved than by a child just asked to clean his or her room.
- The bag's under your eyes do not disappear until at least 3 years after the birth of your last child.

## You Mustn't Miss Our Next MOPS Meeting!

Every spring for the past several years our MOPS group has held a **silent auction**. This is our main fundraising event for the year. The funds raised help to off-set the cost of the meetings, supplies, and dinners like the Valentine's dinner. Everything that is auctioned off is donated by local businesses, individuals or our own MOPS moms who have a particular talent or home businesses. In the past we have received donations such as gift certificates for family weekend passes to water-parks, a lobster dinner for two, gift baskets from Pampered Chef, Tupperware,

Tastefully Simple, discounted Moms Day Out registrations and many, many more. This is a fun and exciting day that should not be missed!

This year's Silent Auction is scheduled for our next meeting, **Tuesday, April 28th**. Donations have been coming in and we have some great stuff to bid on. This meeting is open to the public so you are encouraged to invite your neighbors, co-workers, friends, family and strangers! The meeting will begin at the usual time of 9am for viewing of the bidding items.

After viewing the tables will open for bidding as we have our meeting as usual with brunch and fellowship. Remember to bring cash or your checkbook to pay for the item(s) you win. *If the silent auction doesn't interest you we will also have other activities available.*



## Our Speaker: Caryn Rivadeneira

Caryn Rivadeneira comes to us from Elmhurst, IL where she is a wife, a mom, a writer and an editor. She has been married to her husband, Rafael for twelve and a half years and has 3 children; Henrik who is 7yrs old, Great is 4.5yrs and Fredrik is 2yrs old. She is involved in her own MOPS group, New Mom's Ministry and serves on her Communications Committee as well. She has spoken many, many times to MOPS groups and has

lead workshops and Bible studies. She is the author of the newly released book *Mommy's Got A Fake ID: How to Reveal the Real You Behind All That Mom*. She is very excited to come and share some of her journey with our MOPS group. She "seeks to be an encourager to women — to know God made them on purpose, for a purpose, to know their gifts and to have confidence in them." Welcome Caryn —we are glad you are here!

"Nothing a woman can ever do will have anywhere near as much importance as the influence she has as a mother."

*George D. Durrant*

## Saying "Thank You" To Our Childcare Workers

Did you know that during our meetings our children are being taught, fed, changed (for those in diapers), cared for and loved by our wonderful childcare workers? We are able to enjoy a nice warm cup of coffee and breakfast, have adult discussion and get an entire sentence out without having to worry about our children...with the exception of the occasional page or call back to your child. Isn't it nice?

In appreciation of the women who are loving and taking such great care of our little ones we have placed boxes in our meeting room with the classroom names on them to collect gifts for the teachers to present to them at the end of the MOPS year. You are welcome to place small gifts, gift cards, cards or pictures your child has drawn for them as a way to say "Thank you, we appreciate all that you do."

*Let the peace of Christ rule your hearts; since members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

*Colossians 3:15*



*The Mission of First Evangelical Free Church is to bring people into a life-changing and growing relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.*

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