



**2009-2010
MOPS
Steering Team**

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He Loves Me? By Laura Nothnagel

April is just around the corner which means something special to me. This April marks 6 years since I left the professional world for the one of diapers and...more diapers. This has caused me to reflect on some things that I have learned. There is quite a long list, but I thought I'd share a snippet of the more useful and/or relatable ones with you.

- Drop out of the mom-petition. Lovingly, I must tell you that nobody cares if your baby rolled over four days earlier than the books said he/she would except Grandma. And if you tell me you make your own organic baby cereal, one of us is going to feel bad—if not me, then because I kicked you in the shins.
- Elastic is not my friend. Like the Koi fish in a pond,

I think we expand to fit our environment.

- If you have a child under three years-old, you will be wearing spit-up, chewed cracker, or mucus that is not your own on your shoulder within minutes, but a shower and fresh outfit in the



morning feel so good anyway.

- If you are out of yogurt, there is a similar substance to be found in a bottle or sippy cup nearby. Check under your couch, child's crib, or car seat.
- I could have handled childbirth, recovering from it, nursing while entertaining a toddler and a preschooler, or sleepless

nights on my own— to do them all, I need Jesus.

Yes, I miss teaching— the students when they finally “get-it”, meetings where I talked to grownups, 30 minutes for lunch without nursing or stopping to wipe somebody, and the financial stability. But I am deeply grateful for getting a glimpse of God's love through this mommying business. I used to see Him as sitting on a cloud shaking His head, continually disappointed in me. Now, I finally get how He can still be crazy about us as we're messing up because that is how I love my babies. He isn't shaking his head at us—He's cheering us on! With the mightiest One in my corner, what can't I do? *“...Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:39*

Next Meeting—Easter Brunch

It's here, already! Our MOPS annual Easter Brunch! That means that Easter Sunday is just around the corner—got your Easter dress all ready? To be honest, last year was the first time I had a special Easter dress since I was 8 years old—and I bought it with the full intention to wear it for a speaking engagement I had been asked to do, and secondly as

my Easter dress—so it didn't really count as an actual “Easter Dress”. Anyway, we've got a great speaker lined up, a great meal in the works and a wonderful morning planned! This is a great meeting to bring your friends who may not know Jesus Christ as their savior. Heather Dellamater will be here to share her experiences and how God has revealed

himself in her life as she shares the Gospel. So, remember—BRING FRIENDS, FAMILY MEMBERS, NEIGHBORS!!! All are welcome! We do ask that you let us know in advance so that we can properly welcome your guest and to let us know if they'll be needing childcare. You can let any member of the steering team know. See you on March 23rd at 9am!

MOPS Silent Auction

When? Tuesday, April 13th from 9-11:30am.

Where? Here at First Free Church in Fellowship Hall.

What? An Auction of many, many donated items from local businesses, home merchants, crafters, restaurants, summer camps, etc. There is something for everyone!

How? Just show up and bring your checkbook or cash. The auction will go throughout the entire meeting time and the winners will be announced at the end. There will also be other things to do that morning for those who are not interested in the auction.

Why? To raise money for our group. The proceeds go towards next year and help offset the cost for all registered moms.

Daycare in the Kenyan Slums: a request from Heather Dellamater

There is a daycare in the middle of the Kibera slum that is led by a woman named Miriam. She has lived in poverty her entire life and as a believer in Jesus Christ she has chosen to minister to others. She owns and operates a small daycare in the slum and helps women to go to work by providing a safe place for their children. Her "building" where the daycare is located would be a shock to us as American women and mothers. The children sleep on a blanket laid upon broken cement floors. During the rainy season, the children and workers move to one corner of the shack because the roof has so many leaks. A team of American women will be going to Kenya April 11-21 to minister to poor children and women in the slums. One of our goals would be to bring

some supplies for Miriam's Daycare and to raise money to repair her building and help with food for the children. Used items that are in great condition will be perfect! We do have limited space— so listed below are items we need and the specific number.

Items needed are listed below:

- 25 baby blankets
- 25 small bowls
- 25 bibs
- 25 baby spoons
- 3 bouncy seats (that can be taken apart to lay flat in a suitcase)
- Small preschool toys (nothing stuffed or fabric) - rattle size is perfect, but no bigger than 8" to 10"

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please make a check out to First Love International and write "Kenya/April Team" in the memo line. Heather Dellamater, April Team Leader, will be at MOPS on March 23rd, OUR NEXT MEETING, to collect any donations. Thank you!

If you have any questions please call Heather at 815-262-8105 or email her at heather_dellamater@yahoo.com.

To see copies of past newsletters and view our speaker/topic list for this year visit our website at:

www.firstfreewomen.org

follow the MOPS link.

Funny Stuff from www.happyworker.com

Fun Mother Quotes

"My mother's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it." - Buddy Hackett

"I want my children to have everything I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them." - Phyllis Diller

"If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?" - Milton Berle

"I know how to do anything—I'm a mom." - Roseanne Barr

"It's not easy being a mother. If it were easy, fathers would do it." - The Golden Girls

"Raising a kid is part joy and part guerilla warfare." - Ed Asner

"Cleaning up with children around is like shoveling during a blizzard." - Unknown

"By and large, mothers and housewives are the only ones who do not have regular time off. They are the great vacation-less class." - Anne Morrow Lindbergh

"Any mother could perform the jobs of several air traffic controllers with ease." - Lisa Alther

"A mother is a person who seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie." - Tenneva Jordan

"There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one." - Jill Churchill

"Where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them."
Matthew 18:20

"A mother understands what a child does not say." - Jewish Proverb

"There is only one pretty child in the world, and every mother has it." - Chinese Proverb



Things you need to know ...

- The childcare rooms open up at 8:45am. You are welcome to come at that time, drop off your children, and join us in the meeting room for coffee and conversation before MOPS begins at 9am.
- In case of bad weather, MOPS will be cancelled if Rockford Public School District 205 is closed.
- In an effort to protect the safety of our little ones, the childcare doors

(entrance B) will be closed and locked at 9:45am. If you are later than 9:45am use entrance A.

- To keep all of our children and staff healthy please wash your children's hands with soap and water before placing them in his or her room.
- Refer to the childcare Health and Wellness Policy sheet in your folder when your child is ill and for items to bring.

- Babies 3 months and younger are welcome during the meeting. Children older than 3 months should be in childcare.
- Please turn your cell phone ringer off or on vibrate. If you have to answer a call please leave the room quietly.
- When bringing food, you are welcome to drop it at the entrance D where someone will be waiting for you.

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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