

NEWS FROM THE ROCK

THE WOODWARDS IN THE SAN JUANS

InFocus Family Ministries

April 2009

Speaking of Motherhood

Ellie and I attended a women's retreat put on by Lifewerks Foundation.



We went to Orcas Island with several other island women. I had the opportunity to serve on the worship team and share in some of the teaching. It was a time of rest, reflection and renewal. Many of the women expressed how loved they felt over the weekend. My friends Marni and Becce did an amazing job teaching about God's grace and how we are His Beloved. This teaching overflowed into the environment of the entire weekend. What was really special to me was being a part of it with Ellie and seeing how God encouraged her throughout the weekend.

Motherhood...

As Mother's Day Approaches, I (Mo) have been reflecting upon the last 6 weeks of life in the Woodward Home. Like every other mom, I've had the opportunity to wear many hats, but specifically the one of nurse and caregiver. I remember 10 years ago when I was first diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis I had one main request of the Lord. I wanted to have enough energy to be a mom...play with my kids and live a full life with my husband. I believe I have had the gift of being able to do this.

These past weeks our lives we have come across those "medical unexpecteds". We've spent time in emergency rooms, overnight hospital stays and doctors offices. Adolfo's routine tonsillectomy ended up bleeding just days later and we needed to get flown off the island...Ellie and Carly got in a car accident on the Southern Cal. freeways and we spent the night in the emergency room...and my mother had her gall bladder removed just days ago.

Through the various scenarios we experienced God's peace, his protection and perfect timing. I don't have room to explain it all, but it is quite amazing. One of the biggest blessings for me was getting to take care of people...as a foster mom, a mom to my girls and my own mother.

As challenging as motherhood can be, it is honestly one of my greatest joys in life. I delight in being a mother. I tell this to my kids and they get tired of hearing it, but it's true.



One of the most meaningful times for me in all this has been taking care of my own mother for the past week. Our whole family has cared for her in very creative and loving ways. It's so special being able to take care of someone, who growing up, always took care of you. She expressed that it was not easy to let us do things for her, because she likes to help. My mom is always serving when she is here...she is a very giving and loving person.

In between naps she had us put laundry on the couch to fold...or she would sit at the kitchen table and help prepare things for dinner. Or ask, "What can I do for you?" I told her this is what it will be like when she is 80 yrs old and comes to live with us. She just laughed and reminded me that was still a long way off. The point I am trying to get across here is what an honor it was to take care of a woman who has poured her own life out to take care of others. She often says she doesn't want to be a burden when she gets older, but I tell her we don't see it that way. Maybe one day I will convince her...and she will give us the privilege to care for her the way she did for us. Growing up she would always tell my brother and I that her favorite job was being a mom. She passed on the legacy to me of valuing motherhood.

In saying that, "motherhood" looks very different in each household. She was a single mom who worked full-time after I was the age of 8. Although I've been able to be home with our kids, I've also enjoyed the work within our ministry, which not only includes marriage and family, but coaching

as well. Growing up, my mom never laid out formulas for me or told me that I had to do "exactly this or that" to be a good person or mom. She encouraged the person God made me to be and gave me the freedom to find some things out on my own...mistakes and all. Sometimes I think my mom is hard on herself...like we all can be, but I hope when she reads this, she will know this Mother's Day how much she means to me. Thank you Mom. Our whole family loves and appreciates you more than you know.

Investing in Marriages

I love this quote from Diane Sollee;

Marriage is the foundation of the family and the family is the foundation of society: if we strengthen marriage, we strengthen the family, we strengthen the children and we strengthen the community. If your goal is to help improve the world, marriage is as good a place as any to start.

Please prayerfully consider investing in marriages through InFocus Family Ministries. We would cherish your financial support in these challenging times. Send your tax-deductible donations to:

**InFocus Family Ministries
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