

From a Mother's Heart

Years ago, Michael and I began our journey toward parenthood. We had no idea that we would experience so many trials as we tried and waited for God to bless us with a baby. We endured medical intervention and found comfort in our church and family as we bound together and prayed for a miracle. God did in fact give us two miracles. In 2003 and 2005, GOD gave us Gabriel and Naomi. Praise be to him alone! Through this journey, we realized what a great miracle children are. As we discussed the possibility of adoption, we became very sensitive to the needs of orphans. We both have a heart for homeless children and have freely talked about foster care and adoption being a part of our future. I need to add that we have never longed for additional children or felt that our family was incomplete. We prayed hard for our children and have been completely fulfilled with God's gifts to us.

As many of you remember when we shared our calling with you, I felt called to be part of FamilyLife's Hope for Orphans ministry. However, during our time of support raising, the operations of Hope for Orphans were relocated from FamilyLife Headquarters in Little Rock to Dallas, Texas. I remember saying to Michael, "Wow. What will I do now?" What I did not realize at the time was that God was actually preparing our hearts for a more personal work. We decided when we started raising support that we would not even talk about fostering or adopting until we were settled in Little Rock. The very week before we reported, a friend invited us to an informational meeting with a Christian foster and adoption organization here in Arkansas. The meeting was in the evening of the same day that we reported to FamilyLife! God's timing and ways are perfect.

James 2:15-16 states: "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?" We know that everything we have been through has been for his divine purpose. This new step of faith is not about us. This is about submitting to God and his direction and being what God has called us, as the body of Christ, to be. "A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families..." -Psalm 68:5-6

As for our children, Gabriel and Naomi have been praying for brothers and sisters consistently since last summer. Last August I was in a store with them when Gabriel asked me to purchase a pair of baby shoes that matched his tennis shoes. I explained to him that mommy's body was not going to grow any more babies, so we did not need the shoes. He looked up at me with big serious eyes and said, "Yes Mommy, but if we pray for a baby, God can give us one. Right?" Both of my children stopped in the store and began praying for brothers and sisters. Oh, to have the faith of a child.

We long to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Please pray for us as we open our home to children in need here in Arkansas. The numbers are staggering. "Vindicate the weak and the fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and destitute." -Psalm 82:3

If you would like more information on how you can become involved in giving hope to the fatherless, please contact us or visit www.HopeForOrphans.com.

Also, if you would like more information on the organization we are working with, The C.A.L.L of Arkansas can be found at www.thecallinarkansas.org.

Michael & Alecia Corbin

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LifeReady™

Since we talked last month about The Art of Marriage video resource that will be available in February, we thought we should introduce some other new video resources - many of which are already available. LifeReady™ is video-driven teaching with a biblical strategy for the church that uses lay-led video resources to provide success training for today's marriage and families. Designed to unburden pastors and unleash lay people, LifeReady resources help prepare marriages and families for life and its stresses, rather than reacting to the turmoil life can bring.

Two LifeReady™ resources are available now: *Explore* and *CollegeReady*; and several more are in the works. To find out more about these great tools, visit the LifeReady web site: <http://www.lifeready.com>.

Please Pray...

- FamilyLife - The Weekend to Remember Fall event season begins in a few weeks. Pray that God will bless the efforts and sacrifices of his people.
- Corbin Family - for comfort as we mourn the loss of Marcie, our 14 year old Chihuahua. She was our baby before we had babies! We already miss her terribly. We are also praying that God will provide us with a second vehicle for our growing family.

*We are praying for you daily!
Please call or email us with your
prayer needs.*

Other Updates

We've been hard at work on The Art of Marriage web site. It's about to go through a major change, though. We should finish the new site in the next few weeks. Until then, the current site can be found here:

<http://www.familylife.com/theartofmarriage>

or

<http://www.2-11-11.com>

We've also had the privilege of updating the Passport2Purity web pages. That work can be found here:

<http://www.passport2purity.com>

