

Fall 2009  
**HBC News**



**Homemakers By Choice**  
The Choice That Really Matters



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**Our Mission**

To inspire courage and hope in women, wives, mothers and keepers of the home to live a counter-culture lifestyle by providing Bible-based teaching, worship, homemaking techniques and friendship opportunities

The ministry of [Homemakers By Choice](#) has been sustained for over 20 years by faithful donors like you. We depend on your support to continue spreading the message and vision of HBC.

**Notes from**

Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter! We hope you find loads of content to help you accomplish the delightful tasks of running a home and family. Here are some of my many

Stop and check how you did this summer. When Summer starts, we have great and grand plans; at least I do. I usually commit to "more": more rest, more books, more lazy days and much less hectic, stressful days. Now summer is over and the necessary question is: how did I do? How did you do? Stop and take a look at how things went. If you want to improve the future, evaluate the past.

School preparation. The end of summer means the start of school. My mother who sent me to school 58 years ago, always made a BIG deal about the first day of school. It included new clothes, new pencils, new anticipation and certainly the expectations of "obedience" and, of course, "increased knowledge". Dinner that night was considered a special meal. The Red Plate had not been created but it would have made a terrific addition to the dinner meal, celebrating a new beginning. Maybe the Red Plate or Plates should make their appearance at your house to honor the start of a new school year.



Pat Mersiowsky has given you a fine list of practical suggestions to ease your children into the schedule school requires. I'd like to add three principles for your consideration.

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3. Exp

**Success.** Success and succession are words that are perspective words in our culture. Webster succession to inheritance and sovereignty and the throne. Success in the 21st century is regularly career advancement and fatter paychecks. But, how does God define

Every gift is needed and appreciated. You may choose to donate by any of the following methods:

Click "Make A Donation" below....

Mail a gift to us at 11453 N. 53rd Place  
Scottsdale, AZ 85254...

Call our toll-free number at 877.219.6226...

Our gratitude is immense as we thank you for your part in the ministry!



## Donna's Itinerary

September 11-13

Scottsdale, AZ

Local Retreat

September 22

Scottsdale, AZ

Secrets to Getting More Done in Less Time  
Seminar

[- Register Today!](#)

October 2-4

San Diego, CA

California Women's Retreat

What attributes can you find in the Word of God that define success? Do you have a family definition of success? If so, are all the children aware of your definition? My husband and I agreed that doing your best was success in school grades but success for living was getting along well with one another. Talk together about success today.

**Pace.** Watching the Tour De France bicycle race in July reminded me of the importance of PACE. In bicycling, the constant challenge is to pace yourself, so there is enough energy to get up the mountain or be ready for the final sprint to the finish. Pacing requires us to measure out the finite amounts of stamina we have and to know when and where the push to finish will come.

Every contestant in any sports event prepares and practices her skills so she can set a PACE that will result in a winner. Set your children up for success by helping them set a pace for their lives. A good pace includes a daily routine and rhythm for personal habits, family life and friendship, studies, and personal growth. Setting a pace will help keep the temper flares of fatigue at bay. By the way, mama, how is your pace?

**Expectations.** Lastly, unfulfilled expectations will cause pain and anxiety in any home or personal relationship. Gerald May says, "expectations are premeditated resentments". Assess your own expectations for each child. Are they realistic; how much will it cost in time, energy and money to accomplish? Is there a role for everyone's part? Here are a few ideas to help set reasonable expectations.

**1. Write contracts which list expectations.**

- A. Let your children write their versions.
- B. Parents write their version.
- C. Merge the two into a shared experience.

**2. Inspect what you are expecting.**

- A. Take inventory of how each person is doing on a regular basis, thus preventing any surprises.

**3. Celebrate**

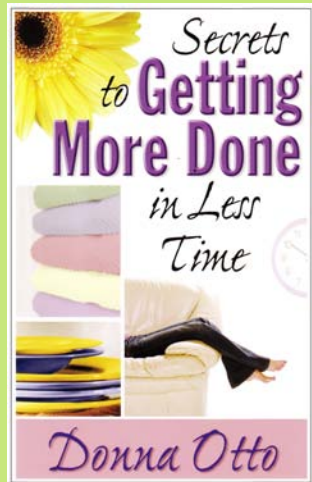
- A. Take time to party with your children.
- B. Acknowledge their accomplishment
- C. Value their attempts.

Summer is ending, school is beginning. Endings and beginnings are terrific times to assess and re-evaluate. Remember, it is what you do in the middle that helps you end and begin the year.

Thanks for letting us be a part of your lives daily on the Podcasts, through our books, resources and newsletters. You are the reason why we do what we do.

October 23-25

Houston, TX  
Texas Women's Retreat



## Secrets to Getting More Done in Less Time Seminar

Register today to attend the event hosted by Donna at her home in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Handy forms, time-proven advice, real-life examples and her contagious enthusiasm make this a productive and inspirational seminar.

Discover a lifestyle with room to breathe and celebrate!

Each \$35 registration fee includes:

- Admission to the Seminar
- A 30 page syllabus
- A Copy of "Getting More Done in Less Time"
- Refreshments

Scot

## What is the temperature of your home?

It is 115 degrees outside in my backyard in sunny Arizona, but in my home, I keep it a steady 75 degrees. What is the temperature of your home? Is your family feeling the heat from your not-so-great attitude or the relaxing comfort of a well run home?



Ladies, Donna Otto has said many times, "We are the thermostat of our home." Our daily broadcasts, which you can reach by going to [www.homemakersbychoice.org](http://www.homemakersbychoice.org) and then clicking on the Podcast tab, brings Donna and her special guests into your home daily. We talk about being a wife, a mother, a woman and a ho

Our daily choices are hard enough withot putting more pressure on us by not being organized, motivated and spending time with God. With our messages we give you so many life lessons to take and perform yo

- Did you know that baking powder is a great 'green' cleaner for many uses: to clean your bathtubs, to your laundry detergent to give it a boost, to clean toothbrushes and m
- Are you coupon cutting and planning weekly menus? This alone can save you time, money and get you organized for daily tasks.
- Do you need to clean a closet or bedroom? Are you familiar with Donna's 3-Step Process of Put Away, Give Away and Throw Away?
- Are you setting goals, journaling and reading your Bible? Your mind is so important to keep motivated and to grow; so turn to the Bible and you can find your answer!



The Podcasting Ministry of Homemakers By Choice looks forward to bringing you more broadcasts that you look in the mirror and continue to grow with God, give you hope, share practical tips and pr resources. Join us daily for your dose of inspiration an

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Registration is limited to 100 respondents.

[Click here to register today!](#)

## Scottsdale Study Group Registration

Sign up for big savings!

Membership:

\$40 before September 10th

\$45 on September 10th and later

Childcare:

\$300 per year per family

(5% per semester discount for full payment at  
time of registration)

Click below to register today!

[SSG Registration](#)

Do you live in the Phoenix metro area? Then, don't miss our Scottsdale Study Group's "Welcome Home Celebration!" It will be a fun and inspiring morning of friendship and teaching - please

**Thursday, September 10**

**9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**Scottsdale Bible Church, Room E-105**

**7601 E. Shea Boulevard, Scottsdale**

Childcare is available - please go to our website at [www.homemakersbychoice.org](http://www.homemakersbychoice.org) to register your child or contact our office at 480.368.0873 or [homemakers87@cox.net](mailto:homemakers87@cox.net). We are happy to provide full or partial scholarships for registration or childcare fees.

If you live outside the Phoenix metro area, get connected with our daily podcasting sessions - go to [www.homemakersbychoice.org](http://www.homemakersbychoice.org) and click on "Podcasting". Our website also provides many other helpful resources for encouragement and support in your roles as woman, wife, mother and homemaker - check it out!



For further information about the Scottsdale Study Group, please contact Amy Cavness at [acavness@cox.net](mailto:acavness@cox.net). Our group meets each morning on the campus of Scottsdale Bible Church, 7601 E. Shea Blvd, Scottsdale, AZ,

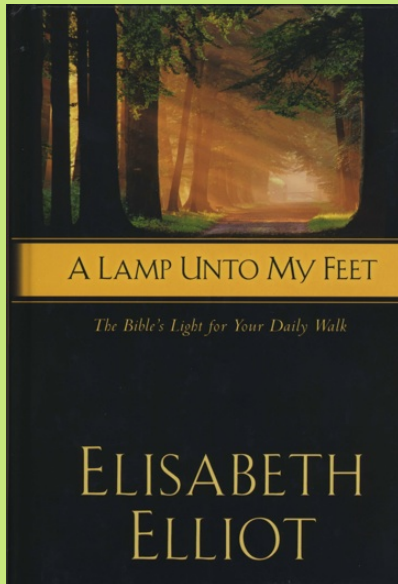
from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., in Room E-105.

Visitors are always welcome and childcare is available.



## Special Book Offer!

A Lamp Unto My Feet  
by  
Elisabeth Elliot



If you are one of the listeners to our daily broadcasts, you have heard the message from Donna Otto sharing the story of her relationship with her friend and mentor, Elisabeth Elliot. (Broadcast on June 30, 2009 and coming August 17-21: Chats with Elisabeth Elliot!)

## Start the School Year with Courage

The lazy days of summer are behind us and the busy-ness of a new school year is upon us. Meet this change with courage and confidence by instilling some of the following tips into your daily life.



- **Re-establish** any house rules that might have been relaxed over the summer. If rules are in place and agreed upon by the whole family up-front, future confrontations can be prevented. It will also severely reduce the number of times a parent must utter the word "NO". For example, a rule that "no Wii can be played during the week" eliminates a child's need to negotiate.
  - **Consistent bedtimes** are important for children and help establish a routine.
- **Set the alarm** so that you're ready to go before the kids get up. If mom is late or rushed, it ruins the atmosphere of the house and sets a negative tone for the day.
- **Having a designated place and time for homework** is essential to success. Keep the area clean, well-lit, and stocked with necessary supplies.
  - **Establish a specific spot for important school paperwork.** Create "homework central" by assigning each child a stackable tray to hold everything from class information to future assignments.
  - **Memorabilia** from the school year can overtake a home and overwhelm a mom! Cherish their memories for years to come by establishing a storage system now. Select a few pieces that will be kept long-term and store them in an appropriately-sized box.
- **Take the time now** to enter all of the school dates and activities for each member of your family into a master calendar. By doing so, there will be fewer surprises throughout the school year. You can also get a feel for how busy your family's schedule looks and make wise decisions on future commitments.
  - **Entertain the idea** of eliminating play-dates for the entire first semester.
  - **Be deliberate** about planning family dinners on a consistent basis.

Most importantly, remember that no extra-curricular activity or school event is as important as the time spent together as a family. Courageously start this new school year with purpose and confidence.

Pat M  
Scottsdale

We want you to share in this powerful message of walking with our Lord.

This book is six months of daily meditations, each holding the power to bring you deeper into  
God's abiding love.

Every selection will inspire a hunger for God's provision in your heart, yielding a desire to return again and again to His Holy Word.

This book is yours with any donation amount to Homemakers By Choice.

Limited quantities are available.

Thank you for your support  
and God Bless.



[Click here to download all of the free forms from Donna's amazing book Secrets to Getting More Done in Less Time!](#)



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