

Spring 2009

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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.

Donna's Itinerary

June: Nashville, TN
Meeting

September 11-13
Scottsdale, AZ
Local Retreat

September 22
Scottsdale, AZ
Secrets to Getting More
Done in Less Time
[- Register Today!](#)



Homemakers By Choice
The Choice That Really Matters

Table Thoughts

I have a thing about tables. Not just any tables, although interesting and fun to grab my attention, but I mean dining tables. These are the tables that even if you have a formal or informal meal for the family and friends. It's the big one in the room). Or, it's the one near the kitchen where the family gets fed. I want them to be: THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE!

Why get excited about the family dining table? Good question and an important question. It's one you should ask yourself because the table is the well-being of your family. Here's why I think the dining table is so important. It's so hard to see more and more casual families discard the benefits of eating at the family table.

There is so much to say about this wonderful topic that I am actually a publisher about a new book on the subject. But here are three table thoughts worth considering.

1. Memories are made around this table.

Sometimes we are so busy supplying meals and moving from one task to another that we don't stop and recognize that our children are imprinted with memories about the table. Think about it. Can you picture time around your family dinner table to mind? Was it a happy time? Was your voice heard? What did you learn? You can be intentional about making memories at meal time. One HBC family member answers at the dinner table at night: what was the best thing that happened today? Each person talks and is heard. They don't interrupt. No problems are solved, just everyone gets to speak and be heard. Is the dining table the center of your universe?

2. It's more than meals.

Eating together is biblical. Did you know that? Acts 2:42 talks about the brethren eating bread together. Does your family gather for meals? I know it's hard, but at least one meal a day needs to be served and shared. Bread together (or pizza), we need to be seated so that we can have eye contact before eating!) and rules of the road for conducting ourselves (we use the table and we don't leave the table until excused). And of course, we need some basic rules?

3. Be creative.

It takes so little to be above average. When it comes to family dinners, be creative about menu planning, although you can be creative there too. Be creative. You can have a day of the week when they are responsible for place settings. Decorate your table with a Tonka truck as the center piece! Could happen. Be creative about celebrating family accomplishments at dinner. We use the dining table to eat from whenever they achieve some big success, like a good birthday.

October 2-4
San Diego, CA
California
Women's Retreat

October 23-25
Houston,
TX
Texas Women's Retreat

Featured Product



Has time around the dinner table become routine for your family? Then spice up the evening by introducing them to Dinner Games!

Each tin contains 51 spill-proof cards with unique games and activities for families to play while they eat dinner together.

It's easy! Just sit down to dinner, pick a card, read it aloud and begin the fun.

Dinner Games will add fun to dinner, keep young kids focused on the family meal, break up the dinnertime routine and encourage kids to



So you see why the table is important. Families in America are allowing meals together. What a shame. Such families miss out on opportunities the table can be the center of your family universe? Begin today.

Looking Up,
Donna
Scottsdale, AZ

Youniquely Woman Conference in Scottsdale

Can you imagine the synergy when three great friends who are also women, wives what they wish they had known when they first started out as women, wives

That question was answered for over 300 women this past March when Scottsdale Woman Conference 2009. HBC was a proud supporter of the event that States.

Donna Otto, Kay Arthur and Emilie Barnes spent 4 days sharing their wisdom covered ranged from personal prayer time to how to love your husband. I shared everyone there with her "Urgent Appeal to Women" on Friday night. Don't miss some wonderful discussions and Emilie's tips and wisdom on personal organization.

The atmosphere was intimate and the attendees got to make personal connections. lovely meals were provided on-site and no one will forget the "Adventure" (share with each other.

Events such as these are not to be missed and we look forward to seeing you

Podcast

We are blessed to be able to provide you with this free daily encouragement at OnePlace.com. You can listen in as Donna addresses current topics relevant as woman, wife, mother and homemaker. Her wisdom and wit will touch you no matter where you are on life's journey.

Why not invite a few friends over to listen to the program and then have a discussion? If you come up with questions that you just can't answer, bring them to us at homemakers87@cox.net. Every Wednesday you can listen to your questions answered on air.

Or if you have comments, stories or anything else to share with our Podcast, we'd love to hearing from you!

eat their veggies and drink their milk!

Beginner Dinner Games are for families with kids ages 3 to 6 and Dinner Games will enchant the older children in the family. (and the adults too!)

Available for \$16.00 with free shipping if ordered before June 30th.

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](#)



Scottsdale Study Group

Homemakers By Choice Scottsdale Study Group finished strong after a growing friendships. At our end-of-year brunch, Donna gave her traditional way to keep us focused on God's plan for us as women, wives, mothers and with our families. Mark your calendars- the Scottsdale Study Group September 10, 2009, and we would love for you to join us! www.homemakersbychoice.org or you can attend our pre-registration even For more information please contact the HBC office at 480.368.0873 or 8 homemakers87@cox.net. See you in September!

For further information about the Scottsdale Study Group, please contact Sonia Cleverly a meets each Thursday morning on the campus of Scottsdale Bible Church. 7601 E. Shea from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m., in Room E-105. Visitors are always welcome and childcare is a



A Summer to Remember

What goals do you have set for you and your family this summer? Do you pool? Is your time filled with camps and activities? With school just getting most of your summer.



- Print off a blank 12-week calendar covering the dates from when you use the one on our website under ["Resources"](#) or Google "blank calendar"
- Pick one of the first weeks of summer as your "No TV" week. If you have electronic devices, such as Wii, the computer and handheld games, turn them off for the rest of the summer once that habit has been broken. Then, enter the rest of summer and into the school year if possible.
- On the calendar, write in any activities that are firm; that is, dates that have already been paid for. (Camps, vacations, lessons.)
- Because you are the summer planner, now write in things that are in your mind at a local hotel, a camping trip, monthly extended-family gatherings.

"Make this a Summer to Remember!"

Pat Mersiowsky

Donate

The vital mission 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.

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 Him for you and your part in the ministry.



- Next, ask each family member what 2 things they would like to do in. For example: Go on an early morning bike ride at the zoo, fly past the library requirements to "Read Your Way to the Ballpark", go cos dollars in the theater.....
- Add some fun to each day:

Music Monday- Do something musical, like putting together your to your favorite CD.

Tasty Tuesday- Let kids get creative in the kitchen!

Wacky Wednesday- Wear pajamas all day, have a backwards day and see what happens!

Thoughtful Thursday- Pick one day a week where everything slow "secret sibling" and do kind things for one another or read the Bible.

Field Trip Friday- Deliberately plan day trips to fulfill the goals beginning of the summer.

How is your calendar looking? Do you still see as much white space as you put on. Remember, just because you've already paid for something doesn't mean it's important things you can do during the summer is to spend quality time 'cycle' that occurs during the school year. Summertime means more family read to the kids at night and more time for board games. If you don't have plans you've already made. In following some of these steps, you will make

Desperate Housewives?

Recently Donna was contacted by the New York Daily News to give her opinion on shows such as "Desperate Housewives" and "Real Housewives of New Jersey". She said, "fun and ...fascinating to watch. It's an escape from the everyday world."

This may very well be the perception of many TV viewers, but Donna was talking about women who choose to stay at home. "Desperate Housewives can be titillating because they are women without hope, who are moved by their inner despair. They are women who wanted to make a home, and they are bright, educated and hardworking. They are women who are creating a home that is ordinary."

Some four and a half million women in the United States are full-time stay-at-home mothers. Another eight million homemakers work part-time while raising their children. These numbers reflect a significant portion of American society.

What is your opinion? Are women who choose to stay at home becoming "desperate"? Let us know what your thoughts are. You just may hear them discussed in our Podcast.

And many thanks, Donna, for defending the woman who makes the choice to be a wife, mother and homemaker!



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