



Homemakers By Choice
The Choice That Really Matters



Spring 2010 Notes from Donna

Spring is a Fresh Reminder

Spring comes early to Arizona. It's a gift to help compensate us for the summer heat we endure. While many of you are still shoveling snow and bundling up before you leave home, we are watching tulips and roses bud and bloom. Spring is a reminder of God's renewing grace to us.

Recently I stepped outside to tour the plants and shrubs that surround our home. It was a beautiful Spring morning and shrubs, trees and flowers were all truly bursting out of their Fall/Winter hibernation. The peach tree knots (not being a botanist, knots is my word) have progressed from tight knots to fuzzy brown knots that now have new life pushing outward. I remember last year how fast the knots bloomed, and I am determined not to miss the explosion of color this year. I also found rose buds, so delicate, pushing their way out to show their color and beauty. Everywhere was a color of green so bright and fresh it can only be called "SPRING GREEN."

Back to my tour, with every deciduous tree, for every leaf there is something botanists call "layer of separation." This layer of separation begins at the leaf-stalk. There the leaf's fate is sealed: The old is done and the new begins. There is never a moment of reversal of this decision. Each day that follows is a steady carrying out of the plant's purpose: "this old leaf shall die and the new leaf shall live." So it is with our lives. "Many are the plans in the mind of man, but it is the purpose of the Lord's that stands."

The Lord's plan for us is our new life, our new leaf. We "...walk in newness of life" allowing the layers of separation between you and the old life to grow. As we think of the old life, our natural thoughts of death are dreary and heavy. Yet death to our old self, our sin, is

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40 Days of Dedication



We are in the 40 day period leading up to Easter; and what better time to practice re-dedication to the one who gave His life for us?

Some of the more classic disciplines of the church were out of favor for a time; but have begun to make a comeback. Fueled by such books as "The Life You've Always Wanted," by John Ortburg, Christians are re-discovering the value of such disciplines as fasting, solitude, prayer and celebration.

Committing to these disciplines does require sacrifice - be it a sacrifice of time, of food or of attitude. Yet when we consider the sacrifice Christ made for us, ours pale in comparison.

Over the next 40 days, as you prepare your heart for the King of Kings, consider using one or more of these disciplines to express your love and gratitude to Him.

Can you practice a day of fasting and prayer at least once? Can you commit to read one Proverb a day for the next 31 days? Can you plan to spend a day in solitude - just you and God?

the gate to life. God grants us a FRESH beginning.

So with Spring comes the reminder of Lent, Good Friday Easter. Jesus' last days on earth, His death and Resurrection. It was his death that opened the "gate of Life" for all mankind. When we say the "big Yes" to Christ we die (surrender) ourselves to a fresh new life. Old things do pass away!

It is my prayer that you will acknowledge this Spring as a fresh new season to draw closer to our Lord Jesus. Take the steps needed in your walk to receive His perfect gift. Encourage others in your world to do the same.

Remember the common begin and the uncommon finish...

Or, perhaps you'd like to join our Podcast listeners in their "Ash Wednesday Challenge." Listeners are encouraged to support the broadcast by sacrificially giving \$1 a day for the 40 days leading up to Easter. To learn more click [here](#).

The possibilities are endless. Bow before the King and humbly ask Him how He would like you to express your devotion to Him at this time of year. He is the lover of your soul and He longs to be with YOU!

HBC Garage Sale

Homemakers by Choice
Scottsdale Study Group
2010 Garage Sale!



Annual HBC Garage Sale
March 5-6
7001 E. Voltaire Ave
Scottsdale

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Make your home NEW again by clearing out the old stuff you don't use and don't need. Sort and store your 'give away' piles into:

- Adult clothing
- Kids clothing

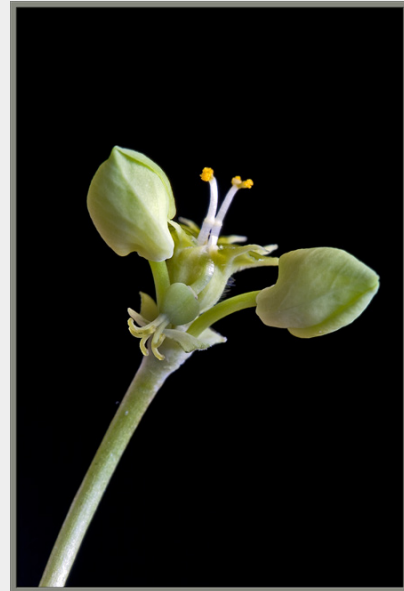
Be uncommon in your garden of life.

Prov 19:21; Rom 6:1-11; 1 Lilies Trotter

Love in Bloom Valentine's Love Rekindled

Yes, the official holiday has passed, but the new life blooming and budding all around us can be a reminder to keep love fresh and alive all year long. Listen to these words from the Song of Solomon:

*"Let us go early to the vineyards to see if the vines have budded, if their blossoms have opened, and if the pomegranates are in bloom - there I will give you my love."
- Song of Solomon 7:12*



New buds and new flowers, tender vines and ripe fruit - all inspired the passion of the lover. How can we use Solomon's ideas to rekindle and ignite our own love? Here are some ideas...

- Plan a romantic picnic. Find a beautiful park or create a lovely space in your own backyard to enjoy a meal together. Be careful not to make it too girly! Include some favorite man foods; plan a game of frisbee; pack a blanket and take a nap!
- Prepare his favorite food or dessert. This is especially meaningful if HE is the only one who likes it!
- Schedule a 'play date' for his favorite activity - go to a spring training game together; play golf - whatever he likes to do, do it together
- Strawberries. Juicy, sweet, sensual. Enjoy them at room temperature, with or without chocolate, in bed.
- Find a new way to honor your man - practice words of affirmation to say when he gets home; create a

- Books, toys, shoes
- Household items

Bring your items to 7001 E Voltaire Ave on THURSDAY, March 4. Please be kind to our hostess and DO NOT bring items to her home prior to March 4!

Questions? Contact Ramona Smith, rrsmith80@yahoo.com (480-614-8376) or Deb Beaty, debbeaty@cox.net (602-992-3375)

Clean it up in style
Make your home fresh with the help of these great products!



Our Homemakers by Choice apron is made of black heavy-duty cotton and has large, roomy pockets. HBC Logo embroidered in white on the front. One size - \$15



FEATHER DUSTER - The tool no housecleaning kit should be without. Large and sturdy - 28" overall with 10" feathers. \$13

special man space in your home; invite the children to help you make a list of 'best things about Daddy.' Get creative!

Hopefully these few ideas will inspire you to come up with even more on your own. Commit to finding one new way each month to keep love alive - it's worth the effort!

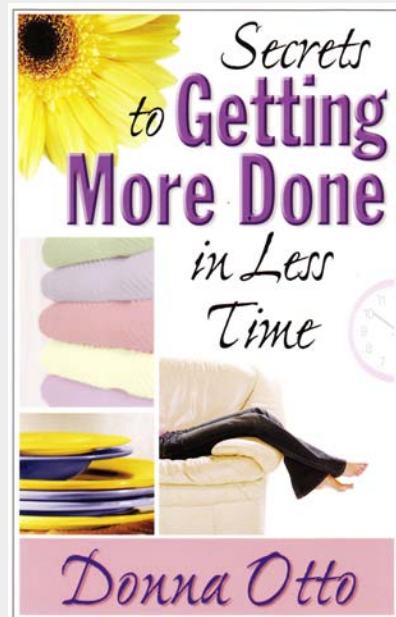
Secrets to Getting More Done in Less Time Organizational Seminar

Save the date!

Tuesday, April 6
6:30-9:30pm
Featuring
Donna Otto

Join us for an evening chock full of great ideas and tips to help you

- keep your house the way you want it to be
- use personalized planners effectively
- streamline shopping with checklists
- create joyful holiday gatherings
- involve the family so everybody benefits



Advance registration required and space is limited! Register online or call 480-368-0873.

Here is a sample of one of Donna's great ideas...

Kids Can Help! Keeping Track of Belongings

Teach organization skills AND eliminate frantic school morning searches for that missing homework!

I have devised a method of keeping track of children's belongings after many mornings of searching frantically for a math book or a homework assignment. My system also eliminates the unexpected midmorning telephone

SPECIAL OFFER: Purchase both for just \$25 - a \$3 savings. [Click here to purchase.](#)

call, "Mom, would you please bring my science book to school? I forgot my homework," admits the squeaky voice on the other end of the line.

Let me tell you what to do. Just inside each child's bedroom, set a basket, milk carton crate, box, or shopping bag on the floor. If your children share a room, you will need two baskets. Each child must have his own.

Once Susie finishes her homework, have her put the assignments into the appropriate textbooks, and then place all the books into the basket. If Susie has to take picture money or field trip money, put the forms, the money, and the permission slip into an envelope and place the envelope in the basket. If she needs lunch money, into the basket it goes. Add her gym clothes for the next day, gym shoes, and anything she wants to take for show-and-tell. Let her add her clothes for the next morning, checking to see that her socks and belt are there. Even a preschooler who has a nursery school or ballet class can do this. It helps a child develop organizational habits in early life.

- Excerpted from "Secrets to Getting More Done in Less Time," by Donna Otto.

Week of Weeks Easter Basket

A project you can do at home
the week before Easter

Do you feel like the Easter story is getting lost amid bunnies, chocolate and eggs? Here is a clever and creative way to share the meaning of Easter with your little ones.

Beginning one week before Easter, gather the following items and wrap each one, or place each in a colorful plastic egg. Each day, share the scripture related to each item as you prepare your hearts for the King of Kings.



Palm Sunday	Palms	Mark 11:1-11
Monday	Money	Mark 11:15-19
Tuesday	Fig	Mark 11:20-26
Wednesday	Perfume	Matthew 26:6-13
Thursday	Candy Kiss	Mark 14:43-46
Friday	Dice	Mark 15:24-25
Saturday	Stone	Matthew 27:62-66
SUNDAY	Spice	Luke 24:1-10

Easter is a time of joy,
For all people, girls and boys,
Joyfully today we sing -
Jesus is our risen King
Jesus is Living
Yes, He is Living,
Jesus is Living,
The Bible tells me so!
(Tune: Jesus Loves Me)

Week of Weeks Easter Basket resource available to
download [online!](#)

Please visit our website at www.homemakersbychoice.org
Donate to our ministry at www.homemakersbychoice.org/donation