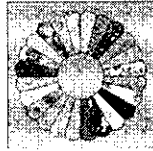


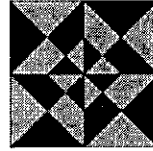
The Aardsma Weekly

March 18, 2007

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Mom



Mom, Helen Eloise, is the subject of this article. Mom is 52, and has been married to Dad for 32 years.

Mom's main occupation is, of course, being mother of the five of us still at home. And that is pretty much a full time job. As being Mom of this family also means being head laundress, head cook, head maid, head teacher, head gardener, and a lot of other things, she could easily keep busy with just this one job. But she has lots of others, too.

She is Dad's secretary, and does all the filing, talking, writing, and labeling that a normal secretary has to do. Mom also does almost all of the work for her website, www.themotherscompanion.org. That includes posting pictures, writing updates, and coming up with all the ideas for the things you can see there now. Lately, she's started writing some miscellaneous articles to post on her website, for people to read for free. There's one on web-surfing control in the works, I believe, as well as the bridal shower talk Mom gave at Laura's shower. Mom finds more and more time to do this sort of thing since Beka and I are able to take over lots of the household tasks.

Mom enjoys growing flowers on the side. She is also part-manager and chief sales-person of our big, half-acre garden we operate during the summer. While Beka, Timmy, Caleb, and I are outside slaving in the hot sun, she's in the pantry sorting strawberries, preparing tomato orders, and bagging up potatoes. Or she's outside at the vegetable stand, talking to the customers and selling our produce.

Mom likes to sew, but she doesn't do much of that any more. She taught Beka how to quilt this year, and so she's passing on her skills to the next generation. A few years ago, Mom helped Beka and I sew fancy skirts, with matching vests. We had a lot of fun, and learned a lot of things in the process.

During her small amount of spare time, Mom loves to read. Mostly she reads biographies, or Christian books by authors like Charles Colson, John Piper, and Elizabeth Elliot.

Mom can never be sure what she'll be called on to do. For example, in April she is going to be speaking at a Ladies Auxiliary Meeting. Some of her friends from the Lakes near us attend these meetings, and so she was recommended to speak. Mom is already working on her speech.

Mom works hard to keep her family, Dad's business, and the household running smoothly. She is Dad's constant support and confidant, and all the rest of us need her, too.

The Weekly Bible Verse

Psalm 84:11: For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.



Bits and Pieces



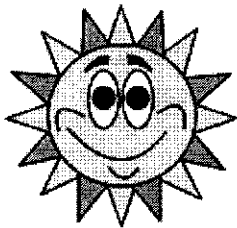
We finished the greenhouse the week, and we are all rejoicing because the hard work is over. The kit was advertised as taking eight hours for one person to assemble. At the end of four long, torturous days, we were all walking around muttering, "Eight hours. What are they talking about? Eight hours? Hah!" Above the door is a sign that says 'RION EASY GREENHOUSE', but we all disagreed. Anyway, the greenhouse is done and looks pretty nice. You'd never guess how much work went into it by just looking. As Timmy put it, "Rion Easy Greenhouse? Give me a break."



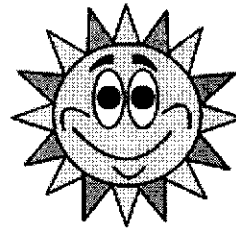
A Word About The Weather



The weather is traditional Illinois right now. One day it's warm and we're outside in T-shirts, and the next day Timmy does the chores in his snowsuit. Even though it's fluctuated between warm and cold all week, we've enjoyed a few nice days so far. All the days we worked on the greenhouse were the cold ones.



A Bit Of Humor



During a family meeting, Caleb cried emphatically, "I eject!" (He meant to say, "I object", but didn't know the difference between the two. We thought it was hilarious, and he still hasn't heard the last of that one!)