

Between Worlds

MK Ministries

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VALID MARCH/APRIL 2009
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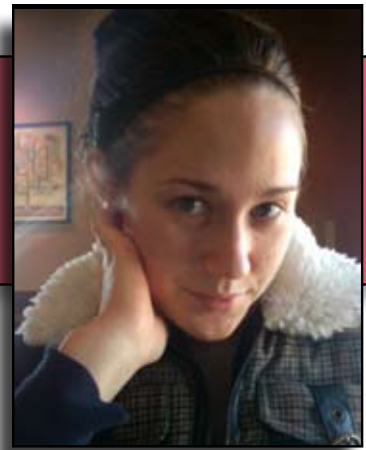
GOOD ETERNITY
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Bargaining Your Blessing - 3

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Day, Picture
Frames, and Gifts
from God

...from our editor



Greetings everyone! Traditionally, we associate gifts and gift-giving with Christmas and birthdays, so you may be wondering why I chose “gifts” to be the theme of this edition of *Between Worlds*. I have been – more or less – creatively stunted the past month. I’ve sat down and tried to think of what to put into *Between Worlds* and have been at a total loss. I’ve looked through my file of ideas, blogs, and other sources for inspiration, but nothing came to me. Finally, I pulled together two articles that I decided I’d like to include in this edition, “Bargaining Your Blessing” and “Target, Mother’s Day, Picture Frames, and Gifts from God.” I edited them, placed them in Adobe In-Design, searched stock-photo websites for appropriate pictures, and read through them several more times... all before I realized they both had a common theme! Gifts!

God has given each one of us special, individualized gifts. And what’s so great about His gifts is the fact that it’s not like a purse or a pair of shoes. They aren’t made in mass production! You won’t see anyone

else with the same exact gift, because God’s gifts are custom-made. They are made to fit you and only you. Isn’t that amazing? My favorite gifts have always been the ones that people have made for me, because I know that I have the only one like it in the world.

Sometimes God’s gifts come to use as blessings or talents – those are usually pretty easy to notice. But other times, God’s gifts don’t really appear at first-glance to be gifts. Recently, God has given me the gift of “time.” I’m taking a semester off before starting grad school, and I’m currently looking for a job. I pretty much have all the time in the world. Sounds great right? I can sleep in, play around on the computer, hang out at a coffee-shop and read... Believe me, it’s not all it’s cracked up to be. It’s great for about a week, and then all the freedom starts to get frustrating. Whereas before, I was so busy that I didn’t have time to think! Now, all I do is think. Up ‘til now, I let life just carry me where it willed, going with the flow, taking each hit as it came, and rushing to

meet the next deadline. That’s all changed. I’m actually forced to think about what God wants for my life, who I really am as a person, who I should become as a person, and how I’m going to accomplish all of this.

But you know what? I’m fortunate. Although it’s not always easy facing some of the things I previously just buried under piles of work, God is gracious enough to allow me the time now, when I’m young, to figure all of this out. Some people live their whole lives, rushing from one thing to another, then wake up one day and wonder what happened with their life.

So, when you think about the gifts God has given you, don’t just look at the obvious. Sometimes some of God’s greatest gifts come in forms that aren’t quite conventional. He gives all things for a reason, for a purpose, and at the perfect time. Most especially, they have your name – and your name only – written on the tag.

BETWEEN WORLDS CONTENT

Andrew Flowers



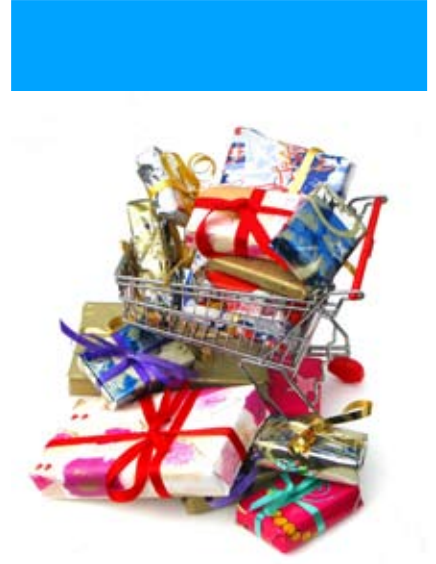
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Bargaining Your Blessing

Andrew Flowers

We all know the story of Jacob and Esau. It's one of those classics we've all heard over and over in Sunday as kids, but just in case you've forgotten. Let me refresh your memory. Isaac, the promised miracle-child of Abraham and Sarah, married Rebekah, but they were unable to have children. Isaac pleaded with the Lord to give them a child. The Lord answered his prayers, and Rebekah became pregnant. Without the modern medical conveniences of ultrasounds, Isaac and Rebecca had no clue that in nine months, they would be the parents of twins.

Overjoyed at the thought of their growing family, Rebekah's excitement soon turned to pain and discomfort. As the twins grew inside of her, they began to struggle with one another, kicking and squirming, making Rebekah's pregnancy difficult and agonizing. In desperation,

Rebecca cried out to God, "If it is your will for me to have a child, why am I going through so much pain? Something is not right! It shouldn't be this way." The Lord answered her, telling her that in her stomach she carried two nations – one that would be stronger than the other. And the oldest child would serve the youngest. The oldest would serve the youngest? Rebekah was puzzled. The younger children in their culture always served the eldest. That's just the way it always was. It was tradition! How was that going to change?

On the day of the twin's birth, the family witnessed a strange and amazing thing. As the first baby was being born, the second baby's hand gripped tightly onto his brother's heel, as if still fighting and struggling to win dominance, refusing to give up! The first child, they named Esau, which literally means "hairy." Poor kid,

huh? And the second was named Isaac, meaning “supplanter,” or “one who takes the place of.”

The two children grew up very different from each other. Esau was big and strong, a natural athlete who loved to hunt and be outdoors. As firstborn, he would be entitled to most of his father’s wealth when Isaac died and would become the next leader of his people. The younger son, Jacob, was as different from his brother Esau as night is from day. Jacob didn’t like to be outside, preferring to stay at home in the domestic environment of the tents. As second-born, Jacob’s life wasn’t planned out as one of

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prominence and prestige. While he would never be poor, he would also never have the same honor and esteem that would go to Esau – a fact that Jacob always resented.

One day when the boys were much older, Esau returned from one of his long hunting trips, tired, and hungry. He came upon Jacob, sitting on the outskirts of the camp, cooking a wonderfully smelling stew. With mouth watering, Esau asked his brother for a bowl of soup, saying he was near death from starvation! Jacob, rolling his eyes at his brother’s dramatics, replied, “I’ll give you some soup, but only if you promise me your right as first born.”

“You want my birthright?” Esau questioned.

“Yes. You give me your birthright, and you can have all the stew your stomach can hold.”

“Well fine! What good is a birthright to me if I’m dead, anyway?” Esau growled, grabbing a bowl of hot, steaming stew.

Foolishly, Esau gave away his future, what should have been his most prized possession. He traded the right of privilege and leadership for something insignificant and worthless in comparison. Esau had come to a place in his life where his birthright meant nothing to him. Esau’s mindset was so distorted and focused on his present situation that the blessings his father had promised him became nothing more than a bargain chip.

How many times in our lives have we allowed people to cheat us out of what is rightfully ours? We are children of the King, the chosen ones. Isaac was very rich, but our Father’s riches make Isaac look like a bum of the street in comparison. The Creator and King of the universe has called us His children and has promised us blessings and incredible futures, but all too often we trade it away for things that don’t really matter. We trade our right to all the amazing things God has in store for us for things that won’t even be around in a year or two. Sure, eating that stew felt good in the moment, but a few days later, I’m sure Esau couldn’t even remember what it tasted like.

Don’t let anyone trick you into compromising what you believe or what you stand for. I’m sure Esau spent many sleepless nights, beating himself up for such a stupid decision. God has so many blessings in store for you, things he just can’t wait to give you. Anointing, callings, talents, and open doors – all of them just sitting there until the right time comes! If Esau could have only thought for one second about what he would be missing out on, his decision may have been very, very different.

Now what about Jacob, you ask? He was the jerk in the story! He tricked his brother into giving him the rights of the first born – rights that were never his to begin with! And yet God still blessed him and put him in the direct bloodline of Jesus!? How is that fair? I guess you’ll have to check out the May-June edition of *Between Worlds* to find out!



Love the Skin You're In

Laurissa Wolfram

I tell ya, there's nothing worse than waking up on the morning of the first day of school/an important job interview/a date/[insert your answer here]. I'll be the very first to admit that I have problem skin. I've struggled with acne since I was in high school, and when I say I've tried just about everything, I really do mean EVERYTHING.

I've come to realize that there is no "miracle cure" for acne - at least not for me. I still visit a dermatologist semi-regularly, and I still use several prescription topical gels, BUT there are a few things I have found that I can do myself that really, really do help.

1. Water, Water, Water. I know you've heard water is good for you, but seriously. When I drink 8 glasses of water a day (and nix all soft drinks) for about a week, my skin positively glows.

2. Find a facial cleanser that works. And stick to it. No matter how good a product is, it won't work if it just sits by the sink! My particular face-wash of choice is Cetaphyl. I have combination skin, which is just a nice way of saying that I have all the problems. My skin is only AND dry. Cetaphyl is just about the only thing I've used that cleanses without making me look like cornflake-

face. Not only that, but the off-brand from Target works just as good as the original! You need to be washing your face twice daily - ESPECIALLY before you hit the sheets.

3. Speaking of sheets... People don't realize how important this is. Think about it. You sleep on the same pillowcase every night. Your face and hair has oil in it - and if you haven't washed your hair immediately before going to bed it has hairspray, gel, etc. . . in it, too. All of that "stuff" accumulates on your pillowcase, which you put your nice, clean, newly-washed face on. I have a weird little sleeping system for my pillowcases, but it works. I have two pillows on my bed, so I'll sleep on one side of pillow #1 for two nights, then flip it over and sleep on the other side for two nights. Then I do the same with the pillow #2. If you do the math, that's about a week's worth of sleep - roughly the same time you should wait between washings!

4. Hairspray - a misty fiend. Guys, you can probably ignore this one, but Girls? Listen up! Hairspray can wreak havoc on your skin!! I know you're probably pretty attached to your hairspray, but please, please, PLEASE promise me you'll wash your face AFTER you've finished

using it!! Yes, it seems like a hassle, but that coating of hairspray that unintentionally falls on your face while you're spraying gets clogged in your pores and YUCK! Acne-breeding heaven!

5. Does chocolate really cause breakouts?

There's been a lot of debate about whether or not chocolate can lead to breakouts, but the fact of the matter is, if you want to LOOK healthy, you have to EAT healthy. I'm addicted to chocolate myself, and I certainly won't be boycotting Dove anytime soon, but I've come to realize that if I want really REALLY great-looking skin, I have to trade in my junk food for more fruits and veggies.

6. Stress. The silent culprit. Stress makes your body do all kinds of wacky things, and sometimes the place it shows up the most is on your face. I always know at the end of the semester or during a really hectic time in my life that if I don't take care of myself, I should just go ahead and expect to see a few polka-dots in the mirror. It's so incredibly important to remember to maintain all these healthy skin habits you've been working on when life starts getting crazy!

7. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. I'm one of those people who LOVES to try new things, especially beauty products. What can I say, I'm a slave to good advertising - no matter how much the my logical side screams at me to get a grip. But, take it from someone who has learned it the hard way many, MANY times. Don't go crazy with skin care products on your face! Cetaphyl may look boring, and it really doesn't have a very exciting smell, and WOW that model looked great in the Cinique add I saw last week, but it for me, it works. So I stick to it.

8. Nooooo touchy! This habit is a little harder to form because, well... you'll have to break a few habits that have become involuntary. If you have problem skin, it is very important to mini-

mize the contact of your hands with your face. I have a bad habit of resting my hand on my right cheek when I write or read... guess where I break out the most?! That's right! My right cheek.

9. Exfoliate. There is this treatment I tried about a year ago called Micro-derm Abrasion. Basically, that's just a fancy term of saying "we'll sandblast your face and charge you an arm and leg for it." Okay, it really wasn't that bad, but it is expensive. To put it bluntly, the procedure removes the top-most, dead layers of skin from your face, so your acne medications can actually do their job better. Although it's not quite as effective, you can do something similar at home - and I promise it doesn't hurt. There are a wide range of exfoliating masks and scrubs on the market, but a lot of them have some pretty harsh chemicals in them, so I try to look for ones that say "natural" or "for sensitive skin" on the label.

10. Bake now. Pay later. Okay, I know this is supposed to be an article about acne, but we're talking about skin care, so I had to throw this in. I used to be a major sun-worshiper. I can't even count the hours I spent on my back deck or in the tanning bed, trying to achieve that perfectly bronzed glow. Not to mention the fact that the tanning bed DID seem to get rid of my acne. I've talked to several dermatologists about this, and I've heard several different opinions. One doctor told me it really didn't get rid of my acne; it just helped even out my skin tone. Another told me that it dried up the oil in my face, which reduced the production of pimples. And worse of all, a third told me that it forced the oil deeper into my skin, making the acne worse when it did eventually come back. Fun stuff, huh? Although none of them could really agree on the same story, they all unanimously discouraged my tanning addiction. I know there's not too much you can compare with having a great tan, but I'd really prefer not to look like a leather-head by the time I turn 35, wouldn't you?

Deputation

Just the word “deputation” is enough to make most of us shudder in our socks (or flip-flips). But, it’s a fact of life that almost all MKs must go through.

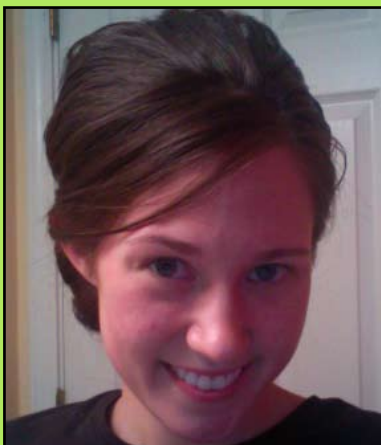
We want to hear about your deputation memories! Whether it be a funny circumstance you were in or your best or worst experience while on the road in a hotel, or at a church. Anything! Do you have any tips for MKs who may be going on deputation for the first time, words of wisdom you can pass along? We want to hear those too!

And for those of you who are about to go on your first deputation, are there questions you want answered? Send those in, too!

Send all of these to Laurissa Wolfram at lwolfram@mac.com!

Have you ever seen a hairstyle you wished you could immitate?

Well, check out my blog at lwolfram.blogspot.com. I’ll be posting videos of different styles, tips, and tricks. Feel free to submit videos of your own, ask questions, or just comment!





Target, Mother's Day, Picture Frames, and Gifts to God.

*Yes, they all do have something
in common.*

Cylinda Nickel

Yesterday during lunch I headed to my favorite place in the world (outside of other favorite places in the world, that is). . . TARGET!! I love cruising through the end-caps, looking for the great markdowns, etc. I was also on a secret mission. I have been looking at two pictures for my living room since December – they've just been yearning for me to buy them. Yesterday – to my horror – they were down to just two in stock (you have to buy both...they're a set). So I had the Target lady, dressed in her red and tan, call the other stores. Nope, those were the very last ones in CHARLOTTE.

I couldn't justify spending that kind money on myself, as I was only END CAP shopping. So, just like a bolt of lightning, I thought, "Sunday is Mother's Day... call John." I picked up my trusty cell phone. It had a signal (miracle alone in Targets) and got through to John (second miracle – it MUST BE GOD'S WILL), and say "Uh, hi honey. Are you busy?"

He said, "Well, I am at work, so I am kinda busy. That's what I get paid for."

I ignored the sarcasm as I was prepar-

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that for some reason, I at-
tract crowds.**

ing for my plea. "Well you know how Mother's Day is coming up and..."

For the record, let me just say that for some reason, I attract crowds. I think it's because of the they-think-I-am-crazy-element, but I had three ladies standing there giving me the thumbs up.

"...well I have been looking at the same pictures since December, and out of all of the stores in our area, they are down to only one set and. . ."

He now interrupts my plea, "How much

are they?"

"Well," I gulp.

The ladies are now mouthing, "You can do it!" I was thinking that they really need to go and price diapers or something.

"You know if I get these pictures for Mother's Day and everything you won't even have to buy me a card. Or wrap it!" I was going for the jugular at this point.

He said, "Fine. How much are they?"

"Too much," I replied, rushing to get him off the phone before he changed his mind. "I love you SOOO much honey." I hung up the phone to three clapping women. I was bracing myself for hugs. . . but none came - thank God. One helped me pick up the two heavy pictures and put them into my cart. She told me Happy Mother's Day and moved on. I thought to myself, 'Do I maybe look like I am special needs person that I attract people?"

While thinking this over on the way back to work, I wondered, "Why do people - perfect strangers - get so excited about gifts?" Maybe it's the warm memory it evokes from their own past, or maybe it takes them to a place of happiness once again.

The Lord has a lot to say about gifts. In fact, He has gobs of them specifically for you. YOU have gifts that I don't have, and I have gifts that you don't have. The Amplified Bible says in I Corinthians 12:11, "All these [gifts, achievements, abilities] are inspired and brought to pass by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, Who apportions to each person individually [exactly] as He chooses.

He has chosen perfect gifts for you. Some of you are born soul winners, some of you can sing the house down, some of you have the gift of encouragement, and some of you have the gift of teaching, mentoring, and serving.

What are you doing with your gift to-

day? Have you been hurt while using it? Did you give into the fear to shove it to the back of your closet? Have you given up on the promise that came with your gift, so you discarded

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the gift as well?

Not only does HE need you to pick it back up, dust it off, and use it, WE the body need you. Don't let fears, hesitations, worry, or doubts about your own ability cause you to question your abilities and calling. I want to stand and rejoice with you on the other side when HE shows back the DVD of your life and we stand in amazement at what HE has done THROUGH YOU...WITH YOUR GIFT!!

So, today... stand strong! Stand strong in your calling, your abilities, and even in your silly quirks, because He has great doors that He is going to open so wide that even a troop of soldiers won't be able to get them shut!

By the way, the pictures? They are going to look great in my living room. But do you know what I love even more? The fact that they were given to me with out even a tone of hesitation my when my honey said yes!!

This article has not been brought to you by Target or any of its team members. However, one day, while wearing a khaki skirt and red t-shirt, I joined the early morning team meeting and everyone welcomed me.