

# The ROCK

## Letter From the President

Spring is a wonderful time of year that carries on the air the essences of new life, fresh starts, and deep cleaning. It is also the time we celebrate the most important Christian holiday: Easter. How well these themes blend!

There can be a lot of work in those first things: preparing the soil and planting the garden, tending to baby animals, chasing a couple seasons' worth of dirt from every corner of the house. It can be overwhelming to bodies grown accustomed to the less rigorous demands of indoors-because-it-snowed-again life. That reminds me. Add to the spring-to-do list 'get in shape!'

On top of all that, we just want to get out because we can! After feeling cooped up for so many months, we want to soak up the sun and cool breezes.

With all this on the agenda, it is easy to understand being a little overwhelmed. We don't want to give any of that up, but we still have the other stuff to do.

Remember? School, chores, budgeting, shopping, laundry, dinner. Oh... Yeah.

I praise the Lord that the real cleaning isn't as strenuous as all this. I praise Him and humbly thank Him for saving me from the debts I owe for going my own way. I am so thankful I don't have to scrub my soul the way the bathroom floor is calling me to do! It would take so much longer! All I need to do is call on Him, fall back into His faithful arms, and let Him take care of the rest.

I have done that, given myself to Him as my Lord and Savior. I am washed clean. All that is needed as long as I am allowed to walk on this fallen earth is a periodic foot cleaning, wiping the dirt from this world off me. Where I have fallen, I can just dust myself off, knowing that the core of me, my soul, is purified and untouched.

I pray for this eternal life of peace for you.

## April 2010



## Happy Easter!

### Remember:

Collect your Box Tops! Last school year you clipped \$113 in coupons. Our goal this year: \$250!



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Sign Up for iGive.com and earn \$\$\$ every time you search or shop online! Since March 2010 KidsROCK has earned \$193.38



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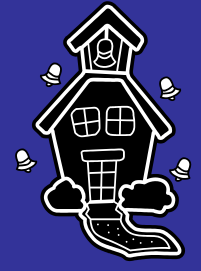
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## Lots of Opportunity!

April is a great month with warming weather and lots of activities to choose from. I keep reminding myself that the words 'good' and 'must' aren't always partners. As we choose what to do each month or season, we must make choices between several good things. It isn't easy. I get wistful and even disappointed as I look over what we will miss. I wonder if the kids will resent not getting to do this or that.

But I stand strong. I know that choosing just a few of the good things will make them even better. We will have the time and energy to put more of ourselves into our activities and maybe even deepen important relationships!

In KidsROCK we have our Book Club meeting. We are discussing the book called *Her Hand in Marriage: Biblical Courtship in the Modern World*. We have a tour to the Wilbur D. May Center in Reno, with a chance to look over the 'grosser' things in life! To tap into the creative side, there is a choice between sewing and lap-booking. For some community awareness, we are visiting the Janesville Fire Station (a first for KidsROCK). And we are continuing our lessons on Contentment with Club PALS and discipline with Get Fit! The registration deadline for our April activities is April 1.

I know there are other quality activities in the community. I pray you are blessed as a family as you navigate these 'good' waters. Happy choosing!

## Cost Cutting Tips from the Trenches

What is our role, as stay at home, homeschooling moms, when it comes to family finances? Katie B says, "I hold the idea that part of my job as a house wife is to spend time saving my family money. It may not be the same amount I'd be making if I were working outside the home but not too far off."

How do we do that? The first step is to make a plan. Below are cost cutting tips for different areas of life.

### Shopping with a Purpose

Many members who live out of town mentioned saving gas by making the most of every trip, combining

**Making every penny count seems to be more important than ever.**



errands as much as possible.

Almost everyone's first response to cutting costs had to do with groceries.

Katie B sums it up the most common tactics. "I do some generic things to cut those costs down like clipping coupons, buying bulk, and researching the best deals (including gas for the trip, shipping, and time). I go to three different stores to get the cheapest prices on food and household items." The other big strategy is monthly shopping from menu planning. Shopping in bulk and from a list is a big help.

Julie B adds, "I also avoid going to the store and just browsing (unless it's a thrift store!). Lots of little purchases add up, even at Wal-Mart! ... (S)et a budget and stick to it for food shopping especially."

### Inexpensive Entertainment

Just like when we diet, total deprivation can be followed by foolish binging that leads only to regret. We can still have fun without breaking the bank. Family game nights, borrowing from the library and afternoons at the park are all fun and free!

Thankfully, we live in a beautiful area ripe for some low-cost exploring. Julie B shares, "We've been doing mostly free activities on the weekends - hiking mostly, but we have to spend money on gas to get there. We've learned to pack snacks and drinks though, to avoid having to stop at the convenience stores on our way home."

### Where to Cut

Lisa B has found a way to manage the monthly expenses. "We switched to Vonage phone service. With a daughter (out of state) it has saved us a lot. We have put our Netflix on hold.... We haul our own trash and canceled trash service."

Katie B asserts, "The next biggest expenses (after food and gas) are the utilities. I recommend shopping around to get the best combined service possible.... They always have a deeper discount hidden behind their standard offer. I make sure I take notes when speaking to the rep (their name and ID number

first)...Then when I get my bills, I make sure I receive everything I was promised."

Most families choose to live simply with fewer luxuries. Meredith C says, "We try to not buy any junk food... We rarely eat out."

### Getting Creative

We can look at living more economically in a positive light. Junk food and fast food restaurants are avoided. Entertainment is less expensive when focused on the family. Fun outdoor activity instills healthy habits in us all. When we change our outlook, and start thinking creatively, things don't look so bad. Julie B says, "I look forward to stretching our dollars more so that we can do more on less. I also want to hang-dry more laundry, make bread, and conserve on other utilities as much as possible."

Katie B has found a fun way to save at the grocery store: "We are growing our first garden and my goal is to grow at least 50% of our food."

Lisa B handles providing for her pets with creativity. "I buy dog bedding materials from the thrift store. I sew and can use sheets and bedding to create some really wonderful bedding that I don't worry about the dogs chewing the edges, or shredding."

And finally a couple of ladies are faithful in hitting the thrift stores and yard sales. What a fun thing to do with a girlfriend or two!

### Homeschooling

Homeschooling can seem like more than a family can handle in tough financial times, but Crystal H says, "looking at the big picture is what keeps me homeschooling." When you can see the end result and there is no question that homeschooling is right for your family, financial strains can be more easily borne. Meredith C says, "The internet has been great for homeschooling and I'm constantly looking up activities to do or print out for free." Many families make the most of the local library. Others share and swap supplies.

Meredith C is able to blend inexpensive entertainment with education! "Our travel and field trips have been to areas close by.... Today we went out by Biscar (sp) and showed the boys the immigrant trail into Honey lake valley."

### How to hand down wise practices to the kids.

Julie B has a plan to teach the kids early about impulse buying. "Our kids would love to go out and shop every time we go to town, but they only get to take their money to spend when we have planned it. Hopefully they are learning about avoiding impulse shopping. They also go with me to the store and are learning to read price tags and choose the best item for the price."

Katie B has a perspective that shows that not all the

benefits come immediately. "The kids are aware of my money saving tactics but still do not fully appreciate them, like when I check over my receipt at the grocery store and find a problem, the kids cringe as I stand at the customer service desk for 10 minutes getting my \$3 coupon properly honored."

Meredith C, who runs a family business shares, "I'm just now starting (our son) on earning an allowance and buying the things he wants with his own money. He also is learning about running a business by just being our child."

There are lots of ways to make the most of the money we have and to lessen the crunch from the money we don't. I think an important part of it is community. Giving a shout out to let others know of great deals lets everyone in on the savings. Coming together for meal preparation or bulk shopping can turn a chore into a party. Handing down clothes, curriculum and other items can be a loving way to get the most out of things that last beyond our need for them. Sharing from our own bounty can remind us of just how much we do have.

**"It's all about priorities." Crystal H**



## Calendar of Events

### Upcoming Events

- Apr 1—Registration deadline for all April events listed below
- Apr 5—Book Club 6:30 Please consider using the iGive or Box Tops website before ordering. [Email](#) for help.
- Apr 7—Tour: Wilber D May, meet 8 am
- Apr 16—Sewing Class 3:30-5:30 part 1 *(limited space)*
- Apr 16—Country Lapbook 3:30-5:30 part 1 *(limited space)*
- April 19—Council Meeting click to add to the agenda
- Apr 23—Sewing Class 3:30-5:30 part 2 *(limited space)*
- Apr 23—Country Lapbook 3:30-5:30 part 2 *(limited space)*
- Apr 30—Tour: Janesville Fire Station 3:30
- May 1—Registration deadline for all May events listed below
- May 1—Children's Fair
- May 5—Ceramics Class, Sparks, meet 8 am
- May 7—Art History, 3:30-5:30 *(limited space)*
- May 7—Young Learners 3:30-5:30 *(limited space)*
- May 10—Quarterly Meeting, 3:30-5:30
- May 12, 19, 26—Lego Club 3:00-4:15
- May 21—Spring Fling 5K walk/run
- May 31—Spring Fling Fundraiser deadline



### Mark your Calendars!



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Questions or comments? E-mail us at [info@kidsrockacademy.net](mailto:info@kidsrockacademy.net).