

# Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

## Hope...Prudence...Action

April 14, 2008

### No Time for Heroics

The national statistic is that Alabama ranks 6th in the nation in cancer deaths! And, yet every one I know delays in asking their doctor for testing that would offer early cancer diagnosis, including me.

When diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999, it had been 3 years since my last mammogram and I was even beginning to see a difference in the size of my breast and the shape of my nipple. Still, I was not stirred to action! This is just the first of several mistakes I know I made. Doctors take their direction from us, sad to say, because we think they will direct us toward needed screening.

At UAB, my sister was recently diagnosed with Cholangiocarcinoma, (Bile Duct cancer), rare in the USA, more often diagnosed in India and other less developed countries. It made me think of an episode in my own life. When I approached my 5th anniversary of being diagnosed with primary breast can-

cer. I asked Dr. Spremulli to order a PET scan.

### PET and CAT Scan

For six months, preceding my 5th year of survivorship, I felt very strongly that I needed a PET scan. I wasn't feeling any negative symptoms, I just wanted to cover all the bases before I marked this date. I felt absolutely certain, as did my oncologist, that I would have a negative result. After all, I looked very healthy and I am what some might call a trooper. Dr. Spremulli and I were both in disbelief when my screening revealed multiple hot spots in my thoracic area, one on a lung. After a visit with my general surgeon, Dr. Wesley Smith, the decision was made to consult Dr. Robert J. Cerfolio at UAB.

After careful study of both my CAT and PET scans, Dr. Cerfolio told me that both test revealed two lymph nodes, on either side of my wind pipe that showed hot on both the CAT and PET. He went on to say it was his gut feeling that the lymph

nodes were benign, however we wouldn't know 100% until we took a biopsy. The decision was made to biopsy the nodes. The nodes were cancer free, they however were very large and entangled with blood vessels.

Some might ask, "Would you take the test again?" The answer is, "YES!" We have to be willing to look inside if we are ever to have early detection. When any of us begins to experience symptoms that are different from our day to day feelings, we must ask a qualified doctor to order testing.

Regardless of where we grew into adulthood or where we have lived in the years since becoming adults, we have all, at some time been exposed to potentially harmful microorganisms, or to chemical contamination. We can choose to ruin our lives with worry, or we can choose, with prudence, by faith, to live our lives as fully as possible, recognizing that we live in a contaminated world.



*Sharing love through support*

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### The Past Forms Us

In his book, *It's Not About The Bike*, Lance Armstrong wrote these words, "YOUR PAST FORMS YOU, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT. Each encounter and experience has its own effect, and you're shaped the way the wind shapes a mesquite tree on a plain." Lance Armstrong, Testicular Cancer Survivor

What had caused so much damage to my thoracic lymph nodes? Histoplasmosis. I asked Dr.

Cerfolio, “And what is that!?” His answer was shocking and took me back to the late summer and fall of 1963. On July 3, of 1963, my family moved from Immokalee, FL, to Anniston, AL. When I had trouble finding work, I took a summer job, gathering eggs on a Walley Milling Co. breeder farm. Being an uninsured woman, fresh from the Big Cypress Swamp, accustomed to dealing with what ever, without professional help, I didn’t see a doctor about the cough that lasted for months. Little did I know that my immune system was waging a war for my life. Had I not had a strong immune system, this fungus could have taken my life. I encourage everyone to research Histoplasmosis. Much information is available at <[www.nei.nih.gov/health/histoplasmosis/](http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/histoplasmosis/)>

Fear prevents many of us from getting mammograms, sonograms, and other diagnostic testing. Burying our heads in the sand does not change the reality of a situation. God designed our bodies with an alarm system. As we all know, an alarm works only when there is a positive response to the alarm. I admonish everyone, listen to your bodies! You are fearfully and wonderfully made! Please don’t ignore God’s alarm systems!

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**College Dictionary** The feeling that what is desired is also possible, or that events may turn out for the best.

Those of us who believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, believe that the promise of Hebrews 11:1, is not wishful thinking but hope supported by evidence that is grounded in our faith in our creator.

Having just learned that one of my precious siblings is facing a battle with cancer, I sought something that would be a comfort to her and to every newly diagnosed cancer patient.

Dr. Dave Roberts, Steel Magnolias Board Chairman, in July, 2004, at our first New Beginnings Banquet, delivered this powerful speech.

**Maintain Your Hope** What does hope mean? Most of you can tell me what hope means to you. Hope means that the insurance company will pay for the next procedures they need. Hope means that this disease will not infect your families. It has been said that, “True hope is inadvertent. It does not come from searching for hope. It grows out of two basic convictions: that God is in charge and that He intervenes.”

For me, hope means a promise for a bright future in spite of the circumstances around me. The apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome, **“In hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”**

Hope is necessary in every condition. The miseries of poverty, war, captivity, and especially terminal disease would without comfort, be insupportable. Hope means knowing that others care. Many Christians have been and are continuing to pray for all of you. Nothing brings greater strength and comfort than to know and even hear someone say, “I am praying for you.”

Abraham Lincoln said, *“I have been driven many times to my knees, by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere to go but prayer. My own wisdom, and that of all about, seemed insufficient for the day.”*

Hope also means knowing God cares. In spite of the circumstances, regardless of the problems we may be going through, we have to know God is still in control. The Psalmist reminds us in Psalm 42:5—**“Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence.”**

The circumstances that God allows in our lives are intended for His purpose for us. Tribulations increase our patience, which in turn builds character, which produces hope as a result of God’s love being poured into our hearts. Here are a few tips:

**Keep On Being Happy and Hopeful!** Learn to laugh with other people and learn to laugh at yourself as well. Enjoy the comic side of life when it comes and bookmark them so you can revisit them often. In this, guard your spare moments. They are like uncut diamonds. Discard them and their value will never be known. Improve them and they will become the brightest gems in useful life.

**Concentrate on Living!** Focus on the positives and not the negatives. Try not to focus on what you can’t do and focus on what you can do. You can have fun with your family and friends. You can participate in some type of activity with others that keeps you going. Larry Burkett lost a shoulder and a kidney to cancer. Through that he still

played golf when he could. He said he liked to play even though he couldn't play very well. His brother told him, "It's okay that you don't play very well now, because you didn't play all that well before!" That inspired Larry to keep on playing!

**Accentuate The Positive!** Overall, hope means maintaining a positive attitude. Songwriter, Johnny Mercer, died in 1976 from a brain tumor. In his mid 40's on his way home from a session with a psychiatrist, he decided to take his doctor's suggestion to, "**Accentuate the Positive,**" and he turned it into a song. One of the lines goes like this: "*You've got to accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative, latch on to the affirmative, and don't mess with Mr. In-between.*" That's good counsel! While you or a loved one is struggling through a difficult time, do the things that will help you maintain a positive attitude.

Our hope has been guaranteed in God's word: Hebrews 6: 17-20 tells us, "**God is desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever.**"

God knows what you need. Don't give up and try to satisfy that need your own way. Wait on Him, and He will take care of you according to His goodness. Maintain the hope God has implanted in your heart through the Holy Spirit, because it is a sure and steadfast hope that will serve you well as a solid anchor for your soul. Our bodies are like the slogan for Timex watches, "**They take a lickin' and keep on ticking.**" **That's what God wants for all of us: TO KEEP ON TICKING.** So focus on staying alive and well. **You still have a lot of ticking to do!**

### **The Eye of The Storm**

Fear not that the whirlwind will carry you hence,  
Nor wait for its onslaught in breathless suspense,  
Nor shrink from the blight of the terrible hail,  
But pass through the edge to the heart of the tale,  
For there is a shelter, sunlighted and warm,  
And faith sees her God through the eye of the storm.

The passionate tempest with rush and wild roar  
And threatenings of evil may beat at the shore,  
The waves may be mountains, the fields battle plains,  
And the earth is immersed in a deluge of rains,  
Yet the soul, stayed on God, may sing bravely its psalm,  
For the heart of the storm is the center of calm.

Let hope be not quenched in the blackness of night,  
Though the cyclone awhile may have blotted the light,  
For behind the great darkness the stars ever shine,  
And the light of God's heavens, His love will make thine,  
Let no gloom dim your eyes, but uplift them on high  
To the face of your God and the blue of His sky.

The storm is your shelter from danger and sin,  
And God Himself takes you safely within;  
The tempest with Him passes into deep calm,  
And the roar of the winds is the sound of a psalm.  
Be glad and serene when the tempest clouds form;  
God smiles on His child in the eye of the storm.

Taken from Streams In The Desert by L. B. Cowen-Edited by James Reimann

I will be honest and say that I don't always like the sound of some songs that otherwise have great lyrics. Two of country music's best lyrically, that really speaks to the heart of someone who has just received bad news, were performed by some of our currently, most popular country music stars.

### **Live Like You Were Dying**

He said I was in my early forties, with a lot of life before me, when a moment came that stop me on a dime. I spent most of the next days, looking at x-rays. Talking 'bout the options and talking 'bout sweet time. I asked him when it sank in, this might really be the real End, how's hit ya' when you get that kind of news? Man whad ya do? And he said:

I went sky diving  
I went rocky mountain climbing  
I went two point seven seconds on a bull name Fu Man Chew  
And I loved deeper  
And I spoke sweeter  
And I gave forgiveness Id been denyin'  
And he said some day I hope you get the chance  
To live like you were dyin'.

He said I was finally the husband, but most of the time I wasn't. And I became a friend; The friend would like to have. And all of a sudden goin' fishin wasn't such an imposition, and I Went three time that year I lost my dad. Well I finally read the good Book, and took a good hard look at what I would do if I could do it all again. And then:

I went skydiving  
I went rocky mountain climbing  
I went two point seven seconds on a bull name Fu Man Chew  
And I loved deeper  
And I spoke sweeter  
And I gave forgiveness I'd been denyin'  
And he said some day I hope you get the chance  
To live like you were dyin'.  
Tim McGraw

### **Stand**

**You feel like a candle in a hurricane  
Just like a picture with a broken frame  
Alone and helpless  
Like you've lost your fight  
But you'll be alright  
Cause when push comes to shove  
You taste what you're made of  
You might bend, till you break  
Cause its all you can take  
On your knees you look up  
Decide you've had enough  
You get mad you get strong**

**Wipe your hands shake it off  
Then you stand, Then you stand  
Life's like a novel  
With the end ripped out  
The edge of a canyon  
With only one way down  
Take what you're given before its gone  
Start holding on, keep holding on  
Every time you get up  
And get back in the race  
One more small piece of you**

**Starts to fall into place.....and then you stand.....**

### **Rascal Flatts Lyrics**

### **Fund Raiser at Quintard Mall**

The morning of March 22, 2008, tables in front of Kirkland's, inside the Quintard Mall, became the sight of the annual Steel Magnolias Bake and Antique Jewelry sale. When Prentiss and I arrived, a little before 9:00 a.m., Peggy Kelly was unloading her car, laden with 20 cakes, baked by women of Leatherwood Baptist Church. Steel Magnolias helped Peggy and together we arranged the bakery tables while Marti Warren and other Magnolias set up the jewelry tables. Linda Barton and her little cousin, Suzanne, who volunteer in honor of Peggy Austin, soon arrived, bearing cakes baked by one of Linda's coworkers. We had a great selection of Ina's fried apple pies, and Gloria's donuts.

We had a large variety of cakes and cookies, including a basket contributed in memory of a grandmother. The Easter Bunny, who asked to remain anonymous, came with a basket of candy for people who walked near our tables. It was a most pleasant day and the sales were brisk. Proceeds from Bake sale: \$1003.15 Proceeds from Jewelry: \$600, for a total receipts \$1603.15. This total includes a \$50 contribution from Sandy and Alvin Chapman.

### Steel Magnolias Meeting and Pizza Party

Tuesday, March 25, The Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc. and the Men of Steel met on the first floor of the Tyler Center. Magnolias met in the Galley and the Men of Steel met in the Nook.

Ina Rooks read the names on the prayer list and prayer requests were added. Ina offered prayer for everyone on the Steel Magnolias prayer list. In Secretary Margaret Taylor's absence, a report of last months' tour through the RMC Imaging department was given by Lenora Johnson. Treasurer Nancy Burnell gave the financial report which was approved as read.

Motion was made to increase to two, the dining vouchers for family members of a cancer patient in surgery. Motion was made by Pam Bussey and seconded by Nancy Burnell. Lenora Johnson told the group that there would be discussion about new office equipment at the April meeting. Motion was made by Nancy Burnell to adjourn business meeting and seconded by Sherry Grinstead. Gloria Woosley blessed our food.

A variety of pizza, tossed salad, fruit, donuts and cookies were enjoyed by the Steel Magnolias and the Men of Steel

March 2008		Balance Brought Forward	\$5,114.54
01 -	100.00	Lenora Johnson.....Monthly Expense	5,014.54
03 -	87.50	Pokey warren.....100 Birthday Cards	4,927.04
03 -	57.83	Lenora Johnson.....Supplies: Copy paper, Mirror, for Benevolent Closet, etc.	4,869.21
06 -	87.50	Pokey Warren.....100 Praying For You Cards	4,781.71
25 -	174.76	Margaret Taylor.....(goodies for baskets to chemo rooms-3 wig forms-50 Report Covers	4,606.95
25 -	65.00	Pam Bussey.....Pizza + tip for 3/25 meeting	4,541.95
25 -	22.00	Lenora Johnson.....Fruit & Soft Drinks for 3/25 meeting	4,519.95
27 +	1,773.15	Deposit from Bake and Jewelry sale on 3/22	
		600.00...Marti Warren, RAJ	
		968.15...Cash from bake sale	
		205.00...Misc. checks from bake sale	6,293.10

Listed below are contributions deposited & then used for start up money for bake sale  
This total is included in 3/27 deposit of \$1,773.15

Given as a result of Lenora speaking to Women On Mission 10		
@ Parker Memorial Baptist Church.....	Bettie Davenport	\$50
	Susan Temple	50
Donation in honor of Pauline Brown by Isaac Brown		30
Donation in memory of Greta Kemp by Mr. & Mrs. Hollingsworth		20
Donation from Peggy Austin		10
Contribution from Nora Embry		10

....TRICARE covers breast cancer MRI's for high risk patients....

Falls Church, VA— Recognizing the importance of early detection, TRCARE has changed its policy adding coverage for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) screening for women at HIGH RISK of developing breast cancer. Anyone who meets the criteria for a breast MRI will be covered by TRICARE, retroactive to March 1, 2007. If any qualified beneficiaries received this care on or after that date and it was denied, they can submit their claim for reimbursement. The American Cancer society has guidelines defining high risk which doctors can use to determine who qualifies for the coverage. Breast cancer is the third most common cancer among TRICARE beneficiaries and the second most common cause of cancer death for U.S. women. An individual's level of risk can be impacted by a number of factors including age, family history and race.

## Correspondence

**Dear Lenora, We weren't able to take an active part in the Bake/Jewelry Fundraiser** this year, so we wanted to make a contribution. You and Jim Wilson came to my rescue when I was in the RMC, after learning I had breast cancer. Words cannot fully convey what it meant to me to hear the words that I was not alone, and that Steel Magnolias had helped many women, who like me, were in the pit of despair. Thank you so much for being there, and keep up the wonderful work you are doing. I am so proud to stand up and say, "I **am** a Steel Magnolia!"  
Love, Sandy and Alvin Chapman....Lineville, AL (Enclosed was a \$50 contribution.)

**Dear Friends, I thank you for the package of materials** and other useful items you sent me. It is coming in handy at the time. I really appreciate all of it. Thanks again! Love, Betty Cole.....Piedmont, AL

**Dear Mrs. Rooks, Please convey to everyone at Steel Magnolias'** next meeting our appreciation for your card. Your prayers and support are so special to Ron and me. God bless all of you. In Christ, Betty and Ron....Oxford, AL (Note: Betty is Lenora Johnson's sister—She is currently in treatment at UAB for a rare cancer)

**Dear Mrs. Johnson, Thank you for your letter regarding the loophole in the Alabama Breast and Cervical Medicaid Treatment Act.** Having been personally affected by this devastating disease, I certainly understand the importance of early detection programs and believe they save lives. As you know, in order to address this loophole issue, Alabama State Law must be modified. I understand you are currently working with Representative Lea Fite and encourage you to continue working with him and the Alabama Department of Health, which administers the program. To facilitate your efforts, I have forwarded your letter to the Alabama Department of Public Health and to the Alabama Medicaid Agency. I applaud your dedication and efforts to help cancer victims and appreciate your personal comments in your letter. Whenever I can be of assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Sincerely, Bob Riley, Governor..... Montgomery, AL

**(UPDATE) Representative Lea Fite introduced a bill, that if passed, would restore Alabama's matching funds to the Public Health Dept.'s CDC Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program and close the loophole that has existed in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act since 2001. This would give poor, uninsured Alabama women the same level of care given to qualifying women in Georgia and Mississippi.**

**(UPDATE) The Governor's office has restored, matching funds, totaling \$400,000, to the proposed budget for the CDC Early Screening Program. This still needs legislative approval.**

**Margaret Taylor and Marti Warren also received letters** of response to the letters they wrote to Gov. Riley. As with my letter, he sent their letters to Representative Fite, Dr. Williamson @ Alabama Public Health, and to Medicaid. We all received responses from Dr. Donald E. Williamson, M.D. State Health Officer....Montgomery

### **PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!**

**Send letters to our state representatives, senators and Governor Riley. Just call, we'll be happy to help you with content and find the name and address of your representative. Letters to the editor concerning this unfair loophole could be very effective!**

### **Thank You, Margaret!**

On April 5, 2008, Margaret Taylor was invited to speak to a group of Women On Missions at Chulafinnee Baptist Church concerning the work of Steel Magnolias. The meeting began with a delightful meal honoring those with birthdays and anniversaries. Following dinner, the meeting began with an introduction of Margaret by Marie Payne. There were 18 women in attendance and each one was very attentive during the presentation. Margaret gave a history of Steel Magnolias and of its founder, Lenora Johnson. She also told of the services available to breast cancer patients, and the work on behalf of uninsured and underinsured patients. She informed them of the loophole in the 2001 Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act. And asked for their help in correcting this loophole. Following a question and answer period, the Women On Missions group contributed \$167 to the Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

### **Faithful Service**

#### **Thank You Nancy and Margaret!**

Thank you Margaret Taylor and Nancy Burnell for representing Steel Magnolias at the Oxford Civic Center on Tuesday, April 08, at the Summit for Senior Adults. The special speakers came from several agencies involved in fraud and abuse. Agencies represented were: Alabama Attorney General's office, Calhoun County District Attorney, Better Business Bureau, Postal Inspector and Home Health. The event opened with Mayor Leon Smith's welcome to everyone who

attended the summit. Margaret and Nancy prepared Steel Magnolias' table with a white cloth, a pink topper and a centerpiece. They gave interested inquirers, Steel Magnolias lapel pins, ink pens, brochures, bookmarks and business cards. Several important contacts were made. Nice door prizes were given, including a \$25 gift certificate to Wal-Mart from Steel Magnolias. Box lunches were enjoyed by everyone wishing to share lunch, both vendors and visitors.

**Thank You, Nancy!**

After leaving the Summit for Senior Adults, Nancy Burnell spoke to a small group of senior women at the Oxford Pilot Club. These ladies were very interested in learning from Nancy, who owns Macy's Modeling School, how to present a fashion show. Nancy also had opportunity to tell the ladies about Steel Magnolias and to share some of our literature.

**Thank You!**

Thank you Pam Bussey and Marti Warren for being faithful in the delivery of care packages to newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. God has truly blessed hurting people by placing Pam in the Wound Healing Center at the Tyler Center and Marti Warren has become a comforting presence at the Noble Building, as she works, Tuesday through Friday at her family gift boutique, The Family Affair.

Ina Rooks, always answers the telephone with a pleasant tone, committed to sending a message of hope to the newly diagnosed patients. Thank you Ina for such great work and for such a giving spirit.

In RMC, Chaplain Wilson and Helen Henley are truly God's messengers of hope. Thank you Chaplain Wilson and Helen for all the ways you reach out to hurting people.

As our spokesperson to the Newspaper, and Media, thank you Marti Rogers for a job well done.

**In tribute to Faithful Service**

**Hope by Paul Brandt**

**You give me hope  
And I can face another day  
All it takes is love and faith  
And the courage to believe  
You give me hope  
And there's nothing I can't do  
I get all my strength from you  
Saying you will stand by me  
You give me hope**

**Tuesday, April 22: Steel Magnolias Group meeting and Men of Steel, 5:00 p.m.  
The Tyler Center. Magnolias meet in the Galley & Men in the Nook, following  
Our food and fellowship. Everyone bring either, sandwiches, salads, fruit or dessert.**

**(Note) The early part of May, Dr. Stephanie Fussell will be leaving Anniston Oncology,  
and returning to Biloxi, Mississippi. She is expected to stop by our meeting for a few  
parting words. Dr. Fussell has, since 2005, served on the  
Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc., Board of Directors  
and some of us are her patients and wouldn't want to miss this meeting.**

**Tuesday, May 27: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel meet, 5:00 p.m., at the Tyler Center  
Special Guest will be Glenda Coley of Country Side Hospice**

## Here Goes

### The Haircut

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it." After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss the use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!" The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know dad, I've been thinking about that. Sampson had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair.....!" To which the father replied, "Yes, and they walked everywhere they went!" .....Courtesy of Pokey Warren

### Medicare Coverage.....Courtesy of Marti Rogers

The phone rings and the lady of the house answers, "Hello." "Mrs. Sanders, please." "Speaking." "Mrs. Sanders, this is Dr. Jones at St. Agnes Laboratory. When your husband's doctor sent his biopsy to the lab last week, a biopsy from another Mr. Sanders arrived as well. We are now uncertain which one belongs to your husband. Frankly, either way the results are not good." "What do you mean?" Mrs. Sanders asks nervously. "Well, one of the specimens tested positive for Alzheimer's and the other one tested positive for HIV. We can't tell which is which." "That's dreadful! Can you do the test again?" questioned Mrs. Sanders. "Normally we can, but Medicare will only pay for these expensive tests one time." "Well, what am I supposed to do now?" "The folks at Medicare recommend that you drop your husband off somewhere in the middle of town. If he finds his way home, don't sleep with him!" .....

### What Setting

One day my housework-challenged husband decided to wash his sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, he shouted to me, "What setting do I use on the washing machine?" "It depends," I replied. "What does it say on your shirt?" He yelled back, "University of Alabama." .....Courtesy of Pokey Warren

### Why God Made Moms? Answers from 2nd Grade Children

**Why Did God Make Mothers?** 1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is 2. Mostly to clean the house. 3. To help us out of there when we were getting born. **How did God make mothers?** 1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us. 2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring. 3. God made Mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts. **What ingredients are mothers made of?** 1. God made mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean. 2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think. **Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?** 1. We're related. 2. God knew she like me a lot more than other people's moms like me. **What kind of little girl was your mom?** 1. My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff. 2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy. 3. They say she used to be nice. **What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?** 1. His last name. 2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer? 3. Does he make \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores? **Why did your mom marry your dad?** 1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mom eats a lot. 2. She got too old to do anything else with him. 3. My grandma says that mom didn't have her thinking cap on. **Who's the boss at your house?** 1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball. 2. Mom, you can tell by room inspection. She sees stuff under the bed. 3. I guess Mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than Dad. **What's the difference between moms and dads?** 1. Moms work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work. 2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them. 3. Dads are taller and stronger, but moms have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at a friend's house. 4. Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine. **What does your mom do in her spare time?** 1. Mothers don't do spare time. 2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long. **What would it take to make your mom perfect?** 1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery. 2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue. **If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?** 1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that. 2. I'd make Mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me. 3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.

### Serving Two Masters

A Mormon acquaintance once pushed Mark Twain into an argument on the issue of polygamy. After long and tedious expositions justifying the practice, the Mormon demanded that Twain cite any passage of scripture expressly forbidding polygamy. "Nothing easier," Twain replied. "No man can serve two masters."