



HomeMakers Winter Newsletter

February 2011

Getting Your Act Together in 2011!

A Hospitality Quiz from Donna

Dear Friend,

Hope you enjoy all the ideas we are sending your way for this new year in your home.



If you have ever heard me speak of hospitality, you will know that I believe hospitality is first in your heart, eyes and hands. You give up your seat on the public transportation in your city....Hospitality! You look at someone with compassion during a moment of tenderness...Hospitality!

The following is a quiz to test your hospitality...Go ahead...you know you love quizzes!

Use five words to describe your hospitality...Heart, Eyes, Hands and Home:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

List five reasons you like to be in your home

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

(Mine is it feels safe)

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Sabbatical Updates

HomeMakers Activities

Good Search

Thanks to all of you who have chosen Good Search as your search engine over Google (and others), HomeMakers received a donation of \$17.57 for 2009-10. Doesn't seem like much? All those pennies add up! Give Good Search a try and make a painless donation to HomeMakers at the same time!



Newsletter

We're getting the word out! Over the last several months, our Newsletter Subscription

Give three reasons you don't like your home

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

If you could change three things about your hospitality in the next seven days (time and money not being a factor) what would they be:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Can you tell someone in a few sentences the difference between hospitality and entertaining? Do so.

How did you do?

Best tip: Keep your eyes open for others' needs. Their glass is empty; they look uncomfortable and need a pillow; can't hold the plate and cup in the buffet line; or can't find a seat at any event you might attend.

Peter says it best "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling". I Peter 4:9. Simple words we can all take to heart.

"God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply." - Hudson Taylor



Donna Otto, Author
Founder of HomeMakers

list has been growing, largely as a result of people finding our Podcasts and our website through iTunes. What a

Organizing One Room at a Time

Room-by-Room Tips

Does getting your act together in the entire house seem overwhelming? Try breaking it down into room-by-room tasks you can do a little bit at a time and before you know it, your organizational goals will be met! Here are some easy tips for some of your major spaces...



Kitchen

Here are some great one-day projects. You can easily tackle each in a day - do a couple a week and before you know it, you're done!

1. If you don't use it, get rid of it! Scour your cupboards and drawers for never used items or duplicates, then give them away...maybe to a student headed off to college, or donate to your church kitchen.
2. Check your small appliances for anything that doesn't work or is missing parts. Get them repaired or toss them.
3. Store seasonal and seldom-used items up high or way in the back of your cabinets. Keep daily items within easy reach.
4. Keep things you use together stored together. Coffee maker, coffee and mugs close by one another. Measuring cups and other baking needs together, etc.
5. Use wasted space: Hang things from decorative hooks, use plate racks and lazy susans in your cupboards.
6. In your pantry: Store bulk items in clear containers (jars or plastic) so you can see what's what. You can also label canisters with a black marker - or if you have small children, use a picture to indicate where things go. Then they

blessing that God continues to use our ministry in new ways every year!

Website

Stay tuned...our website will be undergoing a face lift over the next several months. We'll let you know when the big unveiling happens!

DVD Study Groups

Currently there are several women's groups across the United States and Canada using the Choices Matter DVDs as their study material. In addition, we continue to fill and ship new DVD orders weekly all over the United States!

Local Study Groups

Two local-area study groups are continuing to meet weekly:

Butterfly Angels:

Meeting Thursdays, 9am.
Although the group is closed, feel free to visit and get ideas on starting your own group.
Contact Stefanie Brown,
480.650.0743 or home
602.923.7350,
smbs205@yahoo.com.

West Side Study Group:

Meeting Tuesdays,
9:15-11:15. Location varies.
This group is open to new members, and is using the Choices Matter DVDs for their study material and teaching.
Contact Alison Van Brunt,
alivb143@yahoo.com,
623-434-3451.

Worldwide Impact

Our Podcasts, books and DVDs really get around! We've heard from listeners as far away as southeast Asia,

can help unload groceries or clean up. Use berry baskets or small boxes to store packaged mixes.

7. Junk drawer: Use a silverware tray to keep things separated. And toss the extras - how many twist ties, rubber bands or matchbooks do you really need?

8. Counter clutter: Use the 'three-appliance' rule - no more than three on your counter at a time. Choose the ones you use daily, such as your coffee maker, toaster and microwave, for example. The rest get tucked away.

Closets

Here are some questions to ask to help you sort and eliminate the excess:

- What clothes am I holding onto for strictly sentimental reasons? You can take a picture to save, or box them and store in a different location.
- What things do I have that are not in your size? Better to let someone else use them while they are in style and in good shape!
- Which items are out of vogue forever?
- Which pieces do I have needless duplicates and triplicates of that I can give to someone else?
- What do I have hanging there that I've borrowed from my sister or a friend and need to return?

Wow! Look at all that space! To organize even further use shoeboxes or soft foldable bins (available cheap at discount stores) for purses, belts, scarves, etc.

In children's closets, label the bins with pictures so kids can put their things back where they belong. You can purchase colorful stacking bins also if you are able to invest a little more money in your organizing project.

You're off to a great start! Need more tips?

Listen to Donna's organizational advice free on iTunes! The following Podcasts are available:

[Kitchen Organization](#) - Parts 1 and 2

[De-cluttering](#) - Parts 1 and 2

[Principles of Home Organization](#)

[The Peaceful Home](#)

Click on the iTunes logo to access



Heart for Hospitality

Preparing your heart and home to bless others

Be honest now. When you think of inviting people into your home and entertaining them hospitably, don't you feel at least a little twinge of fear? Or nervousness? Or embarrassment? The very idea of hospitality can be daunting. But it doesn't have to be.

Hospitality - opening your home and your life to friends and strangers alike - was never meant to be an overwhelming

burden. As with any form of service, hospitality requires thought, energy, and lots of prayer. But hospitality that's done for the glory of God can be a truly joyful, liberating experience.

First, it helps to be intentional about making hospitality a way of life. Hospitality thrives when you do it on purpose. Pray for opportunities to see needs around you and to extend hospitality to those who need it. Consciously invite the risen Lord to be both guest and host at all your gatherings. Plan for



Republic, to name a few. And our products have shipped to Albania, Canada and India.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support as we take the counter-cultural message of HomeMakers to the world.

HomeMakers is here for you!

Find encouragement and support every day:

Podcasts:

HomeMakers on iTunes.

Updated daily!

Website:

www.homemakersbychoice.org

Free Resources:

[Download articles here](#)

Donna's books for sale:

[Great tools, great prices here.](#)

From our listeners...

Encouraging words from PodCast listeners

I'm amazed at God's goodness through your ministry. Today, I was able to listen about guarding your heart & anger.

It was timely! I needed to hear it. I send my deepest thanks!

U ARE A HUGE NEEDED BLESSING !!! (MD)



something sacred to happen every time you open your heart and home to others - and be alert so you'll know when it happens.

Of course, saying yes to hospitality means saying no to excuses. You'll always be able to find an excuse for not practicing hospitality, but if you give in to the excuses you'll miss out on the blessing that comes with the ministry of hospitality.

You may say, "I don't have the money." Early in our marriage, David and I used to host wonderful, hilarious, fulfilling evenings for less than a dollar. I'm not exaggerating. All it took was a 29-cent bag of popcorn, a 5-cent package of Kool-Aid, a little oil for the popper, some salt, a few board games or decks of cards, some people we cared about and a willingness to give of ourselves. Granted, the cost of such an evening would be higher now - maybe even as high as three dollars. But an evening of hospitable fun can still be a bargain.

A little general planning can help a lot in cutting down on pre-event stress and making hospitality a way of life in your home. You can simplify your life tremendously by keeping your home - and your heart - prepared for hospitality at any given moment.

This includes not only keeping the house relatively clean and organized, but also stocking the pantry and the refrigerator. I have developed several menus I can throw together at the last minute using canned food, frozen goods, and whatever fresh produce I have on hand.

I try to keep my attitude hospitality-ready too. I don't really like to stop what I'm doing to offer unplanned hospitality. But I am learning to be a little more open to God's interruptions, a little more ready to entertain angels when they arrive in my life.

Often, in the midst of one of our gatherings, with the lively sounds of friends and family in the background, David and I will sneak off into a quiet corner and listen to the sounds of laughter and fellowship.

Hi HBC Team!

Sending you a support message from Mississauga Ontario. I am just listening to your podcast on Family Table Time. I just wanted to let you know that planning my family meals, setting the table with my linens and beautiful dishes as well as making meals at home with only the freshest and most in season ingredients has been so appreciated by my family. I started this a few months ago for my family - for all three meals!

My husband has said directly that he really appreciates what I am doing for the family. Thank you for helping me appreciate my role as wife and mother - with blessings flowing over to me! God Bless (AL)

Hello Dear Sisters at Homemakers By Choice,

I cannot begin to express how your ministry has impacted me this last year of listening to your podcasts. What an encouragement to me as a wife, mother, and most importantly child of God.

I love Homemakers By Choice and listening everyday. I am constantly astounded by how much Mrs. Donna and I have in common. It really is bizarre. Who else do you know from the cold midwest would have the same wedding anniversary as March ??!

I pray for your ministry. Thank you. Your fellow sister in Christ. (HS)

Our ministry of hospitality is something we've worked hard to develop, but it's also something we cherish and are always ready to celebrate.

We'd love you to join us.
Are you ready to say yes?

-Excerpted from "Finding Your Purpose as a Mom" by Donna Otto. Click [here](#) for details and purchase information.

Get it together in style...

HomeMakers Black Logo Apron



HomeMakers black heavy-duty apron with pockets and logo. Limited quantities available!

Order online at www.homemakersbychoice.org/products.

**Special Price \$12
(Regular \$15)**

A special poem by David & Donna Otto:

Who Holds the Heart of this Home?

By: David and Donna Otto

There is a wonderful place,
a space so secure and warm,
that all who are privileged to
live there
call it home.

Who holds the heart of this home?

The walls are colored with
laughter
and the floors with wall-to-wall
memories.
Each space testifies to the
bustling energy and joy of
blended lives.

Who holds the heart of this home?

It's more than an address
or a statement of achievement
and style.
It's a tender oasis from the
storms of daily life,
a place of peace and rest.

Who holds the heart of this home?

Cheerleaders for life dwell here
as do living testimonies for
faith.
Imperfect saints work out the
walk of wisdom
in the halls of this home.

Who holds the heart of this home?

For every damaged day and
sharp defeat,
home is the balm for the
wound.
For every cutting word and
ungracious event,

home is the kindness we
crave.

**Who holds the heart of this
home?**

And every bad memory of
family and childhood
is swallowed in the embrace of
a now happy home.
The time for forgiveness and
healing is here
in the sanctuary of home.

**Who holds the heart of this
home?**

So, those who build a home
instead of a house,
a deliberate and prayer-laced
place
rather than a sterile designer's
delight,
do well.

**Who holds the heart of this
home?**

**You hold the heart of this
home!**

Donna Otto resource

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