

BOOK FUN MAGAZINE



*Official Magazine of
The Book Club Network Inc.
April 2016 Issue*

April 2016 Letter From the Editor

Hello to My Book Fun Magazine Family:

Celebration! When I think of April, that's what comes to mind. Celebrating birthdays (we have many in April in our family), our anniversary (17 years this year!), and of course spring break! We celebrate warmer weather, longer days thanks to springing ahead, and time with family and friends. Most of all, though, I celebrate not just my relationship with God, but the privilege that I have of growing in that relationship daily.

I love Book Fun Magazine and all the authors and publishers who contribute to making it so amazing. I would love to encourage you this month that as you read each article and linger over each ad, to celebrate how we each have a special relationship with our Heavenly Father that is unique, personal and special. Just as we are all one-of-a-kind, so is the way we relate to our Heavenly Father. Some are more vocal, some more reserved, but when we trust Him with our love and obedience, that's when He starts working in our life and we see things happen.

I can't pick a favorite article this month - I loved them all. However, please do check out Barbara Ann Derksen's article - it is a little different from what we normally run but I loved it! I've contemplated using that strategy myself. Celebrating 17 years of marriage in 2016, my husband's response would probably be very similar. God used Gina Duke's article to speak directly to my heart, exactly when I needed it and Kingdom Conversations was, as always, a blessing as well. We introduced a new series this month by Darlene Franklin. She has the unique privilege of living in a nursing home and giving us a glimpse of what occurs behind the doors at her particular place of residence. And, because of Kelly Klepfer's wonderful book review, I now have a new book waiting to be read by a new author for me once I finish Susan May Warren's last Christiansen family book I received from the CLUB FOR READERS ONLY group last month.

We would love for you to be a part of this wonderful ministry as well. There are many ways you can get involved. We have book trailer videos that we are offering, a chance to promote your books in the live monthly book chats, and even an opportunity to write an article and place an ad.

We have a readership of over 400,000 and counting, so if you are interested, email me at cheri.bookfunmagazine@gmail.com and I would be happy to explain in more detail all the ways we could help you promote your book through The Book Club Network and Book Fun Magazine and be part of our awesome team!

You are always family to us here at Book FUN! May God use the various articles throughout this month's edition to speak to you personally.

In Him,



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As the Official Magazine of The Book Club Network, we are THE magazine for reading groups. Our focus is on Christian publishers and authors while bringing family safe books and movies to readers who just want to have fun!

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April 2016 | Vol 3 | No. 7



Contents

All of My Needs
The Simple Things
Watching My Wait
Pentecost... Now They Got It
Living a Romance Novel
I Can't Believe You Did That!
What I Take For Granted
God Gives Us More Than We Can Handle
Why We Can't Seem to Forgive Ourselves
At the Mention of His Name
The Sacrifices of Hospitality
Dare to Believe the Lost Colony is Found
Glory B: Who Knows?
Discovering Peace and Purpose
A Season for Sowing Seeds
Something More
Praying Through
Conny's Cubbies
Reviewers' Reviews
Mud, Doors and Windows
Passage to Peace
Fluttering Around Like a Hummingbird
Lessons from a Songbird
Teachers From Oz
Interview with Lee Ann Mancini
God's Whispers Fulfilled
You Are Becoming a Divine Masterpiece
The Sense of Humor

A Fine Line
Tsunami
Researching Blacksmithing
From Infertility to Triplets +two
Help Along the Crooked Path
In Sickness and in Health
From Kilts to Regalia
The Watershed
Tell Me a Story
The Real Thing

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CSPA
Graham Blanchard
ALCG
Elk Lake Pub
Prism Book Group
Winged Pub
Leafwood Pub

Index

CrossLink Pub
GLM Publishing
Gina Duke
Xulon Press
Emerge Publishing
Zook Books
AMDG Publishing
Whitaker House
Whitaker House
Needle Rock Press
Healthy Life Press
Even Before Pub
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Bamboo Sunset in AZ, Courtesy of Emily Fassett 2016

A Fine Line

By: Julie Castro

It is a fine line between being proud and being prideful. I learned a lesson that I never thought would happen to me, but it did. The lesson was about pride as it related to being proud of my son and his accomplishments.

I was the parent that raised both my son and stepson during 12 years of marriage. Early in the marriage, I spent 2-3 hours a night explaining school lessons in English and Spanish to my stepson, as he only spoke Spanish when I immigrated him. At the same time, I was also raising our son, maintaining the house and working full-time. Family and friends would comment to me what a wonderful job I did raising both boys.

The marriage was God's permissive will,

188 April 2016



Mac and Me 1994



Pointsettias in El Roble Mazatlan

not His perfect will for my life. That was a lesson in and of itself. When the marriage dissolved, it took sixty-nine days for the divorce to be decreed. I was awarded sole custody of my son, Mac. We moved to a new city some months later and started our new life; we acclimated to our surroundings quickly. Friends, parents, teachers and colleagues were now telling me what a joy my son was to have around and mentioning how proud I must be of him.

As a *believer*, I read the Bible faithfully and taught my son Biblical lessons when the opportunity arose. One such occasion happened when he was in high school. Mac made a comment that was misinterpreted by others and he found himself in an unfortunate situation. His words wreaked havoc for the first time in his life, but this misfortune prompted him to study 12 hours a day and graduate a year early. Two Scriptures I spoke into him and he learned are found in Proverbs 18:21 and Romans 8:28 respectively:

Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.
(NASB)

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love



Mac and Me Salt River Tubing 2006

God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (NASB)

With high school behind him, a new door opened six weeks later when he started attending a state university a year ahead of schedule. With an early start on his college education, more kudos were spoken to me. I graciously accepted them and said thank you. I believed I was raising Mac with good morals and values, but I didn't go around boasting about how wonderful I thought my son had become as he grew into manhood. As people watched him grow up over the years, they made their own mind up about him. The compliments continued.

Mac got into some trouble a second time, but this time I sought the help of my pastor. At my suggestion, he called the pastor to get some advice. God knew my son needed to talk someone and who it should be. The pastor was the right person at the right time. Ecclesiastes 3:1 states:

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven... (NASB)

Whatever the pastor spoke to Mac was just what he needed to hear. After the phone

call, he came bounding into my office and said, "I feel so much better." He proceeded to tell me how he was going to handle the situation. I don't know the full extent of the conversation, but my son was happy with the outcome.

Maintaining my son's confidence, my pastor only told me that he was glad he was able to instill sound advice into him. A few months later, from the pulpit the pastor mentioned to the congregation what a good job I had done raising my son. I acknowledged the compliment with a nod of my head and said nothing. I was proud how my son overcame the obstacles using wisdom and taking counsel.

Although Mac was doing well in college, it wasn't until his second year that something clicked when he met a professor while working in the chemistry stockroom. This man changed the course of his life forever. It was the spring semester of his sophomore year and my son had the opportunity to help set-up the lab for the newly hired Assistant Professor. My son asked if he could volunteer in the lab and that is when his love of research began.

As a biochemistry major, Mac has the desire to find a cure or treatment. Originally, it was medicinal based, but now his horizons are set on answering a societal related

Aduana Sonora Mexico 1993





El Roble Mazatlan



Me and Mac Prom 2009



problem. Every once in a while I remind him to write down the calculation when it is given to him in the middle of the night.

And as he recently told me, “I’m not good at math, mom; it is a pathway (a biochemistry term) that will be the answer, but I will write it down.”

Continuing his education after achieving his Bachelor’s Degree in Molecular Sciences was never a thought until he was introduced to the research lab. Now his desire to obtain a Ph.D. is just part of his life’s goals.

It took five years for Mac to graduate and he persevered thru some difficult life events. He overcame adversity and followed protocol set by others, even if he didn’t agree with what was required of him. He listened to my advice and the Scriptures I would quote him to substantiate the situation he was experiencing. I was proud of my son; but the fine line of being proud and being prideful started to reveal itself over the next few months.

My son applied to seven graduate programs across the US. He received four rejections and three interviews. He was off and running and I was thrilled for him as he will be the first in the family to have a doctoral degree. I was so excited for the three interviews, I started to tell everyone – family, friends, colleagues and church members. But one day, I told a colleague about the interview my son had at a prestigious university.

The excitement I shared for my son was not received by the man, or at least how I expected it would be. GULP. In that moment, I realized I made a mistake and changed the conversation to talk about his child. I was out of order, but thank goodness the Holy Spirit quickened me immediately. That is when the Lord started to work in me about sharing the exuberance I had for my son with others. Just because I’m excited for my son, I shouldn’t expect others to be excited. Lesson learned, but God was still dealing with me about my pride.

The second interview was now a test. How would I handle telling people, or was I supposed to say anything at all? The events behind this interview made sharing even more news worthy; my son had found great favor. I had to curtail my excitement. I needed to keep the news to myself, otherwise pride was going to rise up again. Family and friends knew about his second interview, but unless they asked me how the interview went, I kept my mouth shut; and even then I was cautious about what was shared.

He has one final interview and I believe it will be my final test. No talking about the interview before or after it happens, unless asked. How I handle this test will determine if I have to experience the lesson again.

I am very thankful that God has given me the grace to get thru life's lessons, especially understanding the difference between being proud and prideful. For years people suggested that I be proud of my son and I am; but that is where it stays – with their comments as they are led to speak. If someone asks I will tell them about my son, but now, it will be boasting of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done in my son's life. As Galatians 6:14 states:

But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (NASB)

The Lord reminds me there is a difference between boasting about my son and boasting about what He has done in my son's life. God used my son's experiences to instruct me on the difference between pride and being proud. Fortunately, I learned the lesson quickly; another one on the road that leads to my destiny. Proverbs 16:9 states:

The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps. (NASB)



Julie Castro (and her son pictured left) is author of On Earth as It Is in Heaven, a Personal Allegory and owner of Fiesta Publishing. Co-founded by her mother over 20 years ago, Julie resurrected the company to publish her book. What she didn't realize was the book and company were the catalyst for her call to ministry, a call she didn't know existed until a few years ago. Before her call as a writer, publisher and ministry began, Julie had several

different careers including her current position as a research advancement administrator. She also served as the director of a community outreach program that assisted women with barriers to employment enter the workforce and early in her career was a buyer for major retail and catalog companies. Being unconventional in her walk with Jesus, Julie does not limit how the Lord wants to use her and the messages she shares.

Sponsored by Julie Castro