



# The Cultivator

A Publication of Mentoring Moms, Inc

Spring 2008

## Financial Victory

By Kris Billingsley with Lesley Bodine

The first time I met Lesley Bodine was at a Mary Kay meeting held at her husband, Phil's, executive offices. In true Mary Kay style, she took command of the meeting wearing an elegant black skirted suit and chic fish net stockings. Her straight forward manner is easy to take as it is very apparent that Lesley's primary goal is to give other women a leg up in this world. She has built a very lucrative business and, if you're interested, she will do everything in her power to help you build one, too.

Anyone who meets Lesley knows she is a business savvy woman who knows where she is going. She has driven a Mary Kay custom pink Cadillac for well over a decade. Lesley exudes financial stability. I wondered if Lesley had always lived on "that side of

the street." On further investigation I found that Lesley was not born with the proverbial silver spoon in her mouth or into a well-connected family. Quite the opposite - her parents struggled financially. Early on Lesley, who has a penchant for fashion, found she had to babysit to earn money to buy clothes during her school years.

I asked Lesley what brought her to the point of wanting to take control of her financial future. She replied, "I watched my parents struggle financially due to poor decisions and knew I did not want to create the same patterns in my life." Lesley finds it hard to see her mother have to work past her retirement due to some bad financial choices. Neither did Lesley buy into the fairy tale lie of waiting for a Prince Charming to provide her monetary security. Rather than feeling sorry for herself, she realized that she had to take responsibility for her own financial future. "I desired to move from victim to victor."

*A Hope  
&  
A Future*

Graduation &  
Donor Appreciation Dinner

April 13, 2008  
5:00 p.m.

Avalon Missionary Church  
1212 Lower Huntington Road  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

**BY SPECIAL  
INVITATION ONLY**

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

RSVP by April 4  
(260) 249-9669

A COMPLIMENTARY DINNER IS PROVIDED IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MINISTRY.  
WE WILL NOT BE REQUESTING ANY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OR PLEDGES DURING THE EVENING.

# On the Calendar

## April

13 – Graduation & Donor Appreciation Dinner

22 – WOLFELT SEMINAR FOR BEREAVED

23 – WOLFELT SEMINAR FOR CAREGIVERS

\*Seminars are an optional event and free. For more info go to: [www.mccombandsons.com](http://www.mccombandsons.com)

## May

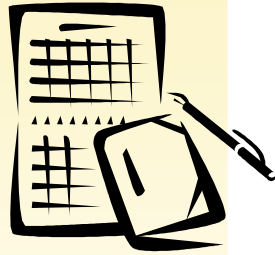
18 – Sunday Meeting with Craft

## June

8 – Annual Family Picnic

## July

13 – Sunday Meeting with Yard Games



Changing her concepts about money was the first step. She educated herself by reading financial books and becoming a keen observer of successful women around her, Mary Kay herself, a primary influence. "Talking about money (among women) is generally considered taboo," Lesley comments passionately, "I am encouraging women to *break the silence!*" Lesley believes that many women feel shame about their lack of knowledge regarding money. Keeping this silence will only breed more shame. Empowering yourself with knowledge allows oneself to make better, more informed choices. She quotes Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Lesley believes that changing our mindset makes all the difference. For instance, mention the word *diet* and we all groan with an immediate feeling of deprivation. *Budget* has a similar negative connotation. By simply viewing the former as an *eating plan* you turn a guilt-ridden concept into something positive. After all, who doesn't enjoy eating? The same with a *spending plan*. It gives you a sense of empowerment and control.

In the beginning, Lesley implemented the concept of personal cash flow into her spending plan. She

received two paychecks a month: a paycheck at the beginning of the month and another at the middle of the month. She also received numerous monthly bills. Listing all of her bills, she broke them down into two groups: those bills that would be paid with the first paycheck and those that would be paid with the midmonth paycheck. The bigger bills, like her rent, were split into two parts, each part put into her bill-paying account at the appropriate time. For example, her car insurance, being due every six months, was divided into six parts. Each part was put into her account monthly. "When my car insurance bill came" or the rent was due "the money was there waiting in my account!"

Lesley laughs saying, "I can hear some of you thinking, 'if I had extra money in my account, I would spend it.'" It all goes back to the mindset. You have to dig deeply to find your own answers on what will motivate you towards making the necessary changes in your life. It will be a different answer for each of us.

Those who find themselves with serious money troubles or even financial crisis are encouraged to reach out to a trustworthy friend, organization, or church. Remaining quiet often means no one will know enough to come along side you and help you regain your financial footing.

Lesley is the first to acknowledge her own mistakes. "Trust me, through the years I have made MANY, MANY, MANY unwise choices, but I am committed to learning the lessons and leaving the junk behind!" She encourages women not to worry about their past mistakes, but to use them as a catalyst to finding a better way. Isaiah 43:18-19, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!"

Lesley firmly believes the advice of a licensed financial advisor can be invaluable in helping you set attainable goals and keep accountability. Many people have the misconception that financial advisors are only for the wealthy when, in reality, expert advice early on can keep you out of trouble. It can help you make the most of what you have, even if it is not a fortune.

**BEAUTY INSTEAD OF ASHES**  
**Friday & Saturday, October 10 & 11**

[www.MentoringMomsMinistry.com](http://www.MentoringMomsMinistry.com)



# Our Hope and Our Future



*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and to give you hope and a future."  
~Jeremiah 29:11*

Our Hope is that we will continue to encourage, equip, and educate more women and their families to become spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically mature in Christ.

It is indeed our pleasure to celebrate with those women who have participated in or completed a 30-week training program called, "Helping People God's Way," or an 8-week training program entitled, "The Dream Giver." Both programs were selected from materials from the American Association of Christian Counselors.

We as women are better educated and equipped to understand God's leading in our lives, and how to encourage others.

We praise Jesus for the tough lessons learned in our heads and our hearts. We thank our Lord for His assurance of His love and His daily faithfulness. We have learned about dedicating ourselves to the One who created us and placed in our hearts His Dream for us. We have discussed that our fantasies may be different from

His Dreams for us. We have discovered that when we are empowered by our Dream Giver, Jesus, to do the work He has ordained for us, we will bring glory to Him, as we turn obstacles into opportunities. We have been taught about: "Surviving Sexual Abuse," "Forgiveness: Letting Go of the Past Abuse and Pain," "Grief and Loss," "Managing Stress and Anxiety," and "Financial Bondage."

We have laughed together, cried together, served others together, mourned the loss of our loved ones together, eaten together, played together, and prayed together. I will never be the same, never....

Our hearts are filled with gratitude and thanksgiving to our gracious Lord and our generous donors. We are blessed! We have "A Hope And A Future."

May Jesus Christ Be Given All Of The Honor And Glory!

*Dianne Stitzer* MS, LMFT  
Executive Director  
Mentoring Moms, Inc

## Executive Board

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Cindy Gilbert, Treasurer  
Carole Bates, Secretary

## Leadership Team

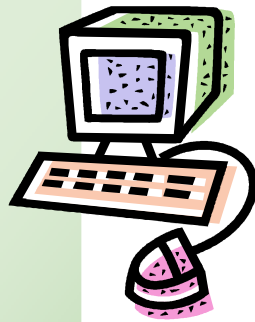
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Kris Billingsley, Becky Good, Janean Kisor,  
Diana Meschberger, Diana Scantlin

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## Hi-Tech Giving

Donating to Mentoring Moms is now easier than ever. You can donate by logging onto our newly updated website that has been designed and donated by our beloved IT expert, Lily Edquid. Our website is totally secure and receives credit card payments and online check transfers for one-time or continuing monthly payments. One of our donors commented, "I plan on setting up a monthly donation for twelve months through my credit card. It's so easy. I only have to have to think about it once a year when my husband and I discuss our yearly budget. No more stamps and monthly reminders. Thank you, Lily, for making donating online to Mentoring Moms so easy."

[www.MentoringMomsMinistry.com](http://www.MentoringMomsMinistry.com)

October 10 & 11, 2008



## BEAUTY INSTEAD OF ASHES

C H R I S T I A N W O M E N ' S C O N F E R E N C E

We are excited to be preparing for our fourth annual Beauty Instead of Ashes Christian Women's Conference 2008. As the time approaches, we have several sponsorships available for individuals and businesses:

- ◇ Conference Sponsor - \$2000
- ◇ Keynote Sponsors - \$1000
- ◇ Workshop Sponsors - \$250
- ◇ Financial Partners - \$50
- ◇ Benefactors - \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know if you are interested in becoming a partner in this life-changing event that challenges women as they step forward in their walk with Christ. For more information, please contact Mentoring Moms' Executive Director, Dianne Stitzer, at (260) 456-8517.

### Bling Bling

By Kris Billingsley

The mentors and mentorees have been busy this winter preparing for a new fundraising project. Joyce Poepelmeyer had the great idea of fundraising with our own handmade jewelry, and with the creative talent we have within Mentoring Moms, it was a perfect fit. So one snowy night, several of our women braved the treacherous weather to travel to the north side of town where Peggy Hurt runs a jewelry making company out of her home. Over a decade ago, Peggy sensed a calling from God to start

a business to help other Christians raise funds for their causes. We were impressed with the quality and selection in her well-stocked showroom.

Under Peggy's expert guidance, we handcrafted several Mentoring Mom creations. We love our designs and think you will too. Our creations include badge holders, pins, necklaces, earrings, book marks and checkbook covers. The entire collection will be available for purchase this fall at our annual Beauty Instead of Ashes Conference. If you are interested in previewing our collection, just give us a call, or log onto our website [www.MentoringMomsMinistry.com](http://www.MentoringMomsMinistry.com) and drop us an email. For a small donation you can "strut your stuff" with your own Mentoring Moms' bling!

### Go Green, Save Green

Save trees and help us keep our costs down by receiving your newsletter in your email. It's easy! Just send your email address, along with your other contact information, to:

[dscantlin@mentoringmomsministry.com](mailto:dscantlin@mentoringmomsministry.com)

#### Mission Statement

We strive to encourage, equip, and educate women and their families, in order that they may continue to become spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and physically mature in Christ.

#### Ministry Verse

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~Jeremiah 29:11