

Monday Coffee Cup...

*A bit of encouragement to bring a
jolt of life to your day!*



A New Year—And back among the living...

Well, Christmas break proved to be much different than I had planned. It started out great, with Sean and I Christmas shopping the first day of our vacation (yes, just 3 days before Christmas!). I did some baking, and looked forward to the time off with family. Two days later, Dec. 23rd, Ellen woke up with a “look” to her eyes that said something was not right. We trudged on, but it wasn’t long before “the look” became a fever, with breathing difficulties following soon after. We battled the fever and gave breathing treatments for nearly three days—and sleepless nights—hoping Ellen’s health would take a turn. Well, turn it did, though it wasn’t the turn we wanted. So Christmas Day, after opening gifts with Mamaw & Papaw, Aunt Mel, and the kids, we proceeded with our dinner plans. But after dinner Sean decided it was time to go to the hospital. Ellen was very visibly struggling to breathe, and that was difficult to watch. I hate that helpless feeling! Needless to say, I kicked into overdrive, leaving the dirty dishes in the sink and the dessert un-served, in order to pack our bags—I knew this meant another hospital stay, so I figured I might as well plan ahead... for the both of us.

A couple of hours later, we were settling Ellen into her new “temporary home” on Floyd Memorial’s 2nd Floor - not exactly where I wanted to spend Christmas night. With all the sticking and poking Ellen had endured, she didn’t even want the nurses to touch her by that time—yet, we could breathe easier now... because she could. The x-ray showed pneumonia, something we had already dealt with once before. What went wrong? Ellen was so healthy and happy three days before! But as the doctor told me the next day, “You did everything you could’ve done. Sometimes these things just get beyond our ability to stop them.”

So, needless to say, I never got around to the projects I had hoped to tackle during the Christmas break. And there were a few days after Ellen came home that following Tuesday when I got nothing more accomplished than holding my little girl and being Nurse Mommy to her. Yet, I wouldn’t trade that time for anything! Were there moments when I was climbing the walls, feeling stir-crazy because I hadn’t been out of the house in days? Sure. But would I want to hand over the privilege of caring for my daughter, for the sake of being free to go and do? No way. My patience was tested at times, and there were moments I wished I could get something—anything—done. But if I hadn’t felt this way, I suppose I wouldn’t be human.

With all this said, I don’t think I ever really got around to thinking about New Year’s resolutions, or to setting any new goals for myself. Of course, there are always the usual things: Get back in shape, read more, be more organized, be a better wife and mommy... But I think I could add something “new” to this list in 2010—Learn to BE FLEXIBLE! Life does not always play out in a straight line, steady as she goes. Instead, it comes with twists and turns, with unexpected blessings and blessings-in-disguise. So how will I receive those surprises this year? I want to be open to the changes God brings my way, and to receive them with open hands and a happy heart—so He will be honored through all of it—no matter what. The Ragains’ Christmas was not ideal in some aspects, nor did it go just as we had planned. However, we had some great family time, and saw God heal our youngest child over that period of time. Makes one grateful for good health, for sure... And I suppose you could say I had some down-time—sitting with Ellen in Room 202, enjoying the slumber party of sorts as we cuddled on the hospital bed. Life really is good, and God is so faithful. May you know that faithfulness in great measure in 2010!!

*Looking forward to the year ahead...
-Carlee*

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.’”

