



The Juggling Act— Balancing Ministry and Family

by Chris Corbett

Children's Pastor at Oak Hills Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota

God brings many gifts and privileges into our lives. The best gift He has given to us was the gift of His Son and the privilege of spending eternity with Him. The sacrifice of God's Son was more than we deserved, but He did not stop there. He continues to bless us and give good gifts.

Prioritize

A gift God has given me is my family. I cherish my husband and two children. Yet at the same time I have the privilege of serving God in full-time ministry. Both are precious to me and I strive to be all that God created me to be in each position I am in, whether it is wife, mom, or children's pastor. Simultaneously maintaining a home and a ministry is tough. However, the joy that each role brings makes it worth the effort.

We have come to realize that there will be times when I may need to put the ministry aside for the sake of our home. At times I may need to spend extra time on the ministry because of the season. In either case, good communication and flexibility are important.

I put my children's school events on my calendar and try to schedule other meetings around

them. Except in emergency cases, I do not schedule church activities on my day off. I have been very fortunate to work with a senior pastor who has allowed me the flexibility of working at home. He has been very supportive and helps our staff maintain healthy family relationships.



Family Ministry

I think the primary contributing factor to the success of balancing home and ministry is that our family has realized that God has called not only me but also our family into ministry. My husband and I work together as a team. He has gifts and abilities that

complement my gifts, and he is always unselfishly willing to use them to raise the level of excellence in our ministry to children and families.

Our children are becoming a part of the ministry as they grow. If we need to visit a child in the hospital, our children go with us and they love it. They enjoy helping me paint sets or make object lessons. Most of the time they are held back only by their age. To say that I have a call into full-time ministry is true. But to say that God has called me specifically to be a pastor to children and has called our family into children's ministry would be more accurate.

God Equips

I know that everyone's circumstances and experiences are unique. Maintaining a home and a ministry position can be very difficult. A verse that has been helpful to me is Philippians 1:6: "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

When God calls us, He equips us. We can move forward with confidence knowing that God will lead us. He knows our circumstances better than we do, and He will complete His purpose in our lives.

Questions for Further Study—

1. What is it that makes your own personal juggling act worth the effort?
2. If you have a family, how might you help them feel like a part of your ministry?
3. Write out a Scripture verse that encourages you in your ministry.

This article is reprinted from the Winter/Spring 2001-02 issue of *Fanning the Flame*, a quarterly newsletter for children's workers produced by the National Children's Ministries Agency. *Fanning the Flame* is mailed free to children's pastors and directors in the local church. For additional copies and back issues contact GPH at 1-800-641-4310.

