

Day 8

On your mark, continued

Why did you begin homeschooling?

There are as many reasons as there are varieties of cereal in the grocery aisle (over 300, I believe.) Perhaps you were worried because your child wasn't doing well in a traditional school setting. Maybe your child was bullied by kids on the bus. Or your school system is known to be incredibly liberal. Maybe it was a more positive reason-- you wanted your child to stay with you rather than leaving you for most of the day, or you wanted to teach them God's Word. Maybe you couldn't afford private school.

Whatever the reason you began homeschooling, your reasons may not be the same today! As time goes on we sometimes forget exactly *why* it is that we've embarked on this great adventure. Especially on the days that the dishes pile up, the baby ate your child's homework (for real) and your husband comes home and says "What did you people do all day?" as you ask him if he picked up take-out on his way home!

Let's get our reasons down on paper.

The reality is that there are many good reasons to homeschool. There are also some bad ones. We don't want to base anything in our lives, for example, on fear. And even the reasons that sound good might not hold up to the pressure of those days . . .you know the ones I mean . . .the ones that I call my "dreaming of the big yellow school bus" days. There is a lovely new Jr High building right up the street from me; right next to a highly rated public elementary school. They apparently have plays and a choir and sports, which I don't have. There's also a great little Christian school about 3 miles from here--and they even teach Latin! I can see the "Christian" preschool from the corner of my front yard. Yes, the temptations are there, folks. So why on earth do I choose to keep ALL of these children at home, ALL day long, ALL year long, ad nauseum?

It's part of my calling toward God.

Yup, that's right. And somehow, it seems to me that THAT is the only reason that really gets me through those "dreaming of the big yellow school bus" days.

So why are you homeschooling? Ask God for His opinion. Maybe even ask Him to give you a Scripture for your homeschool. Write out

your reasons. Do it prettily; maybe put it on your computer and add clipart, or go the scrapbook route and print it on pretty paper with stickers and all, but whatever you do, make it look good. Then laminate it and put it up where you can see it. I think you'll thank me later!