

Random Destruction

was in the middle of writing a blog post on my laptop when my keyboard's buttons started falling off. You might be able to guess the letters that I'm now missing, and it's really hard to type like this. I hope to get it fixed ASAP, then I will blog more. Computers, ugh.

I WAS Gonna Blog More This Summer, But...

I am enjoying some of the freedom that the summer affords me: no youth group on Wednesday nights, no teaching Sunday school, no having to drop the kids off or pick them up at school – well, the kids will be out of school in 2 days, so I haven't had a taste of that yet, but I'm looking forward to trying for my afternoon nap without time constraints – if only Terrible-Two-Dude will stop yelling my name during these nap attempts.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy all of these activities, but there is something liberating about not being tied down to them for an entire summer. As much as I absolutely loved teaching 1st graders on Sunday mornings, it was really great last Sunday to not have to get up at 8am and get 4 crabby kids ready for what amounted to a double church service for them – one while Mom and Dad teach and one while Mom and Dad go to worship. Our family rolled out of bed by 10, got ready, and left the house around 10:40, getting to church in time to relax with friends before the service with plenty of time to spare. I enjoyed Wednesday nights with my 6th grade girls, but there was a lot of emotionally exhausting drama there at the end, and I so

needed a break. Besides, it's nice to have Wednesdays free. But wait, I don't have Wednesdays free! Hubby and I signed up to organize and facilitate a class at church called Changing Hearts, Changing Lives – a personal ministry class that utilizes a DVD series by Paul Tripp and small group discussion to lead Christians to be able to effectively counsel others in a God-loving and caring way. We've had two weeks of this class so far, and it's going great! So I can't really say that I miss my free Wednesday nights. I never got a taste of a free Wednesday night anyway; what's that like?

I also signed up for a women's Bible study series (Beth Moore for those of you that know her work) that meets on Monday mornings. I hesitated with this one because it meets ALL summer – beginning today before school is out and going right through to August after the kids go back to school. But there is child care there, so if my 4 kids haven't killed each other by the time Mondays roll around, this will get us out of the house once a week. Also, my oldest daughter gets to help with the child care with other 'big kids' her age, so that will be good for her too. I enjoyed my first class today, but I have to note the intensity of this class – 5 nights of homework per week! Pre-Christian Taylhis 1.0 would have panicked and said 'I don't have time for this!!', but Taylhis 2.0 feels pretty good about it. I'm excited to immerse myself more fully in God's word, and the structure of the class will have me getting to know better other women at my church. I can find time for my homework; after all, isn't more butt-time for the pregnant lady just what the doctor ordered? I'm not sure about that, but it's definitely on MY want-list because these days my feet (legs, thighs, etc) are killing me, and I have a lot more growing to do!! Problem is, I'm going to spend that butt-time in front of my Bible and my class workbook rather than my blog, so there goes my plan of blogging more... oh well, who said blogging more was a good plan for me anyway?





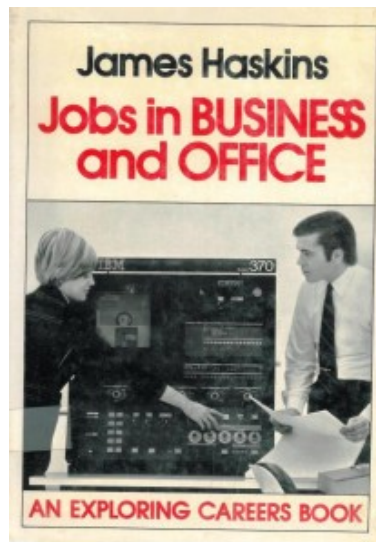
Still Here... Somewhere

Realizing I haven't blogged in awhile, I've been trying to think of something to write about. I have plenty of material; I just don't feel like writing for some reason. Plenty of material, not plenty of time is part of the reason. I've even started a few drafts, but at least one ended up being a laundry list of complaint about my dogs' behavior and other things that have been stressing me lately, and I don't feel like publishing it. After all, Walmart complaints are fun, tongue-in-cheek ways to vent about how I feel ripped off after shopping at Walmart, but when I write huge rants of real life complaints I annoy *myself*, so I can't imagine my readers' feelings. Plus all the complaining doesn't ease the stress, nor does it help me fulfil the main purpose of my blog – which is giving my family a virtual diary of our lives while the kids are growing up. Sure, it shares the information, but I want their reading experience of our family blog when I'm gone to be a good one, not something like, "Hey – I D0 remember when mom was stressed all the time!!"

So I wanted to drop a quick line to let it be known that I'm still here, still a part of blog world, still interested in posting blogs. My kids are not any less cute these days, nor my life any less busy or exciting... just much more stressful, which kind of puts a damper on my creative writing spirit I think. I'm hoping maybe that will change here soon... if not this summer, something tells me I might feel better in October or November with less of the negative pregnancy symptoms and more of the 'new baby joys' to focus upon. Can't wait!

That IBM Is Almost As Big As Me

I forgot now how I found this site, but I got some good laughs out of a blog called awfullibrarybooks.wordpress.com. It's mostly a tribute to books the blog's authors and contributors found in libraries that are extremely outdated. I got a big kick out of this gem:



When's the last time someone checked this one out from the library? I mean, checked it out to actually use it, not just to laugh at it.

Ok, computer ~~dorks~~ um, experts – who can tell me what some of those little doo-hickeys are on that [IBM 370](#)? I've already done some simple research and found that this computer is

circa 1970. Has anyone played around on something like this?

Creativity With Spam

If you're looking for recipes for that gross canned meat, you've come to the wrong place... This post is about the internet spam variety since the blogs here have been getting a ton of spam comments recently. I just mark them as spam and delete them, but some are so amusing that they deserve recognition.

Come on people. Some of these are so obviously written by someone who doesn't even speak English – am I really supposed to believe that they read my English blog and understood enough to appreciate it? Some are just general comments, and I'm not (that) stupid, so they're obviously such generic comments that they barely apply to the blog post for which they are written. Some just don't make sense at all as you'll see below; I've dug up the best 5... and I wonder how much spam I will get on this spam post?

– The following is a response I got to a post I wrote about local murders:

Me and my brother eat with a fork too, but that doesnt' change or mean anything, does it?

What?

– I received the following comment on a blog post I wrote about a man and his eagle:

Definitely trust that which you stated. Your explanation was certainly the easiest to recognise. I tell you, I usually get irked when folks discuss problems that they plainly have no idea about. You managed to hit the nail at the head and explained out everything without complication. Maybe, people

usually takes a signal. Will likely return to obtain more.
Thanks.

Mmhmm...

– Here is a comment on a blog I wrote about everyday life:
Martin you beed to sort out the awful display after this weekend. Too many tired wasters.

Makes no sense whatsoever.

– Another one from the same everyday life post:

Intimately, the post is really the best on this precious topic. I concur with your conclusions and will eagerly look forward to your coming updates. Just saying thanks will not just be sufficient, for the exceptional lucidity in your writing. I will instantly grab your rss feed to stay abreast of any updates. Gratifying work and much success in your business endeavors!

Wonderful use of the English language there. Get a thesaurus for your birthday, didja?

– And finally, this one had Europe (or Australia as it turned out to be) written all over it – my first clue was the use of the word ‘keen’. One thing I’d like to know is, why are these spambots so enthusiastic about telling their brother?

Yes, I was very keen on that. So was my brother. He said he will check it out tomorrow. We will be back before you know it.

Great. Is that a threat or a promise?