

Stress

I feel like I can barely keep my head above water these days – I'm so incredibly overwhelmed with things to do! To top it all off, our dog had a huge swollen lump on her face that just kept getting worse so we had to take her to the vet. It's an abscess tooth, and the vet also found a few other problems. In short, we have to decide how much we can afford to fix. This dog is like one of our kids; we got her before we were even married, and at the time, we had trouble adopting a dog because we were so young and lived in an apartment, so shelters wouldn't let us adopt. But finally, we found Charity, and they let us adopt her, and she was the most terrible puppy you can imagine. We stuck through her puppy years, and by age 2 she was the best dog ever. She is now almost 11 yrs old and a major part of our family, to say the least. So anyway, she needs some treatment at the vet and at home, which will increase our busyness considerably. Add to that some household stuff I've been backed up with for months (still haven't unpacked all my hospital stuff from when the baby was born in July!), and it just keeps getting worse. It's really hard to do all the laundry and meal preparation and cleaning up after a family of 6 when I have two little kids to watch all day! Thank goodness the other two are in school, but between errands, feedings, diaper changes, cleaning up spills and messes, and playing, I don't have enough time left over for household duties, much less stuff I'm backed up on... And forget about hobbies; which is why I might have to let my blog go. I really don't want to; I enjoy writing on it; especially cuz it gives me a nice way to preserve memories for our family. But right now, it's a source of stress as it's just another thing I'm trying to work in. I wish I could be more passive about housework and laundry and stuff like that, but it just bugs the heck out of me when I let stuff go. And for good reason – I never have the time to catch up on stuff that's put off until later! But

enough of that, I'm just venting my stress, and also warning you that my blog posts are going to become even more infrequent. It's a shame too... I have a lot left of our trip to FL to share that I'd also like to record in my diary... might not be able to write about it until 2009!

Busy busy

With a new school year comes not just employment but things going on at my church as well. Okay, I haven't been *that* busy, but compared to just a week ago it seems like it. Also, I have been catching up on my internet reading since I was down for much of last week. It still goes down daily, but they tell me I have a perfect connection and it must be the work they're doing in the area. I can only hope it goes away after awhile proving them right, otherwise I'll be stuck since they'll never find anything with my "perfect" connection.

Monday I took a half-day job, but when I got there I found out the secretary put a teacher's request in for the wrong day. They then proceeded to remove the assignment from my job list so I can only hope I'll get some sort of compensation for it, but if not I least I can have the satisfaction of working only four periods today and getting a full day's pay for it (the norm for middle school is six periods). The teacher came in to work and decided he was too ill to work so I picked up the late assignment. I did not work first period as a result. Then I found out the teacher only has five periods, helping out in the office a 6th period. That is not normal and they didn't have me do it, though I did ask about it. To top it off, the teacher has a student teacher so he did most of the work. Cool.

Yesterday was an easy day too, though when I got there I was a little concerned as the teacher didn't leave any lesson plans. Fortunately I only had to teach one class. The rest were either co-teach classes (you know what that means- the other teacher does the teaching and I help as an assistant) or resource/study hall. As it turned out the one class they were just working out of a packet, so I just taught the next page of the packet and had them start their homework in class. Of course when I got home I found an email outlining the plans- apparently the system allows for a teacher to upload the plans to the sub-system and have them emailed to the sub. Having never had this happen before, I never realized it could do this so I never bothered to check my email before heading to work. Fortunately for me I had pretty much followed the plans without realizing it! Whew...

Besides work I had my usual small group Monday night and tonight I had rehearsals for both children's drama, which starts up again this weekend, and choir. Since they overlapped, I had to miss a little bit of each. I just wish it hadn't been the first rehearsal as that is one that people shouldn't miss, even in part. Well, that's how it goes I guess. I have two more choir rehearsals next week and will have to miss small group as a result but they understand about that- it only happens a few times a year. I'll just have to make sure they are set on song lyrics as that's kind of my job- I usually set up a couple of powerpoints and bring my computer in. That's one of the nice things about this new computer. I guess I will just have to print something up and drop them off- I'll be in the same building after all. Someone else provides the music by the way in case you're wondering. My small group starts off each week with a couple of worship songs.

Well, that's it for now. Time to get ready for some sleep. It's going to be another early day tomorrow.