

# Notes From the Diaper Pail

by Kelly Harris



**W**e begin our nightly bedtime routine with our two-and-a-half-year-old by cleaning up the toys. Actually, my husband and I run around picking up toys while our daughter sings into a toy microphone and watches us. We're tired and ready for our few hours of uninterrupted adult time.

She picks out a few books and we sit down to read. That usually ends up in her playing "I spy" or counting objects on the pages. I am trying to develop her cognitive mathematics skills. (At two-and-a-half.)

We dig out pajamas and change the diaper. I talk endlessly about how "undies" are for big girls and diapers are for babies and doesn't she want to be a big girl? Tonight she says, "No, I want to be a baby." So much for that.

We begin to sing our bedtime songs and she asks for a popsicle. I spout out a well thought-out rational reason as to why she can't have a popsicle but she has moved on to the circus we are going to tomorrow. Will there be any cows there? I listen and then ask for a hug and a kiss. She gives me a big hug and then a half-open mouth kiss on my lips. Wet kisses from

your little ones are truly one of life's greatest gifts.

As I look at her I begin to think about how she is growing and how we are building a beautiful cathedral. She is a little temple to God that we are helping to shape. What an awesome responsibility; no wonder we are exhausted.

As I think about the beautiful cathedrals in Europe, I realize we often don't know who built them. The artists, sculptors, and contractors focused on God's glory and not their own. Likewise, as we constantly mold and teach our children, I realize our focus shouldn't be about us, but about the masterpiece we are creating for God's perfect plan. Even though there are days when I feel like everywhere I turn there is a new stressor, pressure or temptation, we have to be reminded that we have that heavenly help to build those cathedrals stone by stone, piece by piece and day by day.

I close the door and grab the trash bag from the diaper pail. Life can be complicated and messy but it's pretty amazing that we are called to help shape some of the most beautiful cathedrals for futures to come. †

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