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The Miracle of Family

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. . . . – Revelation 21:5

How did we get from being a cozy family of five to being an unruly crew of ten on our way to a two-week vacation? The short answer is a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law and three small grandsons heading to a large house in the Loire Valley of France with multiple cribs on site.

Everyone got along just fine—except in the kitchen. He wanted to cook spaghetti; she wanted a vegetarian menu. Her two-year-old wasn't allowed any refined sugar; a three-year-old announced he would only eat peanut butter; an emergency bottle of ketchup was located in a local grocery store.

When it was all over and we grandparents were recuperating, life got even more complicated: 1,300 quite wonderful digital pictures showed up in my e-mail from four camera-happy parents. Grandma, they thought, would love to make an album.

The challenge felt daunting, but I found a program, then I clicked and dragged, deleted and pasted through 272 pictures (computers love numbers). One final click and everything flew through cyberspace and was turned into a lovely book with a green linen cover. A few days later, five copies arrived in what is now scornfully known as “snail mail.”

I've always believed in miracles, that there were indeed enough loaves and fish for the five thousand and that water was indeed turned into wine at the wedding in Cana. **But no one expects miracles in the twenty-first century.** Imagine how the printers of the Gutenberg Bible would have reacted to my sixty-two-page instant book. **But as I turned the brightly colored pages, I realized that the miracle in these pictures was timeless: The love and laughter that binds a family together even when they can't agree on the menu. Amen.**

Lord, may we accept the new and preserve the old, and use both to strengthen our caring for each other.

Brigitte Week

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

