

## Bright Ideas Press E-Zine - April 2010 Edition

Dear Friend,

Congratulations on making it to another Spring Season! This warmer weather has been lovely. Of course, you can't have Spring without the allergies and sniffles that go with it. My baby girl Kaylee caught her first cold in mid-March — there's nothing so sad as a sick baby! (She's much better now, thanks for asking.)

April marks the start of our Conference Season, beginning with **MassHOPE** in Worcester, MA, on April **23rd and 24th**. Come by and see us. Mom and I are both speaking, and our good friend Dari Mullins will be in the booth for all your curriculum-counseling needs.

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April is also the start of Spring Cleaning — but that doesn't have to mean just dusting. There are plenty of other things that you can clean out of your home this Spring!



### Spring Cleaning Checklist

#### 1. Cut Paper

Stuff has a tendency to take over quickly. Especially paper stuff. But putting away just a few things each day can make a huge difference. Give yourself five minutes to see how much paper you can get rid of — you'll be surprised at how much you can get done with just a little focus.

#### 2. Reduce Energy Waste

For most families, utility bills are one of the top five budget drainers. The electric bill is usually one of the worst. But did you know that many communities and power companies offer free energy audits? Just a few minutes with an auditor can save you hundreds of dollars every year. The auditor will point out which

appliances or practices are causing the biggest energy drain, and suggest simple ways to remedy problems. And hey — it's free, so why not?

### **3. Discard Things That Don't Work**

If you've got a pile of slightly broken objects needing some TLC, a curriculum that isn't working out for you, or a schedule that's driving your family nuts — just get rid of it. There's no sense in hanging on to something that's broken. Either fix or discard it. You'll free yourself up for the things that matter (and work!).

### **4. Sweep Away Those Dark Circles**

You know the ones I mean . . . they're right there, under your eyes. Go take a nap. Or better yet, go to bed a little earlier every night and make use of the beautiful gift of rest that God has given us.

### **5. Stop Worrying**

Not only is it life consuming, it's a sin. Spend some time reading Philippians. Don't worry about tomorrow. Pray about it and trust God. He's really good at handling all the things we worry over — health, politics, our kids, money, etc. And He'd much rather you find rest in Him than stress out and be grumpy at your family. Just saying.

Whether your Spring Cleaning is material, financial, spiritual, or all of the above, enjoy your April — and make time for some of the upcoming celebrations!

## **Things to Celebrate This Month**

- The **28th** of March marked the beginning of **Holy Week** — Palm Sunday, Passover, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday — the days set aside for us to remember Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Make it a point to read through the appropriate chapters in the Gospel of your choice this week, and also read about the first Passover in Exodus 12–13. You might also want to skip ahead in *The Mystery of History*, Volume I, and read about the events of that week. (And if you don't have it, you're in luck because MOH I is on sale during Passover!)



- “Celebrate” may not be the right word for **April 15th** — unless you're getting a refund. In recognition of **Tax Day**, we're offering

consolation Free Shipping on your whole order.

- **April 22nd is Earth Day** — You don't have to hug trees, but you can discuss what it means to be a good steward of Creation and what "taking dominion" means. You can also get 15% off some *Christian Kids Explore Science* books if you want.
- On that note, **Arbor Day is April 29th** (at least in Delaware) — and you can save money if you know what Tyler's favorite tree is. (See the Coupon Book!)

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### **New Release!**

***The Mystery of History, Volume I, 2nd Edition*** comes out this month! We're super excited about this upgrade to what was already a stellar program. For this new edition, we have:

- Updated the lessons to reflect the most current research,
- Included additional teacher support information,
- Added answer key maps for the geography component,
- Changed or added new illustrations for many lessons, and
- Added 114+ pages of information, activities, resource lists, and more!

We're also very pleased to say the price will stay the same as before: \$49.95. Also coming soon will be the 2nd Edition Reproducible CD. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 877.492.8081.

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### **Until Next Time!**

I hope you've enjoyed reading this edition of the BIP E-Zine. If there's something you'd like to see in future editions of the E-Zine, drop us a line and tell us! We love hearing from you all. Thanks for making the BIP community such a great place. Don't forget to check the [blog](#) and [website](#) regularly for specials, contests, video how-to's, and product updates.

Blessings,  
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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Illuminations1> (Come find out more about it!)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IlluminationsYear2>

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Whole\\_HOG/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Whole_HOG/) (Join us as we share geography ideas)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AllAmericanHistory> (Our American History series)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HSGifted> (Homeschooling gifted children)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MysteryofHistory1>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MysteryofHistory2>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MysteryofHistory3>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MysteryofHistoryHighSchool> (Using *The Mystery of History* volumes with high school students)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChristianKidsExploreBiology> (Covers all of our *Christian Kids Explore* books)