

## Foreword

My mother came from a home where there were always servants, but she married a man who took her off to Belgium as missionaries. When they returned to the United States, Mother realized she needed some help in training her daughters. She hardly knew where to start, and it seems to me that Laurie Latour is a veritable GODSEND in today's world.

Have all the old wonderful cooks disappeared? Many indeed have, but not girls who have studied under Laurie! Future Christian Homemakers' Handbook is a treasure, with everything from Egg Cookery to Cookies and Congratulations!

I'd love to put on my apron in Laurie's kitchen and start all over again, learning homemaking skills and Biblical truths which are coupled with practical skills and the virtues of Godly womanhood.

*Elisabeth Elliot*  
*Magnolia, MA*  
*November 13, 2001*

## Preface

“She watches over the affairs of her household.” Proverbs 31:27

Welcome to Future Christian Homemakers where girls learn to cook, sew, and take care of a home.

Today, unfortunately, these skills are rarely taught. A generation or two of women have grown up without the basic instruction they need to run a home well. Families suffer. Fast food meals eaten on the run often replace family mealtime at home, devouring a large portion of the family budget and undermining the health of children and adults. The sharing and caring that used to accompany daily dinner time has vanished from many homes.

Preparing meals is one essential for a healthy family, but there are others. Keeping the home clean and organized creates a refuge from the stresses of the world. Sewing skills help the homemaker maintain clothing in good repair, and create clothes and household items of her own design. Menu planning and thrift enable women to be wise stewards of the Lord’s gifts and contribute to the family’s financial health.

Learning homemaking skills is essential, but the attitude of the heart is paramount. All the skills in the world are useless unless motivated by a servant’s heart. It is an act of love to joyfully serve our families. As we follow the example of Jesus, we learn to serve. And it is in that service, that self-giving, we find joy.

Biblical truths are coupled with the practical skills learned in Future Christian Homemakers. Jesus Christ is exalted as Lord and Savior, and the virtues of Godly womanhood are shared from Scripture. Prayer and a devotional open each FCH class.

Many churches emphasize the importance of family life. Yet few teach the skills needed to become “keepers at home”. While Titus 2 admonishes older women to teach younger women how to care for their home and family, there are few places for women to turn when they want to learn. Sadly, even Christian homes are often in disarray. This ought not be. Our homes can express the peace and love that we experience in our daily walk with our Lord and should be a witness to those around us.

What should we do? If mothers have not been taught homemaking skills, how can they teach their daughters? And for those who do know these skills, how can they share them effectively?

Future Christian Homemakers provides a mentoring model for women of all ages. FCH began in 1998 as a church-based group where women could teach homemaking to girls in their own church. Designed for elementary age and above, the lessons are also well suited for homeschoolers, for women who want to learn the skills themselves or teach them to their children, and for church community outreach programs.

My prayer is that Future Christian Homemakers will help girls and women of all ages learn how to be successful “keepers at home” and that they will discover the joy of serving the Lord there.

*Laurie Latour  
Jacksonville Beach, FL  
September 2001*

## Acknowledgements

Future Christian Homemakers would not have happened without the help and encouragement of many people. My dear husband, Ted, has lovingly provided the time and resources necessary for me to teach and write, and he has taken many of the photographs in this book. He has shared in the joy of a houseful of giggling girls and, after everyone has left, has never failed to ask me what he could do to help. My gratitude is exceeded only by my love.

Women from my church have been so generous with their time, sharing their skills, helping the girls, cutting fabric, cleaning up – and so much more. Lillian Johnson, Linda Finley, Michelle Mikell, Holly Hacker, Natalie Ruggles and Donna Wittig: you are angels!

Pastors Dave Wittig, Jerry Rouse and Jim Halstead: you have encouraged me, listened to me and guided me as I sought the Lord in building this ministry. Thank you for your Godly advice, your oversight, your prayers – and for your understanding when we turned part of the sanctuary into a sewing room!

A special, heartfelt thank you to the people who have endorsed FCH and encouraged me along the way: I am truly grateful for the time you have taken to encourage me and help this ministry get underway.

Permission to reprint recipes, photos, and information, and the assistance from many companies and organizations is deeply appreciated. Thank you for so willingly sharing your expertise.

To all the girls who have taken part in FCH these past four years: you have been a pleasure to teach! I have learned from you and we've had a lot of fun together. There's much more still to come. I thank the parents who have faithfully brought their daughters to class, juggling busy schedules, but always thanking me for my time. It has been a privilege to work with your precious girls.

Black line drawings and clip art (throughout the lessons) courtesy of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and Texas A & M University Department of Agricultural Communications (unless otherwise noted).

The contents of this book have been carefully prepared. Recipes have been tested and completed successfully by students in FCH groups. Results may vary. **All activities require adult supervision and diligence.** Future Christian Homemakers and the author are not responsible for injuries or problems resulting from the activities in this book.

## *About the Author...*

Laurie has a BS degree in Education and taught early childhood and elementary education for 26 years. She authored two books for parents, magazine articles, and a newspaper food column.

Laurie and her husband, Ted, reside in north Florida and are active members of their church. They have two daughters and six grandchildren.

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*This book is lovingly  
Dedicated to:*

*The girls who have taken part in  
Future Christian Homemakers™  
and to the families you will one day raise.  
You are a joy and blessing to me and  
your diligence will reap eternal rewards!*

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