

I'm Thankful I'm on
Planet Mom



**I'm Thankful I'm on Planet Mom:
99 Reasons to Treasure being a Mom**

by

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Jill's Reasons

I'm Thankful I'm on Planet Mom...

1) ...to hear my son say that he thought bread was made out of "a few deer" after he had heard Daddy sing, "Doe (dough), a deer..." when he asked where bread came from.

2) ...to ask my son why he didn't tell me he needed the potty chair and hear him answer, "I thought it was a dream."

3) ...to be mimicked as my son "works" at his computer while I work on mine (he actually meets his deadlines).



4) ...to hear my three-year-old say, "Let me see you, Mom," and when I turn my head he adds, "You look 'wrinklish.'"

5) ...to watch my daughter advance in dance class from thinking she couldn't do it right to knowing she just did.

6) ...to have time to hear my son say, "What's da probwem?" right after I say the same thing. Watch out -- they repeat everything what they see and hear.



7) ...to pray with them before meals and bedtime. My daughter has become a little prayer warrior while my little son hasn't quite grasped the concept yet. He has one prayer for every situation, "Dear God. Food. Amen."

8) ...to hear the funny things they come up with. My daughter tells me, "I'm the smart one," to which I reply, "You're both smart. Remember your brother is only 3." My daughter responds, "Yeah ... but he still doesn't know *anything*."

9) ...to hear my daughter's future career goal (at 2) when she grows up, "Make money on my 'puter." (Maybe she's learning something from me after all?)



10) ...to experience my daughter's fountain spray. She was the spittiest baby ever. I never left home without 2 full outfits for each of us (and a yellow slicker). ☺

11) ...to develop my faith along with my kid's faith. We were once running errands and our car died in the middle of a busy intersection. We took the time to pray together – after freaking out for a moment. It was terrifying but God protected us.



12) ...to watch our kids show love to each other. We were at a park when my son climbed to the top of the slide and got scared. My daughter immediately came running from the other side of the park, grabbed his hand, and slid down with him.

13) ...to celebrate the significance of my kid's birthdays. My daughter's birthday is the 23rd of December so when she turned two we discussed Jesus' birthday and why we give presents on Christmas. That year we also had a tiny "birthday tree" decorated just for her standing next to the big Christmas tree, which was decorated in "Happy Birthday Jesus" decor.



14) ...to watch my kids learn the ‘small stuff’ – like sitting ‘criss-cross applesauce’. Our little one still hasn’t mastered this (he sits with them crossed at the ankles).

15) ...to teach my kids proper table manners, good nutrition and family love at all three meals a day with our little family (“See Mommy and Daddy don’t spit food on each other...”).



16) ...to see my kids develop compassion. A friend of my daughter's had a mom who had been in Iraq for 6 months. The little girl was afraid to stay at our house during my daughter's birthday party. My daughter sensed her worry, was kind to her, and made sure to play with her.

17) ...to be color-blind together. My friend, Becky, has a son who is bi-racial. When my daughter and my friend's son were younger the TV was on in the background. The preview for the show "Little Bill" came on. We overheard my daughter telling her son, "Look, he looks just like you. He has a green shirt on!"



18) ...to watch my daughter teach her younger brother new things. We overheard her giving him a lesson on the movie *Toy Story*. "Repeat after me," she said, "Can you say Buzz Like-Gear?" (We still say this, too. She may never live it down. Thankfully she's developed a great sense of humor.)

19) ...to see our children develop friendships. My daughter, who is 6, has a friend who used to go to church with us. Now, even though they rarely are able to see each other, they still talk freely when they do. Some friends are truly gifts from God.



20) ...to celebrate unforgettable moments together. Our waiter sang Happy Birthday to a kid at a table next to us. My son was MAD they didn't sing to him (his birthday was just a couple of days prior). So we asked the waiter to sing to him and he stood up on his chair, quite proud to be 3.

22) ...to see how much they watch their grandparents. My daughter has a grandma who wears a dress almost every day. So, she asks to wear a dress almost every day. Sounds like fun, but try explaining why a dress isn't workable when it's 5 below outside.



23) ...to watch my kids accept disappointment. My daughter and her grandma planted flowers in our backyard. My daughter faithfully watered them and waited for them to grow. They never did – she learned in life, some flowers never blossom.

24) ...to have time to do chores each day together. Who cares if the mirror has more smears once they are finished with the Windex? They did their best to help.



25) ...to teach them to care for those who are hurting. We make homemade cards for grandparents who are sick. They each keep them displayed even when they're feeling better.

26) ...to teach them kindness to nature's creatures. We help care for a friend's dog when we can. It's fun to watch them play and interact.

27) ...to be the one who answers when my children ask questions. (I'm still working on a good answer to the ultimate question, "Why, Mommy?")



28) ...to hear the first word, to feel the first tooth, to see the first step... I don't want to miss even one moment.

29) ...to walk to the mailbox and then decide to walk around the entire block. Why? Because it's Walking Wednesday! Why not invent a new holiday to celebrate! That's what my kids like to do.

30) ...to be free to fly kites whenever the wind blows. And it blows OFTEN here!



31) ...to be ready go to grab sleds when the first snow fall comes. We make it a game to find the biggest hill around.

32) ...to be extra blessed as I reflect on the love of God at holidays. My daughter was born close to Christmas and my son just days before Easter. The love I feel for my kids is overpowering and to think God loves each of us that way – it's phenomenal!

33) ...to teach my children that God answers prayer. We're working on praying for friends and watching to see how God will answer.



34) ...to turn an ordinary conversation toward spiritual things (“Will animals be in heaven?” “I don’t know, sweetheart, but heaven will be a happy place.”)

35) ...to pray together for big and little things. We pray together when we get lost driving (or when we hear sirens because it means someone got hurt.)

36) ...to be available to teach your children about God whenever the situation arises (“Mommy, look at those trees budding!” “That’s right, dear and God chooses the colors!”)



37) ...to teach my daughter to show forgiveness when hurt by a friend.
("God loves us even when we are mean to Him, so we should forgive those who hurt us.")

38) ...to guide my children to choose their friends wisely. I can do that by showing them how I choose my friends.



39) ...to get to giggle with my kids. Often, when I mess something up I chuckle and say, "Well, I should know how to do this. It's not rocket science!" Just the other day my daughter was trying to rollerblade. She had a few spills and I could hear her grumbling, "Seriously. This *IS* rocket science!"

40) ...to see how ingenuous my kids are. My son found a large rock outside and named him "Rocky" and carried it around all day. (Maybe there's an Adrian out in the driveway too...)



41) ...to teach my daughter how to be a godly mother and my son how to choose a godly wife someday. How? By modeling each day what it means to be a godly woman, mother and wife. (or at least, to do my best)

42) ...to making the most of each moment with our children (two gifts from God). I'll do my best to set a good example as I aim to be playful, prayerful and purposeful.



43) ...to remember how much my attitude matters in life. I heard my son talking to his daddy one night about how his day had been, he said, “Me happy. Mommy happy.”

44) ...to stand firm when the time is right. My son told me, “Me nice,” even though he had just run down the grocery store aisle when I had told him not to. “Okay, now it’s time to show me how nice you can be by listening and following directions.”



45) ...to teach my children to hear God's Word and then actually do it. "For we have all sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God (Romans 3:23)." To do what we desire, instead of what we know to be right, is just too easy. My daughter recently studied "needs vs. wants" at school. What a perfect opportunity to turn that into a spiritual discussion!

46) ...to teach them we are all sinners in need of God's forgiveness. I'm like Paul who describes himself in I Timothy 1:15, "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst."



47) ...to watch as my children constantly amaze me. Our 3 yr old, was upset with his dad. Instead of doing what his Dad asked he burst into tears and ran to his room. Later, hearing his daddy talk with his sister about doing something outside that sounded fun, he emerged. Still sniffing, he looked at his daddy in complete seriousness and said, "I calmed me down....I go out now?"

48) ...remembering I will only go around once as a mom, but if done right, once is enough.



49) ...God gave Jesus a mother on earth.
He thinks we're pretty important.



Cheryl's Reasons:

I'm Thankful I'm on Planet Mom...

50) ...to sit with my newborn on the couch in wee hours of the morning and catch the sun as it rises through the window. It's a dazzling show you don't want to miss.

51) ...to anticipate happy events together. My youngest daughter's birthday is at the end of January. When we finished the Christmas advent calendar, she put up a second one with her own birthday as the highpoint of January.



52) ... to learn how to make things stretch for my family's sake. How else do you figure out how to make a tube of lipstick last 3 months? (I scrape out the remainder of my mauve lipstick with the cap of my ink pen – it gives me two more weeks).

53) ...to get to enjoy an hour long, slow walk around the block. That's how long it takes me with all my preschoolers in tow (and stopping to talk to other moms).



54) ...to chase our second son out of the latest drainage ditch. He always headed for a pond, train track or a tollway. He makes Curious George seem satisfied.

55) ...to share a romantic lunch with my husband (macaroni and cheese with a garnish of peanut butter on bread with no crust).

56) ...to be available to hand out brightly colored band-aids for the endless scrapes, bruises, and cuts my kids get (or think they have).



57) ...to be in the kitchen ready to answer when the first kid of the day asks at 8:00 Am, "What's for supper tonight?"(I stare down at the Cheerios on the floor and wonder how they would look on lasagna).

58) ...to keep from laughing when our two year old daughter decides to dress herself for the first time (remarkably similarity to what teenagers call “the alternative look”).”

59) ...to count the number of children we've tucked into bed and discover we may have one still in the minivan.



60) ...to pretend I'm not related to the pre-school child who is walking across the organ keyboard as people grab their ears and cringe. (Wasn't Mozart a child prodigy as well?)

61) ...to teach little my youngest son that salt, pepper and milk are not fish food.

62) ...to warn my oldest son not to eat the curled up pepperoni on the counter (that once was my youngest son's goldfish).



63) ...to get the phone call from my oldest son at summer camp asking if it's a bad thing if one foot is bigger than the other.

64) ...to learn that you don't mow the lawn with the basement windows open or the carbon monoxide detector will go off. Related lesson: the fire department has a four minute response time.

65) ...to catch my second son before he tests the ceiling fan to determine if it can hold a 40 pound child (and if 40 pound boys can fly).



66) ...to walk into the kitchen and discover that two small children cannot sit on top of the refrigerator (but the older one can).

67) ...to figure out a mother with three small rambunctious boys won't have many friends (who happen to have girls). To learn years later she will have now have many more friends (who all happen to have girls) just as her boys reach college age.



68) ...to discover my oldest daughter's 300 yellow post-it notes with cat paws drawn on them stuck all over the house (her parents finally break down and get her the kitten).

69) ...to teach our oldest daughter that finger painting the front door is going to make Daddy turn funny colors.

70) ...to discover your children are learning to write (albeit with green and blue magic markers on the back of the new beige couch).



71) ...to watch the wonder in our second daughter's eyes as she discovers the backyard swimming pool is not a bubble bath.

72) ...to watch our dog Bo eat the entire plate of raw hamburgers while we go get the salt (and to hear our kids cheer for Bo).

73) ...to clean up after our dog who threw up twice his body weight after eating two packages of hot dogs (and to hear our kids cheer again).



74) ...to behold the inquisitive mind of a child who wonders if a marble dropped from the third floor window on his brother's head hurts as much as one dropped from the second floor (it does).

75) ...to find out our second daughter's first chocolate cake from the Easy Bake Oven also contained dry dog food (but thankfully no trans-fat or MSG).

76) ...to explain to our son that using the neighbor's post office box by the road instead of the potty inside is not a good idea.



77) ...to compliment the haircut our three year old daughter gave herself (and to do it with a straight face).

78) ...to plead with our little daughter not to wear her favorite red winter boots all summer (to no avail).

79) ...to teach my younger children the value of hand me downs (okay, there's not that much you can do with a hoola-hoop once it's a square).



80) ...to learn you just shared backwash with a child. (I guess it does make sense to buy more than one drink at McDonald's.)

81) ...to receive so much unsolicited excellent parenting advice on how to raise more well-mannered boys (from mothers who happen to have only girls).

82) ...to learn that your fifth grade son persuaded the middle school youth group council to vote off all the fourth graders (and then take the lively phone calls from all the mothers of fourth graders).



83) ...to discover the diaper in the car trunk that we didn't open for four days (and discover how it also opens one's sinuses).

84) ...to be there when our oldest daughter said, "I think I'll keep you, Mommy."

85) ...to be on the front row when our oldest son plays the part of the energizer Easter Bunny in the city musical.



86) ...to be there when our second son played a string bass twice as tall as he was.

87) ...to look back and see our youngest son's bleached white hair as he patiently rides in the car everywhere.

88) ...to cry when the doctor comes out and tells us the enlarged lymph node on our daughter's neck is benign.



89) ...to hear for the first time when our two youngest daughters recite together Chapter 31 of Proverbs for their homeschool group (and to pray it will one day be true of both of them).

90) ...to find our second son eating an ice cream cone and waving at us from the police station after he wanders away from us for 90 minutes at a Fourth of July parade.



91) ...to watch our boys roll wrestling into the living room and roll right past us into the kitchen.

92) ...to fight back tears as our two youngest boys stand to trust Christ after their father speaks at a summer camp for children.

93) ...to watch my husband struggle to catch a breath of oxygen and crawl out from underneath a mountain of three boys as they shout, "Pile on Dad!"



94) ...to watch our yellow lab sleeping peacefully on our daughter's bed (leaving her no more than six inches wide for her space).

95) ...to hear our youngest son call strawberries "chawbers."

96) ...to learn our our oldest son was so generous he would give his toys away to anyone in the neighborhood who asked for them.



97) ...to feed llamas at a petting zoo and hear the kids laugh as one of them spits at Dad (and Dad spits back).

98) ...to behold a miracle as our son with chronic asthma recovers so well he scores seven goals in his first kindergarten soccer game (then taken out because the other children were starting to cry).

99) ...to have chosen to stay at home instead of having a career – and discovering God gave me both in the process.



Do you ever feel like being a mother is an alien experience?

Welcome to Planet Mom!

Planet Mom is a wild and wonderful place where kids swing on ceiling fans, diapers appear four days later in the trunk, and children think bread is made out of deer (doe...a deer...a female deer).

Find out 99 true and amazing reasons why you should become a permanent resident of Planet Mom. You'll realize that you're doing the most important job in the world...and the results are out of this world!

Together, Jill Hart and Cheryl Moeller are a dangerous and delightful team who share their real life experience.

Jill is the President of Christian Work at Home, Inc and founder of Christian Work At Home Moms, www.CWAHM.com. She's an entrepreneur, author, speaker and podcast host. Jill is mom to Katy and Isaac and has been married to Allen for eight years.

Cheryl Moeller is a stand up comic, author, and syndicated humor columnist (including a column on CWAHM). She blogs at momlaughs.blogspot.com. Cheryl is mom to Duke, Missy, Pooka, Skippy, Megs, and MacKenzie and has been married to Bob for 29 years.