



# Treasures in Heaven

"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven"

Matthew 6:20

*A monthly publication of  
Une Belle Maison*

## January 2007

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven:  
A time to search and a time to give up as lost; a time to hold on and a time to let go.

--Eccl. 3:1, 6

The National Association of Professional Organizers has enlisted January as the official "Get Organized Month." It is no surprise considering for many of us, January is a new beginning. A time to break old habits and correct mistakes made in times past. Many families start to realize their clutter problems or lack of organization as they start to put away all the new presents received at Christmas or as they try to pack away the decorations. Ecclesiastes 3:1-6 is always a good scripture reference for me during this time of year, "There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven: A time to search and a time to give up as lost; a time to hold on and a time to let go." Those last five words tend to resonate the most with me..."a time to let go." Oh, how I need to let go of some things. Having a plethora of Christmas decorations that I inherited from my mother-in-law and those I have accumulated with 12 years of marriage, I easily can understand why the season of "letting go" has been thrust upon me. The irony of it all is that I am a professional organizer and yet I still struggle with the same emotional ties to objects just like the clients I try to liberate. What I have learned though this year, is that it is possible to have "too much of a good thing" and that many of those objects don't draw me closer to the Lord. I also learned that there is great relief in passing on useful items to charities like Goodwill, The Salvation Army and my local woman's shelter. Another benefit is the life long lessons I am teaching my children. They are learning that the things most important are the things that are sometimes intangible; i.e. the love of a family, memories of cookies in the oven, mountain trips with our best friends and snuggling on the couch. So, this year is a new beginning for me too and the year I'm taking another step closer to God. His love is boundless, plentiful, and everlasting. His arms are open wide for us to crawl up in when hardship comes. And, He is all we ever need to find true joy and a fulfilled life. So, if you like millions of other families are ready to tackle the clutter in the garage, attic or kitchen cabinets, I applaud you! This is the season to start new!

Here are a few tips to get you started...

1 – Get in the right state of mind. Take a moment to pray about the task ahead and that you would have a discerning eye and heart.

2 – Enlist some help! Even the smallest family members can be a blessing. Play some uplifting music and be happy!

3 – Grab some trash bags and a few extra boxes/containers. Label the following: KEEP, TOSS, DONATE.

4 – It's time to start! Tackle one area at a time and place objects in their respective boxes. Don't place too much thought on one item. Make a quick decision and move on to the next task. Remember, if an item was that important it would not be buried in the cabinet or found at the bottom of the shelf.

5 – Once you have sorted all items, remember to take a rag and/or broom and clean out the new space. This is a great time to make necessary repairs or add a fresh coat of paint.

6 – Carefully place those KEEP items back in their respective homes. Take the DONATE items to your local charity and TOSS those broken or unusable items in the trash.

7 – Whew! You're all done! Take a moment to relish in a job well done!

\*\*Remember this tip going forward...if you bring something in, take something out!