



## ...ON EASTER

Every mom knows that for a holiday to be celebrated, there must be anticipation, preparation, and participation. If Easter is to impact our homes with its significance, it will need our careful attention to cultivate the depth of worship that it is due.

In some traditions, anticipation begins with cleaning out the fridge. When "Shrove Tuesday" is being observed, the devout empty their homes of dairy, egg and meat products in preparation for the fasting time of Lent. Those items are used to make pancakes, and so begins the heart preparation for "Ash Wednesday," the beginning of a 40-day focus on repentance and forgiveness. Anticipation varies depending on one's style.

I admire *100 Huntley Street's* senior producer George McEachern and his wife for their family tradition of the Easter tree. They snip a forsythia branch from its dormant outdoors and force bloom it inside, decorating it with Easter symbols and Bible verses as a visual reminder that the celebration of new life in Christ is around the corner. Worship takes preparation, and regardless of your style, this prepara-

tion has to begin with repentance.

Not long ago, one of our viewers brought me an old treasure trove she had collected of resources offered by *100 Huntley Street*. Included was a David Mainse sermon cassette entitled, *Take Heed*. Curious, I popped it into the car on my next trip out and discovered a heart-wrenching challenge that David gave amid the televangelist scandals of the late 1980s. It's hard to capture his emotion in print, but his plea was for each of us to focus on personal repentance.

"If every day you are coming personally to the cross in repentance – even if you don't think you have sinned – if every day you offer your mind and body in personal repentance...." The truth on the old tape is still ringing in my ears as to its importance.

Worship takes participation. No one can enter into it for you. It has to be something you bring from your heart, mind and soul to the throne of God. It's much more than showing up at the Holy Week services; it's about experiencing a devoted journey of thought, surrender and awe of our loving Saviour Jesus Christ. ✠

