



...ON VICTORY PLANS

TV hosting trains you to be an adrenalin junkie. And while those who loved me warned that I would miss daily live-to-air programming, I was surprised at the ferocity with which the emotions hit. I even had to have a seriously long stretch of not watching *100 Huntley Street* to cope. Upon ordering the steps of the family at the work speed I'd been accustomed to, I got an unwelcome reality check at the dinner table when one of my teens said, "Would you relax, Mom? Gee, this is not a TV show."

Thankfully, a "lightbulb" went on, and I discovered that there was a solid reason why I was not having victory in my new role of being home more. The cause: I didn't have a strategic plan and action to work on. I know that sounds corny, but frankly, I greatly underestimated the value of goal setting in the non-work environment. While I may have loved the spontaneity of interviewing live guests, and never knowing exactly what a conversation would bring, that product arrived only because others (in this case, our broadcast guesting and production department) had done

the strategic planning and initiative to get us to our goal.

Now it's my turn to learn those disciplines. Frankly, this is my weakest link. I even failed *Weight Watchers* because I hated having to mark all those little points down, count and plan the strategy of eating. Interestingly, my former secretary had enormous victory on the plan, which goes to show our perfect match – she was *planning*, I was *action*.

Think practically for a moment about a personal issue you wish to gain victory over. Family relationships, our health, our homemaking – all need a strategic response of self-discipline. This is when we prayerfully set goals and actions, sometimes even with pencil and paper in hand, to reach the steps needed to produce God-honouring results. The journey to get there is a God "happening" in my life; it's a pruning and cutting back of my spontaneous (and often self-gratifying) nature, so there can be more fruit for the future.

"All this," said David, *"the Lord made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans"* (1 Chronicles 28:19). ❧