

Gayle Haggard's

HOUSEHOLD MANUAL

2011

WELCOME TO OUR HOME!

Welcome to the Haggard household where we ask you leave all your preconceived ideas about us at the door, keep an open heart and be open to learning who we truly are. I think you will be surprised when you get to know my family. We've been through a lot and we aren't afraid to face the world with the truth.

My husband was well-known in the evangelical world for quite some time. The small church we started in our basement with just 30 people grew to a congregation of over 14,000 members in the course of 22 years. Unfortunately, Ted became somewhat infamous after a scandal that rocked our world about five years ago. It tore us away from everything we knew, but the one thing it did **not** do is rip our family apart. In fact, we became closer and stronger through our healing.

The most important thing you should know coming in to this experience is that I have an incredibly loving husband and five amazing children. Our house is full of love, appreciation and honesty. Communication is very important to us and through this crisis we realized the importance of being supportive of each other.

You may be wondering why I stayed with my husband after finding out about his indiscretions, and I have my reasons and convictions. In fact, I wrote a whole book about that very subject called *Why I Stayed*. The reality is, I believe Ted is worth fighting for and, in the middle of all the pain I experienced, I believed he loved me.

I don't take marriage or family lightly, and I believe we should make it a high priority to work through our problems whenever possible. I am saddened by the breakdown of families in today's society, and think people quit too easily when they are faced with problems. Our families are worth fighting for. I believe we create healthy families when we value each other and communicate love to each other. Then the strength of our healthy family relationships contributes to each individual's personal security and fulfillment.

As you can imagine we are Christians and our faith is a big part of our lives. Ted and I begin the day by praying and reading the Bible. We don't impose our faith on anyone. Instead, we welcome anyone to our church who wants to come and develop a stronger relationship with God. We spend much of our time writing, speaking publicly and meeting with individuals and couples, all for the purpose of encouraging people in their faith in God.

Enjoy my family and the life we have set up for ourselves. We have been through difficult trials and can walk with our heads held high, knowing we are loved by God and that we love and support one another. No one in this world is perfect, and that is perfectly okay and fully embraced!

- Gayle Haggard

HOUSEHOLD ROLES

Ted and I have practically grown up together. We met in college and have been together ever since. For most of our married lives, Ted has had a more public role as I have been more comfortable behind the scenes. This has been due to the fact that Ted is more of an extrovert and I am more of an introvert. Even so, I have always been involved with him in ministry. In recent years, now that our kids are older, I have taken a more public role. But I've felt all along our roles are equally important and mutually respected.

Our core values, our beliefs, and the way we choose to live our lives are very similar. I supported Ted's ministry even when it took him away from our family over the years. For many years he gave a lot of time and energy to the people of our congregation, and his work took him away from home quite a bit. I was happy carrying the primary responsibility for the daily raising of our children when they were younger.

Today, I continue to enjoy taking care of most of the inside household duties, while Ted takes care of most of the outside duties in the care of our property. We also enjoy working together though and never hesitate to ask each other for help.

I cherish my husband and respect the success he has accomplished. We did lose a lot when the scandal broke, but I support him 100% as he moves forward again in ministry and am helping him as we rebuild a new life and community. He is also very supportive of me in my writing and speaking.

We like for people to see us in action as a couple. Despite everything we've been through, Ted and I have a very strong relationship, full of love and communication, and mutual respect. We each take our roles as spouses and parents seriously, and I want to set a good example for our children and others. We care a lot about our values and we respect one another. Sometimes people try to put us in a box that just doesn't fit. We may be traditional from some people's perspective, but we are not ultraconservative or rigid. We value ongoing learning and growth. And we understand that life and love take commitment, work and flexibility in order for growth to happen.

OUR RELATIONSHIP

Our relationship has definitely endured some major challenges. There was a time when I asked myself if I could trust Ted again. We built an incredible family, church and life together and because of Ted's indiscretions we almost lost **everything**. But, the fact that we are able to rebuild our relationship, our family, and our work is a testament to the true love and respect we have for one another. Not only are we slowly rebuilding everything, I believe it is better than ever and I hope that encourages others who are facing a difficult time.

Ted and I are best friends. We really like each other and enjoy spending time together. Once a week we drive to Denver just to have lunch and see a movie just for fun. We

also enjoy sitting out in our backyard on summer evenings. We never tire of talking and we never have a shortage of things to talk about. We share everything now and I never doubted his love for me, and my love for him never waivered. We have five children together and a bond that can never be broken. I look forward to sharing the rest of my life with Ted and to growing old with him.

OUR KIDS

Ted and I have five incredible kids who appear to have acquired our values of faith and family. Through everything they never veered away from our family. They have been supportive and never doubted their father's integrity. I believe that says a lot for how they were raised. We tried very hard to support their individuality. They are all pretty laid back, yet they care a lot about people.

Christy is 29, our oldest and only daughter. She has moved back home again in order to go back to school to finish her degree in writing and rhetoric. Christy is intelligent and delightfully witty and fun to be with. She enjoys travel, reading and classic movies. We love having her home again for this season of her life. As the only girl she has no trouble holding her own with the boys.

Marcus is 28 and married to Sarah. They gave us two beautiful grandchildren, and we are blessed they live here in town so we see them often. Marcus graduated from Colorado College with a degree in International Political Economics and is currently preparing to go to grad school. He has also developed his own marketing company. He loves the outdoors of Colorado and enjoys hiking, climbing, skiing and fly-fishing.

Our third child, Jonathan is 24, and is our special needs son. From the time he was born he experienced developmental delays and when he turned two we realized that he would have difficulty communicating the way he wanted. Jonathan is a total extrovert and even though he is hard to understand, he is as vocal as the rest of us. He tends to get very frustrated at times when he tries to tell us something and we can't understand him. Nonetheless, he is very endearing and very much a people person. Raising a special needs child has its challenges and requires incredible patience, but we love him as he is. We have a woman named Debbie that comes and helps us with Jonathan when Ted and I are both busy working.

Alex is 20 and is solid and dependable. He seems to be everyone's confidant. He is easy to talk to and fun to be with. Being the closest in age to Jonathan, he has always been the most helpful in caring for Jonathan's needs, and often takes him out for coffee and helps him get ready for bed at night. Currently, he has been working to save money to pay for an upcoming trip to Africa. He has been accepted in a program to work on the Mercy Ship, which is a medical ship that travels from port to port around the coast of Africa bringing medical care to people. He plans to go back college on his return.

Our youngest is Elliot, and he is 18. Elliott is as likable as they come. He has a gorgeous smile that often gets him in trouble. He loves hanging out with friends, but has also

proven himself to be a hard and competent worker at his job. He plans to study business in college and is constantly thinking up business plans for his future. He has just returned from spending the summer in Burundi, Africa. We are all anxious to hear about his time there, because we know how life-changing those experiences can be.

All of our children are generous, kind and helpful. They all pitch in and assist with Jonathan. They also help around the house, or if I'm cooking or doing the dishes, they will sit and chat with me while I'm working which is precious time to me.

We are a close family and our home is a safe place. We truly like each other and spend a **lot** of time together just simply talking.

DAILY ROUTINE

I begin each day in prayer. Every morning I read my Bible in my favorite overstuffed chair in our living room and I pray. During the summer when it is warmer, I go outside and walk around the beautiful wooded area of our backyard. I take my Bible out there and enjoy the quiet. It's the best way to start the day. I can't imagine starting it any other way than being grateful and thanking God for all we have.

Ted gets up and goes out to his office in the barn to pray. We wake up together, but then we spend time by ourselves to study the Bible and pray.

At about 8AM we gather in the kitchen to make a power drink for breakfast. Usually around this time the kids leave for school or work.

After breakfast, Ted goes back out to the barn to answer emails and do some work. We built him an office in there after we lost our church. He loves it and would love to always office out of the barn. He also likes that he is able to spend most of his days at home now.

I usually see Jonathan off in the morning. Our friend, Debbie, arrives after breakfast and we go over his schedule for the day. We love keeping him engaged in different classes and activities, and he really enjoys it. But Jonathan needs constant supervision, which would be overwhelming for me without Debbie's help. When I am able, I enjoy taking Jonathan to his horseback riding lessons and staying to watch him ride. But when I am working on a book or another project I'm involved with, Debbie steps in and helps. It's a huge relief!

I also have an office at home. Since I am presently working on another book, I go up to my office (which is in our guest bedroom) and focus on that for several hours each day.

Several times a week, people who want to meet with us or who need counseling set up appointments with us for lunch. Often, Ted and I do this together as a couple.

Each afternoon, around 3-4PM, we try to get in some form of exercise. Living in Colorado makes being outdoors extra special. It's so beautiful here, so a lot of days I'll go walk or run around a track. More recently, due to a foot injury, I have taken up pilates.

I'll spend some afternoons preparing for women's meetings that I host in our barn. I love holding these meetings and bringing a group of women together. Anyone is welcome and we talk about a variety of topics. Mostly we encourage one another in our faith without criticism or judgment. I really love preparing for these meetings.

We have dinner each evening about 6PM and most nights I do the cooking although Ted often helps when we barbecue. The kids try to be home for dinner, so we can eat together as a family. It's also pretty common for Marcus and Sarah to come over with their kids. The more the merrier!

We all sit around and talk about **everything**. We love talking about politics, current events and social issues. We all keep up with what is happening in the world, and in each other's lives so there is never a lack of conversation around our house.

About 10PM, Ted and I wrap up the day watching the evening news together. Then it's off to bed.

COOKING & CLEANING

Everyone pitches in around the house. The kids take care of their own rooms and laundry. I help Jonathan with his room and laundry, but he participates. Because everyone is so busy with work and school, I do have outside help that comes in to help me clean once a week. But, I actually enjoy doing light housework everyday which includes straightening the house and doing most of the dishes and laundry. It's kind of my thing.

I also do most of the cooking. If the kids are around, they will set and clear the table, and when Christy is around, she helps me clean the kitchen. We also like to grill anytime it's nice out. It seems as if we are always having a backyard barbecue. Ted usually takes over with the grilling or sometimes one of the boys steps in.

Once a month after Sunday services, we invite the whole congregation over to cook out and swim in the pool. We love sharing our home with our community and when we do this, I usually prepare the house for a crowd and organize the meals with a team of women that help me out.

APPEARANCES

We are fairly conservative, yet casual in our dress. Even when we attend church we aren't totally dressed up. Usually it's slacks or jeans and a nice top for me, and a good pair of jeans and button-down or polo for Ted.

Our kids are all adults now, so they dress themselves. What they wear has never been a battle for us like it is for some other families.

DISCIPLINE

Our kids are grown, but even as young children we didn't have to discipline them too much. Part of that has to do with our personalities and theirs. Ted and I are both pretty laid back and place a high value on respecting the individual and on being respected. Most of our training has taken place through modeling. Of course our kids are normal though and they went through their stages of testing boundaries and learning to respect that we meant "no" when we said it and in learning how to treat each other. But for the most part, our children witnessed us treating each other and them with respect and they learned to do the same. The way we brought them up paid off. They are all kind and respectful people.

POLITICS AND RELIGION

We are Christians and our faith is a priority in our lives, but we are not in people's faces about what we believe. We even have differences among our own family members and our position is to respect each other's faith journey. We share our beliefs with those who ask about it.

Ted and I are both Republicans and consider ourselves fiscally conservative and socially moderate. Many people try to put us in a certain box that we just don't fit in. We really try to keep an open mind and make decisions and form opinions based on facts.

We also value the environment. God created this planet and we have a responsibility to take care of it. We recycle and enjoy nature every day.

I hope you have a good time with my family and thank you for sharing your family with me. I look forward to meeting them, learning from them and sharing these next few days together.