

Daily Record columnist's first book now available nationwide

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DALTON -- When it comes to being a mom, Trish Berg has got the right stuff. She is able to juggle all of the duties involved in being a full-time mom to her four children - - Hannah, 11, Sydney, 9, Colin, 7, and Riley, 4 -- and have a successful occupation as both a college professor at the University of Akron, Wayne College and as a Daily Record columnist.

Recently, Berg's first book, "The Great American Supper Swap," was released nationwide in bookstores across the country. It helps to "solve the busy woman's family dinnertime dilemma," according to the book's cover.

Writing a book has been in the works for Berg for quite some time -- she began her writing career quickly after having Hannah and becoming involved in Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS).

"I started writing for the MOPS newsletter and also a monthly column. I loved it," Berg explained. "I went to the MOPS convention in the fall of 2000."

It was there Berg talked with a friend about supper swapping -- that friend told her she should do more with her idea than just give it to MOPS.

"I was scared because I knew it would either be rejected or people would actually read it," she said. "A complete stranger who was sitting behind us at the convention who had obviously heard our conversation said 'it sounds to me like someone is holding a light under her bushel.'"

She began the process of writing her book, originally dubbed "Meals on Wheels, Girlfriend Style." Because she really didn't know what she was doing in terms of getting the book published, she turned to MOPS because it was already so familiar to her.

"MOPS was going to publish the book -- it was in committee (discussion) at MOPS for six months," Berg explained. "It sat there for another year and MOPS decided they didn't want to do it. I then sent a query letter to about 25 CBA (Christian Booksellers Association) agents and I had two offers come back. I ended up going with a gentleman from North Carolina -- his name is Les Stobby -- he's in his 70s and like a second father to me."



Besides getting "The Great American Supper Swap" published, Stobby was able to land Berg a three-book deal on motherhood with Multnomah, a Christian publishing company. Starting in January 2008, one book a year will come out, penned by Berg. The first one is "Rattled: Surviving Your Baby's First Year Without Losing Your Cool." The second and third books, currently untitled, will be about toddlers and school-aged children, respectively.

"This has been amazing -- my kids have been so excited for me to have reached this goal," Berg said. "I hope the biggest lesson I can teach my kids is to dream big and never give up."

Berg's faith has been a huge player in her being where she is today because she believes God will answer "even the stupidest prayers."

"I prayed about it because I take even the littlest things to God," she said. "Everything is very surreal at this point. My overall passion with this book is to get families back to the dinner table."

"The Great American Supper Swap" is available at bookstores everywhere, as well as online. Anyone who would like an autographed copy can simply e-mail berg at trish@trishberg.com with their mailing address. She is happy to mail a copy to anyone for \$14, which includes tax and shipping.

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