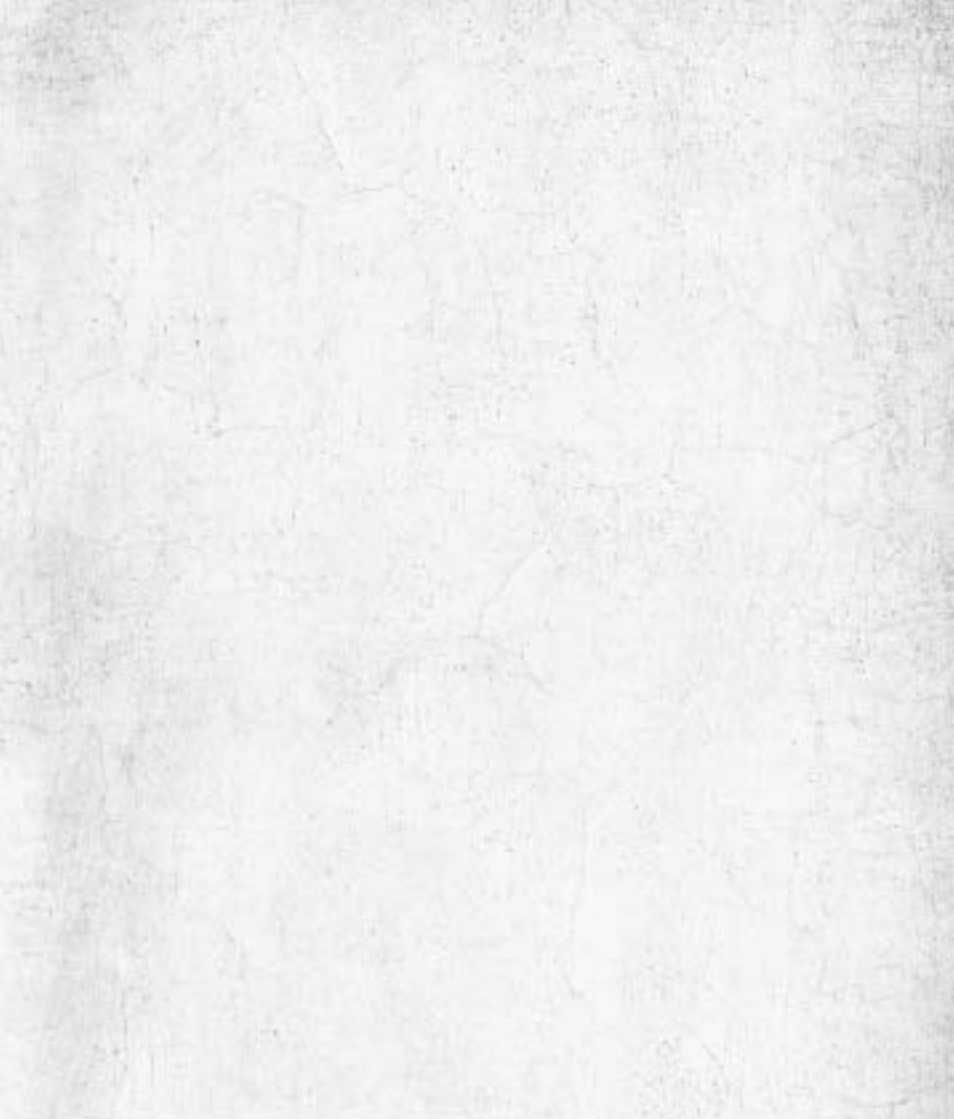


INTRODUCTION

Bless This Home is a celebration of the harmony we find when the house becomes a home. Family gathered around the table, a fire crackling on the hearth, a neighbor's smile and wave ... so many blessings flow from that special place we call home. It's where we recharge our batteries, host our friends and neighbors, and nurture our family.

As you snuggle up with this encouraging book sure to warm your heart, you'll discover *Bless This Home* is the perfect way to say, "Welcome Home."





Making My House a HOME

*By wisdom a house is built, and
through understanding it is established;
through knowledge its rooms are filled
with rare and beautiful treasures.*

PROVERBS 24:3-4

WHAT MAKES A HOUSE A HOME?

Hang artwork and family pictures on the walls.

Mark the doorframe as the children grow tall.

Light a candle, or two.

Fill the house with family for the holidays.

Gather friends for a meal.

Live all four seasons under its roof.

Laugh together.

Cry together.

Celebrate good news.

Mourn a loss.

Close the door to a final good-bye.

Open your hearts to a wonderful welcome.

Play together, pray together.

*When a place leaves
amazingly warm and precious
memories in your heart,
then it is home.*

*A home overflowing with heart is a living thing.
It promises growth, blessing, and stability to all who live
there.*

*It is a place of warmth when the world turns cold.
It extends a handful of hope to replace disappointment.
It fills our souls with nourishment when we are
hungry for encouragement and love.*

*For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in
his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his
tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.*

PSALM 27:5

The pleasure of leaving home, care free, with no concern but to enjoy, has also as a pendant the pleasure of coming back to the old hearthstone, the home to which, however traveled, the heart still fondly turns, ignoring the burden of its anxieties and cares.

—Herman Melville