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# CLARITY<sup>®</sup>

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WOMEN  
OF THE  
YEAR

Nadine Mozon, Dr. Regina Benjamin  
and Setina Pouengue  
are among our  
most inspiring women of 1999

# THE SIMPLE LIFE

RESTORING VALUE TO YOUR EVERYDAY ENDEAVORS

## Bless This House

**W**hile house blessings are a tradition in many religions, the idea was new to me when I moved into my first home and wanted somehow to mark the occasion and ask for God's protection and peace. After talking to friends, researching the idea and remembering a sermon about how Joshua walked the perimeter of his property and asked for God's blessing (Joshua 24:15), I decided to do the same for my new home.

Los Angeles pastors report that house blessings are on the rise, especially following an earthquake or natural disaster. And though earthquakes aren't much of a threat in my Texas town, I gathered a few friends and family and prepared a simple "ceremony" using verses and hymns. As we met out-



side the front door, we prayed for blessings to each who may enter. My circle of friends joined me in each room, and we offered different prayers to dedicate my home "to happiness, to hopefulness and to health." We prayed that it would always be a haven of peace and joy—that the lives of those who live here would be rich in joy, and that those who come under this roof would be filled with gladness and peace.

At the end, as is customary for many house blessing ceremonies, we wrote in chalk above the front doorway: "19•C•M•B•96" for

Christus Mansiones Benedictus, the Latin phrase for "Christ Blesses This Home" (1996). Those

marks still remain and serve as a reminder of God's protection.

—Leslie L. Nunn

## Fastest Growing Occupations through 2006

1. Database administrators, computer support specialists and all other computer scientists
2. Computer engineers
3. Systems analysts
4. Personal and home care aides
5. Physical and corrective therapy assistants and aides
6. Home health aides
7. Medical assistants
8. Desktop publishing specialists
9. Physical therapists
10. Occupational therapy assistants and aides

Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook, Bureau of Labor Statistics

BY CHERIE SPINO