When *More Is Less*
with Charlotte Mason

A Personal Calendar Journal
It’s easy to get caught up in the mentality that we’ve got to add more: we must do more, we must get more, and our children must study more.

*More, more, more!* But the funny thing is that when we keep adding *more*, we usually end up with *less* of what really matters.

This year discover the richness that simplicity can bring to your schedule, your home, and your children’s education. Be encouraged with some simple yet powerful truths of a rich and full life:

- *More* rest means *less* fatigue.
- *More* time outside means *less* tension.
- *More* planning means *less* pressure.
- *More* contentment means *less* anxiety.
- *More* simplicity means *less* confusion.

This handy school-year edition calendar will take you from July through June with encouraging articles, real examples, Charlotte Mason quotes, and plenty of room to write your personal notes.

Reduce the stress and enjoy the simplicity that Charlotte Mason's ideas can bring!
When More Is Less

A Charlotte Mason
Personal Calendar Journal

2014–15 School Year Edition

by Sonya Shafer
July

Gentle Reminders

Prayer Requests

Books I Am Reading
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When More Is Less

There was once a man named Bill, who decided to go for a hike from Georgia to Maine on the Appalachian Trail. A distance of about 2,000 miles. Six months of hiking, sleeping on the ground, and cooking meals outside.

So he went to a local outfitters and they laid out everything he would need, packed it all into a backpack, and strapped it on his back. It wasn’t exactly featherweight, but it was manageable.

Bill’s friend Stephen offered to come along on this journey with him. So he took Stephen to the same outfitters, and they got him equipped with the same 40-pound backpack of essentials for the hike.

But Stephen decided he needed to add more items for the journey. He decorated his pack with various footwear and cooking utensils, extra tins and boxes of food, and a huge shopping bag that was stuffed with who-knows-what-all and tied onto the top.

As they started off on the trail, Bill gazed eagerly at the beautiful scenery, breathed deeply in the fresh air, and enjoyed the feeling of freedom that surrounded them.

But the farther they walked, the more disgruntled Stephen became. He kept shifting the weight of his bulky pack. Soon he started muttering under his breath and then complaining quite loudly about his tired feet, his heavy load, his aching back, and the rough terrain.

Stephen added all those things because he thought they would make the journey more pleasant. Instead, they ended up being a hindrance.
Enjoying or Enduring

Homeschooling is a lot like a long hike. And the things that we carry with us can mean the difference between enjoying the journey or just enduring it.

We may start out taking just the things that are needful, but it’s so easy to add one more thing and then one more thing and then just one more, until suddenly we realize that all that More has become a hindrance and we are staggering under the weight of it all.

The more clutter we haul—in our schedules, our homes, and our children’s education—the less free we are to focus on what is most important: relationships. You see, when your backpack is weighed down with an overload of busyness or possessions or schoolwork, that burden soon becomes your focus, rather than those who are traveling the trail with you. Yet, if we are to have the same priorities that Jesus did, people should matter more than any activities, any things, or any information.

More Overload = Less Enjoyment

I invite you to step off the trail for a few moments this year and consider what is in your backpack. Lay it all out on the table and take a good look. And when you’re ready to repack, stop trying to fit it all in. Be selective. Leave some items on the table. Keep your load light enough to enjoy the journey, not just endure it. In the process you will find it easier to focus wholeheartedly on those who are walking beside you.
“The parent who would educate his children, in any large sense of the word, must lay himself out for high thinking and lowly living; the highest thinking indeed possible to the human mind and the simplest, directest living” (Vol. 2, p. 170).
2 • W E D N E S D A Y

3 • T H U R S D A Y

4 • F R I D A Y  Independence Day

5 • S A T U R D A Y
“Of the evils of modern education few are worse than this—that the perpetual cackle of his elders leaves the poor child not a moment of time, nor an inch of space, wherein to wonder—and grow” (Vol. 1, p. 44).
“It is usually in our way, and not by going out of our way, that we shall find the particular piece of brotherly work appointed for us to do” (Vol. 4, Book 2, p. 105).
16 • WEDNESDAY

17 • THURSDAY

18 • FRIDAY

19 • SATURDAY
“By far the most valuable part of education is carried on in the family” (Vol. 3, p. 94).
“Simplicity, happiness and expansion come from the outpouring of a human heart upon that which is altogether worthy” (Vol. 2, p. 285).
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For more great resources
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