A COMMITMENT TO DEDICATE YOUR HOME TO CHRIST

What makes a house a home?

The true importance of a home...

--is not the physical beauty of each room, but the spiritual beauty of those who occupy each room.
--is not the architectural structure, but the Biblical structure of the family - each performing his/her God-given roles (Eph. 5).
--is not the stability of its construction, but the stability of the family that resides within the house.

Many live in magnificent houses, but few have contented homes.
Many husbands and fathers can afford to manage the mortgage of a house, but few know how to manage the relationships in the home.

A home is:

I. A place where GOD OWNS EVERYTHING

You and your possessions are God's.
(Exod. 19:5; I Chron. 29:11; Is. 43:1,7; I Cor. 6:19; Ps.24:1, 50:7-11)

You are God's manager/steward of the material resources He entrusts to you.
(I Cor. 4:2; Lk. 16:1-13)

The way you manage God's property is:
a. A tool - to be a blessing
b. A test - of your spirituality
c. A testimony - to glorify God

II. A place where CHRIST REIGNS SUPREMELY

Psalm 127:1a - "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it."
Rev. 3:20 - "Behold, I stand at the door and knock..."
Josh. 24:15 - "...As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

III. A place of FAMILY UNITY

Amos 3:3 - "Can two walk together except they be agreed?"

--Unity around a common faith
--Unity around common convictions
--roles of husband and wife (Eph. 5:22-25)
--child-training (Eph. 6:4)
--Unity around common goals

"Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands" (Prov. 14:1).

IV. A place of QUIET REFUGE

"It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house" (Prov. 21:9)
--Shelter from the storms of life
--Peace from the pressures of society

If walls had ears and could replay for us ten or twenty years from now the conversations that occurred in here, what words would echo through the corridors of this house?

V. A place for SPIRITUAL GROWTH

David's words should be our motto at home: *"I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes" (Ps. 101:2-3).*

--A place for your personal quiet time (Ex. Daniel in his house - Dan. 6:10)
--A place for your family devotions (Ex. Timothy - II Tim. 1:5; 3:15)

1. Husband to teach his wife at home (I Cor. 14:35)
2. Father to teach his children at home (Deut. 6:7-9; 11:19-20)

VI. A place of CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY

--Hospitality = To have an affection for strangers.

Rom. 12:13 - "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."

Example: The house of Mary, Martha & Lazarus (Lk. 10:38-39; Jn. 12:1-3).
*To show hospitality to one of the least of Christ's servants is to show it to Him
(Mt. 25:35, 37, 40).

Two points to remember:

1) You are a steward of this property (it's a gift from God entrusted to you in order for you to manage it for Him).

2) It's only a temporary residence (Jn. 14:1ff - Our permanent residence is in Heaven).