

## **Lessons from Momma Robin (Part 1 of 3)**

By Terrie Todd

When a pair of robins began construction in the cedar shrub outside our kitchen window, I figured the only decent thing to do was stay out of the kitchen for a couple of months and give them their space. My husband, however, decided closing the venetian blind between us and the nest would grant them all the privacy required. Bummer.

This process is providing a delightful education. Lesson Number One: Do the thing that lies within you to do.

With fascination, I watched the robins create the nest, placing the twigs just so, then tamping them into place with their little feet. I couldn't build a nest like that without written instructions, a kit of supplies, and a whole lot of super glue. Even then, it would be shaped all wrong and probably fall apart in the first wind. Robins, however, can't not build a nest. It's what they are hard-wired to do.

I believe God has placed within each of us at least one thing we "can't not" do. Be it music, teaching, building, growing flowers—you name it—we know deep down we are hard-wired to do that thing. The difference between robins and humans is, we have a choice. We can abandon our one thing, and in the face of opposition, we often do. For writers like me, that opposition often sounds like this: "You're wasting your time. Nobody cares what you have to say. If you'd give up this foolish notion, you might have time to enjoy an actual life."

But it's never too late to start again. The world needs your one thing, even when you're tired or discouraged and would rather let it lie. A half-built nest is worthless.

Writer Gina Conroy said, "What keeps me going is . . . the fear of missing out because I gave up too soon. It's not easy to persevere through sweat and tears, but when I keep my mind on the goal and my heart attuned to my calling, then quitting isn't an option."