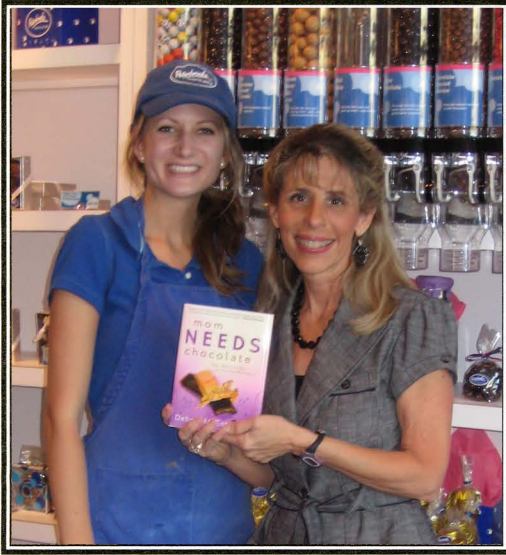


AUTHOR SENDS CHOCOLATE-LOVING MOTHERS A MESSAGE

By Carisa Biesecker



PETERBROOKE CHOCOLATIER EMPLOYEE LINDSEY BENTON (L) POSES ALONGSIDE AUTHOR DEBORA COTY, WHO PLANS TO HOLD A "CHOC-TASTIC" BOOK SIGNING AT THE GOURMET CHOCOLATE DISTRIBUTOR ON SATURDAY, JUNE 13, IN RECOGNITION OF HER RECENTLY RELEASED BOOK *MOM NEEDS CHOCOLATE: HUGS, HUMOR AND HOPE FOR SURVIVING MOTHERHOOD*.

"If I can do it, you can do it. If God wills it, He fulfills it, no matter the odds," states author Debora Coty, recently releasing her eighth book, *Mom Needs Chocolate: Hugs, Humor and Hope for Surviving Motherhood*, this past April.

Entering the arena of motherhood and all that comes with it, Coty offers up the book to all mothers out there "to encourage the sisterhood of slightly sagging spiritual warriors who are currently languishing in the joy-sucking dully-funks of motherhood. *Mom Needs Chocolate* is meant to shine a ray of hope that it is possible to crawl out the other end of the motherhood tunnel spiritually alive and kicking. And without employing the devour-your-young Guppy Method of child-management," she says.

With two-and-a-half-years in production, the book brings laughs and hope to mothers out there, with God and chocolate in the mix, all for the price of \$14.99. Able to be purchased at Peterbrooke Chocolates, Victorian Grace Tea Room, LifeWay, Family Christian Store and online, Coty spices up her book tour, holding a book signing not only at LifeWay, located at 169 Brandon Town Center Dr. in Brandon, on Saturday, May 9, from 11 a.m.–1 p.m., just in time for Mother's Day, but also at Peterbrooke Chocolatier, located at 3476 Lithia Pinecrest Rd. in Valrico, on Saturday, June 13, from 1–3 p.m. Here, what she refers to as a "Choc-Tastic" book signing will be held, with samplings, giveaways and scrumptious delights.

Having dreamed of being a novelist, Coty's aspirations were "back-burnered," as she calls it, with the realization of college, marriage, a career as an orthopedic occupational therapist, 30 years and going, and children. But when the last of her two children, Matthew, 25, and Christy, 23, left home, she yearned for change that brought meaning to her life. Sitting in her dentist's office in 2002, she came upon a magazine publicizing a writing contest and states, "A still, small voice whispered, 'It's time.'"

With that, at age 45, she took off in the publishing industry, now having 80 published articles within various publications as well as 11 book contracts.

"Just goes to show you can't give up, because you have no idea what life will bring with that next twist in the road!" she adds.

She is currently working on *Prayers for Daughters* for Barbour Books. Retiring from a 20-year stint as a piano teacher and having taught college-level anatomy and physiology, she still stays active, playing tennis and spending time with husband Chuck, while also performing as a choir and handbell director in her church.

Moreover, she spills over her passion for writing on others aspiring writers through her free "So You Want to be a Writer..." mini-workshops, teaching how to navigate the publication industry and the techniques of writing. Also, she and award-winning author Ruth Ellinger will lead the Florida Inspirational Writer's Retreat, a full-day for workshop held at Lithia's Cedarkirk Retreat, on Saturday, November 14. Lastly, she is seeking women to host Choc-OUT Parties for moms and non-moms alike in the area, promoting connections and good times in a chocolaty atmosphere.

When asked why she wrote *Mom Needs Chocolate*, Coty comments, "To share my life with future generations. I want my great-great-grandchildren to know that Grandma Debbie lived and loved, laughed and cried and had a faith that was real . . . a faith that was as much as part of her as breathing. I want to pass that legacy of love on in tangible form - a book - that can be held in young hands and applied to young hearts."

For more information about Coty, her writings, mini-workshops, parties or book signings, visit www.DeboraCoty.com.