

## Is Eight Enough?

It's September 1965, and Lillian and Hugh are discussing the size of their family

**Hugh:** Well, Lillian we've now had eight children. What do you think about not having any more children? Now, think about it. If you feel strongly that you would like to experience the joys of pregnancy one more time, just say so.

**Lillian:** Whatever you decide, Hugh, you know best.

**Hugh:** Yep, 8 is a good round number. We should just call it quits at 8. True, there is an imbalance, with 5 girls and 3 boys, but that's probably just as well, from what I've seen so far.

**Lillian:** You know, I actually might like to have another girl. We'll name her Melissa. Or maybe if it's a boy, he'll be the one to grow up as a priest. I'm not sure how much I can count on these first three to hear a call to the Vows.

**Hugh:** I think we're in a good situation right now, to have another kid. We'll never have to worry about moving from this house in Stewartville. I mean, it's not like you'll ever have to go work as a maid, or anything. I expect we'll always be a very well-to-do family, financially.

**Lillian:** Whatever you decide, Hugh, you know best.

**Hugh:** If necessary, I could always go back to Greenland for 6 months or so. That wouldn't cause any problems for you, would it?

**Lillian** (teeth clenched): Whatever you decide, Hugh, you know best.

**Hugh:** How about the other kids? They'd be careful with a new baby, wouldn't they? No dropping people out of windows or cribs?

**Lillian:** All the children we already have are special people in their own individual way. That last child would sure have a lot to live up to.

**Hugh:** I think that kid would be the luckiest kid around, to have that many older brothers and sisters to set a good example and keep an eye out for him. Think of the hand-me-down clothes opportunities!

**Lillian:** I just hope they don't pick on him unfairly, too much, as the baby of the family. He might develop anti-social tendencies.

**Hugh:** Well, he'd probably deserve it.

**Hugh:** But we've decided. We're going to draw the line at 8 children, even.

**Lillian:** (sadly) Ok..

(Pause)

**Hugh:** So...you wanna fool around?

**Lillian:** (brightly) Ok!