



The Distaff

"She stretches out her hands to the distaff..."
Proverbs 31:19

"... SERVING ONE ANOTHER
AS GOOD STEWARDS OF
THE MANIFOLD GRACE OF
GOD."

1 PETER 4:10

SEMINARY WIVES DISCIPLESHIP

Supporting and Training for Wives of TMS Students

"B" Mayhue and Karen Busenitz

*Directors of Seminary Wives Discipleship,
Wives of Seminary Administrators/Faculty*

MARCH 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2

Scott and Patty Ardavanis
*Serving During
Difficult Times*

MARCH 9

No meeting
Shepherds' Conference

MARCH 16

Kevin and Jill Edwards
Rich and Diana Hall
Serving Missionaries

MARCH 23

Irv and Karen Busenitz
Bob and Teri White
Serving From The Home

MARCH 30

"B" Mayhue
Serving with Transparency

Scripture calls the minister of the gospel a "man of God" (2 Timothy 3:17). He is the means that God has chosen to preach salvation and encourage holy living. It is a high, rare, and privileged calling. As this man of God strives to obey the Lord in ministry, there is one person, more than any other, who can enable him to impact the world for Christ, or on the other hand, derail and terminate his ministry—his wife. Enter the Seminary Wives Discipleship Program. It is our burden to support and train the wives of the men at The Master's Seminary. It began over 30 years ago...

The Busenitz family moved to Grace Community Church in 1977 so Irv could head up the Talbot Seminary Extension Campus, meeting at Grace Community Church, in Sun Valley. Talbot had a wonderful program for student wives, but distance made it impractical for the wives in this area to attend. With the encouragement and involvement of Liz George, a Grace Church pastor's wife, Karen began meeting in the church's Fireside Room with the wives of students.

**All Scripture is inspired by
God and profitable for
teaching, for reproof, for
correction, for training in
righteousness; so that the
man of God may be
adequate, equipped for
every good work.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)

When The Master's Seminary became its own entity in 1986, Seminary Wives Discipleship (known affectionately as "SemWives") was already established. Dr. Mayhue arrived in 1990 as the new dean, and his wife "B", also a pastor's wife, came on board providing additional leadership and direction for the program in partnership with Karen. As the faculty grew, so did the involvement of faculty wives, as well as the wives of Grace Church pastors and elders.

Designed to enrich each woman's devotion to God, her husband, and her family, SemWives has exceeded expectations. What started with about a dozen wives has grown to approximately 140 women, a testimony to the Lord's grace. The Lord has done amazing things before our eyes, bringing hundreds of wives through this discipleship program, and in the process, changing hearts and attitudes, replacing reticence and fear with anticipation and joy.

As the gospel is boldly proclaimed by the seminary trained *man* of God, he is tenderly supported by a biblically discipled *woman* of God.

SemWives Then and Now...

1987 Fall Schedule (right)

2011 Spring Schedule

(http://www.tms.edu/semwivesweb/dbpage.aspministry_id=1&page_id=25)

1987 SemWives Purpose Statement (below)

2011 SemWives Purpose Statement

(<http://www.tms.edu/semwivesweb/about.asp>)

Schedule of meetings:		
#1	Sept. 15	Special opening meeting Guest Speaker--Verla Oliver
#2	Sept. 22	Overview of Priorities <u>Explore the Bible Yourself</u> , Chs. 1 & 2
#3	Sept. 29	The Ultimate Priority <u>Explore the Bible Yourself</u> , Ch. 3
#4	Oct. 6	Scripture Memory <u>Explore the Bible Yourself</u> , Ch. 4
#5	Oct. 13	Personal Prayer <u>Explore the Bible Yourself</u> , Ch. 5
#6	Oct. 20	Leading Prayer Groups <u>Explore the Bible Yourself</u> , Chs. 6, 7, 8
#7	Oct. 27	Meditation <u>Explore the Bible Yourself</u> , Ch. 9
#8	Nov. 3	Management Basics <u>Explore the Bible Yourself</u> , Ch. 10
#9	Nov. 10	Goal Setting <u>Explore the Bible Yourself</u> , Ch. 11
#10	Nov. 17	Salad Supper

Seminary Wives Discipleship Program

The Master's Seminary **Fall, 1987**

Purposes of Seminary Wives Discipleship Program:

1. To enrich your devotion to God.
2. To enrich your personal growth through the study of the book Explore the Bible Yourself, by Rick Yohn. The book is for sale in the Grace BookShack. Each woman will need her own copy.
3. To provide the following through a small group:

encouragement and support	discipleship
leadership training	spiritual growth
life management skills	accountability
4. To equip you for future ministry in a local church by providing materials and resources, as well as practical training in women's ministry.

Time of meetings: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday evenings
Place of meetings: Room 363 (New building)
 Grace Community Church
 (babysitting not provided)

Reflections on SemWives

Contributed by Marlean Felix, wife of TMS alumni and Professor Dr. Paul Felix

As I reflect upon the impact that Seminary Wives Discipleship has had on my life, I am immediately reminded of God's grace. My initial involvement in SemWives was as the wife of a seminary student. By God's grace, I was able to meet weekly with both seasoned table leaders and fellow wives who identified with the privileged, yet challenging role of supporting a husband in seminary. The biblical teaching of the speakers, wisdom and support of the table leaders, and fellowship within the group truly ministered to my heart throughout my husband's studies.

After my husband's graduation, he became part of the the seminary faculty and my role changed from student wife to table leader. I thoroughly enjoyed this new role as it gave me the opportunity to minister to student wives as others had ministered to me in my days as a student wife. What a privilege, joy, and display of God's continued grace it was, to become acquainted with many wives over the years and share in their lives.

Years later, circumstances forced me to discontinue that role, but by His grace, the Lord still allowed me to be involved in SemWives in different ways. Currently, I have the honor of serving as one of the occasional speakers, sharing truths from God's precious Word with the SemWives family. In addition to being a speaker, God has graciously given me the privilege of serving as a prayer partner for one of the tables. Regularly lifting these dear, young women to the Throne of Grace has kept me connected and in tune with the heartbeat of this incredible ministry. I am grateful that God, in His grace and sovereignty, brought SemWives into my life and has allowed me to be involved with it over the past 21 years. To God be the glory for His faithfulness in providing and sustaining this ministry for 25 years and for blessing it with godly leadership that has steadfastly depended on Him each step of the way.



A Favorite Scripture

Submitted by Michelle Gregory, wife of TMS student Rich Gregory

**"Your hands made me and fashioned me;
Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.
May those who fear You see me and be glad,
Because I wait for Your word.
I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are righteous,
And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.
O may Your lovingkindness comfort me,
According to Your word to Your servant.
May Your compassion come to me that I may live,
For Your law is my delight."**

Psalm 119:73-77 (NASB)

More Reflections

Contributed by Julie Young, wife of TMS alumni Joe Young '07 Pastor-Teacher of Emmanuel Bible Church, Great Falls, MT

I attended SemWives from the fall of 2004 until my husband graduated in the spring of 2007. I brought a lot of excitement and expectations into Seminary Wives that first Fall, along with some misconceptions about pastors' wives. I didn't realize how much I had idolized the titles "professor's wife" or "table leader." I walked into SemWives feeling that I would never really know these ladies because of their "exalted positions" in the body of Christ. They would teach, I would learn, but we couldn't be friends. However, God used the kind humility and approachability of each leader in SemWives to teach me about God's view of biblical leadership. These ladies weren't there to lord their position over the rest of us no matter how advanced their husbands' degrees or positions in the church. It was clear that these ladies didn't set themselves apart from us, but rather came alongside us as fellow laborers called by the same GOD in the same field of ministry. I was convicted by their godly example that my own views were unbiblical and tended to be self-serving. In reality, we are all saved by God's grace to serve Him with genuine humility and a love for whoever God puts around us. Now, as a pastor's wife for three years, God often reminds me of the gracious example set by those ladies. This is the way I want to love the people in God's church that my husband pastors.



Contributed by Andrea Smith, wife of TMS alumni Jeremy Smith '98, '01, Professor TMAI Pastoral Training Seminary, India

I really treasure the time I had in SemWives, '95-'01. The wisdom I gleaned from some of the leaders as they walked with me and loved me through the pruning that was necessary in order for me to be "led, and not dragged" to India, will always be close to my heart. Over our years here in India, I have been brought back time and time again to the same truths of our God's sovereignty, goodness, faithfulness, and power. These truths, which I began tightly clinging to in my SemWives years, are the same ones that I now cling to even tighter!



Contributed by Jaime Layton , wife of TMS alumni Phil Layton '06, Pastor-Teacher, Gold Country Baptist Church, Shingle Springs, CA

When my husband Phil started seminary I was often asked, "Are you ready to be a 'pastor's wife?'" Seminary Wives definitely helped me get ready. One of the best things about SemWives for me, was seeing the variety of women of all ages, from many different countries and many different walks of life, coming together for one purpose. We were all there to support our husbands, and to learn how to be better Christian wives, mothers, and friends. That in turn taught me how to become a pastor's wife. The years in Seminary Wives, '01-'06, gave me the time to learn how to become a "pastors wife," who really is just a woman living a life in pursuit of the Lord (and is married to a pastor). Now that I've actually been a pastor's wife for several years, I appreciate even more the preparation I received and relationships formed during Seminary Wives and would encourage all to be involved.

Radical Womanhood by Carolyn McCulley

Reviewed by Whitney Hauser, wife of TMS student Jason Hauser

Feminism has affected me, and I didn't even know it, though I am not now and have never defined myself as a feminist. However, reading *Radical Womanhood* showed me that many of my own thoughts and attitudes about what it means to be a woman have been influenced by the ideals of feminism.

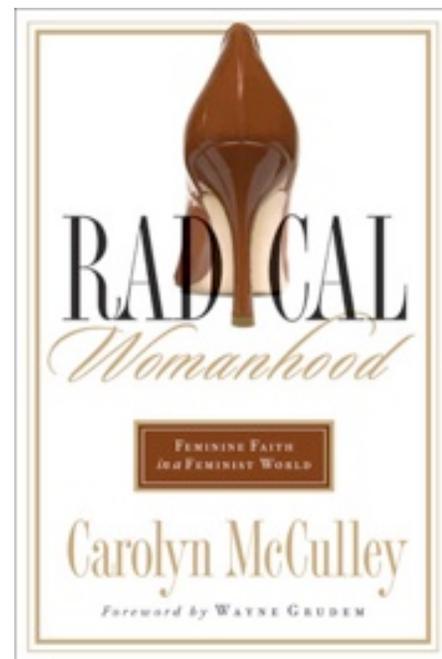
In this book, Carolyn McCulley traces the history of feminism, showing its development in three waves and describing how each wave has made greater inroads into our culture, our homes, and our churches. She explains how ideas today about womanhood have been shaped by early feminist thinking. She combats modern feminist ideas with truth from God's Word, and shows women how to truly be feminine – by submitting to the Word, the Holy Bible, and living for the Lord.

Carolyn McCulley draws on her own experience as a former feminist, and also has done extensive research on the history of feminism. She uses the writings of early feminists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton to expose the motivation of feminist leaders. Carolyn McCulley states "...while the crowning achievements of the first wave feminist movement were the legal reforms of coverture and suffrage, Stanton's writings reveal the ongoing target was the authority of Scripture. This is still true today." She goes on to say, "As a movement, feminism arose because women were being sinned against. But feminism also arose because women were sinning in response. That's a classic human problem: Sinners tend to sin in response to being sinned against." The author then points us to the real solution, "The glorious hope we have is that Christ came to rescue us from this spiral of sin and sinful response."

At the end of each chapter readers will find stories about real women who have chosen to

surrender their lives to the Lord in the midst of the worst circumstances imaginable and "have found God to be true to His Word." As one who has found God to be true to His Word myself, I soaked up the author's ability to use the truth of Scripture to counter the "wisdom" of the secular world. It is clear she holds a high view of Scripture and reveres its teaching above any modern secular view or book or ideal.

It is important to know the history of feminism and to perceive how it has affected our society and our lives. Knowing this and being students of the Scriptures, will enable us to contend for the faith (Jude 1:3) and to practice discernment (Hebrews 5:14). This is a helpful book for women and men seeking to live lives conformed to God's ideal plan for us as we minister in a post-modern world.



McCulley, Carolyn. *Radical Womanhood: Feminine Faith in a Feminist World*. Chicago: Moody Press, 2008. 224 pp.

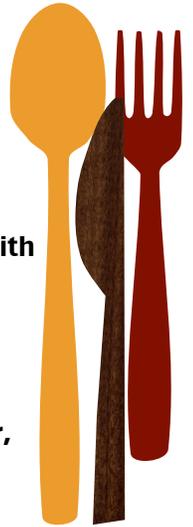
PICTURE: <http://www.moodypublishers.com/>

Why Do We Include Recipes and Practical Advice ?

"It would help younger women to know there are a few listening ears when they don't know what to do with an uncommunicative husband, a 25 pound turkey, or a two-year-old's tantrum.

It is doubtful that the Apostle Paul had in mind Bible classes or seminars or books when he spoke of teaching younger women. He meant the simple things, the everyday example, the willingness to take time from one's own concerns to pray with the anxious mother, to walk with her the way of the cross – with its tremendous demands of patience, selflessness, lovingkindness – and to show her, in the ordinariness of Monday through Saturday, how to keep a quiet heart.

These lessons will come perhaps most convincingly through rocking a baby, cooking a supper, or cleaning a refrigerator. Through such an example, one young woman – single or married, Christian or not – may glimpse the mystery of charity and the glory of womanhood."



Elisabeth Elliot, "A Woman's Mandate," from *Family Practice*, ed. R. C. Sproul, Jr. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2001, p. 62.

Recipes

"No Peel" Potato Soup

Contributed by Amy White, wife of TMS student Matt White



- 1qt. water
- 3 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 10 ³/₄ oz. can cream of celery soup
- 1 10 ³/₄ oz. can cream of chicken soup
- 1 32 oz. package frozen hash browns (cubed, not shredded)
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese (cut into cubes)

Bring water to boil in a saucepan. Dissolve the bouillon cubes in the boiling water. Mix both cans of soup into the water. Add hash browns, reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Further reduce heat to low and add Velveeta cheese, stirring occasionally to allow cheese to melt.

Serve with optional toppings such as bacon bits, grated cheese, green onions, sour cream, etc.

Note: I have made this soup with half the Velveeta cheese – the soup is still very good, but with fewer calories.

Grown up Garlic Mac-n-Cheese

Contributed by Emily Wilson, wife of TMS Blake Wilson

- 1 package rotelli pasta, cooked and drained
- 1/4 onion, diced, sauteed in 3 T olive oil
- 1/3 c. marinated artichoke hearts, coarsely chopped
- 2 c. shredded white cheddar cheese (or other strong white cheese)
- 1/2 c. shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 c. shredded sharp yellow cheddar cheese
- 1 head roasted garlic
- 5 cloves garlic, sliced, and lightly fried in olive oil
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 c. Ricotta cheese
- 1/4 c. half-n-half
- Salt, pepper, smoked paprika to taste



Preheat oven to 350° F.

Combine pasta, onion, artichoke hearts, 3/4 of the combined shredded cheeses, roasted garlic, eggs, ricotta, and half-n-half. Place in 2 1/2 qt casserole dish. Cover with remaining cheese and sprinkle garlic slices over the top. Bake until cheese is bubbly, about 30 minutes.



HOW TO ROAST A HEAD OF GARLIC

Roast a head of garlic by wrapping an entire head of unpeeled garlic in aluminum foil and baking it on a rack in the oven at 350°F for one hour. Take off aluminum foil and allow the garlic to cool enough so that you can touch it without burning your hands. With a small knife cut a slice off of one end of the head, and squeeze out the garlic into a small bowl. Roast garlic will have a buttery consistency. Throw away the remains and add the garlic to recipe as called for.

Wise Words for Wise Women

She Loved to Pray

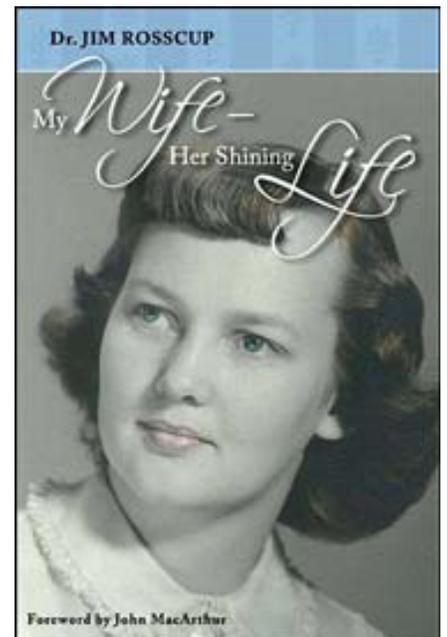
Contributed by Elena Brefo, wife of TMS student Obed Brefo

"Prayer is the breath of the Christian life and almost nothing decays so fast in the fallen human heart as the desire to pray. In other words, nothing is more vital than prayer in Christian existence, and few things are more vulnerable to neglect." John Piper

My husband and I recently had the pleasure of having dinner with Dr. Jim Rosscup, now semi-retired and an adjunct TMS professor. He shared with us his love for his beloved wife Mildred who went home to be with the Lord in April 2008. Since he spoke so highly of his wife of 50 years, I wanted some advice as to how I could be a better wife. So I asked him what made Mildred so exceptional. He answered, "She loved to **pray**".

After hearing that, I asked myself, "Do I love to pray?" It is easy to become very self-sufficient and let life slip by, loving momentary things more than God. But God does command us to pray and spend time with Him. May we as wives not be led by our emotions, but by this command and what a wonderful command that is... (Phil 4:6-8, I Thes. 5:17)

Our Heavenly Father wants to commune with us! Surely that would make us, too, "love to **pray**."



<http://www.gbibooks.com/Details.aspx?ID=9780966254549>

"When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."

Matthew 6:5-8 (NASB)

The Distaff Coordinators: Barbara Barrick, wife of TMS Professor Dr. Bill Barrick, and

Janice Osborne, wife of TMS Professor Dr. Kelly Osborne

The Distaff Layout Editor: Elna Mitchell, wife of TMS student Ryan Mitchell

TMS Seminary Wives Disclaimer:

While we recommend many different resources for your consideration, we also encourage you, the reader, to be like the Bereans who could receive a message with eagerness and then examine the message against the truth of Scripture. (Acts 17:11)