



The Distaff

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

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus
Phil. 1:6

OCTOBER 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2

No Speaker
Small Group Night

NOVEMBER 9

Missy Mehringer
Ministering
Without Complaint

NOVEMBER 16

Last Fall Meeting
Salad Supper

NOVEMBER 21 - 25

Thanksgiving Recess

My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again;
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness,
And clothed me with His light,
And wrote His law of righteousness
With pow'r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength
And causes fears to fly;
Whose every promise is enough
For every step I take.
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who reigns above;
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace,
Whose every thought is love.
For every day I have on earth
Is given by the King.
So I will give my life my all,
To love and follow Him.

Perspectives On Ministry

Excerpts from *One with a Shepherd - The Tears and Triumphs of a Ministry Marriage*

By Mary Somerville, SemWives prayer partner and wife of Bob Somerville, The Master's College Associate Professor of Biblical Counseling

From Chapter 3: Handling the Spiritual and Emotional Burdens of Ministry

"How can we handle these weights? We cannot! God is the only one who can bear the grief of the world because He is the One who has determined it for good. He sees the end from the beginning. Although God is never the author of evil, He uses it for His ends, for His glory. Even the wrath of men shall praise Him (Ps. 76:10) ... We will not be able to understand all the reasons for all the sin and hurt and pain in our world, but we know that God is God and that is all we need to know" (33).



"We must know God in order to trust Him like Job did.

The only way to know God is through His Son Jesus Christ. If we truly get a glimpse of Jesus, we will be compelled to prize Him and delight in Him above all else.

God's Word tells us, "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith" (2 Cor.13:5). Yes, even as wives of men in the ministry we must test ourselves" (34).



"As we set Him always before us, we will be able to do all that we do as an act of worship. We will be bursting forth with a heart full of praise as we constantly think about His great grace and love. It is living in the conscious presence of the Lord Jesus that gives us joy in our journey.

In order to sustain the constant weight of ministry and to grow in the fruit of the Spirit we must have this vital connection to Jesus Christ. There is no other way to sustain this kind of life" (37, 38).



"Cultivating the habit of daily praise and intercession is the best way for the wife of a man in ministry to cope with all the burdens. We cast all our cares upon the Lord, who alone is able to carry them in the ultimate sense (1 Pet.5:7). Prayer becomes like breathing. Each need that we become aware of should be cast over on the Lord. We are to pray about everything. When we are told a need, we pray about it then and there - if it is over the phone, on the street, or in a restaurant. It can be done silently or audibly. ... He will show us our part in caring for the need, but He is the ultimate burden-bearer" (43).



"He will sustain you in your role! It is only for this short life and then you'll spend eternity with Him. Peter looked forward to Christ's second coming with these words, "When the Chief Shepherd appears..." (1 Pet. 5:4), and that is how he spurs the shepherds on in shepherding the flock entrusted to them. Jesus is coming back! Our husbands will turn over their flock to the Chief Shepherd" (48).



Testimony

Contributed by Tiffany Lunn, wife of TMS student Tyler Lunn

“The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps” (Proverbs 16:9). My life experience can testify to the truth of this verse, as God has graciously shown me that His plans are always better than my own.

As a rebellious teenager I tried to deal with my parents’ divorce in my own strength instead of trusting the Lord’s will. In my senior year of high school I was convicted of my actions and this prompted me to start going to youth group and to attend church again. The Lord had favor on me and led my convicted heart to know Him in the summer before my freshman year of college in Canton, Ohio. During college I grew in my understanding of how to live in a way that reflected my relationship with Christ.

Just over two years ago I transferred to California for my job. Because of my growing desire to teach Scripture to women, I began looking for seminaries to attend in order to get a better understanding of Scripture. When I came across The Master’s Seminary online, I explored the website but realized it all pertained to men. “How can this be?” I questioned. I just want to learn more theology from credible professors, not preach at a church. “Surely it’s not only men allowed,” I said in my head stubbornly. I clicked on the TMS “SemWives” link as my last hope, but quickly discovered that I had to be engaged or married to a man studying at TMS to attend even that. Being single at this time, I could almost hear the words, “You are not married,



nor do you even know a TMS student, much less have a relationship with one, and you are not a man yourself, therefore, this seminary is not for you.” I greatly respected John MacArthur and quickly realized that he would not change the “men only” rule for me, even though I was only seeking to learn God’s truth from biblical teachers that I trusted.

Less than a week after learning this, I got a call from Tyler, a guy I knew from college in Ohio. He said he was moving to California to go to TMS, and I replied, “I’m glad one of us can!” We arranged to meet in Santa Monica and have coffee on his first night here. We walked up and down the pier for seven hours talking about our shared desire to serve in ministry, yet I was humbled by how little I actually knew about theology and God’s Word. After many conversations, we started dating and studying Scripture together.

By God’s grace, this man who desired to learn and study God’s Word more than anyone I knew, asked me to marry him. I can only give God the credit for directing our steps over 3,000 miles to reunite with a greater passion to serve Him. The Lord has blessed me with a godly husband who is preparing to study and preach the most important thing in life – the gospel. As an added blessing, I found a provision in the TMS rule book that allows me to go to class with my husband — better still he’s my personal tutor who goes home with me! Surely it is the Lord that has directed my steps. ☪

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Eph. 2:8-10

We got married this past September, and that following Wednesday, I began attending SemWives, the very ministry I had looked at but had not qualified for when I originally moved to California. Praise the Lord for His perfect plan and timing. He does not delay, and He is sovereign. I look forward to being a pastor's wife and will consider it an honor to serve that way in His time. This story of God's plan for my life is not finished, but this testimony is an opportunity to exalt the Lord.

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT



The annual Christmas Concert will be:

Thursday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 17, 2:00 & 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 18, 6:00 p.m.

Free tickets will be distributed in mid-November either on Sundays after both morning services, from the church receptionist during the week, or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your ticket order to:

Concert tickets
Grace Community Church
13248 Roscoe Blvd.
Sun Valley, CA 91352

<http://www.gracechurch.org/ministries/Custom.aspx?MinistryID=89&ID=270>

Recipes

Granny Cakes

Contributed by Whitney Hauser, wife of TMS student Jason Hauser

Serves 2...great for breakfast in bed on a lazy Saturday!



Cakes:

1/4 c. white onion, grated
1 Granny Smith apple, cored, peeled, and grated into 1/2" strips
1 small sweet potato, peeled and grated in 1/2" strips
dash of salt
1 egg
1 Tbsp. flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
vegetable oil for frying

Mustard Glaze:

2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard (any mustard will do)
1/2 Tbsp. vinegar
1 tsp. lemon juice
1 Tbsp. sugar
pinch of salt

Eggs prepared over easy.

To prepare Mustard Glaze: Mix all ingredients together and adjust flavorings according to taste.

To prepare Cakes: In a bowl, stir together the grated onion, grated apple and grated sweet potato. Mix in salt and let sit for 2 minutes. Pat dry with a towel and transfer mixture to a small mixing bowl. Add the egg, flour, baking powder and cinnamon and stir to combine. Put a heavy pan on the stove top at medium to medium-high heat and allow to heat up. Add enough oil to pan to cover the bottom. Drop in 1/4 of the potato/apple mixture. Use the back of a wooden spoon to flatten the mixture to make a round disc. The uncooked cake is very fragile so don't touch it, but let this cook for 3–4 minutes, or until golden brown, and then flip over and repeat, allowing the cakes to harden. Repeat until you have made four cakes.

To serve, stack two cakes on top of one another and place 1 egg on top. Finish with a drizzle of the mustard glaze.

It sounds intimidating but is surprisingly easy and comes together very nicely.

Adapted from a recipe from www.tastykitchen.com

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

In the Summer 2011 edition, we shared opportunities to save money with our readers. We regret to inform you that Angel Food and Treasure box no longer provide the services they used to.

Dutch Babies

Contributed by Teri White, wife of Bob White, Vice President for Development and Operations,
Director of Pastoral Internships



4 eggs
1 c. milk
1 c. flour
1 tsp. sugar
3/4 tsp. salt
1/4 c. (1/2 stick) unsalted butter
Lemon wedges
Powdered sugar
Berries
Pure maple syrup

Preheat oven to 425° F. Whisk eggs, milk, flour, sugar and salt in a large bowl, or whiz in a blender. Let stand for 30 minutes at room temperature. Divide butter between two 9 or 10-inch cast iron skillet, glass baking dishes, or one larger rectangular roasting pan. Place in oven until butter melts. Remove pans, swirling butter to coat sides. Divide batter between pans. Bake on lowest rack until golden brown, and then set on center rack and allow to bake until sides rise high above the sides of the pans, about 12-15 minutes.

Slice pancake into wedges and serve with dusting of sugar, berries and a squirt of lemon juice, or just some good maple syrup.

Makes 2 large pancakes, 4-6 servings each.

Want to bless a new mom or a family who are going through a trial?

TakeThemAMeal.com is a website that makes coordinating meal deliveries to a family (or individual) easier.

For other Thanksgiving recipes and Turkey Cooking Tips, refer back to the November 2009 edition of *The Distaff*
<http://www.tms.edu/semwivesweb/distaff.asp>



Christmas is celebrated in different ways across the globe.

If you are an international Seminary Wife, we would like to invite you to share a tradition or traditional recipe from your home country with the readers of The Distaff.

Please submit your contribution to tmsdistaff@gmail.com by November 18th. If we receive enough contributions, we will compile them and make the "Christmas Traditions and Recipes" available to you.

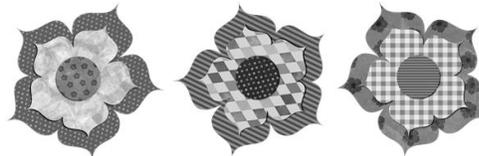
Wise Words for Wise Women

Contributed by Marie Ball, wife of TMS student Bill Ball

WAITING ON THE LORD

These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with *the* women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Acts 1:14



Waiting seems to be such a passive activity and it is one that I do not particularly enjoy. But the Lord, in His grace, has shown me lately what mighty works He can accomplish while I prayerfully wait on Him. After my mother unexpectedly passed away in 2008, I began to ponder the brevity of life and experienced a new urgency for others to come to salvation. Since then, I have been praying for the salvation of my father and two brothers, and sharing with them what the Lord has been teaching me through His Word. I continued to trust in God's grace and strength, as what I have shared was not always well-received.

This past August, I was amazed to see the first evidence of the Lord's answer to my prayer. Despite our different geographic locations, all three men have finally joined me in a weekly Bible study on the book of Acts. My Dad has also begun attending a Bible-believing church and is attending their men's ministry. Jesus' disciples and followers devoted themselves to PRAYER as they waited for the promised Holy Spirit. What a great example to us all on what to do as we wait – PRAY. Then waiting is not so passive after all!

PICTURE CREDITS

Pages 1, 2, 3, 7, 8: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images>

Recipes: <http://allrecipes.com/recipe/dutch-babies-ii/photo-gallery.aspx?Page=1>

Book review: <http://www.crossway.org/books/give-them-grace-tpb/>

ONE WITH A SHEPHERD

<http://www.kressbiblical.com/products/One-with-a-Shepherd%3A-The-Tears-and-Triumphs-of-a-Ministry-Marriage.html>

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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)