



# The Distaff

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

Oh, magnify the  
LORD with me,  
and let us exalt  
His name together!  
Psalm 34:3

**SEPTEMBER  
2012**

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**SEPTEMBER 12**

First SemWives  
Fall Meeting

**SEPTEMBER 19**

Let Us Exalt His  
Name Together  
Dr. and Mrs. MacArthur

**SEPTEMBER 26**

Running The Ministry Race  
Dr. and Mrs. Snider

Please join us for  
Seminary Wives Discipleship  
on Wednesday evenings  
September 12th to  
November 14th

Time of meetings:  
6:50 - 8:30 p.m.

Place: Grace  
Community Church  
Building J, Room 372

Childcare, Cubbies, Awana, Junior  
High and High School Ministries  
are available

For information on Awana  
pre-registration call  
GCC Children's Ministries  
at (818) 909-5631

# Welcome, Sem Wives!

Contributed by Emily Wilson, wife of TMS student, Blake Wilson

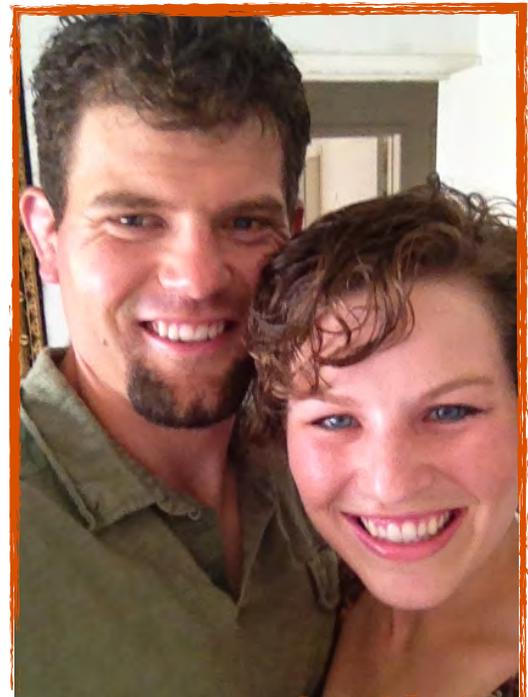
As my husband begins his fourth and final year in the M.Div. program, I am amazed to look back and realize how quickly the time has passed, and yet how much we seem to have changed. It was only three years ago, in June 2009, that we moved to Northridge the day after our honeymoon, and I started my first job as a nurse the next morning. And life only seems to have gotten busier since then! I thank the Lord that He provided Seminary Wives Discipleship as a place of growth and comfort when needed during our journey here.

If there is one outstanding lesson I have learned over the past three years regarding seminary life, it has to be that the book of 1 Peter seems to be written specifically for seminary wives. One only has to read the introduction to know what I mean. The book is written "to the elect exiles..." (1 Peter 1:1). Sounds like us, right ladies? I know for myself, having grown up in the mountains climbing pine trees and knowing all of the checkers in the local grocery store, moving to the concrete jungle of Los Angeles did feel a bit like going into exile. But don't forget, we are not here by happenstance, nor exiled without a wonderful purpose. Our husbands have been chosen of the Lord to be proclaimers of the Word of God, shepherds of His flock, and we have the privilege of being their helpmeets. It is an honorable calling. Don't let your sense of exile ever overshadow the joy of this truth!

In 1 Peter 1:22, Peter exhorts us to "love one another earnestly from a pure heart..." Trust me, the Lord will give you many opportunities during seminary to purify your heart and increase your love. Not only will you learn to love the women here at Seminary Wives Discipleship, and be forever grateful for their friendship, but your love for your husband will have to grow as well. To be honest, that may be the only way that you make it through some of the dinner conversations about dispensationalism versus covenant theology, pre/post/and amillennialism...and a host of other theological doctrines. Oh girls, the treats in store for you as the Lord purifies your love!

Finally, hold onto the truth of 1 Peter 4:12-13, "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed." During your time here there will be trials, don't be surprised. Little or big, they may come every day. And sometimes they seem overwhelming to the point of crushing. But we can rejoice even now in these trials and look forward to the day we will rejoice together when Christ's glory is revealed (1 Peter 1:6-7) This is something incredibly special, ladies, to be a part of and I know that the trials I've experienced have only made it more so. Don't be surprised, and don't ever waste your pain. Use it to draw very close to your Lord, sharing in His sufferings. He will give you joy beyond measure, peace that surpasses understanding, and life that is truly abundant!

Now as Peter says, "Peace be to all of you who are in Christ!" (1 Peter 5:14)



# *Sundays in the Life of Donna and Lisa*

Contributed by Donna Drion, wife of TMS alumnus Tom Drion

Clean the floors,  
check the toilets  
make a pot of tea.  
Serve the dinner,  
make it stretch  
for an extra three!

Buy the milk  
and the biscuits  
don't forget the cake.  
Serve it gladly, with a smile.  
Do it for His sake.

Move the tables,  
tidy Bibles  
and arrange the chairs.  
Then prepare to lead the children  
in their songs and prayers.

Do a sound check  
for the worship,  
get the songs just right.  
Then go and greet the guests -  
is the toddler still in sight?

Always ready,  
not too busy,  
not too solemn, glum or dotty.  
Remember they don't understand  
that my daughter needs the potty!

Glad hearts  
for growth in grace,  
and growth by ones and twos.  
But how long I've been standing!  
Why did I wear these shoes?

Tired children  
clinging on,  
making known their wishes.  
"Sorry dear, we can't leave yet  
with that sink still full of dishes!"

Heading home,  
singing songs.  
God is good, but it is late.  
Ah pastor's wife  
this coming year...  
**Must** learn to delegate!



Ladies Discipleship Group at Gracelife London

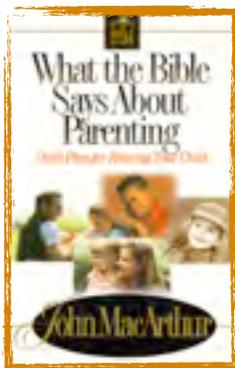
Donna Drion and Lisa Orgill moved to London, UK, in 2011 after their husbands, Tom and Ross graduated from TMS. The two families are involved in Gracelife London, a church plant in Central London. You can read more about the church at <http://www.gracelifelondon.org/index.html>

## Some Summer Reads

Reviewed by Elna Mitchell, wife of TMS student Ryan Mitchell

### What the Bible Says About Parenting: God's Plan for Rearing Your Child

By John MacArthur



A good friend and mentor recommended this book. What a treasure! Dr. MacArthur's book is jam-packed with Biblical parenting principles and tips on their practical application.

I particularly enjoyed the section on "Teaching your Children Wisdom," which includes a list of "Vital Lessons for Life" from Proverbs. Another section that I will certainly be revisiting often, is "Good News for your Children," in which Dr. MacArthur highlights the importance of teaching your children the WHOLE counsel of the Lord. He provides an outline of basic Christian doctrine, encouraging parents not to limit their teaching to certain aspects of the gospel; "... if you think your own grasp of spiritual truth is insufficient to teach these things to your children, you had better start learning immediately. God holds you responsible as a Christian, and not merely as a parent, to have enough knowledge of elementary gospel truth so that you can teach others (Hebrews 5:12)." (p. 65)

Another gem is found in an appendix entitled "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam?" by Phil Johnson. He describes his childhood experience singing this popular song. Although he liked the song, he did not grasp the figurative meaning. As parents and teachers, we often find teaching doctrine to our children a daunting task. Phil Johnson shares and discusses five principles:

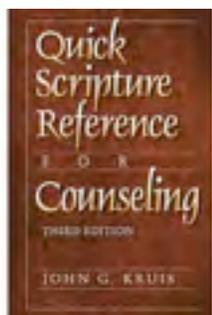
1. Understand that children can grasp the essence of almost any truth,
2. Avoid figurative language and unexplained symbolism,
3. Clearly separate reality from fantasy,
4. Find out what your children are thinking, and
5. Don't expect them to get the lesson the first time.

If asked to recommend a limited amount of books to new parents, this would certainly be on my list. At only 243 pages, it is not overwhelming, yet it covers much theological ground.

MacArthur, John F., Jr. *What the Bible Says About Parenting: God's Plan for Rearing Your Child*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2000. 256pp.

### Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling

By John C. Kruis



This book puts applicable Scriptures for common counseling topics at your finger tips. Hundreds of Scriptures are listed under headings such as Anger, Comfort, Hope, Fear. I use it not only as a quick reference for counseling and parenting, but as a tool for Scripture memory. The only element that might dissuade some Distaff readers, is that the NIV is the translation used.

Kruis, John. *Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. 208pp.

**"Even in its fallen condition, creation continues to emit the Creator's glory, a glow that can be found in the pages of great books."**

Tony Reinke, *Lit! A Christian Guide to Reading Books*, p.16

We include book reviews in The Distaff as we strive to help our readers "grow up into Him in all things" (Eph. 4:15).

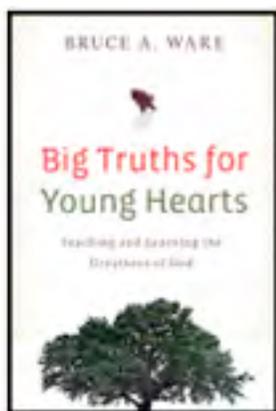
You can view previous book reviews at <http://www.tms.edu/semwivesweb/BookReviews.asp>

## Summer Reads

Continued

### Big Truths for Young Hearts: Teaching and Learning the Greatness of God

By Bruce Ware



I love this book. Those who know me, know that I often “fall” for books. But this is not a mere infatuation – this is the beginning of a long relationship. I will read this book again. Often. And I will recommend it not only to friends with young children, but also to new believers, and to anyone discipling new believers. If asked to explain the content in one sentence, I would call it an understandable, pithy, systematic theology. The book has nine sections, covering major doctrines.

Bruce Ware has succeeded in explaining difficult theological concepts in easy language without “dumbing it down.” He refers to the book as “primarily [as] the outgrowth of the many bedside theology talks this dad had the joy of having with his precious and much loved daughters.” (p.14) I hope to study it thoroughly with our children soon, but right now it is serving very well as a reference book for topical discussions.

Ware, Bruce. *Big Truth for Young Hearts: Teaching and Learning the Greatness of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009. 240pp.



## Back to School Tips

Use a muffin pan as craft caddy.  
Magnets hold the plastic cups down  
to prevent them from tipping over.



Forever losing your hairpins? Use  
a magnetic strip behind a vanity  
door. This could also be used for  
tweezers and clippers.

Prevent apples from browning in  
your lunch box by securing with a  
rubber band



# Recipe

## Ziploc® Omelets

Contributed by Teri White, wife of TMS Vice President for Development and Operations, Bob White

This recipe works very well; it's especially useful when you have a large number of guests. The best part is that no one has to wait for their special omelet as each person selects their own ingredients.

Start by asking guests to write their name on a quart-size Ziploc® freezer bag with permanent marker.

Crack 2 eggs (large or extra-large) into each bag (not more than 2) and shake to combine them, or beat the eggs in a small bowl before placing them in the bag.

Set out a variety of ingredients such as: grated cheese, ham, onion, green pepper, tomato, hash browns, and salsa.

Ask each guest to add the prepared ingredients they prefer to their bag and shake the closed bag to combine. Make sure to get the air out of the bag and zip it up.

Bring water to a boil in a large pot. You can cook 6-8 omelets in a large pot. To make more, use more pots. Place the **sealed** bags into boiling water for about 15 minutes.

Open the bags, being careful to avoid escaping steam and the omelet will roll out easily. Be prepared for everyone to be amazed.



### Contributing to The Distaff

SemWives (and TMS Alumni wives), we need your contributions!  
There are so many ways that we can serve each other -  
by sharing an encouraging testimony, an easy recipe, a few wise words...  
You can also contribute a book review or provide some helpful hints.

Please sign up with your table leaders or contact Elna Mitchell at [tmsdistaff@gmail.com](mailto:tmsdistaff@gmail.com).

# Wise Words for Wise Women

## Discipleship

Contributed by Barbara Barrick, wife of TMS Professor Bill Barrick

“The Great Command at the end of Matthew’s Gospel contains one main action: “make disciples” of Jesus Christ (28:18-20). But what is a disciple? A disciple (*mathetes*) is “one who follows one’s teaching ... not only a pupil, but an adherent.” This is probably why F. Wilbur Gingrich chose the word “apprentice.” Therefore, a disciple of Jesus Christ is not merely one who confesses Christ, though that certainly is true (Rom. 20:9), but one who intentionally attaches him- or herself to Him and adheres, or submits, to His commands as the new standard for living, and consequently becomes like Him. There can be no doubt that this is exactly what Jesus means in Luke 6:40: “A pupil [*mathetes*] is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, *will be like his teacher.*” ... A disciple of Jesus Christ is one who is committed to a lifelong process of growing in obedience to his Master’s commands and, by doing so, becomes like Him.” (p.26-27)

Tautges, Paul. *Counsel one another: A Theology of Personal Discipleship*. UK: Day One Publications, 2009.

This year through Seminary Wives Discipleship we have another opportunity for growth as we interact in our table groups and as we learn from the many helpful speakers. We can also be discipled by the finest Christian writers as we read their books. Many of us lead very busy lives but there is still time for reading our Bibles and for reading an additional good Christian book. Even with just a page a day, eventually we will finish a book. Scripture memory is important, too, so that God can bring His truth to mind in our daily lives. We can choose a verse, write it on a card, a mirror, a plate, or a window — anywhere where we will see it frequently and replace it as we learn the verses. May this be a year of exceptional spiritual growth for each of us.



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)

All Scripture is taken from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.

### PICTURE CREDITS

Pages 1, 6: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images>

Recipe and Wise Words: Contributor

Book review <http://www.gty.org/products/books/451130S> <http://www.christianbook.com/truths-young-hearts-teaching-learning-greatness/bruce-ware/9781433506017/pd/506017> <http://www.christianbook.com/quick-scripture-reference-for-counseling-ed/john-kruis/9780801091025/pd/91020>