



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!

Psalms 34:3

SUMMER

2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 19-23

New Student
Orientation

AUGUST 27

TMS Classes Begin

SEPTEMBER 7

TMS Fall Picnic

SEPTEMBER 11

SemWives
Leaders Only Meeting

SEPTEMBER 18

First SemWives
Testimonies

A Basket of Summer Fruit

By Susannah Spurgeon, written after the death of her beloved husband, C.H. Spurgeon



**"Whoever offers praise
glorifies Me."
Psalms 50:23**

"The time of the singing of birds is come," and from early morning until the sun sets, their sweet notes are a constant reminder of the duty and delight of thanksgiving. Out of the joy of their hearts they trill forth their gladness for the sunshine, and the opening flowers, and the unfolding leaves; and I have heard the same tender song when the rain has fallen, and cold winds have blown, and dark clouds have swept across the sky. Many a time have the birds in the garden sung a lesson in my listening ears, and rebuked my dullness or my unbelief, by their gleeful carolings.

Ah! dear friends, some of us do not praise our God half enough. We "raise an Ebenezer" now and then; but we pitifully fail to obey the command. "Rejoice in the Lord

always." Yet, how much we have to bless Him for, and what sweet encouragement is given to our gratitude by His assurance, "Whoever offers praise glorifies Me!" How often are we told, in His Word, that He takes delight in our thanksgivings and songs! The praise we render is dearer to Him than that of angels—for they cannot bless Him for redeeming love, for pardoned sin, and the blessed hope of resurrection glory.

Oh! is it not to the eternal praise of a covenant-keeping God, that poor pilgrims, wandering through a wilderness, and having to wage constant war with the world, the flesh, and the devil, should yet be enabled to sing gloriously, as they put their enemies to flight, and overcome by the blood of the Lamb? It is the overcoming ones who learn to praise. The fingers which can most adroitly use the *sword*, are the most skillful in touching the *harp*. Each time God gives us the victory over sin, we learn a new song with which to laud and bless His holy Name. ▷

◁ Does it not make your heart leap to know that your Lord takes pleasure in your praise? In His ears are ever sounding the eternal symphonies of the universe—that majestic chorus which began "when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy;" but He turns from these to you, and with infinite tenderness and love, bends to listen to the grateful songs of His redeemed ones, as they bless Him for all His benefits.

The feeble notes uttered on earth by a truly thankful and sanctified heart must, I think, swell into anthems of glorious melody as they rise to the throne of God!

(source: http://gracegems.org/SERMONS2/a_basket_of_summer_fruit.htm.)



The Master's Seminary Wives Discipleship 2013/14

Theme for the year:
Equipping to do God's Will

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.
Amen

For more information, go to <http://www.tms.edu/semwivesweb/>

To register for the Fall, go to <http://www.tms.edu/swdb/signup.aspx>

New wives, please note that you need to register your children - for younger children, register them for nursery when you sign up. Older children (from age 3) can be involved in Cubbies, Awana, Junior High or High school ministries. To register for these, go to the Childrens Ministry page at <http://www.gracechurch.org/ministries/about.aspx?ministryid=7>

How God Opened the Eyes of My Heart

Contributed by Jhansi Rani Avula, wife of TMS student Daniel Avula

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God for this opportunity to share my witness as I came from the Hindu religion, which is an Indian religion that has millions of gods and goddesses – each with different powers, providing for different wants or needs. For example, for wealth and health they worship a god called Saraswathi Devi; for food, Annapoorna; for power, Durga Devi; and for education Lord Ganesha (son of Lord Shiva and Parvati); and on and on, literally with millions of gods.

Hindus have to follow many rules to perform pooja (worship), like fasting on certain special occasions. If these rules are not followed, they believe they will receive punishments from the specific god who was worshiped improperly. For example, there is a festival called Maha Shivarathri —the favorite day and re-marriage day of Lord Shiva (a male God). Shiva wears serpents on his neck denoting wisdom and eternity. To worship him, Hindus have to fast early in the morning, take some cow's milk and an egg to pour on the termites for Shiva's snakes. In my home town, snakes are found in termites, so we would have to walk miles in search of termites to do this. If I didn't do this, my elders told me I would lose my hearing. There are many more rules like this, in one word it's a legalistic religion.

I had many doubts about God being in all these different forms from my childhood. My doubts remained unanswered and kept growing stronger as I grew up. I asked questions, like "Why should there be many different gods? Can't there be one God for all needs or wants or purposes or with all powers? Why do their faces look weird or scary? God's face should be so pleasant! Why is it that women can't worship during their monthly cycles? Shouldn't we worship God always or everyday? Can I be a child of God?"

I was educated in a Seventh-Day Adventist school until Grade 10. Everyday the school started with worship time when we sang two or three worship

songs and then heard a Bible story. During this time, I used to be very happy deep in my heart — joyful, whereas I was not happy at home in worship. Slowly, I understood that there is a difference between the worship I practiced at home and the worship I did at school.



Occasionally our school teachers used to visit our home, and share the gospel, and ask us to come to church. So my parents used to send us to church for Sunday School and vacation Bible school now and then. There I learned about God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ more clearly. They gave us a small New Testament which I used to read everyday except on menstrual days thinking that I should not touch the Bible as it is holy.

When I went to pre-university (that is Grade 11), some of my friends invited me to an open meeting conducted through a UESI (Union of Evangelical Students of India) group, which works among colleges to spread the gospel to students. After obtaining my dad's permission, I attended that meeting during which God spoke to me from His word through John 1:12, which was an answer to one of my questions — that I can be child of God, if I accept Jesus Christ as my God. ▷

**But to all who did receive him,
who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God**

John 1:12

◁ After regular follow-ups and gatherings I learned more about God, and what it meant that He is my Savior. I learned about my sin, about heaven, hell, and leading a spiritual life to bring glory to God. I also learned why and how to read Bible.

By God's grace I was married to a believer and we have been blessed with two boys — Prabhu and Joseph. It took a year for me to witness and stand firm as Christ's believer in my in-laws' house. We are still praying for their salvation. God has been using us in many ways as His witness; wherever we live, we have strengthened many families and individuals in Christ. Please pray that we will continue to be His witnesses.

**For they themselves report
concerning us
the kind of reception
we had among you,
and how you turned to God
from idols to serve
the living and true God,
and to wait for his Son from heaven,
whom he raised from the dead,
Jesus who delivers us
from the wrath to come.**

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

The Master's Seminary International Fellowship



International students - take note!

Come spend the day with your fellow international student families, TMS faculty and staff. This special time of fellowship will take place at the Ryan's home in Malibu on

July 13th, 2013 at

11 o'clock in the morning.

Don't forget beach towels, beach chairs or blankets, sunscreen and your appetite.

Lunch will be provided and fellowship will conclude at 4.30pm.

Those wanting to spend time on the beach, just head two and a half miles down the road to Zuma Beach.

Please RSVP to cdixon@tms.edu by June 28, 2013.

If you did not receive an e-mail with further information, Christine Dixon will be able to provide it.



The Motive Police

Contributed by Lisa Hughes, seasoned pastor's wife and a favorite SemWives speaker, wife of pastor, teacher, writer, and TMS alumnus, Dr. Jack Hughes

Dear Seminary Wife,

Sometimes the nitty-gritty of ministry can leave us wondering, *What do I do next?* and *How am I supposed to respond to this?* Thankfully, our ministry warrior/guru, Paul, not only encountered many of the issues we will face in our ministries, but also wrote about his response to these less-than-heavenly situations. One such real to life scenario is found in the book of Philippians and we'd be wise to take note of what Paul has to say.

When Paul writes his letter to the Philippians from prison he begins as he always does with words of commendation and encouragement. He takes time to encourage this dear group of believers knowing that his incarceration was the cause of fear and anxiety for some of them, while others were emboldened to share Christ even more. And then he talks about the unique response of a third group of people in Philippi. He says this about them in Philippians 1:15-17:



“Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the

gospel; the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.”

As you and your husband minister wherever the Lord takes you, you'll run into all kinds of folks, and no matter where you end up you'll discover the three groups mentioned above. You'll find those brave souls who grow bolder and more full of faith when persecutions and trials come upon the church. You'll also encounter those who grow fearful in times of difficulty and uncertainty. Yet, even they can be bolstered in

their faith as you strengthen them with the Word. But the last group can be a head-scratcher—what to do with them?

What do we know about this third group of people? According to verses 15-17 they preach Christ, nothing wrong with that. Oh wait, the text says they do this from *envy and strife*. Hmmm, there is something wrong with that. We also learn they proclaim Christ *out of selfish ambition*. And not only that, they have another rather base motive, they preached to cause Paul *distress in his imprisonment*. They preached Christ because they hoped to hurt him. That's really just mean, isn't it? And yet, if it happened to Paul, it's also quite likely that we'll encounter something similar in our own ministries, which is why we need to examine Paul's response to these “little blessings.”

Now I don't know about you, but when I know someone is doing something from bad motives like Paul is describing here, I want to become a baseball ref and yell, “Yer out!” But what is Paul's response? Verse 18 tells us, *“What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.”*

Though he knows some are ministering with wrong motives, he also realizes he's not the motive police. Instead, Paul leans on the Lord and continues to trust Him to sanctify these fellow brothers in the Lord. If we made it our mission to monitor everyone's motives, the real work of the ministry wouldn't be done. Paul sees their wrong attitudes, knows they need to be fixed, but he determines not to be distracted by them. It can really needle us to know someone is ministering with wrong motives, which is why Paul's response is so valuable for us. ▷

◁ If we read between the lines a bit I think we can see Paul's determination to trust the Lord in these circumstances too. Notice the end of verse 18, *"Whether in pretense or in truth—Christ is proclaimed; and in this I will rejoice...yes....and I WILL rejoice."* He's not going to take his eyes off Jesus here. He's going to trust the One who knows the thoughts and intentions of every man; the Judge of all the earth will make everything all right. In fact, he says that very thing in 1 Corinthians 4:5 when he encounters a similar situation. He says, *"Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."* The Lord sees and we need to wait upon Him, trusting Him to make all things right.

So what are some practical responses for us if (or when) this happens to us?

1. Know that the Lord is sovereign over every event in your life and is using this difficulty for good. Remember Joseph's gracious and healing words in Genesis 50:20? *"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."* No matter what happens you may be certain of this: other people may do evil toward you or have evil motives, but the Lord sees it all and will not allow anything that He doesn't want to have happen.

2. You don't need to be the motive police as we saw in 1 Corinthians 4:5. If the person with wrong motives is within your ministry, then it may be appropriate to talk with them about what you see. But if the person is outside your ministry—at another church or in another sphere of ministry at your church—it's probably wisest to respond as Paul did here. If you start policing other people's ministries you'll get a reputation for being a busybody. Paul was always direct and faithful to reprove sin, but he was also patient, waiting upon the Lord to work on hearts. He possessed godly wisdom and skill in handling these situations and we'll need to do the same.

3. Apply 1 Peter 5:6-7: *"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He*

may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." Humbling ourselves before the Lord and not fighting for our rights, our position, or our rank is always a wise response.

4. Finally, remember that these people are fellow brothers or sisters in the Lord, misguided though they may be. It's that understanding that moves Paul to write as he does at the end of his letter to the Philippians when he's addressing the Euodia/Syntyche problem in chapter 4 verse 3, *"Indeed, true comrade, I ask you to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life."* Someday we'll all be in heaven together—holy, blameless, no longer just a shadow of Christ, but truly and completely like Him. We'll be there in heaven worshiping the Lord and so will they.

Charles Spurgeon translated the following German poem about God's sovereignty over the circumstances of our lives and I think it's a good reminder for us.

**"God is God; He sees and hears
All our troubles, all our tears.
Soul, forget not, 'mid thy pains,
God o'er all for ever reigns."**

**"Fear not death, nor Satan's thrusts,
God defends who in him trusts;
Soul, remember, in thy pains,
God o'er all for ever reigns."**

**"For this life's long night of sadness
He will give us peace and gladness.
Soul, remember, in thy pains,
God o'er all for ever reigns."**

There are always surprises in the ministry, but our dear brother Paul, who went before us, provides us with great encouragement. Let me close with his words from Philippians 1:27:

"Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."

Fierce Women: The Power of a Soft Warrior

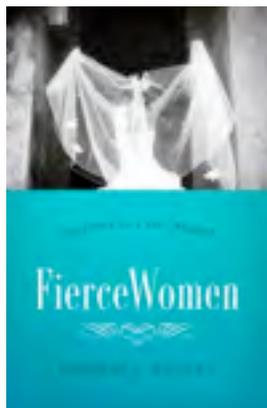
By Kimberley Wagner

Reviewed by Christa Lambin, wife of TMS student Jeffry Lambin

Kimberly Wagner, pastor's wife, blogger, and guest speaker for the "Revive Our Hearts" radio program, has written a book with the surprising title of *Fierce Women: The Power of a Soft Warrior*. I first heard about *Fierce Women* when I won it in a drawing. Wagner's story tells how the Lord worked on her heart to transform her from a "fierce woman" in her marriage, to become a "soft warrior" both in her marriage and in ministering to other women.

Wagner begins the book by comparing the different ways women are fierce: sometimes in a bad way, and other times in a God-glorifying manner. She states that the latter type of fierce woman is a "quiet but courageous martyr who is willing to die for her faith" (Wagner, 15). This may seem extreme, but truly, we are called to be martyrs every day as we die to self. This is what we as Christian women are called to do and it's not an easy road.

At the end of every chapter, Wagner gives discussion questions or personal devotions that address the heart of the issues presented. In them she includes various verses or passages from scripture such as 1 John and Ephesians. The questions are good for personal study and also could be useful in groups to promote transparency and call for accountability and change.



The earliest chapters of the book are devoted to how women got to where they are today through topics such as the Fall in Genesis and the feminism of today and pointing out that women cannot live in a way that is pleasing to God on their own. We need the Holy Spirit's strength. We need Christ. I love that she brings up the gospel in its

entirety at the beginning of the book, reminding readers where true life and change is really found. Following the gospel and her personal testimony, Wagner deals with what she calls, "The Deadly Three" (ingratitude, pride, and fear) and "The Life-Giving Trio" (humility, grace, and love). Women must be characterized by humility, grace and love in order to be fierce in their love and support for their husbands.

The rest of the book uses the word "APPRECIATION" to help women understand and remember how to appreciate their husbands in a godly, fierce way.

A: Admire and Affirm
P: Put Yourself in His Skin
P: Pray Like you Mean It
R: Release Your Prisoner--Your Will
E: Encourage His Leadership
C: Contentment--Grab on and Don't Let Go!
I: Invest in Him
A: Accept Him
T: Treat Him Like a Man!
I: Intimate Connections
O: Only a Word
N: Never Give Up!

Reading this book again has given me the opportunity to look back since I read it last and see how much I've changed and how my answers to the questions have drastically improved. Although not specifically written for them, it will be especially helpful for pastor's wives who are called to lead as loving, supportive examples. Someday, Lord willing, when Jeff and I are blessed to be in ministry somewhere, I would love to go through this book with our elders' wives, then encourage them to share it with other women who may be struggling with the fierceness of women in of our society and yet wanting to please God.

Wagner, Kimberley. *Fierce Women - The Power of a Soft Warrior*. Moody Publishers, 2012. 288pp.

Recipes

Tilapia Burger

Contributed by Elena Brefo,
wife of TMS student Obed Brefo



For 6 burgers:

- 1 lb. fresh (or thawed) tilapia fillets (or other soft white fish)
- 2/3 cup seasoned panko breadcrumbs
- 1 large egg + 1 egg white, lightly beaten
- 2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. paprika/cayenne
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. dried basil (optional)
- Oil for cooking
- Cheese slices (optional for cheese "burgers")

Add uncooked tilapia to a food processor and pulse until chopped. Transfer to a bowl and add egg, panko crumbs, garlic, mustard, salt, pepper, paprika and basil. Combine well, then form tilapia mixture into patties (form tightly with your hands, trying to prevent cracking). Refrigerate for a few hours.

Heat some oil in a skillet over medium heat. Cook patties until golden, about 3-4 minutes per side. Repeat with remaining burgers. Add cheese to melt on burgers right before they're done.

Top the burger with a salsa made from avocado, mango/watermelon, green onion, olive oil and lemon juice; and serve on a burger bun.

Watermelon Salsa

- 1 cup cubed watermelon, chopped
- 1/4 green onion, chopped
- Juice of 1 lime (or lemon)
- 1 avocado, sliced

While burgers are cooking, combine watermelon, onion, lime juice with a pinch of salt.



Tilapia



Tilapia go by many names. The aquaculture of [Nile tilapia](#) goes back to [Ancient Egypt](#), where it was represented by the [hieroglyph](#) K1, of the [Gardiner List](#).

Tilapia were one of the three main types of fish caught in Biblical times from the Sea of Galilee. At that time were called *musht*, or commonly now even "St. Peter's fish". The name "St. Peter's fish" comes from the story in the [Gospel of Matthew](#) about the apostle [Peter](#) catching a fish that [carried a coin in its mouth](#), though the passage does not name the fish.[2] While the name also applies to [Zeus faber](#), a marine fish not found in the area, a few tilapia species ([Sarotherodon galilaeus galilaeus](#) and others) are found in the [Sea of Galilee](#), where the author of the Gospel of Matthew accounts the event took place. These species have been the target of small-scale [artisanal fisheries](#) in the area for thousands of years.[3][4]

The common name tilapia is based on the name of the [cichlid genus Tilapia](#), which is itself a latinisation of *thiape*, the [Tswana](#) word for "fish". [5] [Scottish zoologist Andrew Smith](#) named the genus in 1840.[6]

Source: <http://www.ask.com/wiki/Tilapia?o=2800&qsrc=999>

Practical Hints

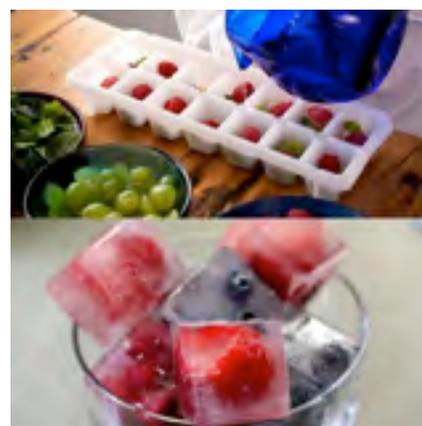
Source: www.pinterest.com



Use a peeler to cut onions into thin strips instead of chopping it.



Place pastry or frosting bag in a glass and pour contents in instead of spooning it in.



Freeze pieces of various berries and mint in an ice tray. Add a juicy ice cube when you serve a refreshing glass of water.



Cut the top of an apple, remove the contents and fill it with caramel or almond sauce and serve as a dip.



Children will love preparing their own pasta - Cut sausages in pieces, stick a couple of spaghetti through each and cook.



Put cuttings of herbs such as parsley, cilantro, rosemary, mint, basil etc. in an ice tray. Add olive oil and freeze. Next time you cook, you can use these instant flavor enhancers.

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.

Our Layout Editor will be leaving for ministry with her husband when he graduates in December. Please let us know if you would be interested in taking over this ministry.

Wise Words for Wise Women

Trust and Obey

Contributed by Elna Mitchell, wife of TMS student Ryan Mitchell



We are all called to preach the gospel. Recently I have been reminded through Scripture, sermons, books and conversations, that we are to guard against watering down the gospel.

Jesus is LORD! And yielding to Him in faith requires that we serve Him wholeheartedly. We are to trust AND obey.

May we live in obedience to our Lord and preach the true gospel.

Scripture teaches that the object of faith is Christ Himself, not a creed or a promise (John 3:16). Faith therefore involves personal commitment to Christ (2 Cor. 5:15). In other words, all true believers follow Jesus (John 10:27-28). In contrast, easy-believism teaches that saving faith is simply being convinced or giving credence to the truth of the gospel and does not include a personal commitment to the person of Christ.*

* Excerpt from Grace Community Church Distinctive on Lordship Salvation:
http://www.gracechurch.org/distinctives/lordship_salvation/

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, 4, 7 8,9: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images>

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