



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

OCTOBER
2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 3

The Fruitfulness Of Affliction
Dr. & Mrs. Matt Waymeyer

OCTOBER 10

Grace Is Abounding
Dr. & Mrs. Bill Shannon

OCTOBER 17

Small Group Evening
No Speaker

OCTOBER 24

Hold On To Grace
Dr. Bill Barrick

OCTOBER 31

Personal Worship
Panel

Sitting at the Feet of Jesus

**Contributed by Missy Mehringer, wife of TMS Vice President
for Admissions and Placement, Ray Mehringer**

Are you characterized by enjoying time sitting at Jesus' feet, soaking in His Word? Or are you more the server? Busy. Doing. Caring for others. The Lord gives us instruction in Luke 10 concerning the contrast between these two views by looking at the lives of Mary and Martha. Both roles are necessary in the Christian life-being a Mary and being a Martha. John MacArthur says Mary was devoted, but Martha was distracted. Martha had some commendable qualities as she was hospitable and addressed Jesus as Lord. Yet she was guilty of grumbling and questioning the Lord's character. Mary chose the better part. Ministry cannot come before devotion to Christ and his Word.

Like Mary, Paul was single minded in his focus on devotion to Christ (Phil 3:7-11). Job said the Word was more important to him than daily food (Job 23:12). Now we

women love food! We are either thinking about the next meal, or planning for, shopping, cooking, eating or cleaning up after meals. But how much more important it is to be nourished each day by the life giving truth of nothing less than the mind of Christ. When we spend time daily with our Lord and His Word, meditating on the truths we learn (as Mary did) He will transform our hearts for service (like Martha). But the difference between our service and Martha's is that we will be able to serve with joy as the Holy Spirit leads us. So by all means, be a Martha in serving your family, ministering in the church and those whom God brings to you, but always precede any work for Christ by taking the time to sit, worship and learn from Him. This can be a challenge for busy moms, but may I encourage you to start with 10 minutes a day in the Word, increasing from there as the Lord gives time.

Spurgeon said "The way to get revival is to begin at the Master's feet, you must go there with Mary and afterwards you may work with Martha.... Begin yourself with the Master, and then go outward to His service, but plans of action must be secondary." So ladies, as you prepare to serve alongside your husband in the work the Lord has for you, be a student of the Word. Sit at Jesus' feet each and every day. This is our most important charge as Christian women!

Charles Spurgeon, sermon entitled "Mary and Martha". <http://www.spurgeongems.org/vols16-18/chs927.pdf>.

John MacArthur, "Devoted or Distracted?" (sermon on Luke 10:38-42, Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, CA, 2011), <http://gccwaverly.net/2011/10/31/1129/> (accessed 24 Sept 2012).

Job 23:12
**"I have not departed from the command of His lips;
I have treasured the words of His mouth
more than my necessary food.**

Pumpkin Centerpieces

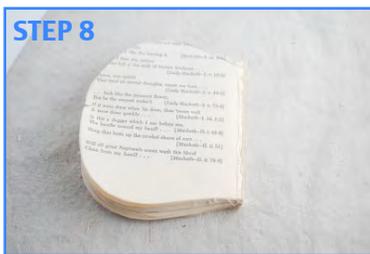
**Contributed by Karen Busenitz, wife of Vice President for Academic Administration,
Professor of Bible Exposition, Professor of Old Testament, Irv Busenitz**

Supplies: Scissors, a discarded book, a pencil, a stiff piece of paper for making a pattern (template), white craft glue or glue gun, craft knife (optional, but helpful), stick from your garden, leaves (real or artificial).

Directions

1. Measure the book you want to cut.
2. Make a pumpkin shaped template slightly smaller using a sheet of paper. For a symmetrical template: fold the paper in half, draw half a pumpkin (see picture), flat enough on the bottom so it will sit, then cut out half the desired shape so that unfolded you have your complete pumpkin shape.
3. Remove the book's cover and place the pumpkin template on the book, with the fold on the binding edge.
4. Trace around the template with a pencil.
5. To cut your pumpkin, cut through 5-6 pages at a time. Scissors may be easier to use for cutting on the line or you can use a craft knife, especially near the binding,
6. After you cut all the way around, pull the excess pages over to the binding and they should tear right off.
7. Repeat the same process (trace, then cut), with the next 5-6 pages, until all the pages are done.
Tip: cut slightly inside the pencil mark, or your pumpkin will keep getting bigger.





8. Now put a thin strip of glue on the very edge of the front page. (Hot glue is suggested.) Bring the book's back page around and attach it to the front page, keeping the outside edges of the pumpkin shape as even as possible.



9. Add a strip of hot glue to the inside edge of the front page, and glue to the next page.

10. When you stand your pumpkin up, it will probably look something like this: Don't panic! It just needs to be "fluffed".



Just go around pulling the pages apart and arranging them how you want them. If there is a space where the pages refuse to come together, add a little hot glue right at the inside seam. When you are done, it should look more like this: It's OK that there are some spaces. You will be able to fix this later.

11. To add color, use spray paint. Be careful not to drench the pages.

12. Now it's time to add the stem. You can use a stick from your garden, even glued the length of the spine before joining front and back, or choose to use artificial leaves and stem. If you use a natural stem, wrap a ribbon around the stem to add color and hide the glue. Use different size books to create different size objects. Use your own creativity to make other objects using this same method.



Please join the Women's Ministry of Grace Community Church on Saturday, October 13th for a wonderful morning of praise and fellowship as we gather together to learn about and practice prayer. Come worship, rejoice, and pray with Beth Busenitz, Logan Carr, Lisa Martin and Dolores Michaelson.

There will be registration and a continental breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., then the program begins at 9 in the sanctuary and will be done at 12:30. The cost for the morning is \$12, which is non-refundable. Current SemWives are able to attend the event at no cost. Nursery care is available for birth through pre-kindergarten through advance registration only. To register, simply click [here](#), or call the women's ministries' office at Grace Community Church for additional help: 818-909-5500.



Peculiarities

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

This is the first in a series of letters to SemWives that Lisa Hughes will be contributing to the *Distaff* this year. As a seasoned ministry wife she has agreed to pass along to "newer" ministry wives some of the lessons the Lord has taught her through the years.

Dear Seminary Wife,

"Our peculiar corruptions are often brought out by the peculiarities of others."

R. C. Chapman, an English pastor during the 1800's, has an interesting point about how our idiosyncrasies, our weaknesses, even our sins can have a ripple effect in our homes and ministries. I've thought on this myself as I've seen its truthfulness borne out, but I've never been able to articulate it as well as R. C. Chapman has in the quotation above which you can find at <http://www.dustandashes.com/846.htm>.

Let me reword Chapman's quote just a bit, "*Other people's* peculiar corruptions [their sins or weaknesses] are often brought out by *your* peculiarities—you know: your funny little preferences, your weaknesses, and your sins." You may not have experienced this yourself, but I have, and with dismay I might add, as this phenomenon has shown up in my life.

I've seen *my* negative comments about someone or something affect how my husband responds to that person or situation; how *my* lack of enthusiasm for different people or ministries has shown up in my kids not wanting to attend or serve in that ministry; how *my* "concerns" blossom into fears in others when I haven't been careful to guard my thoughts. My opinions as the pastor's wife, uttered a little too freely, can create a "Lisa Hughes doesn't like that so we better not do it" atmosphere. I've seen...oh dear, you don't really need me to keep sharing my own "peculiar corruptions," do you? I'm sure you get the point.

And the point is this: how you live, speak, and think affects your husband, your family, and even your ministry in the church — for good and for bad. Our "peculiarities," as Chapman calls them, can't be left unattended. You have a unique and wonderful opportunity as a ministry wife to make an impact upon the kingdom of God. These seminary years, these years of preparation, are so valuable. They give you an opportunity to work on those little bents, tendencies, and weaknesses. If left unattended they will only continue to grow into something less endearing than they are at this time in your life. Now, while you enjoy a somewhat quiet and private life (as opposed to the public one you will have as a ministry wife), is the time to seek the Lord and pay attention to any areas of weakness, idiosyncrasies, or sinful tendencies He has brought to your attention.

Now I don't want to make you feel so self-conscious that you don't dare open your mouth, but as someone who has been around awhile, I can attest to the truth of Chapman's observation. Our lives affect others. It is the Lord's wonderful will that we influence each other along this pilgrim path. But He doesn't leave us to our own devices. He will help us and cause us to grow in the ways He intends.

Meditate on these verses - Psalm 16:7, Psalm 57:2, Philipians 2:13, 1 Thessalonians 5:24, Psalm 139:23-24, and Psalm 57:2 - as you consider your "peculiarities" and remember that He who began a good work in you will complete it (Phil. 1:6).

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Lisa Hughes

Verses for Meditation

From Lisa Hughes

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.

Philippians 1:6



I will bless the Lord who has counseled me;
Indeed, my mind instructs me in the night.

Psalm 16:7



I will cry to God Most High,
To God who accomplishes all things for me.

Psalm 57:2



Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and
know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any
hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

Psalm 139:23-24



For it is God who is at work in you,
both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Philippians 2:13



Faithful is He who calls you,
and He also will bring it to pass.

1 Thessalonians 5:24



Christ Formed in You

By Brian G. Hedges

Reviewed by Donna Shannon, wife of
Grace Church Pastor—Discipleship Counseling, Staff Elder, Bill Shannon

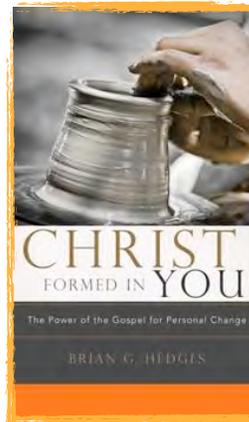
A popular wall hanging and sticker philosophy today declares “Life is a beautiful journey.” For the Christian this is quintessentially true. The Christian's journey is following Jesus. The destination is clear – being conformed to the image of Christ. Genesis tells us God made man in His *image*, but sin marred or broke that *image* requiring restoration in order to mirror or *reflect* God's character as we were created to do.

Brian Hedges' book, *Christ Formed in You* masterfully unfolds the journey of “*shattered mirrors*” being restored into “*glorious ruins*”; the sanctification process. He delves deeply into what the “*Gracious Rescue*” is and what it entails, stating, “The gospel is nothing less than the redemption of fallen human beings and the perfect, complete restoration of our broken world.” (p.28) Quoting John Owen he says, “Holiness is nothing but the implanting, writing, and realizing of the gospel on our souls.” (p.23)

The subtitle of the book, *The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change*, describes the path on which Hedges leads his readers. He contends that a weak grasp of the gospel is a hindrance to holiness. Therefore, in the first section Hedges lays the foundation for the journey with a thorough and penetrating study of the Gospel and all it accomplishes. This study of the Gospel will exhilarate even the most mature believer in a fresh way.

In the next section the believer is motivated to pursue the process of sanctification in the pattern for change in four areas: being captivated by our Lord's beauty, killing sin, growing in grace and the quest for joy.

The third and final section focuses on the tools that God uses as the means of spiritual transformation. Hedges offers sage and practical advice, direction and counsel regarding spiritual disciplines, suffering, and personal relationships.



We must be destination driven by the Hope of Glory on our quest for spiritual maturity (2 Cor. 3:18). Author Brian Hedges encourages, “God changes us by giving us a vision of His glory revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ” (foreword). As we **Behold** our Lord Jesus we **Become** like Him. I heartily encourage all believers to include this insightful, theologically balanced book as a worthy companion on the journey toward holiness.

Brian Hedges. *Christ Formed in You: The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change*. Wapwallopen, PA: Shepherd Press, 2010. 304pp.

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.

Recipe

Vegetable Saute

Contributed by Verity Pickering, wife of TMS student Reuben Pickering

Those who don't like carrots and parsnips, will be surprised by how delicious they are when prepared this way. Get creative, and try using other autumn vegetables like turnips, squash or golden beetroots. Enjoy :)

3 Tbsp. olive oil
1 Tbsp. coarsely chopped fresh parsley
1½ tsp. balsamic vinegar
¼ c. maple syrup
½ tsp. finely grated lemon zest
¼ tsp. cumin
¼ tsp. sugar
freshly ground black pepper
1¾ tsp. Kosher or sea salt
3½ c. carrots, peeled and diced into ½ inch pieces
2 medium-sized purple-topped turnips, scrubbed, trimmed, unpeeled, cut into ½ inch cubes
5 shallots (or small onions) cut lengthwise into 6 wedges each
2 oz. kale, stems removed, cut in half lengthwise, and then thinly sliced crosswise ¼ inch thick

Directions:

Combine ½ Tbsp. of the olive oil with the parsley, vinegar, maple syrup, lemon zest, cumin, sugar, and several grinds of pepper in a small bowl. Mix well and set aside. In a 12-inch nonstick skillet, heat the remaining 2 Tbsp. of olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the carrots, turnips, and 1½ tsp. salt. Toss well to coat the vegetables with the oil. (The pan will look crowded.) Reduce the heat to medium, cover partially, and cook, stirring and flipping every 3 to 4 minutes with a spatula, for about 10 minutes. Add the shallots and ¼ tsp. salt and stir well.

Cover partially and continue to cook, stirring every 1 to 2 minutes, until the vegetables are tender and well-browned. This will take 18 to 20 minutes. Reduce the heat if the vegetables brown too quickly. Reduce the heat to medium low and add the kale, gently mixing until wilted. Stir in the parsley-maple sauce to taste, and remove the pan from the heat. Season to taste with more salt and pepper, and serve warm.

DICING IT?



LARGE DICE

¾ inch x ¾ inch x ¾ inch

MEDIUM DICE

½ inch x ½ inch x ½ inch

SMALL DICE

¼ inch x ¼ inch x ¼ inch

For more on Culinary Knife Skills:

<http://culinaryarts.about.com/od/culinaryfundamentals/qt/knifecuts.htm>

Psalm 139:23–24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

Wise Words for Wise Women

Listening to God

Contributed by Janie Street, wife of TMS Faculty Associate, Pastoral Ministry and TMC Chair of the Biblical Counseling Department, Dr. John Street



“There is no arguing that not listening to God is the single most dangerous mistake humankind has made. Not listening ruined Adam and mankind with him, brought on the demise of Babel, incited God's wrath in the flood, ripped the kingdom from Saul, divided the Israelite throne through Solomon, decimated the Northern kingdom and exiled the Southern one, burned down Jerusalem, and sent millions to hell. There's no end to the misery not listening to God will yet bring. 'This is my beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased. LISTEN TO HIM.'”

Jim Elliff on Matthew 17:5, October 1, 2011 on Facebook.

Editors' note: Jim Elliff is a pastor in Kansas City, MO, and also the head of a ministry known as Christian Communicators Worldwide.

PICTURE CREDITS

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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.

Pages 1, 4, 7: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images>

Recipe: Contributor

Page 3: <http://www.gracechurch.org/ministries/womens/Custom.aspx?PageID=359>

Pumpkin, pages 2,3: <http://www.creationsbykara.com/2011/09/book-page-pumpkin-tutorial.html>

Book review <http://introducingchristformedinyou.blogspot.com/>