

Women's Life



August 2004

So Much to Read... So Little Time

By the time summer vacation rolls around, the stack of "I'll read these this summer" books towers precariously on the dining room table. Francis Bacons wrote in *Of Studies* that "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested; that is, some books are to be read only in parts; others to be read, but not curiously; and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention." What follows are my comments about "tasted, swallowed whole and chewed and digested" books. Please add your own selections and ideas. Write them down and drop them off in the church office and we'll publish your choices in another issue of *Women's Life*.

I like to taste from a variety of Christian classic devotionals during the summer, whether *Streams in the Desert*, *My Utmost for His Highest*, or Spurgeon's *Morning and Evening*. Why not try using one for June, another for July, and a third for August? Although the daily readings are short, they will be a full tasting intellectually and spiritually.

Novels read for fun can be swallowed whole. Are there books that you never got around to reading in high school or college? Or an author you'd like to sample? I dipped into Hemingway one summer, gulping through four of his novels and a short story collection. Rather than lingering over the sordid details of characters in Hemingway's writings, I looked instead into the life of a defeated man who had won the most prestigious of writing awards but who had failed at life. Another summer I purchased a short story collection by Flannery O'Connor. I hadn't planned on swallowing these, but Flannery's depictions of stark evil made me read fast and then quit before I finished all the stories. On a happier note, I have consumed much historical fiction, especially series by Brock and Bodie Thoene. Do you like mysteries or detective novels? Tuck in a paperback when you head to the pool this summer and read for fun. Our children should not think of reading for fun as an oxymoron!

Then come the books to be thought through, those we should ponder. The first book should be the Scriptures. Try a new translation or a paraphrase

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Calendar
Point of View
Summer Salads

this summer. My reading will come from the English Standard Version and The Message. I find that I slow down and listen better when I'm not overly familiar with the text. Other books in the stack include Rick Warren's *The Purpose Driven Church*, Philip Yancy's *Rumors*, Gordon MacDonald's *Ordering Your Private World*, David Powlison's *Seeing with New Eyes*, and Shannon Ethridge's *Every Woman's Battle*.

If reading intimidates you, then start by joining a group. May I suggest the women's Sunday School class at 9:30? They are reading and discussing Carolyn Custis James' book, *When Life and Beliefs Collide*. Once you begin sipping one chapter a week, you may want to plunge in with other books; many good selections come through M&M's (or Marys and Marthas). Happy reading.

Flo Wolfe



Kid stuff driving you up the wall?

We often forget that the walls can be part of the solution to kid-room-clean-up. These tips came from the *Hearts at Home* e-newsletter:

- Hat racks, expandable or pegged, make wonderful hooks for stuffed animals, dress up clothes, hats (I just had to state the obvious here), jackets, back packs, and book bags. I once saw an entire wall of a kid's room lined with pegged hat racks, creating a chair rail. The pegs were at eye level for the little ones, who hung stuffed animals from ribbons, hats, totes filled with blocks and various lightweight kid treasures.
- Install shelves and paint them to match the wall.
- Hang toy hammocks for stuffed animals.
- Spray paint a long shower tension rod, wrap with Velcro strips, and stick up stuffed animals.
- Old soda crates found at flea markets can be cleaned up, painted, and will house treasures of all kinds: collections (shells, rocks, key rings, kids' meal toys). Smaller versions can be purchased at craft and discount stores.

“A two-year-old is like a blender without the top on.”

Jerry Seinfeld

Point of View *(women in missions)*

Question: We hear about what's going on in the work there, but woman-to-women, can we pray for you as you go about your daily routine?

Caroll Mantell writes: For me, serving here in the U.S. at the moment, my biggest prayer requests are that I'd stay deeply in the Word, maintain an attitude of gratitude, and keep my priorities straight.

(Caroll and her husband, Bob, are working with Wycliffe Bible Translators at JAARS in North Carolina.)

Eleanor Fiol writes: There is one request I have that your ladies (especially the older ones) would understand and that I wouldn't put so directly in the general prayer requests.

I am just recovering from a week of travel and then 10 days of a very strenuous Vacation Bible School program. I feel like I have jet lag. I think I'm back to normal and then I get tired and groggy all over again. I have those dark circles under my eyes—you know.

Please have your ladies pray that I will have wisdom to control my activities and regulate my strength in this old age period (I turned 65 in January) so that I will last as long as possible. David shows no signs whatsoever of slowing down. I always thought it was better to “burn out” than to “rust out”, but now I am rethinking that. Not that I want to rust out. But I'm thinking that burning out may not be such a good idea either.

It's hard to be saying no when there are so many needs and so many people we care about here. And the older you get the more needs and relationships there are.

(Eleanor and her husband, David, are currently serving at a Christian School in India.)

Ginger Boyd writes: Missionary work, especially as a single, has its trials. The society here expects women to marry and have children—and as many as possible. Anything other, is considered abnormal. Even my Cameroonian co-workers comment on my “abnormality”. Please pray for wisdom to speak the truth of the gospel and patience to not get irritated with them. (What makes it especially hard, is that there is a part of me that would like to get married, and the comments just accentuates the lack.)

My current ministry requires that I do a lot of travelling in remote areas, sometimes alone. Your prayers for safety in travelling and in

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Wondering
what they
do at JAARS?

The next JAARS
Days are Aug. 7 and
Sept. 11.

You can arrive on
Friday and spend the
night (or weekend)
and get a close look at
what's happening at
JAARS.

To make reservations
or get more info, call
704-843-6130.

Point of View (continued)

meeting with people in the villages is most welcome. Once, my car broke down in a remote area, and I had to trek nearly 10 km after dark to get to a main road where I could hitchhike home. Recently, my car had an extremely serious break down in a neighbouring village. It took a week to semi-patch it together, but as a result, the car is no longer reliable. Even if it gets properly repaired, my 19 year old Suzuki is on its last legs.

(Ginger Boyd serves in Africa with Wycliffe Bible Translators)



Heard about Ebenezer? Wondering what it is?

Ebenezer is a ministry for women who come from severely dysfunctional/ impaired homes, where alcoholism, incest and sexual abuse, mental illness, verbal and physical abuse, trauma and neglect were a part of the family system.

1Samuel 7:12 says: "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it 'Ebenezer', saying, "Thus far has the Lord helped us." We call ourselves *Ebenezer* because God is our rock and our help.

Ebenezer I is a series of ten weekly meetings. The topics are:

- Our Stories and Our Traits
- Shame and Hiding
- Perfectionism
- Grieving and Mourning
- Forgiving and Letting Go
- New Identity and a New Beginning

These subjects are explored through God's truth, focusing on who He says we are as women who struggle with the after-effects of our childhood. We seek to find our understanding and healing in our Great Physician.

Ebenezer II (for graduates of Ebenezer I) is a deeper study in ten classes. Topics are:

- Boundaries
- Loneliness, Trust and Control, and the Struggle For Intimacy
- Obsessive-Compulsive Behaviors
- How Our Past Affects Our Marriage
- Conflict and Intimacy In Marriage

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Christian Fiction
Writing Contest
World Magazine is
teaming up with
WestBow Press to
find new fiction
writers. Contest ends
Aug. 31. For more
information, go to
www.worldmag.com

Ebenezer III (for graduates of Ebenezer I and II) is women supporting women; a support group of women who are applying and practicing the truths gleaned from Ebenezer I and II.

Looking for healing yourself? Ebenezer I begins again in the Fall



Mother tried, but Mother lied.
Mother didn't know
that she was owned
by that wicked bottle.
Mother didn't know
she was not a role model.
Daddy just disappeared
Then we saw him twice a year.
Mother's thirst for drink and men
Led her down a road of sin,
Where she stumbled into the gutter.
For the "public good" she went to jail.
There would end her sorry tale.

Held down by life's misery;
Surrounded by treachery, sensuality,
And drunken brutality.
A home full of strife,
It was not a happy life.

I had no safe place to stay
I wanted to run away,
But fear ruled my days.
And it marked all my ways.

But God, in His grace
Smiled upon my face
He bought me and He taught me
To grieve so that I could live.

He bought me and taught me,
To be the girl He made me to be.
And He placed me in His family!

He took me by my hand
And taught me to stand
On that solid rock.
Oh what a shock!
That He loved me, and set me free
From my sin, and haunting past,
Oh joy at last!

Now free from the shame,
He is helping me to break the chains,
Leaving behind the pain,
So my own won't fear the same.

He took me by my hand
And taught me to stand
On that solid rock
Oh, what a shock!
That He loved me, and set me free
From my sin and the haunting past.
Oh joy at last!

*A special thank you to Joyce Deubler
(a graduate of Ebenezer I and II) for
sharing this with us.*

Dog Rescue

Before you go to a breeder to get your dog, think about rescuing a dog. We've heard of greyhound rescue, but there are a number of organizations that work to rescue specific breeds. For an article with how-to information go to: www.christian-homemaking.com/dogrescue.html

August 2004

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 Bible Study 9:30am Prayer Mtg 10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm | 4 Playgroup 10:00am | 5 |
| 8 | 9 Ebenezer III 7:00pm | 10 Bible Study 9:30am Prayer Mtg 10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm | 11 Playgroup 10:00am | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 Bible Study 9:30am Prayer Mtg 10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm | 18 Playgroup 10:00am | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 Bible Study 9:30am Prayer Mtg 10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm Waffle iron invented (1869) | 25 Playgroup 10:00am | 26 3 R's Bible 7:00pm |
| 29 Chop Suey invented (1896) | 30 | 31 Bible Study 9:30am Prayer Mtg 10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm | | |

| Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------|--------|---------------------------|
| | 6 | 7 <i>Merry Widows</i> |
| | 13 | 14 |
| | 20 | 21 |
| Study | 27 | 28 <i>Merry Widows</i> |

No brainstorming lunch in August.

There will be a ministry potluck Sept. 15th at 7:00 pm. Watch for more details.



The Advantage of a Broken Heart

“God is magnetized toward brokenness.”
That’s from a sermon I heard recently. A sermon especially for women.

You can listen to it or download it to listen to later. Go to the Allegheny Center Alliance Church website(my daughter’s church in Pittsburgh): www.acac.net/sermons.html. Then look for May 9, 2004 *The Advantage of a Broken Heart* .

Micki Parkinson



Things change

This newsletter has a long lead time - plans can change before it arrives in your mailbox. Be sure to check the weekly bulletin for updated information.

A Day in the Life...

I have been asked to write this article introducing myself to y'all. Rather than crafting a rather boring bio, I thought I would write about a day in the life of *The Florences*.

"Honey, I think I'm sick" are the first words I heard after a long night up with our toddler. It is Tuesday, Chris' day off, and we are planning a long-awaited family day at the park. The thermometer said 100.8, but my husband heartily insisted that we continue with our plans despite my sincere concern for his health.

So, after lathering on the sunscreen, we pile into the car. We arrive at the Downs Park gate. It is closed on Tuesdays. Okay, plan B: Kinder Farm Park...you know the story...closed on Tuesdays. Plan C: Waterford Park... yes, it's open...but all children in the world are here because the other parks are closed! (Did I mention that with each passing moment, poor Bailey is screaming with pain in the backseat as sunscreen drips into her eyes?)

After returning home, I decided to work on my newsletter article. I wrote several—none of which made any sense, had any clear purpose, or was even worth reading! Then I received several phone calls from a fax machine (a frustrating regular occurrence in our house) and was told that our phone line needed repair. Finally, I realized that I forgot to line up a babysitter for the next day. After taking out my frustration on my wonderful servant husband (in the form of a sinfully snide comment), I crumpled up into a ball on the couch and retreated from the world in disgust.

While this day was nothing compared to others' truly difficult lives, my question to myself was this: Where is God in all of this? Did I honestly believe that God uses *everything* that happens in my life for the good for my soul? It would require a pretty big amount of trust on my part wouldn't it? After all, trust means *trust* doesn't it? It doesn't mean to-know-for-sure or to-control-things-myself or to-worry-about-someone-else's-plans; it means to trust.

Okay, but do I *truly trust* in God's promise to me, not just for my salvation, but to redeem my soul through everything, in every hour of every day? After all, Psalm 34:22 says, "The Lord redeems the life of His servants..." The Lord would not promise this if I didn't need daily redemption. Isn't that what Annie S. Hawks meant in 1872 when she wrote the hymn, *I Need Thee Every Hour*?

My answer: All of life is redemption, so my God is no further from me in trying times than when I am singing His glorious praises with all the saints on Sunday mornings! Let's encourage each other to *truly trust* in the promise of our God to redeem us in every thing, in every hour of every day!

Suzy Florence



"Never be
afraid to trust
an unknown future to
a known God."

Corrie tenBoom

Power Wheels: 10 Steps to Organizing Your Mobile Life

Organizing your car is not just for the ultramodern high-tech gadget guru anymore. Move over, Sharper Image - the organizationally challenged are rising up, and they're on a budget.

Some of my clients literally live from their cars. Many of us spend more time in our cars than at corporate headquarters or in our home office, creating the need for product storage, a compact filing system, and organized desk space. Car organizing is not limited to those working outside the home either; many a soccer mom dreams of a leisurely commute without library books and sports gear rolling around in the back of the minivan.

What's your hang up? Store important papers in hanging files in a portable crate. These come in all sizes, open or with lids.

Read between the lines. Carry a *To Be Read* folder with you for review while waiting for an appointment or a child.

It's all in the system. Create a follow-up system using a notebook with pocketed dividers, a recipe box or accordion file. Number the dividers 1-30, and file documents (or note cards) behind the appropriate date of the month for future action.

What's on the agenda? Consolidate important notes into a daily planner, spiral notebook, calendar, or small wipe-off board. If you keep a master-planning calendar at home or in your office, carry a spare in your car for taking notes. Remember to consolidate these each day to eliminate overlooked appointments and special days.

Mobile desk. For bills and other correspondence, buy a notebook and fill with twelve pocketed dividers, one for each month of the year. Label each with birthdays, anniversaries, and billing due dates; then fill with correspondence. The binder can be used as a portable desk, or can be stored at your work area. Don't forget to stick your favorite writing pen in the front pocket.

Improved storage space. Keep a large sturdy crate or laundry basket in your car to contain product samples, grocery bags, clothes headed to the dry cleaners, library books and rented videos. Invest in two so that you can carry a full one into the house, saving wasted trips from car to kitchen or office. My all-time favorite is a collapsible plastic crate that takes up very little space when not in use.

It's the little things that count. There are a number of visor and glove compartment organizers available to hold pens, paper, sunglasses, and loose change. Make a habit of putting your small items here after each use so you can easily find them.

Debbie Williams, www.organizedtimes.com (adapted, used by permission)



Editor's Note:
When using any of the systems mentioned here, be sure to anchor anything you keep in the car—so it doesn't become a deadly projectile in an accident.

Summer Salads

Japanese Chicken Salad

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 3Tb. sugar | 5 c. thinly sliced red cabbage |
| ¾ c. vegetable oil | 4 c. thinly sliced iceberg lettuce |
| 3 Tb. sesame oil | 2 c. cooked, shredded chicken |
| 4Tb. seasoned rice vinegar | 1½ c. toasted, slivered almonds |
| 2 tsp. soy sauce | 2 c. pea pods, blanched |
| 2 tsp. grated fresh ginger root | Sliced green onions for topping |
| 1 3 oz. package Ramen soup noodles, uncooked | |

In a small bowl, combine sugar, oils, vinegar, soy sauce and ginger; mix well.

Remove noodles from package, reserving seasoning packet for future use. Marinate noodles in dressing mixture about 1 hour or until tender. You do not need to cook noodles.

Meanwhile, in large bowl, combine remaining ingredients except pea pods. When noodles are tender, pour noodles and dressing over vegetables, tossing to combine.

To serve, arrange pea pods on large serving platter and spoon salad into center.

Martha's Country Potato Salad

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 c. Mayonnaise | 1 tsp. dried parsley |
| 2 Tb. apple cider vinegar | 2 lbs. all-purpose potatoes, cubed and cooked (about 6 cups) |
| 1½ tsp. salt | ½ c. thinly sliced celery |
| 1 tsp. sugar | ½ c. chopped red or green onions |
| 1 Tb. Dijon mustard | 4 hard-cooked eggs, chopped |
| ¼ tsp. ground black pepper | |

In large bowl, blend mayonnaise dressing, vinegar, salt, sugar and pepper. Add remaining ingredients; toss well. Cover and chill 1 hour to blend flavors. (Serves 8)

Credit and Your
Consumer Rights
The Federal Trade
Commission has all
the information on
their website:
[www.ftc.gov/bcp/
online/pubs/credit/
crdright.htm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/crdright.htm)

(more salads on page 11)

Summer Salads (continued)

BLT Salad

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1 lb. bacon | Salt to taste |
| ¾ c. mayonnaise | 1 head romaine lettuce, rinsed, dried and shredded |
| ¼ c. milk | 2 large tomatoes, chopped |
| 1 tsp. garlic powder | 2 c. seasoned croutons |
| ⅛ tsp. ground black pepper | |

Place bacon in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium-high heat, turning frequently, until evenly browned. Drain, crumble and set aside.

In a blender or food processor, combine mayonnaise, milk, garlic powder and black pepper. Blend until smooth. Season the dressing with salt.

Combine lettuce, tomatoes, bacon and croutons in a large salad bowl. Toss with dressing, and serve immediately.

Waldorf Cole Slaw

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 1 c. mayonnaise | 1 package (1 lb.) shredded coleslaw mix or 6 cups shredded cabbage |
| 1 Tb. sugar | 1 small apple, diced |
| 1 Tb. lemon juice | ⅓ c. raisins |
| ⅛ tsp. salt | ⅓ c. chopped walnuts |

In large bowl, combine Mayonnaise, sugar, lemon juice and salt. Add coleslaw mix, apple, raisins and walnuts; toss well. Chill one hour. (Serves 8)



Behind the Scenes of *Women's Life*
Flo Wolfe, Director of Women's Ministries
Barbara Smith, Newsletter Coordinator
Micki Parkinson, Design and Editing

“We need not climb into heaven to see whether our sins are forgiven; let us look into our hearts, and see if we can forgive others. If we can, we need not doubt but God has forgiven us”

Thomas Watson



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