

Women's Life



August 2006

I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.” (Isaiah 45:3)

When a tragedy occurs, have you ever later realized that the Lord had been preparing you ahead of time? In my reading of Scripture, as well as reading contemporary Christian writers, I see the Lord's sovereign hand, His preparations, made beforehand for His children. He has already equipped us before the battle begins.

While dealing with a personal family loss in July, I was reading Susan Hunt's, *Your Home: A Place of Grace*, and meditating on Isaiah 45:3. I returned from Mississippi on Sunday night to the tragic news of the deaths of Rae Bajus and Catherine Bangs. After visiting with John and Ana that night, I mentally revisited the phrases “the treasures of darkness” and “riches stored in secret places.” When sadness comes with grief that is almost too deep for words, our first thoughts don't usually connect with “treasures” or “riches.” The emotional wounds are raw; the darkness struts onto our horizon with power that initially takes away our breath. The mystery surrounding the death of a covenant child or of a godly woman who has suffered pain in this life, can send us into asking the wrong questions and focusing on inaccurate pictures.

Isaiah can help us be good stewards of our grief. What does that mean? My journal entry for July 5th records some of my own wrestling with this idea.

“I think being a good steward refers to looking to Christ more than insisting that we discover what went wrong? Was this avoidable? Why does the hurt persist? Isaiah wisely tells us that these secret place events occur that ‘we might *know* that you are the Lord who calls each of us by name.’ These hard times are meant not for us to demand of You,

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answers to all of our questions, but so we might cling ever more closely to our Lord and Savior.”

Our energy at a difficult time can go one of two ways: we can pour all of our strength into demanding answers, looking for faults (in ourselves and in others), or we can respond by turning our eyes and energies into thinking more of God’s thoughts. He is both honored and glorified that way, and we find His comfort.

So I purpose to allow God to use His deposits in me, whether they be money, time, or grief. That’s good stewardship. I look to my covenant family to pray for me, to support me in very practical ways. I do not go it alone when grieving, and because I do not grieve as those who have no hope, I re-frame the unanswerable questions into a closer look at the attributes of my heavenly Father. May God give us the grace to live as His covenant family, and may we also see ourselves as those whom he has personally summoned by name.

Flo Wolfe



Personal relationships (as taught by John Stott)

Paul gives us two general principles:

‘Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.’

‘Whatever you do, work at it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men.’ (Col. 3:17 and 23)

Now let me tell in my own words what I believe these two principles mean. Firstly, I have got to learn, if I am a Christian, to treat other people as if I were Jesus Christ. That is what it means to do everything “in the name of” the Lord Jesus. ... I have got to learn, if I am a Christian, to treat other people with the respect and the consideration, the thoughtfulness and the graciousness with which Jesus Christ would treat them.

The second principle is the exact opposite. It is to learn to treat people as if *they* were Jesus Christ. ... The roles are now reversed and I must learn to treat every person with the graciousness, the humility, the understanding, and the courtesy, not now that he would give to them but that I would give to him ...

Tools for School

My favorite months of the year as a teacher (and a mother of 2 grown children) have always been June, July, and August. Soon many of us will be setting our alarm clocks to the school bell. As we transition from summer to fall, what can we do to help our children be successful in school?

When you fill the supply-lists and pack those school bags, also fill your children's hearts and minds with God's Word. This will be the armor that they need for life as much as multiplication tables and spelling lists will be as they head to public, private, or home school. The Bible teaches parents to instruct their children in the Word of God (Prov. 22:6). It is not an easy task, but God's grace is sufficient for these great responsibilities.

Parents, and even grandparents, need to be supportive, understanding, caring, loving, just, and consistent in order to build a child's self-image as a child of God before sending them off to school. God has placed us in a position of responsibility and has given us the authority to go with it.

As our own children were growing up, we prayed for them and taught them how to pray. At first, Dave wrote simple prayers as models for Sharon and Steven. Our family devotions included lessons learned in Sunday school and the weekly sermons which we discussed as a family over Sunday lunches at our favorite restaurants. We talked about God as an important member of the family (Deuteronomy 6:6-7) in order to prepare the hearts and minds of our children to develop into responsible adults capable of making godly decisions. Children are our 18-year projects. Our primary goal as parents is to teach our children to know Christ as Lord and Savior and then they will be equipped for school.

Communication is vital. Build memories on positive experiences with your children not on material possessions. Learn to relax as we prepare our children for school and let the scriptures be normal, everyday guideposts, not formal lessons. Allow the children to make some choices about school as long as you don't mind the choices they make. For example, doing homework isn't a choice, but your children can choose when and where they do it. God bless you and your precious gifts from God. Have a great school year.

Wylma Bagshaw

August

The first week in August is National
Simplify Your Life Week

Middle Child's Day—August 12

National Left-handers Day—
August 13

National Cherry Popsicle Day—
August 26

This month in history

First US income tax—August 2,
1861

Christopher Columbus set sail from
Palos, Spain—August 3, 1492

Procter & Gamble introduced
Crisco—August 15, 1911

Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his *I
Have a Dream* speech at the Lincoln
Memorial—August 28, 1963

Chop Suey invented—August 29,
1896

This month in Women's Ministry

Summer Bible Studies

Paul's Letters to Maturing Churches, Tuesdays 10-11:30AM (Narthex B). Child care available; continues through August 8.

Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit, Thursday evenings, 7-9 PM. This Beth Moore study is led by Marian Brophy in (MC 2). Book costs \$ 15.00.

Before the Throne of God, Tuesdays from 9:30-11:00AM (Parlor). This study about prayer concludes August 8th. Book costs \$9.00.

Summer Sunday School Class for Women, 9:30AM (Parlor). The class is studying Carolyn Custis James' book, *Lost Women of the Bible*. Class concludes September 3rd.

Coffee Fellowship (each Sunday) If you can serve in this ministry, contact Flo Wolfe (410-544-5013).

Merry Widows will meet at noon on August 5th for a picnic and swim. Contact Mary Bartlett or Cheryl Tippie for more details

MOPS playgroup meets through the summer. Check the bulletin for the weekly locations.

MOPS will begin their monthly meetings on September 12th

Leadership Team meets on August 15th in Flo's office

Women's Life deadline August 15. Email articles no longer than 500 words to muffnme@comcast.net

Single Moms' meetings: check the weekly bulletin for scheduled meetings.

Moms of College Kids will not meet again until September 9

Focus groups will meet at various times this summer; watch the bulletin for details.



August Event

Ice Cream Social: August 10th, at the home of Rhoda Acree. Watch the weekly bulletin for details.

Thots and things

Mr. Monk's cleaning tips

He may be a fictional obsessive/compulsive detective—but he has some great cleaning tips!

Window Washing:

- Make your own solution for washing windows by adding vinegar to water in a plant-spray bottle (1 part vinegar to 3 parts water). Vinegar cuts grease, and brings out a good shine in glass.
- Use vertical strokes when washing the outside of windows and horizontal for inside the windows. This way you can tell which side has the streaks.

Vacuuming Carpet:

- To raise carpet indentations, place an ice cube in the dent and let it melt. Let the area dry and then vacuum. Then move your furniture back into place
- Deodorize your home naturally: just place a cinnamon stick in the vacuum bag before getting started. Then vacuum each room as usual

Odor-free shoes:

fill a tube sock with baking soda or tea leaves and tie the end closed. Place the filled socks in your shoes when you're not wearing them. These sachets can be used over and over in any kind of shoe

Water rings on wood furniture:

Mix 1 tablespoon of mayonnaise and 1 teaspoon of baking soda and lightly rub it over the water ring. Then wipe gently with a cloth or paper towel. Polish as usual.

(taken from www.usanetwork.com/series/monk/webexclusives/cleaningtips/index.html)



Summer Salads

California Avocado Chicken Salad (Serves 4)

Creamy Dressing:

¼ cup plain yogurt	½ tsp curry powder
2 Tbs mayonnaise	½ tsp ground ginger
2 Tbs thinly sliced celery	½ tps lemon juice
2 Tbs thinly sliced green onion	

Salad:

- 2 cooked 6 oz. chicken breasts, chopped
- 1 4-oz. can sliced water chestnuts, drained
- 2 cups fresh bean sprouts, rinsed, dried
- 8 large lettuce leaves, washed, dried
- 1 ripe California avocado, sliced

Combine all dressing ingredients. Set aside. Combine chicken breast, water chestnuts, and bean sprouts with creamy dressing; toss lightly. Line salad plates with lettuce leaves and place avocado slices on top. Scoop chicken salad over avocado. Garnish with fresh herb sprigs if desired. Serve immediately.

BLT Salad

1 lb bacon	
¾ cup mayonnaise	1 head romaine lettuce, rinsed, dried and shredded
¼ cup milk	2 large tomatoes, chopped
1 tsp garlic powder	2 cups seasoned croutons
1/8 tsp ground black pepper	
Salt to taste	

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.



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