

# Women's Life



February 2004

## *A verse for life*

There have been lots of verses that have been special to me over the years. Some meant a great deal during a hard time. Some are just good to think about any time. But, I have a favorite verse that has colored my whole Christian life.

Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord;  
his going out is sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us as the showers,  
as the spring rains that water the earth. Hosea 6:3 (ESV)

Whenever I look at a verse I look at the context around it – it helps to understand it. The people making this wonderful statement were in the midst of punishment from God. They wanted all the promises of God and the stuff of the society around them, too. They counted on His blessing even though they were doing terrible things. They didn't see how the way they lived had anything to do with their relationship with God.

The Book of Hosea has some of the most beautiful pictures of God's love for His people. But those words of love never just float around loose. They are tied to a relationship. God has always been very open about what He expects from His people. All through the Book of Hosea, God didn't stop loving His people, but He didn't bless them. He couldn't.

Just like them, I can choose not to see what He requires of me. I can choose to misinterpret it so I can do what I want to do. But, if I'm honest with myself, what God requires of me isn't really hidden at all. And, if I want to be where His blessing is, I can't just count on the promises. A relationship is never healthy if it's only words – I need to live my whole life with Him. Believing that His blessing is better than any short-term happiness I could devise for myself.

So, want to join me? Let's press on to know the Lord. To follow Him. To trust Him. Because He is as sure as the dawn. He refreshes like the showers, the spring rains that water the earth.

*Micki Parkinson*



Calendar  
Don't miss these  
Thots and Things

## Don't miss these

### Honest Questions About Sexuality: a three-panel forum

Saturday, February 28th

9:30-11:30am

After an introduction and devotional for all, the high school guys will meet in Narthex A, the high school gals in Narthex B and the parents in the sanctuary. Three different panels will field the questions that have been submitted ahead of time and will hold a question-and-answer period after. (Watch the *Lampstand* and the bulletin for forms to write and submit your questions.)

The world hits us with multiple sound bites about sexuality every day. To counter those messages and for the renewing of your mind, join us as we consider together a godly view of sexuality.

Pastor Chris Florence

Trip Beans (Youth Director)

Flo Wolfe (Women's Ministry Director)

Try a Home  
Keeper  
Notebook



Fill it with charts and directions for the different chores that need to be done. Next time you delegate "clean the kitchen" everyone will know exactly what you mean.

[www.avirtuouswoman.org](http://www.avirtuouswoman.org) has sheets to print - or make your own.

### M&Ms

When it comes to reading books, are you a *Martha*? A woman who loves to read, but other things crowd it out?

Or are you a *Mary*? The kind of woman with her nose in a book while the soup is boiling over on the stove?

Whichever best describes your style, M&Ms is a book club for you.

Here's how it will work:

1. Watch the newsletters and Sunday bulletins for the current book recommendation and details on how to order it. We will leave between four and six weeks to give everyone plenty of reading time.
2. Then watch the newsletters and Sunday bulletin for times and places to meet with your fellow M&Ms to discuss the book you have just read. You pick the meeting time that fits best into your schedule.

For more information or to make suggestions, contact Christiane Carlson-Thies (██████████).

## Purity of Heart – And Other Parts of Our Anatomy

*Rejoice, ye pure in heart, Rejoice, give thanks and sing.  
Your festival banner, wave on high, the cross of Christ your king;  
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.*

As a child I learned this hymn of jubilation, a hymn that celebrates the rejoicing that occurs because Christ has given us a pure heart, something we could never secure for ourselves. The other day, I stopped to get my hymnal and sing through all the verses and ponder anew the idea of a pure heart. “Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong men and maidens meek” can speak of God’s wondrous praises. And we can continue to rejoice “thro’life’s long path...in gladness and in woe.”

According to pollster George Barna and others, the life we Christians live in the body is looking a lot less than pure these days. Grace is not license to live riotously because I am forgiven. Paul makes this very clear in Romans 6:1-2. As a matter of fact, the Scriptures have a great deal to say about purity in speech and sexual practice.

What about purity in our speech? There is simply no “wiggle” room about a pure tongue. Our “yes” is to “yes” (Matt 5:37 and James 5:12). Even in a culture rife with cynical cut downs of others, the pure are called to follow a different road with our tongues. Ephesians 4:29 says, “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.” Our tongue is to a righteous one. Likened to silver, it is to bring forth wisdom, healing, knowledge.

Finally, in a culture obsessed with sensuality but starved for true intimacy, what does sexual purity look like? Again, Scripture is straightforward. Eph. 5:3, says, “But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.” Too often the church states this verse but is rather unwilling to wrestle with the practical living aspects of sexual purity. I want to invite you to search for biblical principles in this area of sexuality. A seminar will be offered at SPEP on Saturday, February 28, from 9:30- 11:30. Pastor Glenn will open our thoughts before three panels (one for high school and older males, one for the females, and one for parents of all ages) will field questions that have been submitted ahead of time. An open Q&A session comes next before we all get back together in the sanctuary for closing remarks. The topic of biblical sexuality, important as it is to us all, deserves at least a morning. Come as a family, and leave rejoicing as those pure in heart – and in other areas of our lives.

*Flo Wolfe*



**Children of  
Aging Parents**  
provides support and  
information. Their  
website includes a  
Caregiver Guide and  
lots of links to helpful  
resources.  
([caps4caregivers.org](http://caps4caregivers.org))

Barbie doll  
first sold  
(1959)

# February 2004

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
1	2 <i>B.Moore Study 7:00pm</i>	3 <i>Bible Study 9:30am Prayer Mtg.10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm</i>	4 <i>Body &amp; Soul 9:15am Playgroup 10:00am</i>	5 <i>Craft Circle</i>
8 <i>Retreat Ends</i>	9	10 <i>Bible Study 9:30am Brainstorming Noon Prayer Mtg.10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm</i>	11 <i>Body &amp; Soul 9:15am MOPS 7:00pm Playgroup 10:00am</i>	12 <i>3 R's Study Craft Circle</i>
15	16 <i>B.Moore Study 7:00pm</i>	17 <i>Bible Study 9:30am Ebenezer III 9:30am Prayer Mtg.10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm</i>	18 <i>Body &amp; Soul 9:15am Playgroup 10:00am</i>	19 <i>Craft Circle</i>
22	23	24 <i>Bible Study 9:30am Prayer Mtg.10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm</i>	25 <i>Body &amp; Soul 9:15am Playgroup 10:00am</i>	26 <i>3 R's Study Craft Circle</i>
29				

*Next brainstorming lunch*

February 10, Noon in the Ministry Center

<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>Noon</p>	<p><b>6</b>  <i>Body &amp; Soul 9:15am</i>  <i>Retreat Begins</i></p>	<p><b>7</b>  <i>Beatles Landed (1964)</i>  <i>Merry Widows 4:00pm</i></p>
<p>7:00pm            Noon</p>	<p><b>13</b>  <i>Body &amp; Soul 9:15am</i></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p>Noon</p>	<p><b>20</b>  <i>Body &amp; Soul 9:15am</i></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p>7:00pm            Noon</p>	<p><b>27</b>  <i>Body &amp; Soul 9:15am</i></p>	<p><b>28</b>  <i>Sexuality Forum</i>  <i>9:30am</i></p>



*Interested in working from home?*

Check out the Christian Work At Home Moms website. It's a place to find job listings (new ones each week), articles and encouragement ([www.cwahm.com](http://www.cwahm.com)).



*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.

# Thots and Things

## A Budget Buster Tip

Many people make sincere attempts to set up a household budget and get themselves together financially, but too often these attempts fail. And for those with the most difficult financial circumstances, it may take several attempts to finally create a plan that works.

One of the budget busters that may be throwing us off track in the first place:

### Living on Two Incomes

When a couple first starts out, they often have two incomes and will set up their household budget based on that combined total. But as soon as the first financial crisis hits and one of those incomes is reduced or even wiped out, everything can fall apart. The solution: couples should make every effort to live on one income. Use the second income for savings and extras, many of which will be needed due to the additional job.

From an article by Michelle Jones on the Christian-homemaking.com website ([www.christian-homemaking.com/budgetbusters.html](http://www.christian-homemaking.com/budgetbusters.html)). Check out the rest of the article for all 10 tips. Who is Michelle Jones? She is the editor of BetterBudgeting.com. She produces a free monthly newsletter, *The Money-Saving Tips Ezine* (you can subscribe on her website).

## Organizing during life changes

The January issue of *Get Organized* began a four-part series on smoothing the bumps of changes like a new baby, a new marriage or a new job.

Go to the online newsletters at [www.onlineorganizing.com](http://www.onlineorganizing.com)



### Email Savvy

There are a lot of emails that circulate around and around. Bills that could be come law. Health information. They sound legitimate, but are they? Find out if that email you got is for real at <http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/>

## Chicken Chianti

Take a bunch of cut up raw chicken (no skin) (If you were coming over I would go for the boneless chicken breasts, thinking it would make you feel appreciated.)

Put it in a 13"x9" pan.

In a bowl, take about a half a cup of Chianti, and a cup of spaghetti sauce

Mix the red stuff (the sauce and the wine). Put some garlic in, because it is always better with garlic.

Pour the Chianti-sauce over the chicken and pop it in the oven. Something like this takes about 35 minutes in a 350° degree oven.

Barry likes a lot of sauce, so I probably would heat up the rest of the jar just to be sure the pasta wasn't dry.

If it were just family, I would make spaghetti and a salad. If it were you coming over, I would go out and buy some unusual pasta that reminded me of some character trait of yours, and then we could discuss this while we ate, and you would feel special because I ran all the way to Safeway to get fresh pasta, inspired by you.

*Susan Smith*



## An Autobiography in Five Short Paragraphs

1. I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I fall in. I am lost. I am helpless. It isn't my fault. It takes forever to find a way out.
2. I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I pretend I don't see it. I fall in. I can't believe I'm in the same place. But it isn't my fault. It still takes a long time to get out.
3. I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I see it is there. I still fall in. It's a habit. My eyes are open. I know where I am. It is my fault. I get out immediately.
4. I walk down the street. There is a deep hole in the sidewalk. I walk around it.
5. I walk down a different street.

Author Unknown (from *Stories from the Heart*, compiled by Alice Gray, Vision House Publishing, 1996)

A website for children with diabetes and their families:

[www.childrenwithdiabetes.com/index\\_cwd.htm](http://www.childrenwithdiabetes.com/index_cwd.htm)



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