

Women's Life



July 2006

*B*each Books

I buy books regularly and stack them by my nightstand here at home and at our log cabin. Although I teach fiction and drama during the year, I personally read a great deal of nonfiction and have found books a way to increase my faith in Christ and to share Him with others. I have talked about *Depression: A Stubborn Darkness*, and *The Heart of Anger* with my medical doctor simply because she has asked me about the books when she's seen me reading them in her office.

The pool or beach, other great places to read a book, may also be our summer mission field. Book in hand, we may plant some seeds for the kingdom. Evangelism is not grabbing lapels and proclaiming "turn or burn." Rather, the Lord allows us to partner with the Spirit as He calls His own into life-giving light. In 1 Peter 3, we're reminded that we are to "set apart Christ in (y)our hearts. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander ..." The more Jesus settles into our hearts, the more we know and share Christ in natural outgrowths of daily conversations.

So here is a sampling of books in my nightstand stack for this summer:

- ✦ *Stepping Heavenward: One Woman's Journey Toward Godliness* by Mrs. E. Prentiss. I have already finished this one and recommend this 1800's journal of a woman who lived in New Hampshire, It isn't the hardship or the triumphs of her life; instead, this journal chronicles the sanctification slowly emerging in her. Reading this

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

book “gentled” my spirit and continues to spur me on to love and good deeds. (Heb. 10: 24)

✦ *Sacred Marriage* by Gary Thomas promises to get my attention where I’ve been wrongly influenced by the world. Somehow we have accepted the world’s notion that we marry purely to make us happy. Thomas asks, “What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?” He takes Romanticism to task and presents the biblical idea that the challenges of placing two sinners together in the one flesh concept should draw us closer to God and encourage the growth of Christian character.

✦ *Your Home: A Place of Grace* by Susan Hunt examines the author’s own “youthful arrogance” about knowing how to create a model Christian home. Able to acknowledge that she didn’t know it all in her 20’s and 30’s, she shares, after thirty years of parenting, how the Lord’s covenantal approach to families integrates all of life under His grace and mercy. We need not wring our hands constantly over one thing “ruining our children for life.” We need, instead, to embrace the centrality of living the Gospel within a covenant community.

Enjoy your beach books this summer and discover, apply, and share the gems of truth with others.

Flo



The goals of our ministry:

To encourage women to study Scripture and apply biblical solutions to real life situations

To mobilize women to serve women of SPEP and the greater community

To facilitate fellowship among the women of SPEP and reach out to others

To network via written and oral communications with SPEP members, regular attendees, missionaries, and our sister EP churches.

Bricks and Butter

“The heat from the sun both hardens brick and melts butter.”

(The Daily Walk Bible)

How do you react when life *heats up*? I have two usual reactions: inactivity or frenzy. Worries sometimes have paralyzed me, and I sink in depression; other times, trials have sent me in circles like whirling dervishes! James says another reaction is better—rejoicing. (James 1:2-4)

Rejoicing when your life is full of difficulties and temptations? Being happy when the way is rough?

Is this sane?

How sensible is idleness or mania?

James knew that the trials—the testing of God’s gift of faith—gave his readers’ patience a chance to grow. Patience is the hallmark of a faith that perseveres, that finishes the course.

James was writing to folks who faced dramatic torment: wild beasts, crazy emperors, fiery deaths, swords, often dying publicly before crowds. However, James knew people whose lives were crushed not only because of persecution, but also personal upheavals, financial reversals, divorces and death. He wrote to people who were being scattered—as wildly as those whom Katrina and Rita blew out of their homes—as viciously as those many Tennesseans whom recent tornados scattered. And his message was to those who were to care for the broken, homeless, and helpless.

When life heats up—when I face the stuff the Lord Jesus promised was coming—and if I indulge depression, or gratify mania, I am not giving myself room to grow up—to practice the promises God makes me. (James 1:4; 2 Peter 1: 3-9)

Bricks and butter show what can happen in the sun’s heat—we can, too. If things are getting hot, count it all joy when you encounter divers trials, James urges. What the Son’s heat displays is not a hard block, or melted puddle—but tested faith that shows patience. “So let it grow, and don’t try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.” (The Living Bible)

Barbara Smith



Got frequent flyer miles?

Do you have frequent flyer miles you could donate so Sue Jakes, our retreat speaker, could fly from Atlanta to BWI and back again in November?

If you can help, please email Flo (fwolfe@spepchurch.org).

July

Cow Appreciation Day—July 15

National Cheesecake Day—July 30

This month in history

President Abraham Lincoln signed the first income tax bill—July 1, 1862

Disneyland opened—July 17, 1955

Fingerprint was first used as a means of identification—July 17, 1858

Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon—July 20, 1969

July was a big month for states and such:

District of Columbia established—1790

Spain turned Florida over to the US—1821

Idaho and Wyoming became states—1890

This month in Women's Ministry

Summer Bible Studies

Paul's Letters to Maturing Churches, Tuesdays 10-11:30AM (Narthex B). Child care available; study continues until August. Book costs \$9.00

Note: Not meeting July 4, July 11, July 18 (church closed).

Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit, a Beth Moore Bible study led by Marian Brophy in MC 2, Thursdays 7-9PM. Book costs \$ 15.00 (began June 1)

Note: Not meeting July 4. Check the bulletin for other dates.

Before the Throne of God, a Bible study about prayer, Tuesdays 9:30-11:00 AM (Parlor). (began June 13 and runs for 7 sessions) Book costs \$9.00.

Note: not meeting July 4, July 11; meeting at Else Davis' home on July 18

Coffee Fellowship (each Sunday)

Merry Widows will meet at noon on July 1

MOPS: playgroup times appear each week in the bulletin

leadership summer meetings: contact Nicola Kangas

Leadership Team meets on July 18 in Flo's office

Single Moms' meetings: check the bulletin for July dates

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.

Summer Sunday School Class for Women

Lost Women of the Bible (Carolyn Custis James) meets at 9:30AM (Parlor).

July Notes:

**Home Management Seminar is postponed until
January 13, 2007**

July 4: Church closed for holiday

July 10-14: Vacation Bible School

July 17-21: Church buildings closed for cleaning

Flats and things

Want to write for *Women's Life*?

There are just a few rules:

- 1 - Be encouraging. No guilt trips please.
- 2 - Be practical and where-we-live.
- 3 - 500 words or less. Wonder why *Women's Life* is a quick, easy read? It's because the articles are kept short.
- 4 - Deadline = 15th of each month



Cajun Coleslaw (Serves 10)

5 Tbs. mayonnaise	The juice of 1 lemon (medium size)
1 tsp. Louisiana hot sauce	3 tsp. salt (to taste)
2 Tbs. yellow mustard	4 bell peppers, sliced thinly
2 Tbs. ketchup	2 medium onions, finely chopped
2 Tbs. olive oil	1 large cabbage, shredded
1 Tb. wine vinegar	
1 tsp. garlic	
1 Tb. Lea & Perrins® Worcestershire sauce	

Put mayonnaise and mustard in a bowl large enough to hold complete mixture, but shaped so that the mixture can be beaten with a fork.

Beat mayonnaise and mustard until combined. Add olive oil slowly, beating all the time. Beat until mixture has returned to the thickness of original mayonnaise.

Add Louisiana hot sauce, continuing to beat. Add ketchup and keep beating. Add salt and garlic salt, beating all the time. Add wine vinegar (this will thin the sauce down). Beat this thoroughly, adding the lemon juice as you do so. Taste for salt and pepper.

Place shredded cabbage, peppers, and onions in a large salad bowl. Pour sauce over and toss well. This should be done about an hour before serving.

Martha Matthews, *Christian Homemaking*
Newsletter (used with permission)

Micki's Corner

"God is not stopped because He's grieved"

Tom Wenger

When I heard that in a sermon, it hit me like a lightning bolt. I wrote it down and I keep it where I can see it. It's been a source of encouragement for a lot of years now.

I do things that, I know, aren't what He wants of me. I don't represent Him the way I should. I do or say things that hurt others. But God is not stopped because He's grieved.

I make bad decisions that, like Pilgrim in *Pilgrim's Progress*, take me off the path and into danger. Or I decide to go another way that looks like a short-cut or more fun, only to find myself in a dark ravine calling for my Shepherd to find me. But God is not stopped because He's grieved.

God has a path for our adult children to walk and it won't look like ours. They make decisions that we know will hurt them, but they are their decisions to make. It's hard to watch—and hard not to panic. But God is not stopped because He's grieved.

See what I mean? God has a plan for each of His children—a path for us to walk—and a place with Him when the journey ends. Nothing, absolutely nothing, is going to stop Him.

When we are less than a shining example of a Christian—when we hurt others or shut them out—He is not stopped because He's grieved. He may have to use another to reach that person, but He is not stopped.

When we wander off the path (or choose to leave it) and then yell for help. He is not stopped because He's grieved—He will be there, complete with love and forgiveness.

Confidence makes praying very different, too. No more panicked begging! He will not be stopped. He will accomplish everything He has planned.

So, think about it. See if it doesn't give you a whole new way of seeing, too.

Micki Parkinson





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