

Women's Life



March 2006

For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.

As I listened to the CDs in *Heart of the Home* by Sue Jakes (PCA head of Children's Ministry) and Priscilla Stewart, I heard the 2 Corinthians 10:12 reference, but wasn't familiar with those words. Retreating to the computer and my Bible program, I found the translation in the New American Standard. A fresh version often sets my mind in new directions, and I sat in prayerful conviction. How many things I envy when I use the wrong standard! So as I often find with times of growth, I took the trip down so the Lord could teach and then restore me

The journey down sometimes feels like a guilt trip, but only if I forget about grace. My brokenness and self-evaluation, with an inventory of the areas where others stand as my measuring stick, begins a painful process that will eventually renew and reward as I work through my life in honest confession before Shepherd.

Dave and I have seen post-Katrina Gulfport and have made trips to portions of Haiti. People with few worldly goods testify to the treasures "hid with Christ." (Col. 3:3) They know true riches, perhaps because they look to things eternal and use a truer measuring stick than I. What other areas of life "under the sun," to use Solomon's phrase, call me with the siren song of comparison by human standards? How about body shape, educational degrees, or the successes of my children? I am without understanding if I measure by myself or by others.

Instead of staying glum about my feminine bent toward comparing and complaining, I ask for mercy and grace. Lord, what kind of understanding would grow my faith? The Spirit brings to mind a most

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

comforting passage from Jeremiah 9:23-24. This helps me most when I fall into the comparison pit.

“This is what the LORD says: ‘Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight declares the LORD.’”

Let’s consider the breadth of wisdom and application in these two verses. Wisdom, strength and money, are not God’s measuring rods. Why make them ours? His call is that we might know and understand Him more, and He measures in kindness, justice and righteousness. If we boast or compare, the Lord’s measuring rod looks very different from ours. So what do you say? May we discard whatever comparisons and measurements have held sway with us. Instead, as we know more of our Savior, may we have fewer reasons to compare by incorrect measures, and more reasons to want to look more like our Lord. *Flo Wolfe*



Think about it...

I am of certain convinced that the greatest heroes are those who do their duty in the daily grind of domestic affairs whilst the world whirls as a maddening dreidel.

Florence Nightingale

Preach the gospel all the time. If necessary, use words.

St. Francis

How little people know who think that holiness is dull... When one meets the real thing, it's irresistible.

C.S. Lewis

Simple

I like things simple; I tell you the truth
As plain as plain can be
Why am I like this, I cannot tell
I know I can only be me.

Some women like fancies, fillers and fluff
But I like the simplest décor.
When picking the stuff to fill in a space,
Less, for me, simply is more!

Give to me empty, shining and bright
Clean surfaces ready for use
Lines unencumbered by interrupting detail
Are the things I prefer to muse.

$F=MA$ and $E=IR$
Are physics laws my memory can store
Profound in their simplest mathematical form
An easier way to recall, I implore.

And when it comes to stating the convictions of my heart—
My own personal theology
I am a sinner saved by grace!
Is all it needs to be.

So whether it comes to science or math,
Or decorating, religion or just me
Please, please just keep it simple
Is my final plea.

by Cheryl Garrison

‘Simple’ is an excerpt from a collection of poems called *On the Road*—
poems composed while ministering to the elderly.



Share with us

Thursday Evening Bible Study still needs a leader (or leaders). A Faith That Works will resume if someone can take on the leadership of that group

March

Hug a GI Day—Mar. 4
National Chip and Dip Day—Mar. 23

This month in history

The first National Park (Yellowstone) was created by an act of Congress—
Mar. 1, 1872

US first issued paper money—Mar.
10, 1862

Coca Cola first sold in bottles—Mar.
12, 1894.

First Day of Spring—Mar. 20

First color TV manufactured by
RCA—Mar. 25, 1954

This month in Women's Ministry

Acts of the Apostles Bible Study: Tuesday mornings, 9:30–11:00 (MC 2)

2 Peter and Jude: Tuesday mornings, 9:30-11:00 (Narthex B)

Ebenezer 2: two groups, 9:30AM (MC 3) and 7:30PM (MC2)

Coffee Fellowship: each Sunday, between services

Merry Widows will meet at noon on March 4

MOPS: March 8 and check the weekly bulletin for MOPS' playgroup places

MOPS Steering Committee: March 22

Leadership Team: March 21 in Flo's office

Women's Life: deadline March 15. Email articles no longer than 500 words to Micki at [REDACTED]

Boundaries in Dating: March 7 and 21 at 6:45PM in the Parlor. Childcare available

Single Moms: March 14 and 28 at 6:45PM in the Parlor. Childcare available

Moms of College Kids will meet March 25

Scrapbooking Daze: March 11 from 9AM–6PM in the auditorium

All EP Church Women's Retreat, March 31-April 2: Last chance to get reduced room rates: February 28.

Special Events this Month

Appreciation Dessert for those who lead women's activities—watch the bulletin for more information.

All EP Church Women's Retreat with Carolyn Custis James speaking and Cindy Bauchspies leading worship, March 31-April 2.



Thats and things

Surfing the Web

Meals for You is a website with recipes for special diets (vegetarian, diabetes, wheat-free, dairy-free, and those with special nutrition requirements. Go to: www.mealsforyou.com/ and click on Diet.

Diet Facts is a database of nutrition facts of fast food restaurants. Go to: www.dietfacts.com/

My Pyramid takes you through the process of building a food pyramid geared just for you. Go to: www.mypyramid.gov/

The Green Guide gives earth-friendly, people-friendly advice on products like paint, carpet, teflon pans and food additives. Go to: www.thegreenguide.com/

Napa Valley Chicken

Serves 4

2 Tbs. butter or margarine	1 c. sliced mushrooms
4 chicken breasts, cut in half	1/2 c. chicken stock (or chicken broth)
1/4 c. flour	1/4 c. Riesling wine
1/2 tsp. salt	2 Tbs. lemon juice
1/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper	1/2 c. heavy cream
1 garlic clove, minced	1/2 tsp. dried tarragon leaves
4 green onions, thinly sliced (tops removed)	

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large frying pan, melt butter over medium high heat. Brown floured chicken and season with salt and pepper. Remove chicken from pan and place in a shallow baking dish. Cover and bake for 30 minutes.

Remove all but 1Tb. butter from the frying pan and saute garlic, onion and mushrooms until soft. Deglaze pan with chicken stock, Riesling wine and lemon juice. Simmer to reduce liquid, about 5 minutes. Add cream and tarragon to wine mixture; simmer for 5 minutes to reduce—do not boil.

Pour sauce over chicken. Bake uncovered for 10 min. (until heated through).

Martha Matthews (used with permission)

Micki's Corner

“The only problem with “spiritual gifts” courses is that they rarely encourage us to look at our woundedness in order to find our calling. They direct us toward our passion, but we are not a passionate society, at least not with a passion that is other-directed. Our wounds, not an inventory or a chart, direct us toward our passion. ... God activates our gifts to align with our wounds and—as with the Israelites and with the blind man who was healed—God gains glory and others find healing.” (Jane Rubietta in *Grace Points*)

I've been reading *Grace Points: Growth and Guidance in Times of Change* recently. When I got to this point, I had to stop a think for awhile.

Every Christian holds on tight to Romans 8:28 (...in all things God works for the good of those who love Him...), but I don't know that I ever put my hurts and my gifts together the way she does. As I look at the way I work, though, things from my past and things I have lived through since all led to passions—things I care very much about or make me feel for others who are going through something similar.

What we care passionately about usually turns into action. At least it should. I grew up in a family that was threatened by communication. If there was a problem with someone, you just didn't talk to them—some relatives weren't talked to for years and never even knew why. (At the moment, I'm that relative.)

That's one reason why communication is so important to me. This newsletter is one example of connecting my passion with my gifts. *Women's Life* is designed for busy women—to keep us in touch with each other and build fellowship even when we're apart.

What do you care about? How has God worked your hurts for good—giving you passions and caring? How can they be put into action?

Interesting questions, aren't they?

Micki Parkinson





110 Ritchie Highway
Pasadena, MD 21122

Flo Wolfe, Dir. of Women's Ministries
Micki Parkinson, Design and Editing

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEVERNA PARK, MD
PERMIT NO. 214