

# Women's Life



October 2005

“Did I just do it again?” I silently confronted myself. What I had just told my son didn’t need to be said. The jibe popped out of my mouth like a foolish exclamation point to the story someone else had just told. My vocal comment came unbidden, unplanned... and arrived uncalled for. At least I hadn’t sought a witty remark to cap the conversation. The words had stamped right out of my mouth. Their origin, however, ran deeper.

Mentally, scripture confronted me: “For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks,” Literarily, I recounted the many years I had taught the Carl Sandburg poem, *Primer Lesson*.

Look out how you use proud words.  
When you let proud words go,  
it is not easy to call them back.  
They wear long boots, hard boots,  
they walk off proud;  
they can't hear you calling...  
Look out how you use proud words.

I asked the Lord for forgiveness. In a quiet kitchen moment with my son the next morning, I asked his forgiveness also. “Oh, it’s fine, Mom, I didn’t take it personally.” And so, he kindly offered me grace, forgiveness, no offense held. Keeping short accounts allowed for healing and a restored relationship between us.

Ah, the unruly tongue, topic of many Proverbs and a very practical portion of James. Rudders, small when compared to the size of a ship, control the huge vessel. A bit in the mouth of a horse provides another comparison of a small apparatus that directs a large animal. Yet, when

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## *From the heart*

As Richard sat behind the steering wheel, I turned and studied his profile. His recent loving pursuit had changed my life. Four years ago, before Richard, I was injured while swing dancing, and weeks later rear ended by a large truck. My life was spared, but I suffered further injuries ending my career interpreting for the deaf and leaving me with chronic pain. My active lifestyle vanished, and I retired on disability. As a single 39-year-old woman whose life was suddenly changed I questioned God's faithfulness while desperately clinging to Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, not to harm you, but plans to bring you a hope and a future." God's faithfulness seemed far away. Pain was my constant companion.

A few years later (after eighteen months of physical therapy, twelve doctors, and unsuccessful surgery) Richard and I met. A committed Christian, Richard was fifteen years my senior, retired from an impressive career in the Air Force. When his wife of 23 years died of cancer, he found himself alone with no one to share retirement. After we met, Richard pursued me with great purpose and gentleness. He was quickly convinced we would make a great marriage team. It was taking me longer to agree.

Evaluating our growing relationship and Richard's wonderful character, I was amazed. "Packaged" in a way I'd never expected, he was all I had hoped and prayed for, and so much more. My head knew this was the man I'd waited for, but my heart wouldn't let go and feel in love. Maybe I was right. Years ago I announced "I won't fall in love again until pigs fly!" It became a joke, but also a painful reminder of how impossible real love seemed.

Days before our drive to visit friends, I told Richard the pig story, trying to express my hesitations of committing to him. I needed wisdom. I felt so vulnerable after the recent turbulent years; could I trust where my heart was headed? Turning away from him, I looked out my window. Surprised and startled, I let out a (small) scream. Richard turned to see what was wrong, and laughed as tears flooded my eyes. Outside the car window was a portly, pink

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pig, smile on his face and wings spread out from his body! Never mind he was painted on a restaurant delivery van; I'd never seen a pig flying 55 mph! Unaware of the significance, our friends made reservations at that very restaurant, "Where Pigs Fly" in Dover, Delaware. During dinner we were literally surrounded by hundreds of ornamental flying pigs! My heart began to flutter as well.

Richard and I married May 1, 2004. We have been amazed at God's abundant grace in giving us each a second chance at love and life. It has been sweeter than we dared dream. God's love is amazing. He lovingly reaches out in ways our hearts can understand, sometimes even by making pigs fly.

*Leslie Payne*



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James compares the small tongue in our body, he speaks of a spark that can ignite a forest fire. That's definitely out of control.

Connecting the tongue and the heart to hope, Paul Tripp will be at SPEP on October 7 and 8 to present his *War of Words* Seminar. Because I know my weakness but have faith in the Holy Spirit's strength, I plan to attend the Friday evening and Saturday sessions.

With humble honesty, Tripp will share his own struggles; he'll help us face some heart issues that spark our own speech, and he'll show us how the Lord offers deep change beyond behavioral adaptations.

I urge you to clear your calendar so you can attend this, SPEP's first Growing in Grace Seminar. Whether you're 16 or 90, single or married, introvert or extrovert, *War of Words* will provide a biblical perspective on a problem common to us all. Better yet, the seminar will offer us hope and help for lasting change that begins in our heart.

*Flo Wolfe*

Did your parents ever say something to you that still hurts to think about?

Want something different for your children?

Find out how at the *War of Words Seminar* Oct. 7 & 8.

**Special Days in October**

It's Pastor Appreciation Month

It's National Pizza Month

**This month in history**

William Tyndale burned at the stake for translating the Bible into English: Oct. 6, 1536

Microwave Oven introduced:  
Oct. 25, 1955

Statue of Liberty dedicated:  
Oct. 28, 1886

**Beyond child care**

We would like to enhance our Tuesday morning Bible Studies with a children's program. Member of SPEP? Have a heart for children? Want to help us build something great? Contact Flo Wolfe.

Galway Bay is one of our favorite spots. The atmosphere is quiet and friendly—with low lighting, Irish antiques scattered around the room, soft Celtic background music and (if you're lucky) Irish student waiters with that wonderful accent!

Location: 63 Maryland Ave. in Annapolis

Prices: Salads under \$10.00 Entrees to \$20.00

Hours: 11AM–midnight Monday–Saturday

10:30AM–midnight Sunday (Brunch until 1:30PM)

Kids' Menu and Takeout available

Reservations are recommended in the evening

(especially on the weekends)

Their potato-leek soup is thick and creamy and made from scratch. And we usually can't resist an order of their Irish soda bread. Other traditional favorites are Shepherd's Pie and Fish and Chips.

Their ingredients are always fresh, so their salads are a delight. My personal favorite is the Prime Rib Salad (minus the blue cheese). Along with a large helping of prime rib, it includes mixed greens, dried cranberries, walnuts and a black currant port dressing. Yum.

If you have room for dessert, you've got some more hard choices to make. Do you choose brown bread ice cream? Strawberry rhubarb tart? Apple pie? Or traditional bread pudding served hot with Irish custard sauce? Decisions. Decisions.

When we're on vacation, you may even find us at their Sunday Jazz Brunch after our family worship. The menu includes things like omelets, eggs benedict, steak and eggs, and Quiche Galway Bay (with mushrooms, spinach and tomato).

There is only one drawback to Galway Bay. Parking. If there is no on-street parking and the garages are full, we go on to Killarney House (584 Central Avenue, Davidsonville) instead. It is owned by the same people and the menu is basically the same, although the atmosphere isn't quite as cozy.

## *This month in Women's Ministry*

**2 Peter and Jude Study:** Thursday 7:30–9:00PM (every week)

**Acts Study:** Tuesday mornings 9:30–11:00AM (every week)

**Ebenezer 1:** Tuesday mornings 9:30AM (every week)

**Coffee Fellowship:** each Sunday, between services

**Merry Widows:** October 1

**Growing in Grace Seminar:** *War of Words* October 7

(7:00–9:15PM) and 8 (9:00AM–12:00PM)

**MOPS:** October 12

**MOPS Steering Committee:** October 26

**Women's Life** deadline: October 15. Email articles no longer than 500 words to [muffnme@comcast.net](mailto:muffnme@comcast.net)

**M&Ms discussion group:** Oct. 15 at Panera Bread 8:00AM

**Single Moms' Ministry:** Oct. 11&25 at 6:45PM

Childcare available

**Boundaries in Dating:** Oct. 4&18 at 6:45PM. Childcare available

**A Faith That Works:** October 19 at 7:30PM. Topic: Stress

Management

**Moms of College Kids:** October 22 from 9–10AM

**Scrapbooking Daze:** October 22 from 9AM–6PM (Min.Ctr.)

**FLASH Seminar:** October 29 from 9AM–Noon

*\*\*Check the bulletin for more information.*

## **In the beginning ...**

1876 - Hires Root Beer was advertised as purifying the blood and making rosy cheeks.

1884 - Moxie was touted as a patent medicine guaranteed to cure almost any ill including paralysis, softening of the brain, nervousness and insomnia

1885 - Dr. Pepper was said to “aid digestion and restores vim, vigor and vitality”

1886 - Coca-Cola was sold in pharmacies as a nerve tonic, stimulant and headache remedy

7UP began as Bib-Label Lithiated Lemon-Lime Soda (that's quite a mouthful—and it contained lithium)

## Flash Seminar

Are you a woman between the ages of 35 and 60? Do you suffer from memory lapses, crying fits, and feelings of going crazy? If so, then welcome to the *change of life*, otherwise known as perimenopause or menopause.

I write this honest assessment to anyone who might think that menopause is something that is kept secret. As you read this, you may be in a secluded location and plan to quickly dispose of this in the bottom of the nearest garbage can. Or you may reject the age of 35 as way too young to even think about the issue.

This subject is seldom discussed in public, so you might experience embarrassment and shame. Titus 2:3-5 encourages the older women to instruct the younger women. I propose that if we talk about this time of life then the embarrassment and shame need no longer exist. The depression, memory lapses, or craziness should not keep us afraid; understanding and sharing will allow each one to help each other. **We need not suffer alone.**

Hebrews 3:13 offers, "...encourage one another daily as long as it is called today..." We are to offer divine grace and opportunity to trust Christ in all of life's experiences. Also, we are called to offer comfort "...so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God." (II Cor. 1:4)

We at SPEP will be hosting another FLASH seminar on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 9AM until noon. If you would like to be in the company of other women anticipating or experiencing the same challenges, I encourage you to attend. What has been an unspoken topic will be revealed in a safe, fun, and informative environment. We are to be a support to one another because; "If [when] one falls down [struggles], [her] friend can help [her] up..." (Ecc 4:10)

Hope to see you there! *Theresa Olsavsky*



### **Behind the Scenes of *Women's Life***

Flo Wolfe, Director of Women's Ministries

Micki Parkinson, Design and Editing



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