

Women's Life



July 2004

Wisdom and knowledge

When the halls at school lie silent with summer, I often take out the ideas of wisdom and knowledge to assess what I have taught and what my students might have learned in my classroom. While knowledge provides the raw material with which to build, it is wisdom that creates something practical and lasting. Having the tools (knowledge) does not mean that I can build wisely. These thoughts (and the fact that Barb Smith and I will be teaching a summer Bible study on Proverbs) led me to a recent reading of Proverbs from *The Message*. This new paraphrase often rattles my King James raised bones, but the modern-day language pulls no punches when the first nine chapters compare wisdom and folly.

Chapter one begins with God. "Start with God –the first step is bowing down to God; only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning." When Lady Wisdom takes up her cry in the streets, she reminds me of the cynicism that should not dominate what passes for humor. "Cynics! How long will you see your cynicism? Idiots! How long will you refuse to learn? About face! I can revise your life."

That revising process starts when we make Insight, another synonym for Wisdom, our priority. Chapter two says, "God gives out Wisdom free, is plainspoken in Knowledge and Understanding. He's a rich mine of Common Sense for those who live well, a personal bodyguard to the candid and sincere." That sounds like a wise road to me, a road that can keep me from making all the wrong turns in life.

Chapters three and four remind me not to flaunt my great ideas. "Don't assume you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil! Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best." That's wisdom, but when we turn instead toward folly, our very lives are at stake. All the way through chapter seven, the picture is grim about the consequences involved when we choose folly.

Thankfully, chapters eight and nine give us Lady Wisdom again calling us back home with hope and health. "I am Lady Wisdom, and I live next to

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Calendar
Point of View
Thoughts and Things

Sanity: Knowledge and Discretion live just down the street. Good counsel and common sense are my characteristics; I am both Insight and the Virtue to live it out.”

As summer really begins, take account of areas of knowledge and wisdom that the Lord has opened to you this year. Thank Him and enjoy a time of refreshment, as a Proverbs says, “So, my dear friends, listen carefully; those who embrace my ways are most blessed.”

Flo Wolfe



M&Ms Book Club Selection for July and August

The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother

Here's how the *New York Times Book Review* introduced this book when it was first published in 1996:

“As a boy...James McBride knew his mother was different. But when he asked about it, she'd simply say, 'I'm light-skinned.' Later he wondered if he was different, too, and asked his mother if he was black or white. 'You're a human being,' she snapped. 'Educate yourself or you'll be a nobody!'” And when James asked what color God was, she said, 'God is the color of water'...As an adult, McBride finally persuaded his mother to tell her story—the story of a rabbi's daughter, born in Poland and raised in the South, who fled to Harlem, married a black man, founded a Baptist church, and put twelve children through college.”

Weaving together his personal quest to find his identity with the story of his mother's life, James McBride's memoir explores how faith and race have shaped their journey.

If you decide not to purchase the book for yourself, *The Color of Water* is readily available through the public library system.

Another book—another chance to join the club! If your schedule is lighter in the summer, it's the perfect time to give the M&Ms a try.

Change of Date

The Home Management seminar date has been changed to July 24th.

Point of View (women in missions)

Question: We hear about what's going on in the work there, but woman-to-women, can we pray for you as you go about your daily routine?

Ree Coulbourne writes: Thank you for wanting to pray specifically for us. Please pray for spiritual refreshment, good times in Scripture and prayer. Also pray for our marriage and family to prosper even among the many stresses that cross-cultural living and ministry provide.

And lastly, I am missing my good friend of the last five years, who was transferred to South America. Could you pray that the Lord would bring another good, Japanese friend.

Thank you for your faithful prayers.

(Ree and her husband Craig serve in Japan with Mission to the World.)



Dating Advice

May I pass long a bit of wisdom a woman shared in Bible study a few weeks ago, when she described a conversation with her child about dating? Her insight illuminated all kinds of relationships! She suggested her child reckon if the current object of interest made them a better person.

Now we know only God can really make us *better* folk. However, friendships touch all our souls for better or worse, and this maternal caution impressed me as useful, not just for daters—but each of us as we think through our friendships. So, I pass it along for whatever it is worth:

When you consider your friends, romantic or simply chums, ask yourself if you are truly made better by the friendship. (And think over, please, if you contribute favorably to that person's betterment.) Are you inclined to be the friend Jonathan was to David, and David to Jonathan? Are you ready to be the friend, and perhaps the mate, Scripture commends?

A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.

(Prov. 17:17)

A man of many friends comes to ruin, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. (Prov. 18:24)

Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But deceitful are the kisses of an enemy. (Prov. 27:6)

Barbara Smith

Christian Working Woman

quarterly newsletter is available at:

<http://www.christianworkingwoman.org/newsletters.html>

July 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
				1 1st postage stamp (1847) First Hershey's made (1900)
4 <u>Independence Day</u>	5	6 Bible Study 9:30am Prayer Mtg. 10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm	7 Playgroup 10:00am	8
11	12 Ebenezer III 7:00pm	13 Bible Study 9:30am Prayer Mtg. 10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm Brainstorming Lunch Noon	14 Playgroup 10:00am	15
18	19	20 Bible Study 9:30am Prayer Mtg. 10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm	21 Double Dipper Dessert/Swim 7:00pm Playgroup 10:00am	22 3 R's Bible 7:00pm Hot dog in (509) Ice Cream (1904)
25	26	27 Bible Study 9:30am Prayer Mtg. 10:00am Single Moms 6:30pm	28 Playgroup 10:00am	29

<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<i>the stamp</i> <i>They Kisses</i> <i>(197)</i>	2	3 <i>Merry Widows</i>
	9	10 <i>Real Coke is back</i> <i>(1985)</i>
	16	17
<i>e Study</i> <i>vented</i> <i>o invented</i>	23	24 <i>Home Management</i> <i>Seminar 9:00am</i> <i>Merry Widows</i>
	30	31 <i>Mothers Of College</i> <i>Kids</i>

Next brainstorming lunch

July 13, Noon in the Ministry Center



Design a Family Crest (fun for the whole family)

Design Your Own Coat of Arms: An Introduction to Heraldry (by Rosemary A. Chorzempa) is a great book that helps you understand how the designs work and what the symbols mean. Then it helps you to make one that represents your family.

(ed. note: you can see the one I made for Glenn at: www.glennandmicki.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

Safer Liquid Drain Cleaner

If you want a safer liquid drain cleaner, think junior high science fair volcano: a little baking soda, a little vinegar, a big fizz. You can add salt, too, then let sit for 10 to 20 minutes before flushing with boiling water. Try a cup of baking soda, a cup of salt, and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of white vinegar, followed by a gallon of water. (Some endorse adding the salt with the water, or covering the drain, or using different ratios.) You might need to repeat a few times for best results. And pouring a kettle of boiling water down the drain every week can keep things from slowing down in the future. (from www.thegreenguide.com)



Napa Valley Salad

Yield: 4 servings

Can be doubled

6 cups torn mixed salad greens or
fresh baby spinach
2 medium ripe pears, thinly sliced
 $\frac{1}{3}$ cup dried cherries
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup balsamic vinegar
2 tablespoons honey, warmed
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon pepper
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped hazel nuts

In a salad bowl, toss the greens and pears. In a small bowl, combine the vinegar, honey, salt and pepper. Drizzle over salad and toss to coat. Serve topped with chopped nuts and dried cherries.

Asparagus Dijon Vinaigrette

Makes 6 Servings

Serving Size: 6 ounces

2 pounds fresh asparagus, trimmed
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground black pepper
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
4 tablespoons toasted breadcrumbs
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved

Steam asparagus spears until tender, drain and place in a serving bowl. Mix olive oil, lemon juice, mustard, pepper and salt in a container with a tight lid and shake well. Pour vinaigrette over asparagus, sprinkle with breadcrumbs and garnish with cherry tomatoes.

“A well-beaten path
does not always make
the right road.”

Anonymous

(from the *Wives of Excellence Newsletter*: www.christian-homemaking.com/newsletter.html)

Tonight, my soul, be still and sleep;
The storms are raging on God's deep—
God's deep, not yours; be still and sleep.

Tonight, my soul, be still and sleep;
God's hands will still the Tempter's sweep—
God's hands, not yours; be still and sleep.

Tonight, my soul, be still and sleep;
God's love is strong while night hours creep—
God's love, not yours; be still and sleep.

Tonight, my soul, be still and sleep;
God's heaven will comfort those who weep—
God's heaven, not yours; be still and sleep.

Taken from *Streams in the Desert* by L.B. Cowman (ed. by James Reimann). Copyright 1996 by Zondervan. Used by permission of Zondervan.



Hearts at Home

Is a ministry that exists to professionalize motherhood (“the hardest job you’ll ever do”).

Their magazine and e-newsletter are full of encouragement and continuing education for stay-at-home moms.

Check it out at: <http://hearts-at-home.org/new/>



Behind the Scenes of *Women's Life*

Flo Wolfe, Director of Women's Ministries—Barbara Smith, Newsletter Coordinator—Micki Parkinson, Design and Editing

Got your kids to eat their peas? Got that closet organized?

Tell us how!

Send your successes to Micki at muffynme@comcast.net



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