

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Creative Women, Creative Lives

Volume 3, Issue 3

Fall 2010

Words from a Godly Woman

As Christians we are called to encourage one another and as encouragers we are able to share our faith and courage with others. The economy has changed dramatically in the last five years, home values have dropped and unemployment has increased. In times of adversity it is easy to get bogged down in the daily troubles we face, but a kind word or a word of encouragement can go a long way. Proverbs 12:25 says, "Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down, but an *encouraging* word makes it glad." Scripture also tells us to "Encourage one another, and build each other up, just as you are doing" (I Thess. 5:11).

My family began attending Venture Church in April of 2009. In September 2009 my husband Scott and I began attending a Life Group

on Sunday nights. We immediately connected with the other members in our group. At that time we were going through the DVD series "When God's People Pray" by Jim Cymbala and each week we would end our time together sharing prayer requests and praises and praying for each other. This time together was a great source of encouragement and we looked forward to our weekly meetings. Our Life Group has been meeting for this past year and we continue to look forward to our time together and the encouragement we receive as we grow closer to each other and to God.

Is there someone in your life that needs encouragement? I would like to challenge you to look for ways to encourage others in your life. It could be as simple as

showing patience with a family member, bringing a meal to a family who is struggling with their health or finances, stopping to pray with a friend, or showing appreciation for a job well done. Your words and actions as an encourager may have more influence on that individual's life than you may ever know. I read a story recently that portrayed a simple yet profound act of encouragement:

"Jackie Robinson was the first black person to play Major League Baseball. While he was breaking baseball's racial barriers, he faced angry and verbally abusive crowds in every stadium. One day, when he was playing in their home stadium in Brooklyn, he made an er-

ror. The abuse began and turned into a roar. He stood at second base humiliated while the noise continued. Then shortstop "PeeWee" Reese came over and stood next to him, put his arm around him and faced the crowd. The fans grew quiet. Robinson said later that arm around his shoulder probably saved his career."

Jackie Robinson may have quit playing baseball that day if "PeeWee" Reese had not had the courage to stand beside him in his moment of need.

Who needs your arm around them this week? Allow God's grace to work through you. And if you need help, admit it and be open to receive it. God has an arm for you.

Bryn Edwards


:EVENTS:

- **PRAYERFUL STITCHES**

Learn how to crochet on Monday Evenings with Stephanie Park

- **WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Meeting at 9:30 am at Venture with Bryn Edwards

- **LADIES FALL GATHERING**

*We'll drive to Oak Glen on **October 16th** for devotion, fellowship and food. Register in the lobby to let us know you are coming!*

- **HIKER CHICKS**

Join us once a month for a local hike! More information to come

- **BREAKFAST BURRITO SALE**

*Let's have breakfast together on **November 7th**.*

- **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

*We'll play Bunco, exchange ornaments, eat and celebrate at the Rothchild's Residence on **December 3rd!***

- **WOMEN'S RETREAT 2011**

*Check out the wonderful location for the next Spring Retreat at www.thousandpines.com. We will be enjoying a wonderful weekend away on **April 15th-17th**. Mark your calendars for a few fun-filled days of encouraging Biblical teaching, worship in song, time with friends (old and new), treats and the beauty of nature all around!*


:THOUGHTS ON LIFE:

Entertain Me!... Or Maybe Not

A Yahoo online poll reported that the average U.S. family owns 12 tech devices, including three TVs, two computers, and seven other gadgets such as MP3 players, video game consoles and mobile phones. Poll respondents said their overlapping use of all these devices adds up to about 43 hours during each 24-hour day. Sound like your house?

Unless we make a deliberate effort to unplug, we can literally be entertained all day long. That doesn't leave much room for important spiritual pursuits like praying (1 Thess. 5:17), meditating on God's Word (Josh. 1:8, Ps. 1:2), and examining ourselves (Lam. 3:40, 1 Cor. 11:28 and 2 Cor. 13:5). It's not that technology is bad, but its constant presence can distract us from important exercises that make our spirits strong.

Whatever our normal tech-drenched state is, let's call its opposite contentment. It's the ability to be still (Ps. 37:7, Ps. 46:10, Zech. 2:13) - to be alone with our thoughts and be at peace (Prov. 14:30; Is. 26:3, Jn. 14:27, 2 Tim. 1:7). Getting there in today's culture takes some work, but it's possible. We can start with the biblical discipline of fasting - but instead of fasting from food, we can fast from technology. Pick a week and turn off the TV. Stay off the internet for a day. Once in a while, leave the radio off when you get in the car. Create some space in your life - and your kids' lives - that's free from electronic input.

—Adapted from: *Character in a Tech-Overloaded World* by Lindy Keffer


:GROWING IN GRACE:

This is my favorite time of year...fall. The turning leaves, the cool, crisp air, hot apple cider and pumpkins on the porch always makes my heart sing. However, that singing quickly turns to stress as the thought of the upcoming holiday season starts to take over...the whirlwind of activities, the planning, the preparation, and the shopping! Then I remember why I love this time of year the most...it reminds me to stop and be thankful. There is something about harvest time that turns my heart and thoughts toward all that I am thankful for. I have found that thankfulness is a condition of the heart. When we are content and know where our provision comes from, then we can be truly thankful. Scripture tells us to 'give thanks in all circumstances' (1 Th. 5:18), even in the hectic holiday season when there is so much to do and so little time to do it in. This year is especially difficult for many who have drastically different financial circumstances than they have had in years past. Or maybe a cherished loved one has gone on to heaven and is no longer with us. Or maybe we are praying for someone who has separated themselves from those that they love, either emotionally or physically. Thankfully, we have a loving God who knows all of our needs and cares about us deeply. He loves when we trust Him, give praise and thanksgiving to Him, and rest in his presence. I would encourage you today, as the rush of the holiday season is upon us, to remember from whom all blessings flow, to rest in his love and grace, and most of all, to have a thankful heart.

Forever in His Grace,

Denise

:GETTING TO KNOW THE WOMEN OF VENTURE:

I am Karla Zaita and I am from the Philippines. I moved to California last July of 2009 to be with the love of my life. It was a tough decision leaving my family and friends, the security of having a job and being in the place I called home my whole life. I was so scared moving to a new place that is 7,000 miles away from my home turf. Adjusting wasn't easy, I miss my family, my friends, my job and even the traffic I used to hate.

Frank, my awesome husband helped me a whole lot to adjust. He took me to Venture and there I started to know what it really means to have a relationship with Christ. I was born and raised as a Catholic, I have always known and accepted Christ as my Savior, but I was so far from having a relationship with Him. It was hard for me at first to stop doing Catholic rituals I was used to, like praying the rosary. Praying the rosary always had a calming effect to me and

whenever I am stressed, worried or agitated I used to get my rosary and pray the Hail Mary. But after a lot of reflecting, I realized that it made me calm because it's repetitive. It's just like counting sheep when one can't go to sleep. I also realized how empowered and loved I am that I can talk directly to God and tell Him my own thoughts instead of uttering memorized verses.

I also met a lot of wonderful women in Venture including my best friend Sue. She is such a blessing to me. She always gives me a ride when Frank can't, she helps me with my nails, my make-up and she takes me shopping. But aside from all those things, she is always there to pray with me or for me, she is there to listen to me and give me advice. I found in her not only a friend but also a role model and a mentor.

I was baptized last December and



I am embracing my new life with the Lord in a new country. I am also a part of the Women's Ministry. It is so great to be a part of a group of women who encourages one another to do what is best not only for themselves but for their family, community and most importantly the Lord.

I am not scared anymore. I am surrounded by people who love me and I know that God is always with me.

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PUMPKIN OOEY GOOEY BUTTER CAKE

Cake:

1 (18.25 ounce) box yellow cake mix

1 egg

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted

Filling:

1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese, softened

3 eggs

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1 (15 oz.) canned pumpkin pie filling

1 (16 oz.) box confectioners' sugar

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 13x9x2 inch baking pan.

2. In the bowl of an electric mixer, combine cake mix, 1 egg, and 1 stick melted butter and mix well. Pat into the bottom of prepared pan and set aside.

3. Still using an electric mixer, beat cream cheese until smooth; add 3 eggs and vanilla. Add pumpkin pie filling. Pour in confectioners' sugar and beat well. Reduce speed of mixer and slowly pour in 1 stick melted butter. Mix well.

: HOW WIVES CAN LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS :

- Make your home a safe place—Prov 31:11, 20
Do not use jokes about him or make cutting remarks to him. Do not constantly remind him of his faults, mistakes, or failures. Correct him only if it is absolutely necessary. The home should be a place of encouragement, comfort, understanding and refuge.
- Be trustworthy and dependable—Prov 31:11-12
- Maintain a good attitude—Prov 31:26, 28-29; Jam 3:13-18; Phil 4:4
- Discuss things lovingly, openly and honestly—Eph 4:25
- Be satisfied with your position, possessions and tasks—Phil 4:6-13
- Be longsuffering, forgiving, and forbearing—Eph 4:2, 31-32
- Show interest in your husband’s problems and concerns—Phil 2:3-4
- Be an industrious, frugal, diligent, ambitious and creative member of the team—Ps 128:3; Prov 31:10-31
- Offer suggestions, advice, and corrections when needed in a loving fashion—Prov 31:26
- Keep yourself beautiful, especially in the inner person—1

Peter 3:3-5

- Maintain a good spiritual life—1 Peter 3:1-2, 7
- Cooperate with your husband in raising children—Eph 6:20; Prov 31:26-28; 1 Tim 5:13-14
- Build loyalty to your husband in the children
The wife’s attitudes toward the husband are quickly picked up by the children. Lack of respect or confidence in his leadership, complaints about what he has or has not done will have debilitating influence on the children. She must avoid taking sides with the children or anyone against her husband. She must support and cooperate with him in discipline. All differences of opinion should be settled away from the children.
- Be grateful to him—Rom 13:7

MISSION STATEMENT

Women’s Ministry is committed to equipping women in working together to know God, to grow in His grace and wisdom, to build each other up in love, and to glorify Him in our home, church, community and the world.

Women’s Ministry Leaders

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Denise Ciuri
Kathy Fox
Sue Rothchild

MORNING BIBLE STUDY LEADER

Bryn Edwards

WORSHIP LEADER

Jeanne Rugg



WORSHIP SERVICE TIME

SUNDAYS

9:30 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

LOCATION

40515 California Oaks Rd.

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Pastor Guy Fox

951-600-3904

www.venturecc.com