



# Creative Women, Creative Lives



WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER- Summer 2011

Volume 4, Issue 3

## Words from a Godly Woman—

From Weakness to Strength

Many years ago, David and I were going through some rather extreme circumstances. We suddenly found ourselves with no home and three small children who definitely needed a roof over their heads. As I walked the kids to school, the same crossing guard who crossed us without comment every day, stopped me. She wanted to know if I had a minute to listen to her testimony. She didn't know I was a Christian, and I didn't tell her as I said yes. In between crossing children she told me her story.

She had been married for quite some time when her husband (an unbeliever) came and told her he'd fallen in love with another woman and that he was leaving their marriage. As the crossing guard remembered her story, her face was sad with the events of that day. She recalled how scared and alone she felt and to make matters worse, as the years dragged on, people began to ask her why she "didn't just divorce her husband as he was never coming back." He had left her in financial ruin, with the shame of a failed marriage, and the reality that she would never be married again. You see, she refused to divorce him. She was of the conviction that if God hated divorce, she would hate it too. She trusted that God would be her strength, her Savior, her comfort. She endured in her trial for nine years. Then came the

day when her husband came back to her, asking her to forgive him. As Christ forgave her, she forgave her husband. She brought him back into their marriage as Christ brings us back into fellowship with Him. He succumbed to the love Jesus showed through her and repented. They are still married. When she finished her story, I thanked her and went on my way, marveling in her strength and forgiveness. Her testimony helped me as we dealt with our own circumstances, and her willingness to follow Jesus in her state of great weakness still inspires me. I thank God she stopped me.

Weakness is not a word well liked by society. It denotes a strong lack in the very things you and I might think necessary to "be all we can be." The very definition of "weak" is lacking physical strength; feeble 2. lacking moral strength or willpower 3. lacking mental power 4. lacking power, authority, force 5. easily torn, broken, and so on the list goes. Weakness might be the very thing you despise. Most people I know myself included, want to be strong. Strong enough to defend ourselves and our family, strong enough to endure hardship, strong enough to change our circumstances. Interestingly, Jesus defines weakness as something good. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all



the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Cor. 12:9 Boast gladly about my weakness? Yes! Because you see, our weakness isn't something to be despised. It's an opportunity. It gives us the chance to come to our Lord and let Him lead us, fill us and remind us of who He is. Who is more powerful than Almighty God? He gives **us** a chance to let His power be made perfect in us! Who is more adequately equipped to strengthen us? No one! Let Jesus be your all in all. Come to Him in feebleness, in humility, in your weakness. He is waiting to make you strong enough for any challenge, any fear that you might face ahead. Nothing is too hard for Him. Bring your tears, bring the anger that holds you in place from moving forward in Him. Bring your problems. Bring your weak self and present it to Him as a living sacrifice, ready to do His will. He won't disappoint you. Let His power fill you up and equip you in strength and in every good thing. In weakness and in love, Jeanne



**:EVENTS:**

- Summer Women's Bible Study  
Thursday nights at 7pm  
Held at Venture; cost \$20  
June 23rd though August 4th
- Hiker Chicks Prayer Walk  
Saturday June 25th at 9am  
Santa Rosa Plateau
- Prayerful Stitches crochet group  
Monday nights at 7pm  
Held at Venture



**Mark Your Calendar**

**:Letter from the Editor:**

Dear friends,

It's the last thing that I do before sending this newsletter out every issue; write my letter from the editor. It's also the thing that takes me the most time.

You'd think that since journalism is what I studied in school that this would be easy for me. Just sit down and type it out. But it's not. It's the hardest part.

But the more of these I write, the more I've come to see that it's not me putting the newsletter together anyway. It's God. He decides the topics, the writers, the quotes and recipes, even the release date.

He takes my fumbling mouth and fingers and uses it to speak to all of you. Month after month, He takes my weakness and uses it to make you stronger., to get you thinking and inspire you to get involved in women's ministry.

Why? Because He wants my life to give Him glory. What weakness is He using in your life to make others stronger? Just something to ponder.

Stephanie Park

**:GROWING IN GRACE:**

I have been so encouraged by our Bible study by Beth Moore, "Believing God". To be honest, when I first began the study I didn't know what to expect. I have been in other Bible studies and I knew there would be more to learn and I would grow deeper in my faith during the 10-week study. What I didn't expect was to truly dig into God's Word and come out with a deeper, active, faith-changing knowledge of who God says He is, a sweet soul-bonding friendship with my Bible study girls, and a thirst for more of Him.

Sweet sisters, I want to encourage you to get into a Bible study or Life Group and sit with God's alive and active Word, as you grow and connect with other women. Isaiah 43:10 says that God chose us, He wants our faith and He wants us to believe Him. He has summoned you, respond to His call. You will be so glad you did.

Forever in His Grace, Denise



# :Spring Events:

## Spring Tea Party!!!



## Women's Retreat



Denise and her new BFF!!



So many scones to choose from!

## Tea Time!!



Sister love!



### LAUGHTER IS AN INSTANT VACATION.

~MILTON BERLE



Going on a hike!



KITCHEN TIME

### Summer Vegetable Salad

By Rudy Mancini

- 1/2 cup red wine vinegar
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1/2 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 small cucumber, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 small green pepper, julienned
- 1 small red onion, sliced into rings
- 1 tub fresh mozzarella
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh basil

#### Directions:

In a large bowl, combine vinegar, oil, garlic, salt, pepper and sugar; mix well.  
 Add remaining ingredients and toss gently.  
 Cover and chill for at least 1 hour.  
 Makes 4 servings.

# :THOUGHTS:

In a poem simply titled "Prayer," C.S. Lewis explores the mysterious exchange between our hearts and God when we pray.

“Master, they say that when I seem  
To be in speech with you,  
Since you make no replies, it's all a dream  
—One talker aping two.

They are half right, but not as they  
Imagine; rather, I  
Seek in myself the things I meant to say,  
And lo! The wells are dry.

Then, seeing me empty, you forsake  
The Listener's role, and through  
My dead lips breathe and into utterance wake  
The thoughts I never knew.

And thus you neither need reply  
Nor can; thus, while we seem  
Two talking, thou are One forever, and I  
No dreamer, but thy dream.”

The Christian story places before us a God who not only hears but also speaks on our behalf. Likewise, Paul writes, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

This excerpt is from leadership expert and author John C. Maxwell: How do you measure a dream? By asking yourself 10 straightforward questions. If you can answer them positively, then the odds of your achieving your dream increase dramatically. So here are the questions:

1. The Ownership Question: Is my dream really my dream?
  2. The Clarity Question: Do I clearly see my dream?
  3. The Reality Question: Am I depending on factors within my control to achieve my dream?
  4. The Passion Question: Does my dream compel me to follow it?
  5. The Pathway Question: Do I have a strategy to reach my dream?
  6. The People Question: Have I included the people I need to realize my dream?
  7. The Cost Question: Am I willing to pay the price for my dream?
  8. The Tenacity Question: Am I moving closer to my dream?
  9. The Fulfillment Question: Does working toward my dream bring satisfaction?
  10. The Significance Question: Does my dream benefit others?
- both notes from Jim Swaney’s Facebook page. He is the outreach pastor from Eastside Christian Church in Fullerton, CA.



## 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

### DIRECTOR

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### COMMUNICATION/NEWSLETTER

Kristi Parmelee

Stephanie Park

### MEALS/CARE

Brady Cavaness

### PRAYERFUL STITCHES

Stephanie Park



### WORSHIP SERVICE TIME

SUNDAYS

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

### LOCATION

40515 California Oaks Rd.

Murrieta, CA 92562

Pastor Guy Fox

951-600-3904

www.venturecc.com

