



Views from the Fish Bowl

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Genesee and Bay Associations
Newsletter for
Ministers' Wives

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Special points of interest:

- * Pray and focus specifically on the weak areas.
- * What is your heart set on?
- * What are we to do when life gives us more that we can handle?
- * He never takes our tears lightly....

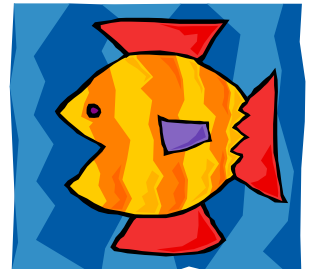
View from the Fish Bowl!

Life often hands us a plate that is not so palatable. Circumstances happen that take us to our knees. Is God aware? Of course He is, though sometimes it may take years for us to see the big picture unfold.

Circumstances of recent times for our personal lives have been a plate that, for me, have been hard to swallow. I won't go into detail but all of you know and have heard it again and again about the changes in Jim's job and the state's decisions. I do, however want to share what God has been showing me and how He is helping me to deal with the plate we have been served.

I have been reading through the book of Psalm in my daily quiet time. In Psalm 84 I read these words. Verse 5-7 HCSB *"Happy are the people,*

whose strength is in You, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they will make it a source of spring



Do you ever feel like Somebody is watching you?

water, even the autumn rain will cover it with blessing. They go from strength to strength, each appears before God in Zion."

I had to ask myself the question, "What is your heart set on?" I hate to report that it was not set on pilgrimage. I looked up the word on my phone dictionary (a handy tool by the way), *pilgrimage—a journey, especially a long* (Continued on page 3)

Sketches of New Testament Women: "The Titus 2 Model" Part 3

So far we have studied two instructions from the Titus 2 women: reverence toward God and loving your husband. The next instruction for older women to teach the younger women was to love their children. All of us love our children, I'm sure, but sometimes we have failed to love them in the way that God

shows us. So let's look at a passage of scripture that uses Jesus as an example in how He grew. It is found in Luke 2:52. You can probably quote it. *"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."* Jesus modeled well-rounded physical, mental, spiritual and social growth. (Continued on page 2)

Titus 2 (continued)

Parents should evaluate a child's progress in each of these categories, praying and focusing specifically on the weak areas. Loving our children means making sure they are growing in these areas.

6. **Physical Growth:** "Our body is the _____ of the Holy Spirit." I Cor. 6:19; "Whatever you _____ or _____ or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." I Cor. 10:31. Physical needs, while not carrying eternal significance, do have important temporary value (I Tim. 4:8). An individual who eats wisely and exercises regularly, can have more energy to expend for the Lord in spiritual and practical areas. Likewise, if one is well-groomed he has a better testimony to the unsaved. We can become overly absorbed in this area, so we must always keep asking ourselves, "Are we teaching them to glorify God or self?"

7. **Mental Growth:** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of _____." (Prov. 1:7a). A wise child will learn to measure all knowledge by the Word of God (Ps. 119:90-100). A teachable spirit and diligence are keys to mental growth (Prov. 13:1; 22:29). The one who learns well will be able to answer the questions of others and train them to follow the Lord (Ps. 78:4-7).

8. **Spiritual Growth:** Jesus grew in favor with God... Spiritual development is our greatest concern as Christian parents. One major spiritual goal should include salvation at an early age. Although we cannot decide for a child (John 1:13) we can pray that God will provide them the wisdom necessary for understanding the gos-

pel. We can pray that our child will "remember their creator in the days of their _____, before the days of trouble comes." (Eccles. 12:1) Pray for children to have an intimate knowledge of the Word at an early age. Stimulate this growth by teaching them to memorize scripture and helping them to love the word.

9. **Social Growth:** Jesus grew in favor with God and _____. Important elements of social development include a wise choice of friends, respect for others (Lev. 19:32), obedience and honor for parents (Eph. 6:1-3), polite behavior (Ps. 101:2a) and a forgiving spirit. Some parents are more concerned about acceptance and popularity, yet godly individuals need to learn, when necessary, to stand alone—to make right decisions in spite of negative pressure. Getting along with others is important at home, at school, at work.

Training children requires work and vision. Many qualities for well-rounded growth can be requested in prayer. **Parents should claim great things for their children.**



It is not good ...
to be alone.

"A big God appreciates large requests."
Jeremiah 33:33; Eph. 3:20

Together Time

Dear Ladies,

We didn't get together at Christmas this year. My schedule and yours were too full. How is your time now? Let's get together for fellowship on Monday, March 5th for a dinner date. We will meet at a local restaurant and just enjoy our time together. I will send out information by postcard next week so you will know the place and time.

Do you know a quiet place we could go on a Monday night? If so give me a call or send me an email with a suggested place. I would like it to be pretty central so no one will have too far to go.



Togetherness at its best is unbeatable

Top ten questions—

—to ask your accountability partner:

1. What are you struggling with today/this week?
2. Have you read your Bible most days?
3. Have you spent time by yourself in a quiet place talking with God?
4. What have you done this week to give to others?
5. How well are you taking every thought captive and putting it under the obedience to Christ?
6. Have you spent time being still, listening to God?
7. How are you doing with devoting time to and listening to each of your family members?
8. Are you struggling with any specific temptation?
9. What do you think the Spirit is prompting you to do?
10. What are you avoiding that you really need to deal with?

Myths we believe! Does God's Word Really Say That?

I hear people say all the time “Well you know God will never give us more than we can handle.” I say to this, Show me in the Bible where it says that!” It seems to me that most of the examples in the Bible were of people who couldn’t handle the trials, **but God** gave them what they needed to fight, be encouraged, endure and even die with grace.

Where do we get this idea that God won’t give us more than we can handle? And who is doing the giving? Is it really God? Paul said in 2 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” This verse is the verse I believe where people think that our trials won’t be more than we can handle, but that is not what it says. Trials could be used here to replace temptation, but it is the

trials that will tempt us, those “flaming arrows” that Satan tries to hurl at us to wound us and persuade us to sin. God will help us to combat these temptations. The promise is that a way of escape from temptations will be given for us, not that we will have less of life’s difficulties.

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 1:8-10, he was under great pressure, far beyond his ability to endure so that he despaired even of life. This happened so that he might not rely on himself, but on God.



So what are we to do when life gives us more than we can handle? We fall on our knees or face before God and rely on his power, admit we can’t handle it, let God have His way in our storm and look expectantly for His glory. “Jesus Loves Me This I Know, for the Bible Tells Me So.”

Fish bowl (continued)

one, to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion. To me, God said; “your heart needs to be in this new adventure, give it your best. Turn this valley of Baca (this time a tears) into a spring of blessing. Be a refreshing spring to My people. I am your strength.” I was reminded of the wall-hanging in my dinning room, “The Joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Verse 7 again spoke to my heart, “*They go from strength to strength; each appears before God in Zion.*” God has given me one strength to savor until the next strength. Yes there are times of discouragement but then God gives us another strength to encourage us.

How does He do that? Mostly through His word—*each appears before God in Zion.*

As a result of this passage I will begin going with Jim on Sunday mornings. It is time, and hopefully I can in some way be a source of spring water to others.

How about you? Are you setting your heart on Pilgrimage? “Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Phil.3:20



“Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice!”

Recipe Corner (Gumbo) by Rachel Marcus from First Baptist, Flushing

3 large skinless, boneless Chicken breasts (cut in cubes)
 salt and pepper 1/4 cup vegetable oil
 1 pound smoked sausage, cut into 1/4 inch slices
 1/2 cup flour 5 Tbs. margarine
 1 large onion, chopped 8 cloves garlic minced
 1 green bell pepper, chopped 3 stalks celery chopped
 1/4 bunch parsley, coarsely chopped
 4 cups hot water 5 bouillon cubes
 1 (14 oz. can) stewed tomatoes with juice
 2 cups frozen sliced okra (optional)
 4 green onions, sliced (optional) 2 cups uncooked rice

Season chicken. Heat oil over medium-high heat. Cook chicken until browned, remove. Add sausage and cook till browned, remove. Sprinkle flour over the oil, and cook to make a roux, about 10 min., cool. Return kettle to low heat and melt the remaining 3 Tbs. margarine. Add onion, garlic, green pepper and celery-cook 10 min. Add water and bouillon cubes, whisking constantly. Add chicken and sausage. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer 45 min. Serve over cooked rice. (Add green onions just before serving.)



A taste of Cajun cooking!

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Encouraging Ministers' wives in
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**Views from the
Fish Bowl**

Answering Life's Lies with Living Truth!

LIE #1

This trial is so difficult, I fear I may lose my faith in God.

TRUTH:

Your faith may seem to be fading, but you are not out of God's sight. Your faith is dependent, not on the circumstances of your life, but upon the goodness, grace and character of God. He is holding onto you and He is not going to let go. (I Cor. 1:9, Phil. 1:6, John 10:28)

LIE #2

God must be getting back at me for some past sin.

TRUTH:

God is not getting back at you; rather, He's getting you back to Him! God hates sin so much He put all of your sins and mine on His Son, Jesus. The full extent of God's wrath was borne by Christ upon the cross when He said, "It is finished..." So, fully trust in Christ's death and God's promise to remember your sins no more (Hebrews 8:12).

LIE #3

I could handle my problem better if I saw some good coming out of it, but there is no purpose in this trial.

TRUTH:

Troubles may seem pointless at the moment, but they are anything but that. They are actually producing for you an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison. He never takes our tears lightly; not one moment of patient pain is wasted. He is using our sorrows for a glorious eternal future. (2 Cor. 4:17, Romans 8:18, Ps. 56)

LIE #4

I'll be a hypocrite if I praise God without true joy or without feeling like it.

TRUTH:

You will not be a hypocrite. Would you be a hypocrite if you did something kind today, when you weren't feeling kind? No. I don't know exactly what you're facing, but I have experienced seasons of great sorrow, so please know I say this very gently and not flippantly: it is your calling to praise Him. Confess to God that you don't have thankful feelings when you are suffering. Ask Him earnestly to help you with those feelings as you praise Him. Then you're not being a hypocrite. You're being a true Christian. (Phil. 4:4)

(Taken from Women.net—written by Connie Carey)
