



April 2012

Side-by-Side

A Newsletter from the SWBC Women's Ministry

By His Wounds

The most important day of the Christian calendar is fast upon us. And as I write to you, I wonder, "What can I possibly say that hasn't been said before? What nuance of the Easter story should we think about together so that we don't miss the miracle of our rescue from darkness and redemption from sin and death? Is there some new illustration that will magnify His work for us on the cross; some word picture that will pierce our heart and stir our consciousness in a new way? Can I somehow say it differently, more colorfully, more beautifully?"

Paul was under similar pressure as he ministered to the Corinthians. There was an expectation for him to contend with the accomplished and skilled orators of the day. If you're familiar with Paul's writings, you know he certainly was smart enough to do it. But, instead of getting into the middle of that, Paul simplified. He didn't even try to compete. He just declared "Jesus Christ and him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2)

So to follow Paul's example, I am going to bring you a line from Isaiah that was put to song and has been playing over and over and over in my head this week:

"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our sin; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

That is all....

Kandy Jackson
Director of Women's Ministry

"He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:6a

What's Going on in Bible Study...

Knowing God Through the Study of His Character is our current women's bible study. We meet from 9-11 a.m. on Tuesday mornings in the office classroom or Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Childcare is available on Tuesday mornings with reservations.

Women's Equipping Class – We continue our study of Luke every Sunday morning at 9:00, meeting in the library.



All ladies are invited to a bridal shower for Danielle Schindler, Troy Roger's fiancé, Sunday, April 22 at 2 pm in the fellowship hall.

Troy and Danielle are registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Pampered Chef, and Wedding Wire.

All ladies are invited to a Baby Shower on Sunday, April 29 from 2-4 pm in the church fellowship hall in anticipation of Amy (Tubbesing) Lee's baby boy. The are registered at Babies R Us.



We will be organizing a carpool to the Beth Moore event on April 13-14 at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, MO. On Friday, April 13, we will leave the church at 5:15 pm and return around 10:30-11:00. On Saturday, April 14, we will leave at 6:45 am and return around 1:30 pm.

If you would like to meet up with us and carpool to the event, please contact the church office at 816-525-8215. For more information on the event or to purchase tickets, you can visit www.lifeway.com/livingproof or call 800-254-2022. Tickets to the event will need to be purchased individually.

Sharing with Each Other

We will continue featuring a testimony from one of our women who has graciously agreed to share with everyone. We hope you are encouraged by this section of our newsletter.

Testimony of Becky Moyer

As I look back on my life, I feel incredibly blessed. I was born into a loving Christian family in which faith was lived out in a very real and authentic way. I cannot remember a time when I did not know that Jesus loved me and my family loved me. Although my father was a pastor, it was my mom and sister, Sarah, who probably most influenced my conversion. I realize that it was God who chose me and drew me to Himself; however, he used my mom as a Godly woman to reveal how having Him as your Lord and Savior makes all the difference.

Many of you know that my sister, Sarah, is only 16 months older than me. As children, she was my best friend and constant companion. Although she was older, she was always willing to let me be the leader in any childhood game we played. If we played house, I was the mom-she was the child; if we played school, I was the teacher-she was the student; if we played hospital, I was the doctor-she was the patient; and on and on. I didn't understand until I was older that she had suffered a lack of oxygen during delivery and 2/3 of her brain cells had atrophied at birth. The prognosis from the doctors was that Sarah would be hopelessly retarded and would probably live a short life. The doctors encouraged my parents to institutionalize her; but, they knew that God had given her to our family, and He would either take her or give them the wisdom to care for her. As Sarah began to develop skills beyond what they could explain, some attributed her patterning after me as having a role in that. If so, to God be the glory, but I learned far more from her than she learned from me. I believe she is one of the first miracles of God that I witnessed. Although she developed more slowly and has to work harder at most things, if the Hebrews hall of faith were being written now, her name might be listed. That background is relative to my conversion testimony. Other children made fun of Sarah, calling her names and imitating her awkward ways, but I was very protective of her and it made me very angry. In fact, once I accidentally broke an older boy's arm as a result of my anger. Sarah and I were walking to school as he rode by on his bike and called her a "retard". I instinctively grabbed the bar at the back of his bike and told him that she was my sister and he had better quit when he fell off into the creek and broke his arm. I may have told him that "he was the retard"! Remember, I wasn't saved yet. I was only six but I remember asking my mom why she was so patient with people who made fun of Sarah and why it made me so angry. She talked to me about sin and how it was Jesus' love in her that allowed her to love even mean people. She also taught me that sometimes people act the way they do because their life might have different challenges and we needed to try to see people through the eyes of Jesus. I knew that I needed Jesus. After all, I was very small, so a life of defending people in anger was not likely to have good results. I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior at that time and was baptized by my father very soon after. I know that I was very young but I remember my heart changed that day. I began to see others in an entirely different light. Rather than anger, I felt a desire to pray for those who made fun of Sarah. I often wondered what had happened in their life to make them act the way they did. I am reminded of 2 Corinthians 5:16 -21:

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (NIV)

Although I was a preacher's kid, my parents always challenged us to make choices in how we lived, not because of our relationship to them but because of our relationship with Christ. That was a great gift. My dad was a wonderful scholar of God's word, an amazing storyteller, and loved and trusted everyone - sometimes to a fault. My mom was an amazing prayer warrior and I have many memories seeing her reading her Bible and journaling. She probably felt like a single mom at times, but did not complain. I do not take for granted how fortunate I am to have grown up in such a home, although our home was not perfect. My grandmother lived with us for a while before she came to accept Christ as her Savior. She was an alcoholic and very bitter. One time she told me that it was a good thing that I was smart because I sure wasn't pretty. Not a real confidence booster, but the Lord healed that relationship. He was even so gracious to choose for my husband a man who tells me I am beautiful every day. I know that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder but it works for me. I also used to struggle that my testimony was not as powerful as those redeemed from a life of drugs and alcohol, etc.; however, God has helped me see that He can use each of our testimonies for His glory. It is not that I haven't faced struggles: One of my older sister's boyfriends who had psychological issues tried to physically assault me in a park, our oldest daughter Julia almost died of an asthma attack at age 3, it took us almost 7 years to sell our house in Oklahoma after moving here causing great financial stress with two mortgages while starting a new business, I watched my Dad's health decline over several years to the point that he could no longer communicate when he had been a master communicator, my dear sister Sarah was diagnosed with terminal cancer, just to name a few. However, in every circumstance, God has been faithful and provided a peace that passes understanding as promised in Philippians 4:6-7:

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

I have not lived a perfect life, nor have not always abided in Christ the way that I should. However, I can honestly say that I have never doubted my conversion at age six and I have always desired to be a part of a church family. The Lord has brought many people and circumstances into my life that have aided in my Christian growth. I can see that significant spiritual growth often came during times of difficulty when things were beyond my control. I realize that one of the sins I struggle with is self-sufficiency. During times of trials, I tend to be more diligent in seeking God's will through Bible study, prayer and fasting. In fact, the time surrounding our joining Summit Woods was one of those times. We were so happy in our church family at FBC, Greenwood that when our pastor felt we should start at mission church rather than build a bigger church, we agreed in concept but were not willing to leave the comforts of the church to be a part of that mission work. We grieved with others when the Lord led our beloved pastor to another church not long after that. I always wondered if it was because we as a body were not obedient to the vision the Lord had laid on our pastor's heart. Over time, a new pastor came; other staff left, and through a variety of circumstances great dissension and heartache caused some to meet separately for a while to seek healing. During that time Summit Woods Baptist Church was formed and our family was among many who are charter members. Only my husband and Kandy, who was my accountability partner at that time, know how much I struggled for God's truth at this time. I believe that Summit Woods exists today because of God's calling to form a mission church. God may have had a smoother path that we made rough out of selfishness but as always, His will is accomplished.

I believe that the Lord has gifted me with mercy and encouragement. That is one of the reasons I am so drawn to the Titus 2 ministry of women discipling women. God has also provided opportunities for me to exercise administrative gifts and the gift of hospitality. It is my heart's desire to be used of God however he directs.