



e-*Java* Moments

An e-newsletter of the North American Baptist Conference Women's Ministry

March/April 2018

2018 WOMEN'S MINISTRY THEME

"...until Christ is formed in you." – Galatians 4:19

From our study, *Enjoying Jesus*, Caryn Young shares her thoughts on the spiritual practices of **Meditation and Study**

Feast on the Word

BY CARYN YOUNG
MINISTRY OUTREACH

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1 NIV)

I love the Word of God. I have been reading it, studying it, and digging out and investigating all of the marvelous treasures that are layered in the pages for over thirty

years now, and it never gets old. It is life-giving, life changing, and all that it promises. But even more than the discovery, I love to apply it. Even after over twenty-five years of teaching and studying the Word, I still find things I did not see before; I am still a student, a learner of the Word.

When I was in middle school, John 15:18–19 comforted me. When I was in college, I wrestled with Exodus 4:24. As a wife and mother, 1 Samuel 16:7 is my banner. These are some of the verses that have shaped and sustained me; encouraged and challenged me; comforted and sharpened me.

At one time you could count on a common knowledge of the main themes and stories of the Bible: Noah's ark, Moses and the parting of the Red Sea, Jesus walking on water, the Ten Commandments. However, in the late 1980s there was a growing awareness among Christian leaders about the biblical illiteracy

of our society. This biblical literacy was disappearing, which meant a change in the way we shared the Gospel, the good news.

Today, this biblical illiteracy has spread to include Christians—followers of Jesus, people of the church. The Word is no longer central to our faith.

I was at a conference recently where the speaker was sharing about the difficult season of life she had entered into. She then stated that she wanted to give us the names of three people she related to who could identify with her suffering. Fully expecting to hear some names of people I know—people from the audience or on stage, or names we are all familiar with from Christian pop circles or the mainstream media—I was pleasantly surprised to hear her name three individuals from Scripture.

I believe we have simply lost our passion for God's Word; we have become busy, and we have settled for substitutes. Our world

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...from cover

of printed and verbal noise can drown out the reality and wonder of God's Word. There are always other books to read and speakers to listen to. But there is no substitute. I would like to encourage a return to the Word. The Bible is God's own Word to us. To study the Word is to know God, to be known, to make Him known, and to be changed for the better. To put it another way, studying the Bible reveals who God is, who we are, and why we are here. Let us not neglect our time in the Word.

There is a new resurgence in the church, a return of spiritual disciplines. I think of it as getting back to basics in our faith. Along with this movement is a return to the Word. For the longest time, whenever I heard the phrase "spiritual discipline" I conjured up images of seclusion, deep meditation, just God and me. Much like our individualist, independent culture, we tend toward figuring things out on our own, and that includes the Bible—nice and private. While this can be part of the practice of the disciplines (a much harder discipline for the extroverts than the introverts, perhaps), it is not the only practice. You might be surprised to learn that the Word of God really comes alive when it is shared. The Word was not intended to be a private matter only, but instead a corporate experience.

Equally thrilling to being in the Word yourself is the great joy of seeing someone changed during their time in the Word. That moment after reading and digging into the text, having observed, then interpreted, personally applying what it means, they

light up with the excitement of having discovered something new, something they have never seen before, or the enthusiasm of being reminded of something long forgotten. There is life-giving, tangible fruit that comes from corporately engaging in the Word together, and all benefit.

There are a lot of Bible resources available. While I have my favorites for personal study and community study, I thought it would be helpful instead to share with you some different approaches to studying Scripture.

Artist: Draw a heart next to the word that speaks to your heart, a light bulb beside a new thought or idea, or a hand beside an action you want to take or imitate.

Creative: After extended time in the passage, draw an illustration, rewrite the text/story in your own words, write a letter, paint a scene, sculpt in response.

Detective: Imagine the scene, observe all the facts, then ask who, what, where, and when. Next, based on the facts, ask the why and, finally, the how. How does this impact you?

Treasure-seeker: Look for an example to follow, a promise to claim, a command to obey, a truth to be applied, a prayer to pray, a

sin to confess, or a question God is asking you.

Jesus's Apprentice: Study to discover all you can about Jesus. What is Jesus like? Who does He hang out with? Who and what does He talk about? What is important to Him? How do people respond to Him?

Willie Wonka: "In your wildest dreams, you cannot imagine the marvelous surprises that await you." What is something new I learned? What is something I learned that I had forgotten? Allow yourself to be "surprised."

Outside the Box: Be inventive. I like to type the Word out and say it out loud while I do so. Seeing the Word, saying the Word, and interacting with the Word utilizes many of my senses all at once. Just remember, the point is to spend time interacting with Scripture.

The table is ready; as we gather, let us feast and drink deeply from the Word. Will you join me?

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
(2 Timothy 3:16–17)



Caryn Young has been involved in ministry for over 30 years serving in various roles including Campus Staff Worker with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Women's Ministry and Youth leader with her church, and serving with several nonprofit organizations. She currently serves in the Ministry Outreach Department of the North American Baptist Conference. Caryn has a passion for "equipping the saints" (Ephesians 4:11-16) She LOVES studying God's word and the joy that comes from leading others as they discover God's grace and truth through the study of His word. One of her favorite verses is 1 Samuel 16:7. Caryn resides in Folsom, California, with her husband of 27 years, Shawn, and has two children, Nathan (18) and Kalena (20).

The purpose of meditation is to enable us to hear God more clearly. Meditation is listening, sensing, heeding the life and light of Christ. This comes right to the heart of our faith. The life that pleases God is not a set of religious duties; it is to hear His voice and obey His word. Meditation opens the door to this way of living.

– Robert Foster, *The Celebration of Discipline*

“Prayer is God’s prescription that gives His people a way to commune with Him today.” – Enjoying Jesus, page 34

The Discipline of Prayer

PRAYER – every missionary finds this a necessity! This is a story of answered prayer told by Dr. Ron Hiller. Ron, his wife Marion and their 4 children were missionaries to both Nigeria and Cameroon in the 1970’s. They had many adventures in the rather basic hospitals of that time, but God was with them and they witnessed the power of prayer often. Here is one of the most dramatic miracles he saw, and the impact that had on an entire village.



1970’s photo of Marion and Dr. Ron Hiller

DR. RON HILLER

One morning our medical team witnessed an unusual event. We were making in-patient rounds at the Warwar Baptist Hospital in Mambilla, Nigeria, where I was serving as a medical doctor. We came across a very sick girl, about age 8. She had measles. This was a very serious event, as 50% of children with measles in the villages died and up to 10% in hospital did not survive despite treatment. Most of these kids also had malaria, a degree of malnutrition, intestinal worms, and often pneumonia.



This little girl was in terrible shape. Her skin was peeling, she had a swollen abdomen and a feeding tube in her nose as she was too weak to eat or swallow. Her breathing was very shallow and she was unable to cough. She appeared to us to be dying despite all the medicines we gave her. Our thoughts turned to measures of palliative care. At this point her father interrupted

us with a request - “Would you please pray for my little girl?” He was not a Christian, but he heard the hospital chaplain give short devotionals and prayers for people. He was desperate and wondered if a prayer could help his daughter. Our staff always started each day with prayer asking God to help us and our patients. However, this man’s request for prayer was special. We put down our chart and stethoscope and prayed, asking our Father God to extend His loving hand of mercy and healing on this dying little girl. We then asked the chaplain to spend extra time with the father.

The next morning as we approached the measles ward we could not believe what we saw. The little girl was sitting up and smiling at us. She had pulled out her feeding tube and was ravenously eating a bowl of porridge. Her father was very happy! After more counselling with the chaplain, he came to faith in Jesus as his Saviour. The



“The reality is, my prayers don’t change God. But, I am convinced prayer changes me. Praying boldly boots me out of that stale place of religious habit into authentic connection with God Himself.”

– Lysa TerKeurst

girl rapidly gained strength and was discharged home the next day. We all felt that we had witnessed a miracle. The story did not end here. About 3 months later as some of our hospital staff was driving to a remote village to hold a clinic, they came upon a man on the road waving them to stop. It was the father of the little girl who was cured. He asked our missionary nurse to help him. He had returned from the hospital to his home village and told all the people about God and Jesus and how God had healed his girl. About 30 people came to faith in Jesus as a result of this man’s testimony. He was now asking for help to “make a church” in his village as he didn’t know how to do this.

Prayer is a mysterious thing. We don’t know how God will answer. Would we ever imagine that a simple prayer for the healing of a dying child would result in the birth of a church in a remote village unreachable by the gospel? God is establishing His Kingdom on earth. Let us be encouraged to pray that He would continue to use us to accomplish His will.

Be Encouraged in Your Spiritual Journey

Experience God in a fresh way everyday

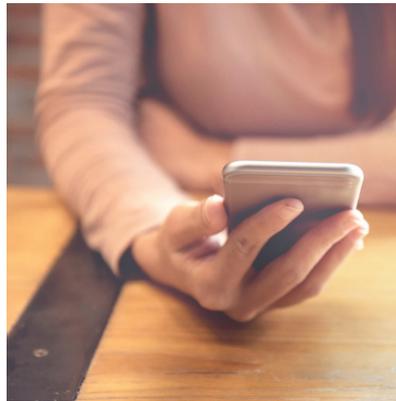


Delivered to your phone/computer daily First 15 is a devotional guide guiding you into a fresh experience with God's presence every day.

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Craig Denison writes to help believers establish a more tangible and meaningful connection with God. Each daily, new devotion consists of Scripture, worship, reflection, prayer focus and a call to action. By downloading it on your phone or computer you can experience God in a deeper way anywhere.

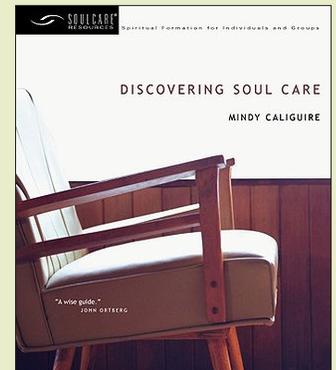
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Soul Health Resources

Check out Mindy Calguire – www.soulcare.com a spiritual formation ministry

So what makes a soul healthy? Quite simply, a soul is healthy to the extent that it experiences a strong connection and receptivity to God. Jesus invites us to a life of deep connection: “If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me, you can do nothing” (John 15:5, TNIV).



– Mindy Calguire website

Discovering Soul Care

If we look at the spiritual life through the lens of a marathon, we will discover that many of us are nearing exhaustion. We may not be on the sidelines or stumbling noticeably, but we are dangerously low on reserves, running on fumes. We aren't sure that we've got what it takes to get to the end of the race. If you identify with the image of a fainting runner, then this book will come as refreshing water for your thirsty soul. You have been running hard, and you've run a long way. But the end is nowhere in sight, and it may be uphill from here. You are going to need some resources to get you there.

Soul Care Resources are designed to be simple, but not simplistic, guides to maintaining or recovering the life and health of your soul, that essential personhood created by God as you. To do that, we'll do assessments to discern the current health of your soul. We'll reflect on the reasons why your soul's health matters so much. Finally, we'll explore practical ways to restore life and vitality to your soul through authentic connection with God as Father, Son and Spirit--one step at a time.

Request 1 free copy of

ENJOYING JESUS

You must be a woman involved in women's ministry in a North American Baptist Conference Church.

Email Heather Senges hsenges@telus.net

Please include your address, phone number and church affiliation



“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” – 1Peter 1:3

May this day bring hope and blessing to you and your family. Have a blessed Easter!

Lenten Devotions

BY KERRY BENDER

Lent is a 46-day period on the Christian calendar between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday in which Christians commit themselves to remembering the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. This is done through prayer, private

and public worship, and self-denial or fasting.

If you are are looking for a Lenten devotional, consider **Under the Shadow of the Cross**

Pastor, teacher, writer **Kerry Bender** is passionate about the Bible and how its truths apply today. He was invited by the NAB to write the daily challenges.

Kerry uses this weekly format to draw attention to the cross. (Monday, Tuesday etc)

Receive the daily devotion from www.nabconference.org. Click on home, scroll down to ‘Sign up for Updates’ Subscribe to Daily Devotion.

Kerry Bender uses this weekly format to draw attention to the cross.

Monday: exploring an Old Testament passage that foreshadows the cross.

Tuesday: exploring a story from the life of Jesus overshadowed by the cross.

Wednesday: exploring a New Testament passage that illuminates the cross.

Thursday: examining the life of a martyr that reflects the cross.

Friday: practice and examine self-sacrifice as a way to live the cross ourselves.

Saturday: pray through the lessons revealed through the cross in the previous week.

Sunday: go to public worship and celebrate the resurrection in the midst of the shadow of the cross.

Women’s Luncheon

ALL LADIES WHO ATTEND THE TRIENNIAL 2018 ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SPECIAL LUNCHEON AT THE WESTIN EDMONTON.

Friday, July 27, 2018 • 12:15 pm – 1:45 pm
Pre-registration required



Heather Hayashi

Luncheon speaker: Heather Hayashi
Guest potter: Debbie Mueller

Explore as women what it means to be “Clay in the Potter’s Hands” as God molds and shapes lives for His special purpose. Enjoy connecting with friends, old and new.

Hear how women throughout the NAB are letting the Potter mold and shape them to be on mission with God in their neighborhoods and communities. Hosted by the NAB Women’s Ministry Leadership Team, this luncheon will provide inspiration for ways to connect with other NAB women.



Debbie Mueller

Heather Hayashi is a reader, writer, lover of coffee and curious about many things. She and her husband Randy live in Edmonton, AB and have two young adult sons. She is a graduate from Taylor Seminary with a Master of Theological Studies Degree and received her training as a spiritual director from Urban Sanctuary. She is the author of 31 Days of Christmas, Pray Any Way and is currently working on a third book. Heather lives with chronic illness and pain and has come to love God deeply through this experience. It is from this ongoing need to surrender her will to God that she is honoured to write and speak about His goodness and grace!

Debbie Mueller has a passion for a deep relationship with God and for walking alongside others with a similar heart. She has been a mentor and friend to women in Africa, Guatemala, Fiji and here in North America. In addition to being a wife and mother Debbie has been in leadership in Youth With A Mission and local churches in Canada and the United States. For the past 12 years she has worked as a ceramicist.

Register for the Triennial at nabconference.org Click on Triennial.



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