



NEWSLETTER

Michigan State WAC

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President’s Corner *by Katy Taylor*

Rearranging

Dear Ladies,

I received an electric pressure cooker for Christmas. Today, my husband rearranged the appliances on top of the fridge to make space for it. The available space did not change, just the arrangement of the items.

As we enter this New Year, we have 24 hours in each day. Our amount of time has not changed. We might need to rearrange the use of that time. Do we need to pray more? What about time taken reading your Bible and studying the scriptures? And then let us look at our service and taking time for others. So much time is wasted. Souls are needing to see The Lord thru us. What is important to you? Take time to be in church and not just yours.

Family Matters *by Stefanie Shope*

The following is an excerpt from Proverbs31 Ministries “Reigniting Passion in Your Marriage” by Sharon Jaynes.



The Quarterly and State meetings are wonderful! It is a time to praise and worship with our brothers and sisters. There are other events at sister churches that are uplifting and encouraging. Rearranging your time will reflect your priorities. It says in Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”. I rearranged my life after I had my heart attack. It is my prayer that you do not have a drastic event to make rearrangements.

We will have the joy only found in our Lord and Savior. That joy will show in our words, actions and on our face. Sometimes we dread rearranging but are usually happy for the changes. Have a great new year! See you in the spring!

What do you do when you’ve lost that lovin’ feelin’ in your marriage? Maybe you truly adored your husband in the beginning, but now you can’t remember why. Maybe you honestly admired his finer qualities, but now you can’t remember what they were. You once

appreciated his wonderful attributes, but now you take them for granted.

Between taking out the garbage, paying the bills, running the car pool, mowing the lawn, disciplining the kids and folding the laundry, sometimes the passion of marriage gets lost. It happens to all of us at one time or another. **We can get so busy taking care of life that we forget to take care of love.**

No one gets married to have a long list of chores. If you're like me, you got married because you were madly in love and couldn't imagine life without your man! You were passionately stirred beyond and spend the rest of your days with this incredible person God had miraculously brought into your life. Maybe you still feel that way. But maybe you could use a little reminder — a re-stoking of that passion. In the book of Revelation, God had this to say to the church at Ephesus: "I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first" (Revelation 2:4). Ephesus was one of the most loving churches in the New Testament, and yet somewhere along the way they lost that initial thrill of knowing Christ. Their love for each other and for God had grown cold.

So how do you get that lovin' feelin' back? God gave the church two simple steps in Revelations 2:5a, and I believe we can apply them to our marriages as well: "Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first."

1. **Remember how it was in the beginning.**
2. **Return and do the things you did at first.**

For most of us, the accumulation of small struggles can nibble like termites to undermine the foundation of what appears to be a healthy structure as surely as the unexpected, earth-shaking rumble of sudden disaster. And routine,

even good routine, can rob us of the joy and passion of marriage ... if we let it.

One day I took John's words in Revelation to heart, and decided to "remember and return" by romancing my husband. One day I simply put a sticky note on his bathroom mirror that said, "I love you." Another day I placed a box of Red Hot candy on his car seat with a note that said, "You're a hottie."

And you know what happened? Steve had a skip in his step and smile on his face. And what happened in me? I can hardly describe the love that welled up in me, as I loved my man well. Hear this ... I changed! The passion was re-ignited.

I don't have a personal story of how God took our marriage and miraculously transformed it into a storybook romance filled with white-knight rescues, relentless romance and rides into the sunset leaving all danger and darkness behind. Although our marriage has been all that at one time or another, it's no fairy tale.

Our marriage is like a daily journal, one page after another, one day after another. I'm guessing just like yours. Some entries are smudged with tears; others are dog-eared as favorites. Some days are marred by unsuccessful erasures that couldn't quite rub away the hurtful words said; others are finger-worn by the reading of precious events time and time again.

But on those days when I see my marriage slipping into the mundane cadence of passionless routine, I pull out my list of ideas, and put a smile on Steve's face.

Lord, may that be my challenge today. When I see the fire needs stoking, help me remember and return. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

For more devotions from Proverbs 31 ministries, visit proverbs31.org



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Greetings from Spain – Tim and Kristi Johnson

Dear Michigan ladies,

We had a wonderful Christmas this year, complete with having “Nana and Papa” (Tim’s parents, George and Mary Johnson) here with us for almost two weeks. While they were here, we talked, we laughed, we ate, we visited new places, and we made lots of memories. Having family here to visit made our holidays extra-special. Yesterday we took them to the airport to catch their flight back home. While we were sad to see them go, we were happy that we’d had such a special time with them.

We are looking forward to another year of ministry here in Spain. This year marks 20 years that we have been serving with Free Will Baptist International Missions. 20 YEARS!!!! (*The time sure has flown!*) Many of you have been a part of our ministry from the very beginning. And we are so thankful for all that you’ve done for us over the years.

If you are not currently receiving our updates, please contact us at tjohnson@fwbgo.com. We send out a weekly email update, Instagram photos several times a week, and even a printed newsletter throughout the year. We definitely want to stay connected and keep you informed about what God is doing here in Spain!



Greetings from France – Steve and Becky Riggs

Dear Ladies of the Michigan WAC,

Becky and I had a neat experience just before Christmas. We got to have lunch at the home of Joe & Barbara Haas (check out the great selfie attached). Some of you who read this will know the Haases as former missionaries to France. The Lord blessed their ministry in the city of Rennes, about an hour from us, and they left a strong church that continues to this

day to have a positive witness for Christ. To Becky and me the Haases are more than just your average missionary couple. They were the ones who first invited us to come work with university students in 1980 (boy does that make you feel old?), welcomed us in their home for 9 months, and became our first mentors for ministry here in France. They have just recently returned to France and are living under the care of their daughter

and the church family they served so many years ago. It was really a treat to get to see them again and sense the same passion that they have never lost to reach the French for Christ.

One of the many nuggets about ministry Bro. & Sis. Haas shared with us years ago was about the privilege of serving Christ in a country where "results" are perhaps not as spectacular as other places in the world. Bro. Joe told me one day back in 1980: "Steve, ministry in France is like being in a desert. There are certainly other places in the world where you can go and perhaps see much more growth. In France, ministry is more like being an oasis. The "results" may not be as great compared to other places, but for those who are thirsty in the middle of the desert and have no one to give them water, an oasis is a very precious thing."

Just two weeks ago I officiated at the funeral of a dear Christian lady. Mme Dubois had moved to Chateaubriant 4 years ago to live in a retirement facility close to her son. She attended our church when she could, but her health did not allow her to attend for the past 2 years. It was my privilege to get to visit with her. One of the last times I got to visit with her I asked her if there was anything particular that we could do for her. She answered by whispering: "just your presence". There was only a small group of family and friends at her funeral. I think maybe one other person present beside myself was a Christian. I shared a simple message about hearing

the voice of God, a God who loves us and wants to speak to us if we will only listen. A God who loves us so much He sent His Son to die. You know. We've heard it so many times it may even have lost its wonder for us. After the ceremony two of Mme Dubois' grandchildren spoke to me and thanked me. They said it really helped them to think there may just be a God, and a God who loves us.

I left the service that day feeling very grateful. Grateful I had the privilege of "just being present" with Mme Dubois at the end of her life. Grateful I got to share the Good News of God's love with her two grand-daughters. I pray their hearts will be open to trust in Jesus. Grateful to have had mentors like Joe & Barb Haas who showed us the value of ministry in France. Grateful Becky and I get to be an oasis in this spiritually dry country called France.

Thanks so much for all you do to help our ministry in Châteaubriant. We really are grateful!

Steve & Becky
Chateaubriant, France

