

Lives of Fragrance

2 Corinthians 4:14-17

September 2024 | Vol. 3, Issue 3



The Balm of Retreat

Karen Krueger

Shall we retreat? Should we retreat? To what should we retreat? Our answers may vary according to which usage and definition of retreat we consider. Are we pulling back from actual or potential battle? Are we re-thinking a previously held belief and withdrawing from that opinion? Are we planning to join with others in a quiet location to meditate and learn?

Retreat may be used as either a noun or a verb. It has several shades of meaning derived from the word's Latin origins, which indicate a withdrawal or pulling back. In addition to the earliest definition indicating a strategic decision to avoid battle, the word retreat began to be used, by the fifteenth century, to include the sense of moving to a quiet place of seclusion for a given period of time.

As we approach the TBC Women's Fall Retreat, we may question the need for a retreat. We may be so deeply immersed in the daily struggle that we have no time or energy to consider stepping away from it. We may feel that we know what we believe and that we have no need to have a change of opinion. We may resist the idea of withdrawal as unbiblical, insisting that we stay in the fray and stand our ground.

As we examine Scripture, let us look at what Christ, our Savior and great Example, did. "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." (Luke 5:16) "In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God." (Luke 6:12)

What's New

September

Women's Retreat September 13th -14th at New Life Ranch, Cove location. Register online or in the TBC lobby with the last day of open registration on September 8th. Take time to be alone with God; enjoy connecting with other women around Friday games & campfire and Saturday sessions; have fun making the craft with friends; and worship God as we sing and praise Him together, led by Sarah and Steve Rhom!

Bible studies begin. See TBC website for details and registration or register in the lobby on Sundays.

Women of Prayer: Praying Grannies meet weekly on Tuesdays, 12:00-1:30 p.m. in the Ambassador Room.

Why did Christ, God Incarnate, withdraw from the grasping needs of ministry? He, far better than we can comprehend, knew the ultimate worth of time alone spent communing with His Father.

David Mathis writes, "The healthy Christian life is neither wholly solitary nor wholly communal. We withdraw, like Jesus, to 'a desolate place' to commune with God (Mark 1:35), and then return to the bustle of daily tasks and the needs of others. We carve out a season for spiritual respite, in some momentarily sacred space, to feed our souls, enjoying God there in the stillness. Then we enter back in, as light and bread, to a hungry, harassed, and helpless world. (Matthew 9:36)" †

We must not confuse a time-limited, purposeful retreat with a complete withdrawal from the world about us. God has designed us with a need to alternate activity and rest, not only on a daily basis with physical needs for sleep and work, but also with an occasional respite from our responsibilities and the noise of life. We are often tyrannized by the urgent to such an extent that we are unable or unwilling to have a quiet time of spiritual rest and refreshment. The quiet time is not an end in itself, however, but a means by which we may enjoy deep communion with God.

Retreat. Perhaps we may learn of retreat in such a way that it becomes a memory which brings the balm of joyful peace. Retreat to a quiet space to come before the Lord, meditating on His Word.

"You shall seek me, and find me, when you shall search for me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:13)

Retreat. This is a time to learn Christ.

† <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/time-alone-for-god>

Recipes

Kelly Shoop

This is my chocolate chip cookie recipe. I've printed it up to hand out to my students because every time I make them, people ask for the recipe. Enjoy!

Mrs. Shoop's Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe

- 1 c. sugar
- 1 ½ c. brown sugar
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 stick salted butter
- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 ¾ c. flour (add more if desired)
- 1 pkg (11.5 oz) milk chocolate chips
- 1 pkg (11.5 oz) semi-sweet chocolate chunks

Melt both sticks of butter. Whisk together the sugars, salt, and butters until a paste forms with no lumps. Whisk in egg and vanilla, beating until light ribbons fall off the whisk. Sift in the flour and baking soda, then fold the mixture with a spatula. Fold in chocolate chips and chunks. Scoop the dough onto the baking sheet. Bake at 350° for approximately 7-10 minutes (I always pull mine out the moment they start to begin looking done – even before they look done). Cool on wire rack. Enjoy!

Copypat Carrabba's Chicken Bryan

When my kids left for college, I asked them what foods they would most miss and this was one recipe both said they will miss while away at college. For those who have ever eaten at Carrabba's Italian Kitchen, this is their popular dish, "Chicken Bryan" (serves 4).

- 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Fresh ground pepper, to taste
- Olive oil
- 8 oz. goat cheese
- 10-12 sun dried tomatoes, chopped
- 6 T. fresh basil, chopped
- 2 T. onions, minced
- 2 T. garlic, minced
- 2 sticks of butter, divided
- ¾ c. of white wine
- 1 c fresh lemon juice

1. Brush chicken with olive oil and season to taste with salt and pepper. **2.** Grill chicken until done. Prepare lemon butter sauce while chicken is grilling. **3.** Sauté onion and garlic in 4 tablespoons butter until soft and fragrant. **4.** Add white wine and lemon juice, reduce heat to medium-low and simmer for 10 minutes. **5.** Add remaining butter, a little at a time, until it melts and mixture is emulsified. **6.** Add chopped sun-dried tomatoes and basil, heat until hot (but do not overheat or sauce may break). **7.** Top hot grilled chicken breasts with 2 oz. each of the goat cheese. **8.** To serve, spoon lemon butter sauce over the chicken breasts/goat cheese. **9.** I usually serve with garlic mashed potatoes and spoon the extra butter sauce over the potatoes too.

Children for God's Kingdom

Karen Krueger

Tulsa Bible Church seeks to exalt God, to know God, and to make Him known. God's Word, the Bible, is clearly taught by our pastors, by teachers in our adult fellowship classes, and by the teachers of our children, from toddlers to teens.

"Jesus . . . said to them, 'Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.' And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them."

Mark 10:14b-16

Christ spoke of the simplicity of a child's belief in Him. We, as a church, desire to bring our children to Jesus so that they will hear the good news of salvation and trust in Him. We agree with Paul, who said to Timothy, "You know how, when you were a small child, you were taught the holy Scriptures; and it is these that make you wise to accept God's salvation by trusting in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. 3:15 TLB)

The love of Christ compels those who care for and teach our children. Every teacher in Sunday School and children's church desires to clearly present the Word of God to the children, knowing that the Holy Spirit speaks through the Word to draw them to Himself.

The Children's Ministries team uses a biblically-based curriculum which presents Scriptural truths clearly and accurately in an engaging manner. The curriculum is well-organized, which enhances use by the teachers, as well as ensuring continuity of teaching by different teachers.

Sarah Rhom, Director of Children's Ministries, says, "Please continue to pray for the Children's Ministry here at TBC! We are growing and are entering such an exciting season. Our goal is for children and their families to know and experience The Great Adventure of following and knowing Jesus! Children are not only the church of the future; they are a vital part of the church body today! We always need new volunteers to come alongside and partner with us and the families here at TBC to show Jesus to these little ones. If you have any questions on how you can help, don't hesitate to call or email me, Sarah Rhom, Children's Director." Phone: 918-899-0962. Email: sarahrhom@tulsabible.org.

Lives of Fragrance is a publication of the Women's Ministries of Tulsa Bible Church. For corrections, comments, or written contributions, please contact Karen at fnewsandviews@gmail.com.

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