

Lives of Fragrance

2 Corinthians 4:14-17



Laura Strobe shares observations from her perspective as a teacher on returning to school, providing insight into preparation and specific ways to pray for students, their parents, and teachers during the school year.

A Teacher's Perspective: On Back to School

By Laura Strobe

Back-to-School season can build a sense of hope and excitement for a fresh new start. Sharp new pencils and new notebooks without any mistakes give us the sense that great things are possible.

Teachers have been working for days, weeks, or even all summer preparing for that new beginning. Classroom decorations are crisp, clean, and welcoming. Workbooks are labeled and desks are arranged. Teachers have curated Pinterest boards and written shopping lists that represent their investment of time and money to plan and create that welcoming classroom.

Many teachers have also invested in training with a desire to continually improve themselves for the sake of their students. Sometimes this looks like attending a conference on supporting student learning by helping them know that they are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14) for a job that God created for them to do (Ephesians 2:10). Other times it looks like getting together with other teachers to print and prepare materials that will support reading instruction. It can even look like spending five weeks taking an intensive online course learning to create classroom structures that allow every student to master the material covered in class at the rate that fits each student.

What's New

July

Congratulations to Rachele and Derek Cannavo on the birth of Kaleb John!

September

Bible studies will be starting in September. Look online at TulsaBible.org under the Women's Ministry heading for details and registration.

September 9th

TBC will host a women's conference, Abide in Christ, September 9th. This will include keynote speaker, April Graney, four breakout sessions, and lunch. Details and registration are available at TusaBible.org or in the Tulsa Bible Church lobby.

As students enter the classroom in August, they will benefit from weeks of preparation that happened during summer "vacation." Teachers everywhere work hard to make sure that their students enter the new school year with a sense of wonder and excitement.

The preparations of summer set the stage for teachers to start the new year invigorated and ready to encourage students on the next step of their educational journey. This also means that teachers have already expended a great deal of energy before they even meet the first student.

If you know a teacher, ask how you can pray for them specifically. If you are a teacher, ask for prayer when you are struggling and feeling overwhelmed. The journey is long, but the destination is worth the effort.

Moms, the best thing you can do for your children and their teachers is to pray. MOMS IN PRAYER is a wonderful ministry that connects moms to pray for their children and their schools. The local contact for MIP is Angela Polston, (918) 636-4477.

...for I have learned in whatever
situation I am to be content.

Philippians 4:11b, ESV

Recipes

From Rachel Madden

Rachel Madden provides two excellent recipes perfect for a savory and simple meal during the school months, saying, "These are two easy ones that we like!"

Chicken Enchiladas

- 4 chicken breasts, chopped (I like to use a Sam's rotisserie chicken instead!)
- 1 small onion diced
- 8 oz. cream cheese, cubed
- 1 small can green chilis
- 1 can green enchilada sauce
- 1 pkg. fiesta cheese shredded
- soft taco tortillas

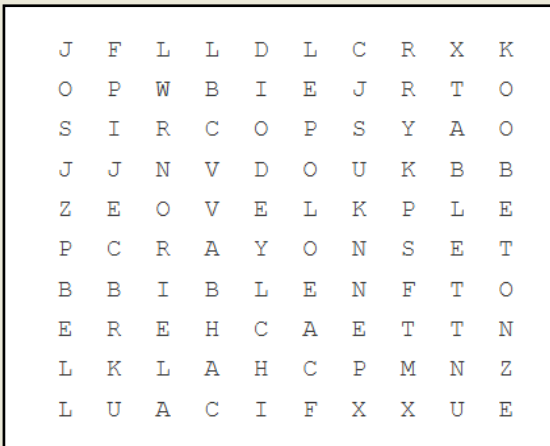
Cook chicken (season with garlic, salt and pepper). Saute' onion. Combine chicken, onion, cream cheese, and green chilis. Heat until smooth, fill tortillas and roll. Top with enchilada sauce and cheese. Bake at 350° covered for 20 min. uncovered for 10 - 15 min.

Southwest Salad

- Lettuce
- 1 can (15 oz.) corn, drained
- 1 can (15 oz.) black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/2 c. Ranch salad dressing
- 1/2 c. picante sauce or salsa
- 1 c. broken tortilla chips
- 1/2 c. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 c. diced tomatoes

Place the greens in a large salad bowl. Top with corn, then beans. In a small bowl, combine the salad dressing and picante sauce; spoon over the vegetables. Sprinkle with tortilla chips, cheese and tomatoes

Back to School Word Search



- BELL BIBLE BOOKS CHALK CRAYON
 DESK PUPIL PENCIL TABLET TEACHER
 PEN NOTEBOOK

School Days

By Karen Krueger

The back-to-school theme of this issue reminds us of eager children and teenagers beginning another year of education or of college students facing new academic challenges. Our memory may summon up the smells of chalk and crayon, the feel of a new school dress, the smile of a favorite teacher, or the intriguing sight of new books to read.

Whether young or old, we have the capacity to learn, to evaluate new information and concepts, and to gain new skills. God has designed us with the ability to be lifelong learners; we have unique gifts and skills, but we also have limitations and challenges.

As Christians, lifelong learning means that we continue to learn of Christ. We learn to walk with God by faith, to spend time in prayer, and to quickly repent of sin, so that our fellowship with God is not hindered. We learn to trust when we cannot understand, because spiritual growth is not merely intellectual knowledge.

God has given us the Bible, which instructs us in what we need for life and godliness (Rom. 15:4). By God's grace, His Holy Spirit indwells and teaches us, illuminating spiritual truths (1 Cor. 2:12-13).

Our Good Shepherd has lovingly designed our pathways; days of happiness and calm are tempered with days or months of difficulties and hardship. We don't anticipate hardship; we try to avoid pain and suffering. Yet God, in His infinite wisdom, kindness, and goodness, places painful circumstances in our lives, not with a capricious or malevolent design, but designed to purify us and to make us more like Jesus. Job suffered in the grievous situations which God allowed in his life; he responded with trust, saying that he was willing to accept not only good, but also evil, from the hand of God (Job 2:10).

Paul was given a thorn in the flesh, perhaps a chronic condition; he also experienced a myriad of circumstances which brought pain and suffering. Paul proclaimed that he had learned to be content in whatever state God placed him (Phil. 4:11-13) and that he actually rejoiced in tribulation (Rom. 5:3). This is a hard lesson, and a mysterious lesson, because it illustrates the paradox of our weakness being an avenue for God's strength to be demonstrated (2 Cor. 12:10).

Jesus, Son of God, member of the Trinity, our Author of Salvation, learned obedience by what He suffered. (Heb. 5:8) He was called the Man of Sorrows; he bore our sin, our grief, and our sorrows (Isaiah 53:3-6). As we walk with Him in the midst of our suffering, we learn more of Him. We will be able, like Paul, to say, "... our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (2 Cor. 4:17).

An old hymn, written by Carl A. Blackmore, begins, "Some glorious morning sorrow will cease, some glorious morning all will be peace, Heartaches all ended, school days all done, Heaven will open - Jesus will come."

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

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