



July 15, 2011

The Beginning of Wellspring

By Teresa Hampton and Amanda Key

When we first came to ETSPM, I began to conceive of *Wellspring*, a devotional e-letter. The goal was twofold: to encourage/instruct wives of ministers knowing that they are confronted with many of the same things their husbands face, and to challenge young women to write so they can share living water from the wellspring of God's word. With that in mind, please read on.

During the last student wives' class of this school year, one of the graduating women, Amanda Key, gave this message:

I thought and thought about what I could do for this very last devotional here at ETSPM. Then I came across this scripture: *But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death* (Revelation 21:8). We may feel that this verse doesn't apply to us, that it is talking about "big sins" in which we do not participate. But the first words, *the cowardly*, struck me.

How many times have I let fear get in the way of doing what was right? How many times have I let my fears get in the way of talking to someone about Christ or inviting him/her to worship? How many times have I let fear get in the way of politely telling the girl in the youth group that her shirt is immodest? How many times have I let fear get in the way of telling the guys at work that I don't appreciate their crude jokes?

Fear is one thing we all struggle with in at least some area of our lives. Many of us came to this school a little afraid or intimidated because we didn't feel like we knew enough about the Bible. Some of us are even a little afraid of the thought of graduating and being the "preacher's wife" at a new congregation. Ladies, we cannot let fear get in the way of doing what is right. We cannot allow fear to keep us from teaching the Word and being the examples we need to be in the world. *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might* (Eph. 6:10). Ladies, we can do this, not because we are strong, but because God is strong.

We have a special bond with one another here...not only are we sisters in Christ, but we are going to be fellow preacher's wives as well. To the first year wives, take advantage of the time you have left here and find that special sister you can rely on and talk to about things. And to those of us who are graduating...let's keep in touch and be there for others as well. I love you all!

As you can see, Amanda allowed herself to stretch and grow spiritually by encouraging other women with the spoken and written word. She has certainly risen to meet the initial goal of the beginning of *Wellspring*. She has shown how a young dedicated woman can touch the lives of others for good.

Today's Verse: *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind* (2 Timothy 1:7).

If you would like to subscribe to *Wellspring*, send e-mail to wellspringforwomen@hotmail.com and type the word subscribe in the subject line. Previous *Wellspring* articles have been archived at <http://www.karnschurch.org/wellspring> and <http://www.TheBible.net/wellspring>