

CAMT WELLSRING RESOURCES FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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WHAT TO PACK

All of us are on a journey. God is molding and shaping our lives. As we journey together, we must take time to reflect upon what we need to do, and what we need to take on this journey.

Some will find themselves in positions of leadership, which for some may have been sought but for others was unexpected. Timothy found himself in a leadership position before he may have expected to be there.

To him, Paul had this advice in 1 Timothy 4. He teaches him that good leadership involves knowing the scriptures, being sound in doctrine, living a godly life, being an example to others, displaying personal discipline, being dedicated and willing to work hard, and being obedient to God's will.

To prepare ourselves to become the women of God that we need to be takes time and planning. Here are some things to pack:

Cheerleading Uniform- A leader should be an encourager and equipper. She

should train others in a way that will bring out the best in them, and not be intimidated by strong team members. She must be able to see the big picture, including the bigger spiritual picture.

Idea Book-- Leaders should innovate. Being resourceful and creative is especially important in women's ministries, since we have to work within a budget. The ability to identify other women who have specific talents and can serve as resources will help stretch budgets.

Planner-- Organizational abilities are frequently needed, and although many leaders have these others may not. It is a good idea to involve those who have stronger skills in this area. By recruiting someone else, not only is an additional person getting involved with the ministry but it helps ensure high quality events and activities.

Hearing Aid-- Learning to listen to others is also a vital component of leadership. Without the ability to listen, groups and audiences

may not be properly targeted. Women will not feel heard, involvement will decline, and excitement will wane. Staff and male leadership may not feel like they can communicate with the ministry making it more difficult to get support. Additionally, if a leader cannot listen it will be difficult to fit properly within the larger organizational structure of the church.

The ability to hear also helps leaders evaluate situations, understanding the implications of them and see possible courses of action.

Life Insurance-- Leadership also involves taking risks. Often current women's ministry structures need to be tweaked, revised, or even revamped in order to set a women's ministry in an effective direction.

Old Pair of Jeans-- An effective leader in a spiritual setting must display servant leadership. Participation in the events and activities sets the example for others.

Often women see themselves at a disadvantage because they are rarely given

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 27-30, 2009
"Eternity in Our Hearts:
Studies in Ecclesiastes"
Lectureship 2009

Offering Ladies &
Preacher's Wives Tracks
On Monday & Wednesday
September 28th & 30th
On the Campus
of Harding University

Women's Program
On Tuesday, September
28th
at the
College Church of Christ



February 26-27, 2009
WINGS 2010

Venue Change:
Harding University Campus

For more information:
wings@harding.edu



Submit your event to
Wellspring@harding.edu

WHAT TO PACK (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

formal leadership positions. However, effective leaders are servant leaders. Jesus clearly modeled servant leadership. We know that to be a leader in our setting means to serve those around us. Thus, our leadership—even if it is informal—is highly effective.

Translator-- If you find yourself in a position of influence then you have a responsibility to communicate well with the formal leaders of the church. When thinking about our leadership style we need to think of ourselves as a translator. You need to be able to help the men around you understand the goals, desires, and needs of the women in the congregation. Who better to that than you? We need to develop ears that will listen to what men are saying, eyes that will watch how they respond to different communication and leadership styles and confidence to present plans.

Cracked Pot—In 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 we read that when we have troubles, we are to take the grace and comfort God has shown us and show it to others. That is the purpose of our struggles. What we go through is not a waste. Rather, God will turn our pain into ministry. We all have a unique ministry that we can fill. God will personalize our place according to our past and gift mix. In 2 Corinthians 4 the image of a cracked pot is used. Most of us would like others to see us as shiny and perfect, but really we are all just cracked pots! Only when God's light is able to shine through will we be useful in His kingdom. The purpose of our life and ministry is to glorify Him, and those cracks help us in the end!

Identity Card— 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 says that we are God's temple and the spirit of God lives in us. While that may sound typical to us, that was not at all typical for first century readers. While we have come to take God's presence for granted, it was something that people in the Bible desired greatly. Old Testament leaders wished for the Holy Spirit's presence. The presence of God meant divine help. It meant things were going to work out. Crops were going to grow, and the world would continue. They were painfully aware that without God and His presence, things would look different. Today, we are more independent. Many go along thinking they are in charge of their own life and that they can create their own destination. It is critical that we are the face of Christ as our identity.

Gifts-- In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 we see that there are different parts of the body and that each is importance. It is important to take the time to discover our gifts and know how we might fit within the body. (Cont. on page 4)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY IN SMALLER CHURCHES

As we plan our Women's Ministry activities we will want to consider the audience that we will be reaching. A monthly evening event with a devotional can reach many of the working women of the congregation and other groups. A devotional is not intimidating where a textual study might be to some women. A devotional can be created from experiences, a special verse, or by using examples from many resources.

Recently the following devotional was shared with the group www.GodthatmeetsfortheScenicHillscongregation.com in Pensacola, Florida. The television show "What Not to Wear!" was used as the foundation of the devotional. We are sharing the devotional with you to show you how simple, yet how powerful, a devotional can be put together.

Who has seen the show on TLC called What Not to Wear? This is one of my favorite shows because they take a woman who does not care about how she looks when she walks out her door each day or she thinks she looks good when she actually does not. The show completely changes a person's look by sending her to New York City with \$5000 and sends her on a shopping spree along with giving her a new hairdo and new makeup. You wouldn't believe the way some of these women look and the amazing transitions that occur! A person is entered to win the makeover, by family and friends who have sent in requests on their behalf.

Do you think you need a makeover? Would your friends or family think you need a makeover? Let's take a look at some of the characteristics we might be wearing that we do not want other people to see. Characteristics and Bible scriptures may be chosen based on the audience that is expected to attend.

*Sara Rye
Scenic Hills Church of Christ (Pensacola, FL)*

UPREACH, OUTREACH, INREACH

OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SUGGESTED WE SPEND LUNCHESES FASTING AND DEEPENING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

REACHING UP

This summer one of the suggestions in our monthly newsletter was to spend lunches during vacation fasting and doing something to deepen our relationship with God. Here is what I chose to do: Monday – I read the parable of the sower, and went and worked in my garden praying for the children of God and that I could be used

to “water” or encourage others. Tuesday – I read the story of the Good Samaritan, and went to a nearby shelter to help for the day. Wednesday – I read the beatitudes and wrote thank you notes to each of those who had exhibited one of the attributes described but didn’t sign the cards. Thursday – I read the story of the virgins, and medi-

tated on my preparation for the coming of our Lord. Friday – I read Psalm 22 and realized that without the willingness of Christ to lay His life down for me that I would have no hope. This was my first experience with fasting, but several of us plan to re-search it and do it again!

*Nancy Wilson
Kent, Ohio*

WE HAVE PROVIDED OVER 300 KNITTED CAPS WITH AN INVITATION TO THE NEW PARENTS TO ATTEND A BIBLE STUDY.

REACHING OUT

During a recently retreat several of us were admiring a sister who was knitting baby caps for her expected granddaughter.

As we talked about learning to knit together one of our members who is an obstetrics nurse suggested that we consider providing caps for babies born in the hospital where she

works.

We began three years ago, and have provided over 300 caps from our “Knitted With Love” group. With each cap is an invitation to the new parents to attend worship and a Bible study offer.

This has prompted several to begin visiting the obstetrics ward of the local hospital .

We have been available to provide support to those without family nearby or those who have had a miscarriage or still birth and need to connect with someone who has been through that valley. Parenting classes are also being planned .

*Mary Sutton
Indianapolis, Indiana*

WE HAVE ENCOURAGED THOSE WHO ENJOY COOKING TO TEAM WITH ONE OF THE OTHERS WHO DOES NOT HAVE THAT GIFT.

REACHING IN

For several years we have had a ladies night out each month during the school year, but attendance has been dwindling. Last year we decided to replace that night out with smaller groups that would meet as supper clubs.

Since our congregation comes from many areas of the city we have chosen to have supper clubs with just eight members. We have tried to

keep the members within their geographic area of the city and balance it with those who enjoy cooking and those who do not know how to cook well.

There have been several unexpected blessings from this structure such as teaching and learning new cooking skills, meal and menu planning, intergenerational activities, and a closer relationship

with someone who lives nearby and can be support in case of emergencies.

*Tracy Cooke
Atlanta, Georgia*

Editor’s Note: Contributions may be sent to:

wellspring.nancy@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW: FRESH IDEAS FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRY

This book begins with a snapshot of a vibrant women's ministry. Why is your program vibrant, high excitement, and well attended? Three reasons are mentioned: quality, purposeful, and fresh. It is based upon a program that the author helped start called LIGHT: Ladies Intentionally Going, Helping, and Touching. The emphasis of the program is reaching upward and outward to others. The program offers a variety of Bible classes including craft nights with devotionals. A highlight of LIGHT is the hands-on ministry teams that spend an hour visiting. It is remarkable how much visiting can be done in an hour.

The book shares some steps for making the ministry fun and enjoyable. It also includes steps women can take to prepare themselves for personal and spiritual growth. These include 1) taking a look at your current situation; 2) taking time to prepare a purpose statement; 3) surveying your congregation; and, 4) choosing a leadership team.

Included in the book are charts, surveys, and job descriptions that will help a congregation to put together a women's ministry. Many ideas for events, planning calendars, and group projects are mentioned. The author says that not only the church can be impacted but also the community. This book is highly recommended for congregational libraries or anyone interested in women's ministry.

*Cathy Jarrett
Paragould, Arkansas*

Editor's Note: To enhance the effectiveness of women's ministry, resources should be used to provide new ideas and thoughts for use in our ministries. This section of *Wellspring* will provide reviews of books and other resources to assist you in developing and expanding your own women's ministry. Some of the reviews will be from the editors, some written by students, and others will be submitted by women from around the country. These reviews will include fiction and non-fiction books which we think will provide some thought into the present state of ministries. The reviews have been edited for length. (Janice Hurd)

Wellspring is published ten times per year by the Center for Advanced Ministry Training at Harding University.

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WHAT TO PACK (CONT. FROM PAGE 2)

In 1 Timothy 4:14 Paul urges Timothy not to neglect his gift. Likewise, we should not neglect the gifts that God has so graciously given us.

As each individual has been gifted with her a unique set of gifts and her own gift mix, the possibilities are endless. Every task that is currently being done within the body, and any task that God can place before it will need different individuals to meet those needs. Each individual, including women, serve an equally important role. Just as a body is made up of many parts, the spiritual body also needs to have many parts and many differently gifted people to function properly.

Although each individual can come up with their own, lengthy packing list, these are just a few ideas to get your started. This is not a trip by air travel. You will not be limited to just one bag! Rather, it is best to pack as much as you need—and then some.

This is a journey, and one that we do not take alone. On this journey we have a bus to help us take everything we need to our destination. That bus is filled with sisters who will be willing to help us along the way. Much as the Christian life is not one that should be lived in isolation, but rather in communion, when we prepare ourselves for leadership we must also travel surrounded by other women.

*Anessa Westbrook
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