

CAMT WELLSRING RESOURCES FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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FEBRUARY 2009

IN THE BEGINNING...

Sunday afternoon.
December 1990

I was co-teaching a women's sewing class in the inner city. It resulted in teaching the gospel to one of the women which was exhilarating, but today I was running late for a kitchen shower for the congregation's multi-purpose building. The real problem was that I was the speaker. What do I do? End the Bible study abruptly? Or be late and look incompetent? What would Jesus do?

The answer was easy, so I put on the whole armor of God and finished the study. When it was over I hurried to the multi-purpose building. The women were agitated, and the refreshments were not cutting it. They were past ready for me to speak so they could get on with the program before service that night.

Saying a silent prayer, I breathed deeply and said, "Ladies, I'm sorry I'm late but I was teaching the gospel in the inner-city AND we were out of toilet paper

AGAIN!" At the time, I myself was not expecting to make the toilet paper comment. Being sorry did not get their full attention, but teaching the gospel got a little more. However, the toilet paper comment brought 100% participation.

The clamor was "What? Why didn't you tell us? We never know anything! Get us together, tell us what needs to be done and how to do it. We need some communication here!" Thus the Women's Ministry began just a few weeks later on January 23, 1991.

Since it was new, it was not easy. In the flesh I was timid in everything. In the Lord's work I had taken on challenges as God put them before me, but this one was different. We had about

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300 women in the congregation who were looking to me to begin a work that had not been "officially" done. A talk with the shepherds gave me the go ahead to begin. My heart fluttered, my salt and pepper hair lost a lot of the pepper and my prayer life accelerated.

The hardest thing was that I did not have any peers to encourage me. Leadership loneliness hit hard and fast, but God would not let me give up even when I cried out that I was not sure I could do it.

All the scriptures I had learned by heart kept bombarding me with encouragement. The message God had woven through my life, as He had brought me through so many difficult things, was the message I heard loud and clear: "with ME you can do it." I could not let Him down. Now, eighteen years and a successful women's ministry that grows each year later, do I ever have stories to tell!

*Suzanne Dillard
Levy (North Little Rock, AR)*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

All are invited to the
inaugural
Women's Ministry
Conference

February 27-28, 2009
Harding University

Friday
8 am Registration
5 pm Dismissal for WINGS

Saturday
3 pm Sessions Resume
6:30 Dismissal

Speakers: JoEtta Deaton, Julie
Harris, Sherry Pollard, &
Anessa Westbrook

For more information:
adwestbrook@harding.edu



WINGS 2009
Theme: GPS -
God's Positioning System

February 27-28, 2009
by Harding University
Held at College Church

Keynote speakers:
JoEtta Deaton, Michelle James,
and Beth Robinson

For more information:
wings@harding.edu



Submit your event to
Wellspring@harding.edu

BULLETIN BOARD

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For information about their Bachelor of Ministry program contact gwgregg@harding.edu.

For information about the Master of Ministry program contact dstewart@harding.edu.

This month's question was: "How have you helped teens and adults interact in your congregation?"

"Rite of Passage"
Maricamp Road (Ocala, FL)

We had a purity banquet called "Treasure Chest" that started as a purity ring ceremony in front of the church. This ceremony is followed by a banquet where the girls are treated as princesses and each girl has a table just for her with a tiny treasure chest on it. The elders, teachers, vol-

unteers and friends would write encouraging notes on pretty index cards and place them in the treasure chest.

(from Christine Kennedy)

"Secret Sisters"
North Heights
(Batesville, AR)

To encourage interaction between the children and older adults in our congregation I had the 3rd & 4th grade class that I was teaching on Wednesday evening participate in a "Secret Sisters" project. Each Wednesday night we would spend a few min-

utes making a card or writing out a verse to send to one of the widows in the congregation. I gave the cards to the church secretary and she would mail them each week. At the end of the year we had a reception for these ladies and 'revealed' ourselves. Some of these relationships have survived for several years as these students grew up and have now all graduated from high school.

(from Nancy Tackett)

Next month: How do you expand a current women's ministry without damaging it or hurting feelings?

"LORD, SHE IS ONLY 8. THIS ROAD IS SO HARD. I'M NOT THAT GREAT AT CASSEROLES, SO SHOW ME HOW I CAN HELP."

WORDS FOR LIFE: MATTHEW 10:42

"Lord, she is only 8. This road is so hard. I'm not that great at casseroles, so show me how I can help." The little girl that had been going to church with us had been diagnosed with leukemia. Two months later, she has undergone chemo, seizures and a stroke that temporarily paralyzed her left side. Her parents have no extended family or any faith to speak of.

The challenge for us, as women who desire to minister to others, is how can we be instruments of His love? He is the hand reaching out to the hurting, but He chooses to use US to be His "glove".

We are what they can **feel** and **see**.

Here is how He has chosen to use me at this child's bedside. Ask him DAILY how He can use you or your women's ministry to reach out to the hurting.

Just be there.

I learned to just take a book, sit in the hospital room and only talk when my friend, her mother, felt like talking.

Ease the burden of communication.

I set up a web page at CaringBridge.org and post updates. Friends and school

staff can check on her and leave loving notes instead of the mother getting multiple calls.

Offer hope in small doses.

I don't have the answer for why God allows pain. But I can pray. I can read a short scripture now and then to this child to remind her she is loved. I can remind her of the song we would sing in the van: "He's got the whole world in His hands".

Scriptures to consider: Job 2:13, Matt 10:42 & 25:34-36

*Wendy Neill
(Overland Park, KS)*

Contact Information

Wellspring@harding.edu

Editors

Managing Editor:
Anessa Westbrook

Assistant Editors:
Nancy Tackett
Debbie Stewart