

# CAMT WELLSRING RESOURCES FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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## CROSS-EYED LEADERSHIP

Whether beginning a women's ministry or selecting additional leaders for a ministry that has been in place for some time, there are a variety of ways to form a women's ministry leadership team. Due to differences in congregational sizes, structures, and interest, leadership selection will vary from congregation to congregation. However, identification of leaders will seldom vary, because it is the women who are "cross-eyed" who will be the most effective leaders.

What does this mean? A woman who is "cross-eyed" lives daily in the shadow of the cross, understanding the purpose of ministry is to bring all to faith in a substantive and intentional manner. The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23) is apparent in her life, as are the Christian graces (2 Peter 1:5-7).

When Jesus chose His disciples He chose those who were willing to serve others, work diligently, and follow Him wherever He led them. They had times

of doubt, times when they wondered what they had gotten themselves into and were not perfect. However, on the day of Pentecost they are found worshipping together when the Spirit came upon them. Jesus understood and showed them that they needed each other when He sent them out in pairs (Mark 6:7). This is also true of successful ministry leaders. They are part of a team rather than as a single individual trying to plan, execute, and follow up on interests expressed in women's ministry.

### WHO IS A CROSS-EYED WOMAN?

We recently decided to broaden and seek additional opportunities for the women in our congregation to connect with God, each other, and those who do not know the Lord. In order to select our leadership team we sought feedback from women within the congregation to identify those who are seen as leaders. The men of the congregation agreed to assist on a Wednesday evening by

serving supper and cleaning up so that families could come early, eat supper together at the building, and allowing the women to eat together.

One of our elders made a statement of interest and support for this new opportunity to begin a women's ministry and I facilitated a discussion about this ministry and shared with the women a vision for the ministry, a desire to engage the group as leaders and planners, events that might be held, and future ministry possibilities. We asked the women to contribute a list of names of women that they see as leaders by the following Sunday evening.

When asking for names a clear statement was made that this was not about popularity, rather it was about a woman who clearly is committed to God, His family, and kingdom. This invitation asked them to submit more than one name if they would like to, in order to identify a wide circle of women, identifying those who model the "cross-eyed" behavior.

## UPCOMING LADIES 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](mailto:wings@harding.edu)



Submit your event to  
[Wellspring@harding.edu](mailto:Wellspring@harding.edu)

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For information about the Master of Ministry program contact [dstewart@harding.edu](mailto:dstewart@harding.edu).

“OUR ELDERS WERE INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS FROM ITS INCEPTION... WILLING TO LET THE CONGREGATION KNOW OF THEIR SUPPORT.”

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## CROSS-EYED LEADERSHIP

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After compiling the list, a deliberate effort was made to identify women in various life stages and age from those submitted names. By intentionally having a diverse group of leaders we anticipate having a better understanding of interests, and see this as an additional opportunity to mentor women through various life stages.

Five women were identified to form the initial team of leaders, and with the approval of our elders, were asked to be part of the leadership team. Of those five, three accepted and two declined because of their family situation. After reviewing the list of names, additional members were contacted and a team of five was formed.

It is important to note that our elders were involved in this process from its inception, supported the formation of the ministry, were willing to let the congregation know of their support, and asked to review the list of those recommended as leaders. Since our elders are responsible for the spiritual well being of the congregation and because they know about many situations that are not public, having their insight has been very valuable. Additionally, the elders approved an initial budget amount for the ministry to use, requested that the ministry “keep them in the loop” regarding plans, and

identified one elder to be a liaison between the ministry and leadership.

The leadership team came together for an initial meeting, where we agreed that our next step would be to survey the women of the congregation for interests in Bible studies, service opportunities, and events. After gathering the survey information we then met for a planning retreat where our agenda included a time of prayer, brainstorming about a name and purpose statement, and identification of survey results that could be scheduled. Calendered events included Bible studies, a ladies’ day, and additional tasks for each team member. After a lunch break we discussed the ladies’ day further and within an hour we had identified a theme, date, speaker, schedule, and a few possible participants for various tasks. Each member of the leadership team agreed to take on an initial step to continue the planning process.

During our retreat, one of the identified objectives of the leadership team is to involve as many women as possible in a variety of ways based on the survey they completed. Some indicated that they had abilities or interests in specific areas. For example, if someone wrote that they had decorating skills they will be asked to help decorate when an event is planned; or if computer skills

were identified they may be asked to help with a mailing to all the women in the congregation or development of promotional materials.

In the last few months since our leadership team was formed we have hosted a mother-daughter brunch, planned a noon Bible class to begin in August with the start up of the school year, scheduled a ladies’ day for October, and shared a list of names with our mission committee of women who desire to pray for and support specific missionaries.

The leadership team will be meeting again soon to continue with the planning of the ladies’ day, beyond the initial tasks each one agreed to take. Additional women will be identified and asked to participate in the upcoming ladies’ day in specific ways – not just an invitation to come. Subcommittees for promotion/advertising, room preparation, food coordination, and child care will be formed, populated and chaired by various leadership team members. Our goal is to engage as many women as possible in this event, and use it as a springboard to reach out in as many ways as possible. Our mission statement and theme for our first ladies’ day is one and the same: “Reaching - Up to God, Within the body of Christ, and Out to those outside the body.”

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