

CAMT WELLSRING RESOURCES FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRY

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

MAY 2009

BEGINNING A WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Beginning an official women's ministry in a local congregation requires many considerations. *The obvious first step is to determine why such a program is needed,* which forces you to write down your goals and objectives. Ideally, this should be done by women who have lots of experience in various phases of ministry in the local congregation or by a team of women who have been actively involved in congregations wherever they have lived. The size of the congregation will have a definite impact on the design of the program of women's ministry.

Once you have determined your goals and objectives, the next step should be to present your proposal to the elders (or business

"THOSE WHO LEAD WOMEN'S MINISTRIES, PREFERABLY AS A TEAM, SHOULD COUNT THE COST BEFORE BEGINNING THE TASK. A GREAT LEVEL OF COMMITMENT IS REQUIRED FOR THE JOB TO BE DONE WELL."

meeting) for their consideration and approval. You should be very clear in letting them know that you desire their leadership and accountability for the ministry. This follows the biblical precedent while freeing you from the potential to "take charge" of the church, a job that you definitely do not want.

As you attempt to determine the exact program for women, *begin with things women already do* – cooking, cleaning, kitchen maintenance, visitation, teaching, working in the nursery, reading the Bible to patients in the nursing home, hospital visitation, visitor/newcomer visitation, ministry to widows, etc. Many of these would involve husbands, too, but may need you to volunteer if you and/or they are to be active in these efforts.

We would recommend that you *prepare a form and ask each woman to "sign up" for areas in which they are willing to serve.* From

those who check an area of service, *choose a leader who is responsible and can be depended on to follow through* with the ministry by organizing and leading those who have volunteered. As new women place membership in your congregation, ask each one to complete the ministry form so you can place them in their preferred areas of service.

As other areas develop or as elders/deacons/ministers ask for assistance, add these areas to your form and choose someone to be the liaison between the ladies who sign up for that area and the elder, deacon or minister who is in charge of that ministry. Be sure to keep everything up to date and on target.

Other specific concerns to be addressed from the beginning include:

- **BUDGET** – With the elders' assistance, determine the amount of budget that you estimate needing to complete the tasks you anticipate. Get a clear understanding of the process, i.e. requesting checks, charging items to the church, paying for things and turning in

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



Submit your event to
Wellspring@harding.edu

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

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

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

“A QUALITY WOMEN’S MINISTRY SHOULD HAVE AS ONE OF ITS HIGHEST GOALS TO FIND WAYS TO CONNECT WOMEN OF ALL AGES.”

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receipts for reimbursements. You should have a limit for how much one person can spend without approval of another leader and/or the church treasurer.

• **INTERNAL/EXTERNAL** – Give special attention to the areas you choose to pursue and fund. You should have at least a 50/50 ratio for time and money spent on reaching out to unbelievers and time and money spent on ministering to your own members and their preferred programs.

• **INTERGENERATIONAL EMPHASIS** – A quality women’s ministry should have as one of its highest goals to find ways to connect women of all ages, both to involve all of them in ministry and to include all of them in service. Specific events/programs with an intergenerational emphasis will go a long way in making your congregation meet biblical directives for women while passing

down your Christian heritage to those who are younger.

• **NON-TRADITIONAL VENUES** – Since one major objective, particularly in a large congregation, is to help members get to know and love each other, you may plug into some “ministries” that would be considered “outside the box” on nearly anyone’s ministry list. Such things as supper clubs, bunko groups and game nights have great potential to help women experience deeper fellowship, especially if these activities include serious discussion time, devotionals and sharing each other’s burdens.

Whether working with widows, having a kitchen shower to restock pots and pans and utensils, pairing older and younger women for special relationships, sending out greeting cards, working in the resource room, decorating the hallways of the building, assisting a teacher with handouts, or any other

job that needs to be done, your goal in women’s ministry should be to help every woman in the church find her niche for service while making sure that no member of your congregation “falls through the cracks.”

Those who lead women’s ministries, preferably as a team, should count the cost before beginning the task. A great level of commitment is required for the job to be done well. This means that the leaders, coordinators and liaison volunteers need to consider their part of the ministry an important priority if the overall objectives of the ministries are to succeed. Great rewards follow accomplishment, however, and the church can only be what God meant it to be when each member does her part (Eph. 4:16).

*Kay Gowen and Brenda Allen
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BASKETS OF SUNBEAMS

Women’s ministry may plan many activities and projects. One example could be “Baskets of Sunbeams.” These are baskets filled with goodies, delivered to those in need. These are especially attractive when topped with a bow or wrapped.

The goodies may be items for a specific event, such as a hospital patient or

family, new mom and baby, a shut-in that needs encouragement, a death in family, or as a thank you to someone. Examples of the goodies to place in the basket are: small notepads and pen/pencil, hand lotion, Kleenex tissue, gum, and candy. Depending on the size of the container and the event, other items may be added.

The baskets can be assembled by one individual, a Bible class, or another group. Items can be collected by any group as a project. One idea is for a women’s Bible class to bring specific goody items each week.

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