

Connecting Women of the Canada Conference

Seeds of Faith

The mission of WM is to advance God's kingdom through ministries that equip women to grow, serve and reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The news from you....

Lighthouse (Sarnia, ON)

Women's Retreats...that's one of the significant ways seeds are being planted in the lives of our Church. Each Fall and each Spring over the past two years a group of us women have packed our bags to spend a weekend together – a different mix of women each time – we go with the intent to build relationships and set aside distractions to reflect together on what God wants to speak into our lives. We have not hired outside speakers or singers, gifted people to lead us have come from within Lighthouse. This makes it an intimate gathering and a time for friendships to blossom and continue to deepen throughout the year. We release the “little girls” in all of us, laugh, play games, hang out in our ‘jammies’ long into the night, and in the midst of it have planned times when we intentionally open our hearts to God, sing praises and reflect. It has been amazing how God has placed on the heart of the planning team what it was he wanted us to reflect on. Our most recent Retreat at the beginning of this month focused on the 1st four beatitudes. One of our gifted women was filled with messages on this topic so heavily early this year she could hardly contain herself. And when she was finally able to present them at the Retreat each of us was impacted profoundly. I'm certain Lighthouse will benefit in many positive ways from this. Our Retreats have become a safe place where we go to be re-energized and discover that “God shows up” and he loves on us in unprecedented ways. Seeds are planted and sprout - seeds of healing, forgiveness, freedom, relationships and service in giftedness. I am humbled and awed to be on a team that is able to help provide these moments in time and space and look forward to what will happen next.

Erickson, BC

Here at Erickson the winter Women's Bible Study is an incredible opportunity to plant seeds of faith. A week ago we completed an 8-week series based on studies by Fran Sciacca entitled "To Walk and Grow Weary" and "To Run and Not Grow Tired." The studies presented cameos of God's people under pressure; struggles such as loneliness, discouragement and guilt. With women ranging from pre-school Moms to great-grandmothers the studies acted as a bridge across the generations. The women learned to relate on a deeper level and they learned how to learn from each other. The women were offered Biblical solutions to the crises of life, and an opportunity to reach out with the love of Christ to women new to the group and our church. New relationships were forged as women shared their lives with each other. Meanwhile the kids were busy enjoying playtime in the Kids' Zone so Moms could linger over coffee and enjoy adult time. God promises us that "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31) That is the fruit of seeds of faith planted.

Malmo (Wetaskiwin, AB)

I never fail to feel humbled by the women in our church who do so much for so many. While our WM does not have regular monthly meetings, it does have women who seek out opportunities to encourage others on their journey of faith. I have struggled with knowing whether some of the projects that are being done in our church are in fact really Women Ministry projects. I have come to the conclusion that they are because they are carried out by women and they most definitely are a ministry. Individual ladies take it upon themselves to foster initiatives that minister to others with only a small amount of assistance, while others are developing programs that involve all available women in some capacity. The ladies of Malmo minister to each other, contributing to the surrounding community, and financially supporting global issues like "Break the Chains". As faithful servants of our Church Family, the women of Malmo move forward in being good disciples of Jesus in a time when women need to be selective in what they chose to be involved in. *Read more on our Website!

You asked for it...

What would you like to see here? We'd love to give you some help...just let us know what you're looking for!

The news from Canada's WM team...

Our NEW team as decided at the AGM:

Coordinators: Pattie Peterson & Judy Nelson

Secretary: Lila Freysteinson

Equipping Ministry: Jeramie-Lee Nelson

CM&J: Korleen Stapleton

Global Ministry: Faith Campbell

Liaison to Denominational WM: Gretchen Johnson

Canada WM has a website! Check us out on

www.canadacovenantchurch.org/womenministries. Our latest newsletter (Fall '08) and monthly e-letters will be available with a lot of other information for you and your local group!

Our theme for the May e-letter will be "Women Mentoring Women." As a team, we *really* look forward to hearing about what is happening at the local level – in your church! We encourage you as leaders to spread the word to all women in your local group...let's hear about some of these fabulous women working behind-the-scenes!

Canada's WM is excited to launch our Canadian version of "Balcony Women" and we're looking forward to hearing from you about how another woman has impacted your life! This will be a great chance to honor women of your congregation who have made a significant contribution to God's Kingdom by their service. We will be featuring stories online. In addition to BW, consider the Recognition Award to acknowledge special women. Funds go to supporting the History Commission and the recipient receives a

beautiful handcrafted silver pin as well as a card of appreciation from Women Ministries. The list of recipients will be included in an upcoming inspire issue. To learn more about the Recognition Award and an application form, check the website: www.covchurch.org

Addendum: Malmo

What does Women Ministries look like in your church?

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Malmo is steeped in a tradition of ministering to others within the church body. The ladies are grouped in 5 groups where they provide coffee and snacks every Sunday following the service; we serve at funerals and contribute to pot luck lunches; each person that is getting married is given a wedding shower that is amazing. What a legacy to know that your home church supports and loves you and wishes that you start your married life with Jesus at your side!

In November, some ladies get together and take some of the seniors to Edmonton to do some early Christmas shopping. We call this “shop till you drop” and finish with a lunch at the Bay.

Other activities include a secret prayer sister, an active prayer chain, and a Christmas Banquet with another church. We hold a spring brunch and a special night to reveal our prayer sister for that year.

For the past two years we have had a group of young mothers who have organized a MOPS group in our church. MOPS international exists to encourage, equip, and develop every mother of preschoolers to realize her potential as a woman, mother and leader in the name of Jesus Christ. We have had an amazing response from Moms who live out in the country and nearby communities who want a place to connect.

During April there were 40 young Moms, 60 children and many of the 40 volunteers that it takes to run this programme. Needless to say, every available woman in our church is needed in some capacity to provide child care or snacks for the children. The programme consists of guest

speakers, DVD's, discussions, crafts and of course snacking and socializing. This outreach programme is a real blessing to all that attend.

This year WM purchased a vented stove for Covenant Bay Bible Camp. We have been gathering hygiene products for a local Women's' Shelter. We will further our efforts next year by making gift bags .WM also has collected soup and given it to the Homeless Shelter and contributed to their building fund.

This year we will be showing the video on **Breaking the Chains** on WM Sunday.

The leadership team for Women Ministries is actively trying to help equip its members to help others in need. We are striving to advance God's Kingdom through women with a keen eye to strive to do more and rise to new challenges.

Eddie Johnson