

Connecting Women of the Canada Conference

Women Mentoring Women

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.

Your Heartwarming Stories...

Junction Covenant (Nelson, BC) – Dawn Enns

This story is about a lady who loves Jesus, and loves people, but it is also a story of how God uses something as simple as a box of food to share the love of Jesus. Let me share some insights into who Mary Ellen is. She is somebody who has learned the gift of being open to God's leading, and also learned to love unconditionally. She has a way of making people feel loved no matter who they are, or what they have done. Her smile lights up a room, and her joy is infectious! She is a walking ambassador for Christ. She is also a good friend who will tell you the truth, even if it is difficult to hear.

Soon after coming to Junction Covenant Church, God began to put a burden on Mary Ellen's heart to share with those who are hurting, and in need. My family became one of the first recipients of the Junction Church showing God's love through a food box. We were really broke, and like a Christmas miracle a food box showed up on our doorstep Christmas Eve. We felt like God had given us a great big hug through something as simple as a box of food!

Soon God began showing Mary Ellen many more people who were in need, sometimes practically dropping them in her lap. She began dropping off jugs of milk to those in need, and blessing them with God's love. The food cupboard ministry began to expand, and the need began to grow. Mary Ellen asked God to provide more for all the needs we had each week. Some weeks it looked impossible as to how God would provide everything she needed to fill those boxes, but He did.

If you get a chance to talk to Mary Ellen, she loves to talk about how God provides, and how each one of those boxes is prayed over every week. She prays that God will use the box to bless those who receive it. She doesn't preach to anybody who comes to pick up a box, but simply tells them that our church is doing this because we love Jesus, and we love them.

Some may be skeptical, and wonder why she is not using this opportunity to preach to others. The funny thing is that her actions speak louder than words. Through the work of the food cupboard, the Holy Spirit has been speaking to people, and they are beginning to understand what the love of Jesus is really all about. They ask questions, and some are coming to church to find out more about Jesus.

You may be wondering if she is a saint. Mary Ellen would tell you herself she is just doing what Jesus asked us to do, Loving Jesus and loving people, and sharing *the love of God In A Box*.

Lighthouse Covenant Church (Sarnia, ON) – Trudy McIntosh

Family and many shared memories keep my heart warm at Christmas. This afternoon I set out to decorate the house and the tree. A grin spread across my face as I tested the blue ribbon that tied our Christmas tree to the corner of the wall with a nail, making sure the tree was secure before I hung all the ornaments. This has been part of the

routine of putting up our tree for a number of years now. You see, one fateful Christmas morning when the kids were younger, I joined my family as we all excitedly gathered in the living room where the presents were piled high under a beautifully decorated and brightly lit tree. I noticed that something was a bit odd though, seemed to me the tree was leaning, then, oh, no, it was moving, in slow motion – toward me. I managed to have enough wits about me to grab hold of its trunk (ouch!) before it had a chance to land in the middle of the living room floor. My family came to the rescue. A hammer, a nail, and a ribbon around the tree got the whole thing into a secure upright position again. And so the tradition of tying the tree to the wall started. Who was the culprit of the whole incident, you wonder? Well – you might say my judgment was a bit off the day I decorated the tree. Such a pretty collection of ornaments, I thought, should not be hidden on the back of the tree; no one would be able to appreciate them. So I loaded the three sides that were visible to all – with the result of “the leaning Christmas Tree”, amazingly timed to start its descent early Christmas morning. Memories – they bring a smile and warm my heart.

Malmo Covenant Church (Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – Edie Johnson

This fall our Women’s Ministry team was notified that our annual Christmas Banquet that we shared with another Evangelical Church would be cancelled. The reason for cancelling was lack of interest and that it was too expensive for most people to afford. The other Church actually lost money last year. Our WM had mixed feelings about this and was seriously debating not hosting it at all. Finally, we came up with some alternatives to cutting costs and making it more affordable. We decided to host a catered Banquet in our own Church. We have an abundance of great talent in our Church and we have chosen two groups to be our entertainment along with the singing of Christmas carols. We have totally turned things around so that it has become a major outreach for our WM. There are more people attending this year than in the past few years—coming together as Church members, friends, relatives, community members, and even fellow Covenant folks from our sister Church in Edmonton. We are all looking forward to an evening of good food, and great fellowship. We may be a little crowded, but our hearts will reflect the Love of our Father in Heaven as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Valley Covenant Church (Durban, MB) – Myrna Zinkiew

What could bring greater warmth to our hearts than the act of sharing? This year, as other years, we gave non perishable food to the *Swan River Food Bank*. For our *Christmas Cheer Board*, we adopted a large family and filled a huge box with non perishables and gifts. The greatest excitement was to join with other volunteers to pack 80 more boxes to give to the less fortunate families. We served our seniors a Christmas Tea in the *Benito Thunderhill Court*. A donation of \$500.00 was given to our *Hospital Auxiliary* for an Infusion Pump.

One of my greatest memories of Christmas was seeing my sister open her suitcase of gifts. Every gift was wrapped in white tissue paper and tied with a red ribbon. How appropriate her choice of wrapping – *white*, for the purity of our finest gift, Jesus, and *red*, reminding us of His blood shed for our free gift of Salvation.

May your Christmas be filled with warm acts of being present for those who need a special touch.

The news from Canada's WM team...

Our team as decided at the AGM on April 25, 2009:

Coordinators: Pattie Peterson & Judy Nelson
Secretary: Lila Freysteinson
Equipping Ministry: Jeramie-Lee Nelson
CM&J: Korleen Stapleton
Liaison to Denominational WM: Gretchen Johnson

Missionary Encouragement Fund (MEF)

- Bethany Fullerton serving at Bethlehem Bible College. Check out her update [online!](#)
- Janelle Peterson serving with Dr. Manno at Ebenezer Clinic www.janelleinhaiti.blogspot.com

Canada WM has a website! Check us out on www.canadacovenantchurch.org/womenministries.php. Monthly e-letters will be available on the website within the week of receiving it in your inbox.

An update from Judy Nelson on the WM Conference in Denver, CO :

If I would report anything from my time in Denver, it would be the new human trafficking project, Triennial, and the joke about the divorcing seniors near the bottom of [Ruth's eletter](#). Deciding on the project for the next phase of human trafficking was important but other than that there was much "sharing" of frustrations and challenges. Everyone is working at getting women involved and connected. Much emphasis is put on retreats and ministry coach training.

For next month...

Well, the countdown to Christmas is on! It's hard to believe that in just a few weeks' time, the cookies will be eaten, the decorations shoved under the stairs, and the gifts stacked on the shelves. Our hope is that you are able to take a moment to remember the true meaning behind Christmas. And as we look forward to the new year and all of the new beginnings that will come with 2010, we are interested to know what will be 'new' about your group this year. What will be changing? Are you looking forward to any new events or programs? We'd love to hear about it all!

WARMTH OF HEART...FROM DEEP WITHIN

By Vanessa Grimm

It's late in the morning this winter day.
I curl up in my favourite chair,
still in my pajamas...
a steaming coffee in hand.
I snuggle deep in a cozy quilt
made for me years ago by my Grandmother.
Secure and safe.
My cup overflows.

I look past the twinkling lights on the tree.
Outside the first real snowfall of the season
 blankets the ground
 to await the sun...
whose rays will turn it into a carpet of sparkling
 diamonds.
The trees are laden and beautiful.
The snow continues to fall...steadily and softly.
 Peaceful and tranquil.
 My cup overflows.

I've been reading from my favourite book.
 I am reminded of His promises.
 I am encouraged by the words I read.
 I do not need to be afraid.
He who lives within me showers me with grace
 and love,
 strength and courage.
 He's my all in all.
 Joy unspeakable.
 My cup overflows.