

Connecting Women of the Canada Conference

Women In Ministry

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.

I have been so inspired this month by all of you – what a wonderful group of women we are a part of! I hope you enjoy hearing of the different ways we live our Christian lives. Enjoy!

~Jeramie-Lee Nelson, Equipping Ministry

The news from you....

Hope Covenant (Strathmore, AB)

This past year I have had the privilege to sit with many women who are suffering from the effects of Domestic Violence in their stories. It is disturbing to me that in spite of all the educational efforts being made in our culture the incidents of DV are increasing. Last week a woman in a little community just north of Strathmore was murdered by her ex spouse. This lady had emergency protection orders in place and some family support, but this did not change the outcome of her story. It leaves us wondering how these situations continually fall through the cracks with disastrous outcomes.

I wonder how we as spiritual communities can reach out to victims, but also promote zero tolerance to this behavior. I believe the AVA training can help equip pastors and lay people to be more aware, more equipped and better able to be the hands and feet of Jesus to these broken victims. We must prepare church leaders to stand firmly against abusive behavior in marriages and families that they are made aware of. Please pray that pastors would be open to the training and take advantage of the resources AVA offers. Small churches find it difficult at times to absorb the cost of the training, and it would be helpful if they could gather several churches together which would be more cost-effective, and easier for myself in terms of the time commitment. Let's pray together that more churches will become involved.

*More information about AVA can be found on the website

Malmo Covenant (Wetaskiwin, AB)

The Ecuador Team of 2009 had an unforgettable adventure where God showed up and opened our eyes to His wondrous works in people, in nature, and in a world that is much bigger than we knew.

Andy and I had the privilege of meeting with the Ecuadorian Covenant Church leaders and brainstorming ways in which we can partner together in projects in the future. Having a focal point for our mission vision would help Canadians to become familiar with a consistent work project in Ecuador, build relationships with the people, and see some long term accomplishments. We brainstormed about an experimental farm, a medical clinic on an island and a water project for an isolated jungle community. We'll be continuing these discussions and praying about these possible options in the months ahead.

Our team did a fabulous job of painting the outside of a Covenant guesthouse and repairing drawers in the kitchen and replacing bathroom sinks. We went on to the

Amazon jungle town of Shell and worked with a small school there, where the men built cafeteria benches and the ladies helped out Melissa Johnson (Minnedosa) with her English classes. It was fun to bring books, DVDs, and school supplies as well as clothing to be sent into the remote villages in the jungle. Melissa is loving her students and doing a great job of teaching them to speak English. Our final days were spent at the beach, resting and reflecting on God's amazing handiwork in the lives of His people on the other side of the world.

If you would like to join us next year, we will be going with a Canada Covenant team once again in February 2010. Just email Jenell at: Jenell.pluim@gmail.com.

Durban, MB

Women in our church "do ministry" in a variety of ways. Some faithful volunteers sing at the Benito Care Home every Monday... they have expanded with invitations to sing at the Lodge in Swan River. We have had a couple coffee parties at the Thunderhill apartments. Some help with the church services at the care home and hospital when it is our turn. Some have always helped with the kid's programs. We try to visit those in hospital and deliver food hampers to new mothers. Countless cakes, sandwiches and donations given to service groups in the valley. An afternoon together produced 2 quilts to be to families who lost their home to fires. Many hours and prayers have produce shawls that give comforting warm hug. As always we recognize the ministry of women who silently care and pray for those who need God's love. Ministry changes as the needs arise.... so we pray that we hear God's voice and respond as needed.

Balfour, BC

The ministry of Balfour Covenant Women is twofold in that some projects are organized by the group but most are spontaneous acts of love.

With several seniors in our congregation and community many opportunities abound for service. In the past few years some of our ladies have been driving into Nelson to a Residential Care Facility on a weekly basis to help keep residents active and occupied by playing games. Our church has also hosted a lunch and short program for these same residents who are bussed out to Balfour on a sunny day.

There are those who prepare fresh or frozen dinners or take baking to shut-ins, mothers with new babies or those that are ill. In the past we have done group cooking where we prepare and freeze an entrée to have on hand when needed. Other times a few ladies will each prepare a meal for two different families then get together to deliver the food and visit the families. In both instances this has helped someone else and also provided a fun time of fellowship for the women involved. At Christmas one family got neighbors involved in making up a beautiful basket of gifts and food for a new family in the area.

One lady is involved with the Women's Auxilliary at the Nelson hospital and knits and crochets baby clothes for the gift shop; and hats for newborn babies. Still others knit blankets and sweaters for missionary projects.

On a Sunday morning one of our home-schooling mothers shared her excitement with us upon sensing God's call to train and minister with The Crisis Pregnancy Centre.

There are many others bringing joy, laughter and the message of hope to those around them on a daily basis. "To God be the glory"!

*Please take the time to read more great ministry ideas on our website! Follow the link to 'Balfour'.

Erickson, BC

Women play an important role in the life of our church. From leading worship, to teaching the children, teens and adult class as well as Women Bible Study, women are involved in God's Kingdom work. They minister at the Senior Care homes sharing God's word and visiting with seniors no longer able to come to church. One has ventured out to minister in a Pregnancy Crisis Center while another ministers at a Women's Shelter prepared with AVA training. Two quilting groups prepare quilts for donation to M.C.C. and Salvation Army for the homeless. Children are introduced to the Congo medical needs through Rip 'n Roll at V.B.S. Another group meets to provide support to women going through challenging life's passages

You asked for it...

You want some help for your local group? It's coming soon! Trinity Abila will be offering a seminar at AGM: "Real Life Real Women Real Ministry". Trinity works as a Ministry Coach and will be available for consultation with WM groups, individuals or pastors in crafting a Women Ministry that reflects your church's needs. Wow!

The news from Canada's WM team...

Coordinators: Korleen Stapleton & Pattie Peterson

Secretary: Judy Nelson

Equipping: Jeramie-Lee Nelson

CM&J: Natasha Westerhoud

Global Ministry: Faith Campbell

Gretchen Johnson: Liaison to Denominational WM

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 April e-letter will be "Seeds of Faith".

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'll include more details in the April's e-letter and the stories will be featured 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 inspirit issue. To learn more about the Recognition Award and an application form check the website: www.covchurch.org

Reminder:

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be April 23-25 at Green Timbers, Surrey, BC. Don't forget the Gift Boutique on Friday. The items you bring for sale are a donation toward the administrative fund of Women Ministries, specifically the Travel Fund. Happy travelling!