

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 Stories...

Minnedosa, MB submitted by Sherri Quesnel

Praise God for women - especially the women in our lives who have mentored us and cheered us on throughout our lives. I will always remember my Sunday school days at the Minnedosa Covenant Church and my wonderful teacher when I was in the grade five class there. One Sunday morning, the teacher pulled some of us aside and asked if it would be ok with us if she could teach the same lesson that she had taught the previous Sunday. She explained that there was a boy there that morning who didn't know the Lord, and she felt that he needed to hear a salvation lesson. The week before the lesson was about Jesus and what He had done for us and how He could save us and give us eternal life. We all agreed with our teacher that she should do what she felt the Lord asking her to do, and I was so excited all through the class to be a part of sharing Jesus with someone. Many years went by and through my teen years and early adult life I attended a different church, eventually coming back to the church in Minnedosa in my thirties. I was so happy to see my former Sunday school teacher still attending and actively involved in women's ministry. I have had the privilege of being involved in Bible studies with her, going on retreats with her and even being blessed with some of her garden vegetables! I told her one day about how that day in Sunday school had blessed me and showed me how important it was to always follow what the Lord wanted us to do. She smiled and said she didn't remember that day but she was happy that I had remembered. I think that people like her have helped lead other women in our church into becoming stronger in their faith and service to the Lord. Now in the Minnedosa church we have many women of all ages and backgrounds involved in women's ministry and mentoring. Women helping in children's ministry, music ministry, English language classes. Women helping young mothers in basic life skills and other practical ways, women praying for families and the church and holding Bible studies. There are just so many ways that our women are involved in mentoring and ministering and being a blessing to the church and community. Praise God for each and every one of them. "Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates." Proverbs 31:31

Rainy River Church, Ontario submitted by Korleen Stapleton

By her witness and friendship, *Mary McMahon* introduced many to her Saviour. Her home was always open to guests who were showered with her generous hospitality. Mary faithfully served where ever she was needed, including Covenant Women Ministries where she consistently wrote SIMs and opened her home to the monthly meetings. Mary led by example. Thanks be to God for her friendship, encouragement and mentoring in my life.

Also, a description of Apples of Gold program and how it has been useful in mentoring:

Titus 2:3,4 says, "...teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live... to teach what is good... they can train the younger women..." Historically there has been much debate about the role of women and ways we can serve within the body of Christ. Because the church hasn't adequately instructed young ladies about their significance, the result has been for many girls to reflect a worldly mindset. In Rainy River we are intentionally trying to address this problem by offering a mentoring program called "Apples of Gold." Using the principle of Titus to have "older women... train the younger women" we invite girls to "sit at the feet" of those who can encourage and mentor them "to be self-controlled and pure..." (Titus 2:5). This spring we offered a six week course for teen girls. A typical session involves sharing a fancy meal together, receiving instruction from the Bible by a lady who serves as a mentor and then concluding the session with a special feature, typically involving a craft or homemaking skill (baking bread, making pie, sewing, crocheting, quilt making, scrap-booking, etc.)

Erickson, BC

AnnaLee Stewart recalls *Mrs. Mildred Freed* who was her Dean of Women in Bible School and later the wife of the Field Director of the new overseas mission AnnaLee and her husband, Al served in together. During 8 years of AnnaLee's youth, Mildred Freed, dear friend, example and mentor taught her the privileges and responsibilities of womanhood, the reality of Heaven and the importance of intercessory prayer.

Durban, MB

Mabel Qualie was a very active lady. It would make one tired to see how quickly she moved and the many things she accomplished in a very short while. If a speaker or a missionary attended our church and needed a meal or a bed, Mabel was always eager to be a hostess. Any time food was needed for luncheons, meals or children's snacks, Mabel volunteered. They would have social times for young people after toboggan slides and also for young couple gatherings. Mabel acted for 21 years in the Sunday School Christmas Concert Play. Mabel was an encouragement for each of us to prepare our spouses for a life without a partner.

Olive Fullerton was a silent worker. She would slip into the church, clean and carry water without telling anyone. She was always asked to bring her beautiful light buns which she bakes in muffin tins. They would come in a huge, clear plastic bag, every bun uniform in size and colour and each brushed with sugar and water. Olive was the Adult Sunday School Teacher for many years, teaching with flannel graph. She was also one of the first to belong to the Women Ministries.

Olive Hugill and *Gladys Foster* were both Sunday School Teachers together. They were both soft spoken, excellent cooks and faithful CWM attendees.

Opal Hussenetter was our American lady and we enjoyed her southern drawl. She was a great encourager; she always acknowledged children and complimented them. She believed in doing volunteer work such as preparing for and serving at weddings.

Ivy Hamelin was noted for sewing costumes for concerts and drama presentations, as well as making props. Ivy and *Shirley Zinkiew* were two of the early chartered members of the Covenant Women and now the last two remaining of the original organization.

Margaret and Agnes Campbell: It would be hard to imagine or count the number of people whose lives have been touched, influenced and made richer by having spent time with two ladies who have added a special richness to our church family over the years. Their quiet strength and steadfast love for the Lord

has shone through their lives in good times and times of adversity. The two ladies have never assumed or accepted prominent positions, were always present when needed, and missed when they were absent.

We look forward to sharing more of the stories of these ladies with you in the fall!

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

Our WM e-letter will be taking a break for the summer and will be back in full-swing in the fall. But please feel free to contact us at any time!

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! We are hoping to make some more changes to the website this summer to make it more user-friendly and a better source of communication!

Melissa Johnson was the recipient of WMs 2008 MEF. She is doing great work in Shell, Ecuador and has sent a newsletter to update us all. The newsletter is included with your email as a separate attachment. Enjoy!