



Connecting Women



Winter

December
2009

Dear Judy

Hello once again! And Merry Christmas!

This newsletter not only updates you on opportunities and resources in Women Ministries, it also provides many gift giving suggestions

Creating this newsletter is the most fun! We love updating you on opportunities and resources in Women Ministries, and even more, reminding you of the incredible potential of women uniting together to impact our world. A huge thank you to those who financially support the vision!!

Enjoy the latest news! Know someone not getting the news? Forward this now!

Blessings on you!

Ruth



Triennial XIII

Quick links to
TXIII info



Reflecting God's Glory

DATE: JULY 22-25, 2010
PLACE: WASHINGTON, DC

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS A TRIP TO TXIII !

Are you making a list and checking it twice? Are you dreaming of July in DC with 1,000 other women of the Covenant? Maybe a little hint to your family that you'd love to find TXIII wrapped up under your Christmas tree would make for a memorable holiday. Think of it as Christmas in July!

WINTER PRAYER WALKING



Don't put away your walking shoes! Click [here](#) for 10 tips for winter walking.

New women continue to join the Prayer Walk team each week. Won't you be a part of our team?

Participants in **PrayerWalk 2010** receive a kit including a visor and lanyard with pouch for prayer walk tips and will receive on-line prayer updates via email. Log in your miles on the website and watch the total grow! Let's see how far we can walk before TXIII! Cost of registration and prayer kit is \$10. To register for the Prayer Walk 2010 team click [here](#).

JOIN THE TRIENNIAL PRAYER TEAM

Join with other praying sisters all over the Covenant as we uphold Triennial in prayer. Go to the TXIII [prayer tab](#) to read the prayers of others, add your own. Sign up to be on the prayer room planning committee, on-site prayer team or off-site prayer team will be available in the near future.

RAISE THE FLAG

Triennial presents the unique opportunity for women to actually meet and share with women of the Covenant from all over the world. What a great time of gathering and learning from one another this is. We expect to bring women from China, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Sudan, Thailand - depending on the amount of funds raised. Help

[TXIII web
site](#)

Order TXIII
[brochures](#).

Make your hotel reservation

at the Omni Shoreham
Hotel by phoning 1-800-
843-6664
(1-800-THEOMNI)

Mention "Triennial" to
get the conference
rate!

AVA &
Ministry
Coach
Training at
TXIII

July 21-22, 2010
in Washington,
DC, just before
TXIII.

*Do you have a desire to
step up your ministry
and become a coach or
AVA coordinator?
Contact your conference
president for more*

support *your* conference's sponsored guest!

BASEBALL & TRIENNIAL XIII

Women of Redeemer Covenant Church and El Encino Covenant Church of Downey, CA, have found a creative way to raise funds for those wanting to go to Triennial XIII in Washington, D.C. They pass out free give-away items to those attending home games at the Dodger stadium and the Dodgers in turn contribute \$15 per volunteer/per game to the cause. (And they get to watch the rest of the game!) "*We found this to be a very effective way to raise funds for CHIC. Now the whole church is doing it to help us women get to Triennial,*" says Lynda Delgado.

How is *your* church raising funds? We'll pass on your idea to others! Let us [know](#).

Register now at www.triennialxiii.org or order a TXIII registration brochure (see sidebar).

TXIII registration rates

- **EARLY: ENDS Jan. 15, 2010 \$310**
- **REGULAR: Jan. 16-May 31, 2010 \$360**
- **LATE: June 1-July 18, 2010 \$390**
- **GROUP: (10 or more) \$288 - a 20% savings!**
- **INSTALLMENT (Electronic Funds Transfer) Divide the regular rate of \$360 into easy monthly automatic withdrawals from your checking account. Click [here](#) for more information.**

information.

The new Regional Coordinators and Ministry Coaches will be commissioned during TXIII.

**We love
our
Friends!**

Our Friends keep Women Ministries strong. Consider becoming a financial supporter of WM yourself. Each donation, no matter how big or small, will strengthen our vision of "advancing God's kingdom through women."

Become a [Friend of WM](#) TODAY!

inSpirit

Break the Chains 2010 Project

The third and final year of our Break the Chains initiative is...

Hope & Restoration for Freed Slaves

SEX TRAFFICKING IN NORTH AMERICA

The emphasis will be on sex trafficking in North America. A [new page](#) on the human trafficking web site has valuable information on trafficking in Canada and the United States - statistics, current news items, ways to

Click [here](#) to download a subscription form.

Thanks!
+++

Four of the international guests sponsored by "Raise the Flag" tell their stories in the Winter issue being mailed soon. Here is an excerpt from Josefa Palamas story, our guest from Spain.

respond, and more. Check it out and become better informed.

NEW DAY FOR CHILDREN



While working together to end trafficking, we also want to remember those who are freed from this trauma and the huge and unique needs they have. Women Ministries is partnering with **New Day for Children**, helping launch their vision of bringing hope and restoration to girls freed from slavery.

According to the National Center for Crime and Delinquency, *"The most crucial service that is lacking is the existence of secure physical shelters and safe housing for victims."* **New Day for Children** is one answer to that need!

This exciting new venture, birthed by Covenanters in northern California, will provide a safe transitioning home for young girls who have been pulled into the sex trafficking "industry" in North America.

RENTING LACY

by Linda Smith with Cindy Coloma

Step into the darkness of the trafficking underworld. Meet the actual people who live there. Hear their words - and sense the terror and despair. *Is there hope?* Decide for yourself. Read this extraordinary book by the founder of Shared Hope International and encounter the truth face-to-face.

"This is perhaps the most shocking book you'll read on sex trafficking in North America - but essential reading for every concerned Covenanter." - Ruth Hill

To order *Renting Lacy*, send a check for \$8 (includes shipping and handling) made payable to Women Ministries, 5101 N. Francisco Ave., Chicago, IL 60625. Be sure to include a complete mailing address for shipping purposes.

Watch for Project 2010 promotional DVD coming to your church by mid-January.

"Josefa was born in Morocco. Her parents and grandparents were part of the gypsy community that was forced to leave Spain during the Spanish Civil War. They settled in Morocco in northern Africa. Although most of her extended family was killed, her grandparents' lives were saved. The family maintained their Catholic traditions despite living in a Muslim nation. She spoke Spanish at home while learning Arabic and French at school."

Read the full story in the Winter issue and meet Josefa in DC at Triennial XIII!

inSpirit would make a great Christmas gift - just \$12 for one year (4 issues) or \$22 for two years. When mailing in the subscription form note that it is a Christmas Gift and we'll send a special card to the recipient announcing your gift to her!

Recognition Award

The Women Ministries Recognition Award is the perfect way to affirm women who serve Christ faithfully in your church or community.

January 11
Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Your church recently received a postcard invitation to join others across the Covenant in recognizing Human Trafficking Awareness Day [January 11](#), 2010. Encourage your church leadership to check out the many NEWLY created resources - responsive readings, hymns, songs, sermon outlines, Bible studies - available as free downloads from the human trafficking website. Just click on January 11 above.

To download a Recognition Award form click [here](#).

A beautiful gift for a woman

Looking for a special gift for a woman you love? How about WM's lovely worshiping women sterling silver pin. It's a great reminder of our sisterhood in Christ. Someone you know would love it.
Price: \$20

To view pin and order click [here](#).

Abuse During the Holidays



Research indicates that abuse of women escalates during the Christmas and New Year holidays. With the cold weather and the need to bundle up, people wear more clothing, making bruises less visible. Hopes of a "normal" holiday are but a dream for many individuals.

As we put the final touches on the AVA CLERGY ON-LINE TUTORIAL, we are excited about the new opportunity this provides our Covenant clergy in the area of information and resources so vital as they minister to and support victims of domestic violence. We are in need of your prayers and financial support to help keep AVA a viable resource. If you would like to be a partner of the AVA ministry, click [here](#). Thank you.

ALMOST THERE!

We received word that our newest shipment of bandages has crossed the Atlantic, crossed Cameroon and is almost in Bangui, Central African Republic. From there it will be processed for delivery across the Bangui River into the DR of Congo.

That last part now costs far more than even last year...

...and we are \$6,000 short.

Each day it is stored, the bill will increase.

International Women Ministries

Thank you, thank you, thank you to those who responded to the need of our Covenant Latin American sisters! They are working very hard to raise funds to attend their Triennial in Argentina next March - selling tortillas, crafts, etc. Women Ministries helps with half of their transportation expenses but our fund was depleted.



We presented an opportunity to you to help - and several of you did! If

the Spirit is leading *you* to help them, send your check to Women Ministries with International Women Ministries on the memo line or donate [here](#). THANK YOU!

"Double Giving" for Christmas

Would you like to add double meaning to your gift giving this Christmas? Consider purchasing items that bless your loved one AND bless a needy woman or child in another world..Or consider making a donation to one of our Covenant partners or abolitionist organizations fighting human trafficking.



Paul Carlson Partnership

Purchase a beautiful [2010 Congo Calendar](#) - and you also help PCP, an international relief and development organization working to catalyze sustainable communities in places of deep poverty.

[Covenant Kids](#) sponsorship

Make a donation in your loved one's name to sponsor a "Covenant Kid", a child in underprivileged communities in four countries where the Covenant is partnering in ministry.

[Made By Survivors](#)

Shop from a catalog with a wide variety of offerings - jewelry, accessories, bags, clothing, kids items - and you directly help support a survivor of sex trafficking. Made by Survivors is a project of The Emancipation Network.

[Nightlight](#)

Purchase gorgeous jewelry from silver semi-precious stones, pearls and decorative beads and you also secure the freedom of women who have been sexually exploited. Nightlight has branches in Thailand and in Los Angeles, CA.

[Shop Sanctuary](#)

Choose from handmade stationery, jewelry, Christmas ornaments and provide for a freed sex slave's full restoration - education, job training, counseling a complete healing - through International Sanctuary.

[Trade As One](#) also has "double giving" gift options.

If you have participated in this vital ministry by rolling bandages, sewing layettes, etc. for the Congo hospitals and clinics, THANK YOU!! And if you have not yet sent \$2.50/lb. for your donation, we would love to hear from you as soon as possible.

There are actually enough bandages for a second container - costing an additional \$30,000 - but we only had enough funds to send one at this time.

If you have not been able to do the hands-on work but would like to participate by donating to the shipping fund, thank you!

Send your contribution to
Women Ministries-
Bandage Shipping
5101 N. Francisco Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625

Thanks again!!

WM Leaders



TLC- SETTING THE PACE FOR CONNECTING WOMEN

Local Women Ministries leaders connected for **The Leadership Connection** (TLC) held at many WM fall retreat locations. Over 100 women attended 4 sessions held at PSCW retreats. Other conferences reported wonderful responses as local WM leaders connected and formed networking relationships. Women shared highlights of the past year in Women Ministries and the challenges of reaching women in today's culture. Several commented that TLC was the spark they needed heading into the fall/winter ministry season. We appreciate our facilitators and all those who attended.

CELEBRATE WOMEN MINISTRIES SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 7

LAUNCH NEW 2010 PROJECT. We hope you've starting planning ways to celebrate the women in your congregation who reflect the love of Christ by caring and connecting inside and outside the church walls! New Project 2010 resources will be mailed to each Covenant church women ministries leader, either by name or title, so be sure to watch the mail in mid January.

RECOGNITION AWARD. This is a great time to recognize one or more special women in your congregation who have served God faithfully in their church or community in whatever capacity they are gifted. Go to this [link](#) to download a recognition award thoughtful gift. Cost \$20.

HOW ARE YOU CONNECTING?

inSpirit has a new feature, **Connecting with Women Ministries Leaders!** Its purpose is to showcase meaningful ways WM leaders are providing opportunities for women to connect - both for women within the church and those not yet in the church. Do you have a story to tell of a transforming ministry? We invite you to complete the [Connecting Women Ministry Template](#) and share your ministry with other leaders. We look forward to hearing from you! Please mail or fax to us at 773-784-4366. (In January this template will be available to complete on-line.)

THE BOARD OF WOMEN MINISTRIES MEETS

The WM Leadership Team (board) met in Denver, CO, awakening to snow on October 10! We had a great meeting, sharing the challenges and blessings of the wonderful calling God has placed on our lives to serve on the WM Leadership Team. The next board meeting will be in Chicago February 19-21, 2010.

Weight / Wait Bearing

6 REASONS TO ADD WEIGHT TRAINING TO YOUR WORKOUT

If you knew that a certain type of training exercise could benefit your heart, improve your balance, strengthen your bones, and help you lose weight as it made you look and feel better, wouldn't you want to get started? Well, studies show that strength training can do all of that and more.

Strength training is not just about bodybuilders lifting weights in a gym. It can benefit people of all ages and may be particularly important for people with health issues such as arthritis or a heart condition. Yes, strength training will add definition to your muscles and give men and women alike more fit and toned bodies. But working out with weights does so much more. Click [here](#) for link to the six reasons.



"WAIT BEARING" EXERCISES FOR BODY & SOUL

There are only two ways to wait. We either choose to wait well or we wait poorly. If we give in to impatient thoughts and words, then we risk jeopardizing both our health and those with whom we come into contact. In a society where there is only stop and go, waiting offers a welcome in-between space to purposefully hit the pause button and to rest and reflect. It doesn't matter what we're waiting for, an appointment, an apology, or an answer. It's the conduct of our heart and minds that will make all the difference. Click [here](#) for the wait bearing article.

J4L *(Just for laughs)*



DIVORCING AFTER 45 YEARS

An elderly man in Phoenix calls his son in New York and says, *"I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing. Forty-five years of misery is enough."* "Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams. *"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer,"* the old man

says. *"We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her."*

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. *"Like heck they're getting divorced,"* she shouts, *"I'll take care of this."* She calls Phoenix immediately, and screams at the old man, *"You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?"* and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. *"Okay,"* he says, *"They're coming for Christmas and paying their own fares."*

See you next time....

Thank you for supporting [Women Ministries](#) of the ECC by connecting with us in this way. You can help the connection to grow by forwarding this newsletter to your friends!

[Marcia Friedman](#)
Administrative Assistant for
Women Ministries

