

The Buzz from our Southern Area

Buzz is building for the Southern Area Women's Retreat



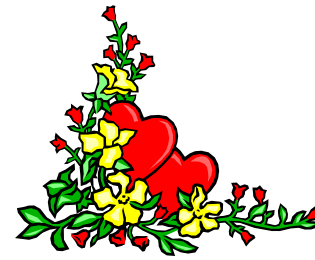
showing up on the retreat blog soon, so visit <http://kswmretreat.blogspot.com/> from time to time.

Linda Gilmore
Southern District Coordinator

"Bee Encouraged" -- Oct. 3-5, 2008. Our speaker will be Thelma Wells, well-known through Women of Faith.

Our worship leaders will be Eternity Focus, four sisters from Lebanon, Kansas, who have also recorded their first CD. Brochures will be coming soon, so start planning to attend.

Some of the other features of the retreat are still in the planning stage, but will probably include a workshop for Women Ministry coordinators, a craft option, and lots of fun and fellowship, of course. Updates will start



Hearts In Touch

WOMEN MINISTRIES
NEWS AND EVENTS
IN OUR 5 STATE
MIDWEST CONFERENCE

www.heartsintouch.org
midwestheartsintouch.blogspot.com

Annual Gathering 2008 in Omaha

Spring 2008

Here are nine reasons to attend the Midwest Conference Women Ministries Annual Gathering on Friday, April 25th:

9. You will rub shoulders with many in the denomination - from pastors to lay leaders to church delegates. The Women Ministries Annual Gathering is part of the larger Midwest Conference Annual Meeting.
8. The average high in Omaha on April 25th is 67° - not too hot, not too cold. Just right!
7. Each church is requested to bring an item or service for our benefit silent auction. The proceeds will be used to help establish our "Living out Our Mission" Project Grants fund. You'll have fun shop-

ping for theme baskets, art objects, vacation lodging, etc. - a win-win for you and for a worthy cause.

6. The Women Ministries Gathering adjourns at 3:00 p.m., giving you time to attend the "Breakout Challenge" sessions.
5. If you bring other women with you, just think of the fun you'll have traveling together!
4. You'll gain valuable insights and information from other Women Ministries in our conference.
3. You'll enjoy a scrumptious lunch at noon as part of your registration fee. (registration starts at 11:00 a.m.)
2. You'll get to know other wonderful women and share ideas as we gather at Community Covenant Church, 15770 Q Street, Omaha, NE..



Donna Zito

1. Donna Zito, founder of Vineyards of Joy will talk to us about "His Heart Our Home". It's not to be missed!

Don't miss out! Register now on the enclosed official registration form!

Miriam Schoenig,
Global & Equipping Ministry Chair

Denominational Project 2008

"Break the Chains" of Human Trafficking: WM 2008 Denominational Project



Human trafficking, otherwise known as modern-day slavery is for the purposes of exploitation in the form of sex, domestic service or manual labor.

The following true sex slavery story occurred north of Chicago: She was just 17, a high school graduate from Michigan. Rather than go directly to college, she responded to an ad to be a nanny. Arriving at the wealthy home in a North Chicago suburb at the appointed day and time, she was horrified to learn that the ad agency was a front; she was abducted as a sex slave.



Five years later she was able to sneak out a post card of a bar in Cincinnati where she was forcibly detained. The card had only her initial on it, but it was enough to stir the hopes of her family who raced to the address and demanded her release. Two large men walked her outside into the alley but wouldn't let her go. Not to be deterred, the family sought the help of local authorities, but she was gone when they returned.

It was another two years before the FBI found her and returned her - addicted to heroin and pregnant. (Taken from Covchurch.org.)
DVD's are available for use in your church.



In researching the prevalence of human trafficking within the Midwest Conference I found that there are 2 reported cases in the state of Colorado. One in August of 2006 & the other in February of 2000. Just as with issues of domestic violence, we are now forced to address the tragic issues of modern slavery going on in our communities. Prayer calendars & a poem, which is printed as a bookmark are available at wmc@covchurch.org

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Global Ministry News from our SIMs

Nebraska

Ellen Haworth submits this story: "Lamb, a 16 year old bubbly junior in high school, had the time of her life this summer at Akagi Bible Camp. At school, she had faced repeated episodes of bullying, harassment and peer pressure. Her mother, a new Christian, had been praying for friends that could be a source of positive influence and encouragement, so when a scholarship for her daughter to attend summer camp became available she encouraged her to give it a try. Christians often speak of miracles in the context of healing, signs and wonders, but the miracle that took place in Lamb's life is the only one that will last for all eternity. During her stay at camp she received Jesus as her Lord and Savior!"

Kansas & Missouri

The Covenant Church in Taiwan, where **Lillian Dwight** and her family minister, has over 4,800 members in 35 churches. The Covenant opened its work in Taiwan in 1952. The resulting group, the Chinese Evangelical Covenant Church, is vigorously doing its own church planting, sending out its own missionaries (!), and partnering with North American churches in outreach to Chinese people around the world.

Colorado

The two teams from a Loveland Covenant Church who went to work with **Heather** last year in her country were blessed beyond their imagination. The time they spent with the students at the Oasis Training Center founded by Heather and her husband was so delightful that many on the team still communicate regularly with the students. Please see the February email newsletter you received for more details.

Iowa

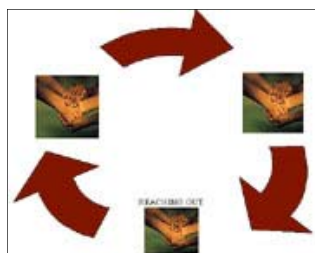
Susan Peterson writes from Mexico, "Fifteen women are attending the Thursday morning women's group that meets in our home. Nearly half of the women who currently attend are either separated or divorced from the husbands. We hope to offer the course for couples in the future. Pray that each woman will deepen her relationship with God and others. Pray that the new women will come to know Christ during the course."

Making a Difference In Our World

Together we can do more than we ever imagined!

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us..." Ephesians 3:29

"Living Out Our Mission" Project Grants Fund



"Living Out Our Mission" Project Grants Fund": 2008 Conference Project

In the name of Jesus Christ, project Living Out Our Mission is designed to help outreach or care ministries developed by Women Ministries of our local Covenant churches.

Project categories could include but are not limited to the following: Shelter/Housing, Hunger, Reconciliation, Prison Ministries, Child Care, Family Life Skills and Evangelism.

The seed money distributed will be based on the merit of the program, the number of people affected, the impact, etc. Any project receiving funds must exhibit sufficient financial

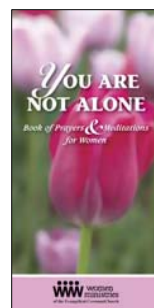
commitment and support from the sponsoring Women Ministries group/ church." **Being able to offer these grants means we need the funds available to do so, so please give generously to the Women Ministries 2008 Conference Project**

AVA (Advocacy for Victims of Abuse)

Together we continue to come alongside the Lord to break the silence & bring light to the dark & hopeless topic of domestic violence in the Midwest Conference like no other conference in the Covenant!

I have scheduled 8 presentations, with the primary focus being "Teen Dating Violence" through May.

Thank you for your prayer support. Praise the Lord and to Him be all honor and glory.



A new book of prayers & meditations titled "You are Not Alone" is now available at the Covenant Bookstore to have available in your church for those who live with violence in their home.

Develop a Safety Plan: If you're living in a violent environment prepare NOW in case you need to leave in a hurry. A safety plan helps protect you and your children. For a free safety plan download go to the AVA link @ wmc@covchurch.org. Email me at kylekelly@alltel.net to set up a presentation in your church.

Cross Cultural Opportunities

In May of 2008 WM is taking a trip to Japan to raise awareness of God's hand at work on foreign soil. Then in April of 2009 you can go to China. For more information & applications go to wmc@covchurch.org

Kyle Kelly, CMJ Chair & AVA Regional Coordinator
kylekelly@alltel.net

Spring Day 2008 in Iowa

SPRING DAY - TWIN LAKES CHRISTIAN CENTER – APRIL 12th

You won't want to miss this special day. I first heard Edna Blake speak at Salina, KS for the annual conference gathering for Women Ministries.

I proceeded to buy several of her books as I was so intrigued with her life and found them very humorous as well as inspirational. It hasn't been easy to get her booked for our retreats since she is a very sought after speaker and also has the responsibility of caring for her 93 year old mother.

Edna is best known for her caring spirit that is blended with a delightful sense of humor. She confronts women with a down-to-earth

approach to complicated problems in relationships and spirituality. Her goal is that women and families will develop healthy Christ-centered self-images, providing a firm foundation for living through all the complexities of life.



Edna and her late husband, Bill, served in the pastorate for 17 years and worked with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship in Minnesota and Wisconsin for 7 years. While living in Duluth, Edna worked in Christian broadcasting for 9 years and hosted two Christian radio programs.

Edna is presently involved in her local church in St Louis, MO, where she

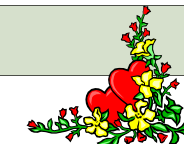
serves in a discipleship ministry and new believers program. The joy of her life is the singles ministry, "On Track".

She enjoys gardening, reading, playing Boggle with her friends and spending time with her sons, her daughters-in-law, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She has a message for women of all ages. Make it a priority to attend.

Sincerely, Diane Danielson, Eastern Area Coordinator (Iowa)

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." Psalm 136:1

Connecting the Mission



BIBLE STUDIES LIBRARY

We are excited to offer you another opportunity to participate in a new "Bible Studies Library". Bible studies can be expensive and then just sit on our book shelves after we completed them.

Does your Women Ministries group have studies they would be willing to share with women of other Covenant churches? We'd love to hear from you.

Each church having available studies is being asked to submit a list to be included in this "on line" library. Then, churches wishing to borrow a study can access the list on our Women

Ministries website at: www.heartsintouch.org, then contact the church and make the necessary arrangements.

We hope this library will enable our Women Ministries in each of our churches to use God's resources to continue to bless others.

Be watching the website – we plan to make additions to the library just as soon as we receive your lists.

Have questions? Contact me - Nancy Lubinski at lubi@frii.com or phone (970) 667-4513 if you don't have internet access.

Nancy Lubinski
Vice President

E-Connection Newsletters

If you are not receiving our bi-weekly e-connection newsletter in your email box, and would like to be included. Please send a short note to:

midwestwomen.ministries@gmail.com

We'll add your e-mail address to the list!

Miriam Schoenig
Global & Equipping Ministry Chair

Central Area Retreat - September 19 & 20

Please mark April 25, 2008 on your calendar! Women from within the Midwest Conference will be gathering at Community Covenant Church for our *Annual Women Ministries Gathering*.

After a great luncheon we will attend to business and hear from our speaker Donna Zito. For more information visit our website: www.heartsintouch.org.

The women of Nebraska will again be blessed by Donna, founder of Vineyards of Joy Ministry, at this fall's retreat at Covenant Cedars, September 19 & 20, 2008. A theme

is to be announced at a later date.

Personally I am excited about our Conference Project "Living Out Our Mission" Not only will this benefit so many within our area but I'm sure the projects awarded the funds will be great examples to our church families of growing, serving and reaching out.

Our Denominational Project "Break the Chains" is about human trafficking. It will be informative to us as well as enlighten us as to how we can assist many get out of degrading and dangerous circumstances.

Please contact Kyle Kelly today

about scheduling a time for her to share about AVA with your women, Sunday School, Bible study, youth group, etc. This is a subject that sadly has not gone away and we need to be informed.

Women Ministry in each church looks a little different as each church family is diverse. This diversity may lead us down varies paths but always closer to Him. Because the one thing we do have in common is our love for God.

Deb Bonsall
Central Area Coordinator

Women's Retreat At Covenant Heights

Realizing that most women lead hectic lives, we want to give you a special treat at our Women's Retreat in Estes Park. **Mark your calendars NOW for October 3 – 5, 2008.**

Set aside this time for YOU to be refreshed and renewed. You will be surrounded in the splendor of God's

magnificent mountains and will be blessed and challenged in God's Word.

We will worship in the brand new Chapel at Covenant Heights and experience great food. Ask a friend to come with you. God will bless you for taking this time out to focus on Him. You'll be glad you came.

If you want to be a part of the planning team, contact me at (970)667-4513 or email me at lubi@frii.com.

We'd love to hear from you.

Nancy Lubinski
Western Area Coordinator