



Women's Ministry

by Patsy Lewis

Women's ministry is women ministering. I like to think of it as women serving.

This means that every church has a women's ministry, whether it is organized or not, through wedding and baby showers, Bible studies, hospital and shut-in calling, prayer groups or chains, secret sisters and prayer partners, mother-daughter banquets, retreats, workshops, and any activity that involves touching other lives with the love of Jesus. No two churches will or should organize in just the same way. Also, within a church, no two years should look the same on the calendar. It is vitally important to pray over each decision to find the direction God wants to go and the place He wants to use your energies. In organizing women's ministries, it is important to focus on reaching women and others for Christ and training women to serve.

I find it helpful to have both a personal mission focus and a group focus for my women's ministries organization. My personal mission statement involves three aspects:

- continued learning myself,
- teaching others,
- and leaving behind a legacy of hope.

I state it in this easy to remember sentence: "My mission is to encourage discovery and enlighten hearts as I leave behind a legacy of hope to those God places in my life." I evaluate any involvement by this mission statement.

Likewise, I have a mission statement for the District Women's Ministries organization that I lead. It is:

"Women Extending Living Hope"

We have expanded that with the vision that "We will be women extending Living Hope by training, teaching, touching others with God's message of hope through Christ Jesus."

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Training = Mentoring – Modeling – Leading
Teaching = Bible Studies – Workshops – Speakers
Touching = Listening – Praying – Encouraging

I Peter 1:3 - "He has given us new birth into a Living Hope through His resurrection."

Ephesians 1:18 - "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you."

Romans 15:13 - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Romans 12:12 - "Be joyful in hope."

Prayer is the key to any Christian organization. In women's ministries it is essential to pray over every plan and event. I recommend that each council member and lady involved have at least one prayer partner. I have watched women become transformed through Lydia Prayer Groups and prayer overnights and retreats. Although my book *Simply Praying* was written with the thought that it would be a personal prayer adventure, I have learned that many small groups are using it as a prayer and accountability tool. See Week 32, "Unite for Results", Pages 156-159. In the book *And She Can't Even Play the Piano* edited by Joyce Williams, I have written a chapter titled "Powerful Prayer Strategies" which gives ideas for organizing prayer overnights and other prayer events. Information regarding Lydia Prayer Groups can be obtained from the Francis Asbury Society.

There are many resources available for women's ministries and creative ideas abound; however, the starting point is to know your mission, and, from beginning to end, cover all aspects of your personal life and organized women's ministry with prayer.

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