

THE NEED OF WOMEN IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

When women minister to other women the result is joy. When it is a ministry to women we know and value it is a double joy. We can speak words of consolation, encouragement and give joy. Solomon expressed it this way:

----- Proverbs 25:11

1. Personal growth and enrichment
2. Coping with the problems of life
3. Spiritual growth
4. Joy in friendships
5. Help in overcoming difficulties
6. Help in improving economic and financial situation
7. Missionary activities
8. Nutrition
9. Financial security

ASSESSING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

1. Call for a meeting of the committee
2. Begin with prayer
3. Love is the primary reason for assessing needs of community
4. Get to know your fellow church members personally
5. Make friends with your neighbors
6. Watch for the reactions of all women
7. Assess the needs
8. Pay heed to emotions
9. Share thoughts
10. Small groups

Survey – Planning and Implementation

1. Contents of the Survey

A good Survey should get information about:

- ◆ Ministries now in place in your church of interest to women
- ◆ What women feel are their needs
- ◆ Which women are interested
- ◆ Ways in which women are willing to minister
- ◆ What their various interests are

Include:

- * a place for their name, address, phone number, and age group
- * a box to be checked if they wish to attend anticipated ministries
- * a list of possible ministries
- * an area to indicate which of the current ministries they are now participating in
- * a box to check if they wish to join current ministries
- * blanks to list their special skills or interests
- * box to check if they wish to help
- * a place for them to list their special needs
- * something for each age group, for the married, single, divorced and widowed

2. Surveys will help you identify leadership potential in women

Look for women who are able to share their experience in different areas. Older women can be a storehouse of information and skills. The story is told of a sheep farmer and his faithful dog. The dog became very old but she still had enough strength and wisdom to train another dog before she died. (Every woman has the ability to communicate with others. Nobody is so untalented and ignorant that she has nothing to share.) James 3:17NIV expresses it this way: "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere."

We find an encouraging statement in the book *Welfare Ministry*, p. 166: "Let every individual member of the church ask himself, "What part can I act to win souls to Jesus Christ?... I will consecrate myself to God, and my desire for selfish gratification shall be killed before it buds and blossoms and bears fruit." This is a good resolution. It will please the Saviour who has purchased you."

God will bless everyone who is ready to devote their leadership potential to help others. The survey will help you find such people.

3. Be creative

When you draw up your survey be creative and make your ministry and activities attractive to women. Observe your own country, city or village so that you can develop programs suited to your local culture. Develop things that do not surpass your finances or the time constraints of your women.

4. Time for deliberation

Give out survey samples and divide the women into groups of 4-5 persons. Take 15 minutes to consider the survey questions and to adapt them to your neighborhood and culture. (You can compare surveys developed by women of the church and local community). When everything has been considered share your suggestions. The result will be a survey that will be useful both in the church and outside.

5. Inviting speakers

In planning your programs look for professional people in your local church who could present a program on your topics. Think of organizations in your community addressing the needs of women. Get information so that you can pass on information about professional help to your women. Ask if there are women in your conference you could invite.

6. Challenge

Women have a great work to do that only they are able to accomplish. The Lord wants each of us to do the task he has entrusted to us. He will give us the necessary gifts, means, time and courage. Pray unceasingly for His guidance and leading. Go forward in faith and remember that the Lord is with you.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SURVEY

Your local Women's Ministries committee would appreciate your answering the following questions. Please complete the survey and return it to the Women's Ministries Director. (Give name and address and telephone number for the local director.)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Age: ___ **Under 30** ___ **31-40** ___ **41-50** ___ **51-60** ___ **61-70** ___ **Over 71**

Marital Status:

___ single ___ single with dependent children

___ married ___ married with dependent children

___ divorced ___ divorced with dependent children

___ widowed ___ widowed with dependent children

Names and ages of children:

Work and Career Status:

___ work full time at home

___ work part time away from home

___ work full time away from home

___ work full time in the family business

___ student

I Now Attend the Following Activities of the Church:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Special Interests and Skills:

- ___ music
- ___ vocal
- ___ instrumental----name of instrument_____
- ___ art
- ___ crafts...list areas of expertise_____
- ___ public speaking----list areas & topics_____
- ___ leader of Bible study groups
- ___ ability to write and prepare press releases
- ___ other

I Would Like To Attend:

- ___ Prayer Breakfast/Brunch/Lunch
- ___ 24 hour Mini Retreat
- ___ Women's Health Seminars
- ___ Weight Control Seminars
- ___ Classes on Child Rearing
- ___ Nutrition Classes
- ___ Craft Seminars
- ___ Small Business Seminars

- Grief Recovery Seminars
- Financial Planning Seminar
- Seminar on Enjoying Single Life
- Gardening Seminars
- Flower Arranging Seminars
- Home Decorating Seminars
- Spiritual Growth Seminars
- Witnessing Seminars
- Bible Study Seminars
- Mentoring
- Leadership
- Hospitality Seminars
- Other Seminars

List suggested seminar topics

I Would Like to Participate in Support Groups for:

- Divorce Recovery
- Alcoholism
- Parents of Children with Disabilities
- Stop Smoking
- Eating Disorders
- Drug Addiction (Including prescription drugs)

___ Widows

___ Other _____

I Would Like to Help with:

___ Retreats

___ Special Dinners

___ Providing Transportation

___ Prayer Bands

___ Bible Studies

___ Prayer Ministry

___ Child Care

___ Decorating

___ Publicity

___ Telephoning

___ Greeting

___ Typing, Computer Work

___ Hosting Events in my Home

___ Other....Please list _____

In Order to Attend I Need Help with:

___ Child Care

___ Care of Elderly Family Members

___ Transportation to and from Events

___ Other . . . Please list _____

Use This Page to Share Your Thoughts and Ideas:

Thank you for your participation. Your help is greatly appreciated.