



The Grapevine

"I am the vine, you are the branches..."

John 15:5a

Volume 3 Issue 2

Second Quarter 2010

Mission: Inside Out

The Sisters of the Vine, Point Men's Ministry, Student Ministries and the Nurture/Witness Commission are working together on an outreach ministry called **Mission: Inside Out** being held on Saturday, October 9. So,



mark this date on your calendars now and plan to participate as this ministry offers the opportunity for persons of all ages to work together in reaching out to the community and share the love of Jesus Christ.

Keep a look out for more information on **Mission: Inside Out** as it continues to develop.

One Ministry continues

In March Sisters of the Vine launched a new outreach ministry called *One Ministry*. Each month a different food item is named for you to donate to the Castine Area Food

Bank. This has become a good way to keep the shelves stocked up on various staples.

According to Dianna McDonald, CAFB director, other churches have also joined in with the ministry and they donate a different item each month.

The item of the month is listed in each week's bulletin. Please consider helping to keep the Castine Area Food Bank shelves stocked with your donations.



Military Dads who are deployed or hospitalized, can request a free book for their children; children desperately missing their Daddy's Hug!

Operation DaddyHug has made a Promise of Prayer to these brave Military Families; but only this church family can fulfill it! Interested? Ask me...

~ Linda Ward

True Woman

Conference scheduled

Do you long to live a life of:

- Thanksgiving?
- Intercession?
- Intimacy with Christ?

You're not alone. Spend time at *True Woman '10* with speakers whose passionate love for Christ shows in all that they do and say.

You can bring new life and hope to your home, your church, your neighborhood, and your workplace. How? By staking your life on what you know matters most—loving and honoring God in everything.

Operation

Daddy Hug

A few months ago the Lord impressed upon me that I was to give away my book, *Daddy Hug Me in Your Arms!* To accomplish this I approached Pastor Greg and eventually received approval of *Operation DaddyHug* becoming a non-profit ministry. Of course, God's timing is nothing, if not perfect, because now

If you attend just one event this year, let it be a *True Woman Conference*. There's something for you, no matter what your age and stage in life:

- Fantastic breakout sessions on 14 different topics!
- A teen track with Dannah Gresh for girls in grades 9-12
- A leadership lunch/afternoon for women's ministry leaders
- If that weren't enough, senior pastor's wives come free!

A True Woman '10 Conference is being held at the Indiana Convention Center on **September 23-25, 2010**. For more information or to register, visit their website at www.truewoman.com.



Women of Faith Conferences offered

God is not stingy. He does not weigh out his love for us grain by grain; He doesn't squeeze out forgiveness one tiny drop at a time. Not our God— He pours out mercy in a flood. He loves us more than we know. He gives us more than we can ask or dream. He's unrestrained — excessive — outrageous — ***Over the Top!***

This is the theme of the 2010 Women of Faith Conference. There are two conferences not too far from us:

- 1) Conseco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis, IN – August 20-21.
- 2) Quicken Loans Arena, Cleveland, OH – September 17-18.

Guest speakers include Pasty Clairmont, Marilyn Meberg, Anita Renfroe and Lisa Whelchel.

For more information, check out their website at www.womenoffaith.com.

A jar of tears

When our children were small and began to cry excessively, I'd say, "Keep crying, but wait until I get a jar. I want to catch your tears and save them." Then I would pretend to search for the suggested vessel. The ruse worked every time. The children would quiet down and begin laughing at my ridiculous antics.

A jar for tears? In biblical times there were such things. Biblical scholar James Fleming makes several suggestions about the possible use of tear jars by biblical characters.

Remember the woman who cried at Jesus' feet?



The sorrow she felt about her wayward lifestyle may have caused her to bring a jar of her tears, and then add to them as she cried near Jesus. She would have plenty of tears to wipe up with her hair afterward.

When the author of Psalm 23 wrote about his cup running over, Fleming suggests he may have meant his tear cup was filled with tears of joy due to God's goodness.

Tear cups are still available in Old Jerusalem antiquities stores. And at the Vatican Museum in Rome, a large glass cabinet is filled with ancient tear cups.

—Charles Ferrell

Book Corner

Do you love to read? Here are a couple of recently released recommendations:

Beth Moore has a new book out titled, *So Long, Insecurity – you've been a bad friend to us*. An eye-catching title, isn't it? Doesn't it make you want to pick up the book and read it?

Every woman deals with insecurity in some way or fashion. Who wouldn't in today's society with everything geared towards how you should look, feel and behave!

In the book, Beth shares how you can get a real,



lasting, soul deep security. Each one of us has it in us to become secure.

Anne Graham Lotz's most recent book is *Magnificent Obsession*. This book follows the life of Abraham and shows the reader how to become "a friend of God" and embrace a God-filled life.

Check out these books for a bit of summer reading and enriching your soul.

Pray before speaking

I like the example Nehemiah set for all who read his story.

In the first chapter of Nehemiah, Nehemiah is saddened because of the shape that Jerusalem is in.

The king notes this sadness and asks Nehemiah what's going on and what he wanted? Nehemiah's response was not quick – he took time to pray before speaking.

("The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I *prayed* to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favor in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it." Nehemiah 2:4-5 NIV)

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all prayed before we spoke? Sometimes we have the attitude of "speak first, pray later" when we should have the attitude of

Nehemiah and pray first before speaking.

This really should not be as difficult as it sounds if we follow the words from 1 Thessalonians 5:17: "Pray without ceasing." If we are in constant prayer, then we should not have to worry about the words we speak.

Okay, I know that it is not written that Nehemiah prayed every time before speaking, but I still like the example in Nehemiah 2:4.

Recently I was in New Mexico on the Navajoland Mission Encounter. While there I had firsthand experience in praying to God before speaking. I had an opportunity to witness to a young man who said he didn't want anything to do with church. I told him that I wouldn't push him into a discussion and I changed the topic.

During the course of our conversation we talked about everything from his relationship with his parents to his living in Albuquerque to his now being back in the Gallup area where he was trying to "find himself."

But before long we'd be back on the topic of church – he being the one to bring it up. Each time he asked a question or made a statement, I prayed that God would give me the words to share. One thing I



told the young man was that I was not so concerned about his attitude toward church but more concerned about his salvation and his need for a relationship with Jesus Christ. I could tell by the look on his face that that shocked him a bit. I think he thought that church attendance was more important.

By the end of our conversation he had gone from not wanting anything to do with a church or a relationship with Jesus to "he was not ready yet." To me that was a step forward as he went from no longer wanting to talk about spiritual matters, to being willing to talk and listen to what God gave me to share.

At the end of our conversation, I told him that the team would be there until the end of the week and that after that the youth leader at the church would be available to talk to him when he was ready.

Sadly I did not see him again, but at least I had the opportunity to share Jesus with him and I know that I could not have had the words to share with him if I had not prayed first.

My prayer now for that young man is that someday he will be ready to accept Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Allow God to guide your words – Pray first!

~ Sharon Fellers

Prayer can never be in excess. ~ C.H. Spurgeon

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If you would like to submit an item for the next quarterly issue, please give it to Sharon Fellers by **August 31**. You can email it to her at boshky@embarqmail.com

Mission Statement

The mission statement of Sisters of the Vine is: *Engaging, encouraging and equipping women to glorify God and enlarge His kingdom.*

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† In souls filled with love, the desire to please God is continual prayer.

~ John Wesley