



REPORT TO FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL
Janet Minnix, President
January 2013

Is Women of Grace USA making a difference in women's lives? At a recent Transformational Summit, one woman had traveled a long distance to attend. While there, she met a younger woman who was experiencing a challenge very similar to one she had gone through and was able to encourage her with the truth God had taught her. Later, while chatting with a group over dinner, the older woman commented that she had debated about going because of the cost. The younger woman responded: "God sent you just for me!"

Another lady commented following a Women's Leadership Studies class: "We are so blessed to have these gatherings. I take so much away from the workshops, classes and interaction with the other women."

As a national ministry cooperating with the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Women of Grace USA Inc. appreciates the opportunity to report to the Fellowship Council on the work of WGUSA in the past year. We believe that God is using this ministry in the lives of Grace Brethren women, and we give Him the glory.

Our mission is to encourage women to grow in Christ and be actively engaged in God's mission. We want to help women understand how to become true women of grace who reflect the character of God. We believe that will happen as they are solidly grounded in God's Word, internalizing biblical values and understanding who they are in Christ. They will then be equipped to minister in a gracious, Christ-like servant spirit, with a heart for God that overflows in a desire to reach lost people next door and around the world.

Women of Grace USA supports the Commitment to Common Ministry in ways that are appropriate for our ministry and mission. Our activities are primarily in the areas of Leadership Development and Spiritual and Ministry Development.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In 2012 we sponsored three **Women's Leadership Studies** classes: in Long Beach in February (Soul Care in Leadership), in Winona Lake in August (a repeat of the Soul Care class), and in Winona Lake in November (Principles of Effective Bible Study and Teaching Ministry). These classes had an average attendance of 21.

We are grateful to be partnering with Grace Seminary to facilitate the Women's Leadership Studies program through which a woman can earn a certificate in Women's Leadership Studies or, with additional pre- and post-course work and a Bachelor's Degree, class credits can be

applied toward a Master of Arts in Local Church Ministry with a concentration in Women's Leadership Studies. Classes are taught by Dr. Christy Hill and offered on weekends in areas with a strong Grace Brethren presence. The next class, Women and Scripture, will be March 22-23 at Grace Church of Orange in California.

By the time Fellowship Council meets, another **Women's Leadership Summit** will be history. Forty-six women, representing seven districts, will have gathered at the Grace Church of Frederick, MD for fellowship, encouragement, and instruction from God's Word about grace and its importance in the life of a leader. Margie Brubaker, pastor's wife and licensed counselor, is the speaker.

The **SMM/Girls of Faith** program is a key part of our strategy for Leadership Development. The importance of the role of women in influencing the values of the next generation cannot be underestimated. We believe that the greatest contribution SMM can make to the Commitment to Common Ministry is to equip women to teach girls to know and love God and to understand how to serve Him by serving others.

SMM Curriculum for all elementary grades except 2nd is now available on CD and may be purchased at <http://www.wgusa.org/ministries/discipleship/>; second grade is nearing completion. The SMM website is at <http://www.nationalsmm.org/>.

April 2013 marks SMM's 100th birthday. Started by Mary (Mrs. Louis S.) Bauman for a group of girls in their church in Philadelphia, the idea caught on in other churches and eventually grew to be a national organization that would impact the lives of countless girls, many of whom grew up to become missionaries and pastors' wives. The SMM Cabinet is planning a birthday celebration to be held during Momentum this year, and will also be celebrating in a smaller way at Vision 2020 South.

SPIRITUAL & MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

Supporting and encouraging women in their spiritual growth are foundational to equipping women for service and mission. Our second **Women's Transformational Summit** was held in September in Anchorage, AK. Twenty-six women gathered at Dimond Grace Fellowship to learn what the creation of mankind shows about what God wants for us as humans, and what it means to be made in God's image. Dr. Christy Hill was the speaker.

One of our board member's fluency in Spanish is opening doors for ministry to Hispanic women. Viki Rife, an M.K. who grew up in Argentina, was the presenter last April at a gathering of Hispanic women from the Tampa area who wanted to learn how they could develop a ministry for girls. She will also be the speaker at a conference for Hispanic women, *Belleza que dura*, in Syracuse, IN this coming April. We praise God for these opportunities to serve our Hispanic sisters, and believe God will continue to open doors in this direction.

Tools for encouragement include the monthly e-newsletter, **Grace Touch**, which always includes a devotional thought and a prayer focus, and the **Women's Spectrum** annual magazine. The current issue of the magazine, which provides inspirational stories and devotional themes, also contains an interactive Bible study on Colossians 1:3-6.

Local Ministry with Global Impact describes the importance Women of Grace places on moving outside the walls of the church to serve in neighborhoods, cities, and around the world. Women are challenged to look for opportunities to minister to people in their own cities who have physical, social and material needs.

Beyond the city limits, many women support church plants and mission points with prayer, special offerings, and on-location work and ministry projects. During the 2011-2012 year, offerings were given to special projects for our Featured Missionaries who serve with Encompass World Partners (Louise Klawitter) and Go2 Ministries (Bessie Betoney), and over \$3,600.00 was sent to Encompass for the renovation of the kitchen in the former Missionary Residence in memory of Doris Julien. Beginning with the 2013-2014 year, the Featured Missionaries for the year will also include a Chaplain's wife.

Short-term ministry opportunities are a part of the global focus of Women of Grace. Elizabeth Guinter, a Grace College sophomore, received a \$750.00 scholarship toward a one-month internship with Encompass missionaries Rob and Nicole Plaster in Paris. And a team of ten women spent nearly two weeks ministering with Cindy Swain in Prague, Czech Republic in June. Our Mission coordinator is currently discussing with Alice Peacock the possibility of a women's team to Argentina in the Fall of 2013.

GIVE THANKS TO GOD

As you can see, Women of Grace USA has much for which to praise God. In addition, we thank him for the individuals who are making regular financial donations to the work of WGUSA.

We are deeply grateful to the Grace Brethren Investment Foundation for their contributions that provide most of the funding to compensate our Communications Coordinator. All other officers and board members volunteer their time and frequently give sacrificially from their personal finances to support and maintain this ministry. We thank God for them.

And finally, we thank Moderator Bob Fetterhoff, Fellowship Coordinator Tom Avey, and the members of Fellowship Council, for your commitment to God's Word and His mission, your vision for what God can do through the FGBC, and for your wise and prayerful direction. We are grateful for your prayer support and encouragement of Women of Grace as we seek God's will and provision. It is our joy and privilege to partner with you and your ministries in "...the marvelous work to which we've been called—encouraging [women] to walk in the fullness of all God has called and created them to be through Jesus Christ" (paraphrasing Margaret Feinberg).