

'WOMEN OF THE WORD' ANNUAL REPORT, Year 2012

We are in our FOURTEENTH year of WOW/Women of the Word and want to thank the Session and WPC members for your support and blessing!

January 2012,

- We began our second semester continuing our theme 'Abundant Life in Christ' with the theme verse, John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have **life**, and have it **abundantly**." Our theme song was 'In the Lord Alone'.
- Along with the Gospel of John, we are focused on greater intimacy with the Lord through Prayer, and studying 'The Divine Intercessor' by Gary Wilkerson [son of David Wilkerson, author of 'The Cross and the Switchblade'].
- We also:
 - applauded 12 members who earned perfect Attendance certificates.
 - celebrated *new life* by giving our new #20 WOW baby a 'Jesus Loves Me' lamb!
 - viewed the 'Intercessors for America' video called 'Transformation in Clay County, KY' about how the Lord brought about revival and total change in Appalachia through prayers of the people.
 - continue helping our women focus on our themes through monthly cards to suction cup to their mirrors/windows highlighting key verses and quotes.

February, 2012:

- Pastor Solomon Kepkey, Cape Town, S. Africa, shared with us a word of encouragement on our responsibility as 'women of influence'. Pastor Solomon is Esther Fay's former pastor.
- We began practicing hearing God's voice through prayer and exercises from the book, 'Eyes that See, Ears that Hear' by Jennifer Toledo.
- Our knitters made over 24 hats for children in Afghanistan, newborn through age 12. Knit-Pray-Love for CURE International was sponsored by AIR ONE Radio, 88.7 FM.
- Eleven of us stayed after morning WOW and watched 'The Hiding Place' movie in preparation of our Grand Finale event 'A Visit with Corrie ten Boom'.

March 2012,

- On 3/29, we had a day of ministry at Lifespring Women's Shelter, Aurora. This was our fourth trip there and we provided a program of devotions, testimony, song and prayer for their individual needs. We treated them to lunch and a 'spa day' of pampering and hair cuts.

April, 2012:

- Our Grand Finale event '**A Visit with Corrie ten Boom**' was on **April 19, 7 p.m.** An **overflow crowd of over 175 men, women and children** were inspired by a dramatic monologue by Gayle Hass of Aurora. Corrie ten Boom was a World War II Holocaust survivor who hid Jews during the War and has wonderful stories to share on how the

Lord provided strength, perseverance and His peace that passes understanding. Special music will be provided by 17 year old Mallory Wilson of Harding, IL. She at WBGL radio's 2011 Opening Act Winner and also won first place honors at the State Fair. Ice cream sundaes and Dutch treats were served afterwards!

- Our Leadership Mystery Meeting combined ME & EE for a trip to Elwood House 'Art Exhibit', an Abundant Life Scavenger hunt and then to Rosita's for lunch.
- This was our first year of using online evaluations developed by Paulette Bowman. Thirty women submitted their thoughts and ideas.

May, 2012:

A 6 week study led by Ann Lamkey began on Tuesday evenings at the Methodist Church in Paw Paw on May 15. 'Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed' was a study of David with teaching videos by Beth Moore, Kay Arthur and Priscilla Shirer.

June, 2012:

Denise Horn led "Your Move" by Andy Stanley. It was a four week study about making sound decisions with God's help.

July, 2012:

- Cindy Noll led a study of the book "Prophetic Fishing" by Jean Krisle Blasi. She challenged us to go outside of our comfort zones to listen in prayer and then connect and pray for 'strangers'. We took two different 'field trips' to DeKalb and there were some amazing testimonies about how the Lord led us to pray with others! One of the gals we connected with is now attending WOW!
- We held our annual picnic on July 20th at Paulette Bowman's home. About 30 women attended for a fun evening of food, games and fellowship! Nancy Riggen, our blind 'sister' from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, has prayed for WOW since its beginning and was able to join us and share some words of encouragement.

August, 2012:

- Our Administration Team worked hard to plan an exciting 14th year for our area women! Cindy Noll is our Head Teaching Leader, Julie Ness is our Secretary and Karen Orstead is our Treasurer. Our Morning Edition Directors are Esther Fay and Denise Horn. Evening Edition Directors are Pam Gaston and Paulette Bowman.
- Registration was held August 30 along with our Kick-off 'Growing in Godliness' Seminar which featured inspirational guest speaker, Naomi Koesler of Aurora. Naomi was born in Sri Lanka where she and her family faced persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. Holly Bibble and 'company' also made an appearance to the around 50 women and men who attended and were blessed to hear how the Lord works miracles in His time and providence!! This evening is for anyone in the community, whether they plan to attend WOW or not.

September, 2012:

- Our study began September 20th with a brand new 12 week study written by our WOW Head Teaching Leader, Cindy Noll, called: 'Fruit Bearing... God's Plan for Possession'. **Our theme verse is:** "I am the vine, you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me." John 15:5 We have been encouraged by the Master Gardener as we've studied where we fit into His master plan!
- About 65 women registered with a few new members, and 10 children in our Children's Program. We gave scholarships to several women who could not afford to attend.
- Other things included:
 - Promotion of the WPC service projects: Hygiene Kits, and NICE Center Christmas gifts for children age Newborn to Five.
 - Offering "If my people PRAY..." yard signs, which were especially thought provoking during the election season.
 - Offered free monthly newsletters from 'Intercessors for America' [IFA] to help us grow in the area of prayer for our country and community.
 - We promoted Pastor Appreciation Month in October through prayer prompts and fliers listing ways to encourage our pastors.
 - October 11, two of us attended the EXPECT Leadership Conference at Moody Church in Chicago. The very inspirational and humble speakers were Gary Wilkerson [son of David Wilkerson and author of 'The Divine Intercessor' book we studied last year], Jim Cymbala [WOW was partly 'birthed' out his book 'Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire' 14 years ago!], and Francis Chan.
 - We offer two monthly Prayer gatherings- one on Thursday mornings and one on Monday evenings.
 - We were blessed to be able to introduce Pastor Roger to both our Morning Evening Editions.

October, 2012:

- We promoted Pastor Appreciation Month in October through prayer prompts and fliers of ways to encourage the many pastors represented by our members.
- We heard teaching from Pastor Solomon Kepkey on 10.11.12. He was Esther Fay's Pastor and was here from Cape Town, South Africa, for several speaking engagements.

November, 2012:

- We began a new monthly time for Intercessory Prayer at Waterman Christian Fellowship: every 1st Monday 7 p.m. This is for anyone in our community wishing to pray for any needs.
- We coupled up for Prayer Sisters within our ME groups for added contact and caring.

- Shari Tvrdik, whose family lives and does ministry in the slums of Mongolia, spoke to our Morning Edition. She and husband Troy also gave a longer and very inspiring program at Covenant Restoration Church in Hinckley on 11.16.
- We had a 'Pink Day' in memory of those members who have entered their heavenly homes, as well as in thanksgiving and to honor those sisters who have fought and won the battle against breast cancer and other illness/trials.
- We gave part of our offering to Voice of the Martyrs [in memory of members Kathleen Knutson and Kristin Barrett], the Tvrdik family living in Mongolia [Cup of Cold Water Ministries, Newark, IL], and helped a couple of our members with special needs.
- We promoted use of the WPC Library.
- We met as an Admin Team with Pastor Roger Boekenhauer to explain our WOW history with him and answer any questions he had.
- We highlighted the needs for WPC's Children's Gift Drive for the NICE Center as well as the 'Operation Christmas Child' project through Samaritan's Purse.

December, 2012:

- We were inspired by several testimonies of how the Lord is answering prayer and working in our members' lives- we call those 'God-stories'!
- 13 members earned first semester Perfect Attendance certificates.
- ME enjoyed a skit by our Drama Team.
- We honored our Children's Program workers along with our Leaders.
- We continue helping our women focus on our themes through a suction cup card for their mirrors/windows which highlight key verses and thoughts.
- We changed our Annual Caroling event to Wednesday, 12/19, because of the coming snow/ice storm. Four members and 2 children sang at Shabbona Health Care Center, Shabbona Assisted Living, and individual homes in Waterman, ending up at Waterman Garden Apartments sharing tracts, cookies, punch and fellowship with the residents. It was a great evening of blessing to all!

We are so thankful that WOW continues to be a successful, productive program for the Lord. We are growing in our faith, reaching out to others, seeing many prayers answered and women are growing closer to the Lord and one another. Our Admin Team and POW-WOW groups [Prayers of Women for Women of the Word] pray for you and the church and we covet your prayers for us!! We know that the enemy is hard after all of us who stand for Christ, so we take this assignment seriously! => Thank you for partnering with us to affect so many lives for Christ this year!

Susan Hipple
WOW Administrator

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