

'Women of the Word' 2016 Annual Report

* 2016, Second Semester of our 17th year:

- We started off our semester with an All WOW Movie Day on 1/14 ['Ragamuffin- The Rich Mullins Story'], 2 book chats the next week ['Shame Lifter', Marilyn Hontz, and 'A Miraculous Life', Bruce Van Natta] and then, continued our study of Beth Moore's "Children of the Day" on 2/4. About 65 women were registered with a few new members, and 4-6 children in our Children's Program.
- Our THEME was: 'We are Children of the Light, walking and living in His Light'. We took a slow walk along the 'Beach of Thessalonica' by taking two weeks per lesson. We wanted to leave time to APPLY our lessons and get them from our heads to our hearts!! Our VERSE: I Thess. 5:5, "You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness."
- Several WOW gals attended a 'Relationship Seminar' at Morningstar Church, Aurora, featuring Dr. Kevin Leman. Also, a one day equipping event for leaders at First Baptist Church, Geneva, as well as their 3/12 Annual Women's Retreat. Inspirational speaker Kelly Minter was a blessing.
- Shari Tvrdik, missionary to Mongolia, brought some of her Ger District Teammates to explain how the Lord is working through them to bring His Light and Hope to the poorest of the poor in that country. There had just been a fire of their Girls Shelter, but the Lord was faithful in many ways!
- On 3/24, 9 WOW members and one child served the 16 women and children at Lifespring Women's Shelter, Aurora. A brand new woman arrived as we were eating and we were blessed to help welcome them! This was our 8th visit and we brought many collected items along with lunch, and a gift bag for each of the women. Cornerstone Church in Sandwich donated 6 large bags of hand-tied fleece blankets! Six Lifespring women and several children were in attendance that day. For the "INSIDE SPA", Kay Fick shared a devotional using a flashlight with 'rags' inside: Let Him be a Light in you!! Several WOW gals shared their faith stories and led group singing. The Lifespring gals also opened up and shared some of their stories and prayer requests. The afternoon 'OUTSIDE SPA' included manicures, pedicures, massages and hair cuts. We were privileged to hear the sweet and heartfelt words of our WOW sisters and to see the Spirit at work in the Lifespring women!!
- 4/7 was our last meeting and we shared Praises and Testimonies with a Potluck Salad Lunch in the ME and Potluck Supper for our EE group.
- Perfect Attendance was awarded to 6 members for 2nd Semester and 5 members for the Full Year!
- April 14th was our finale event, 'Be the Light', featuring two of our new WOW members: speaker Abby Stalcup, Waterman, and worship led by Stacy Larson and her daughter Hannah, Hinckley. Through our offering, we gave 3 Scholarships for Native American women to attend Beth Moore's 'Living Proof LIVE' event in Chinle, AZ, 10.29.16. There were about 50 women and men in attendance.
- For our 4/21/16 Mystery Meetings, our ME 'Core Leadership' was treated to a tour of the '1803 Candle Company' in Waterman. EE met at WPC and each created a specially designed Beach Scene Painting. We are so grateful for how the Lord brings unity to such a diverse group of women!

* 2016, Summer:

- Our annual picnic 7.21 was switched to WPC because of the heat. Many women attended for an evening of food, fun and fellowship! We enjoyed seeing our WOW sister from the Bahamas again!
- Our Administration Team worked hard this summer to plan an exciting new year for our area women! Cindy Noll is our Head Teaching Leader, Julie Ness is our Secretary, Morning Edition Director is Stacy Larson. Evening Edition Directors are LeAnn Baie and Esther Fay.
- Registration was held August 29th along with our evening 'Growing in Godliness' Kick-Off Seminar featuring guest speaker, Naomi Koesler, Aurora, IL. Naomi inspired us through her life experiences

about 'Battling for the LORD through Prayer!' About 40 women and men attended this annual evening event which is for anyone in the community, whether they plan to attend WOW or not.

*** 2016, First Semester of Our 18th Year!!**

- This year's Bible study began September 24th using Priscilla Shirer's video study, "Armor of God." Our THEME is: 'Armed for Battle'. Our focus VERSE: Ephesians 6:10-19, "Finally, be strong in the Lord...put on the full armor of God... stand firm... and pray!" We are spending two weeks on each lesson and learning about our BDU's and our armor and weapons assuring VICTORY over our enemy! We will end the year viewing the 'WAR ROOM' movie and using the 5 week study.
- There are 90+ women registered from 37 different churches and 17 different towns! We have more than 20 new members, and 2-3 children in our Children's Program.
- The Lord laid it on our hearts to commit to pray for all 100 churches/Pastors in DeKalb County + Members' churches. All 8 of our small groups has a list to pray for over the year!
- Twenty women had perfect attendance for the first semester ~ God IS FAITHful!!!
- On 12/17 a nice group of women, men and children went caroling again at Shabbona Nursing Home, the Assisted Living and ended at the Garden Apartments for fellowship and refreshments. It's always an evening of fun and blessing in both directions!
- Other general things we are doing this year include:
 - Supplying monthly newsletters from 'Intercessors for America' [IFA] to help us grow in the area of prayer for our country and community. **You may see some in the Narthex. Help yourself and find out how to PRAY for our country!**
 - We offer two monthly Prayer gatherings- one in the morning and one in the evening.
 - We promoted Pastor Appreciation Month in October through prayer prompts and fliers listing ways to encourage our pastors and their spouses. We also mailed notes of encouragement to all pastors/churches in DeKalb County including the 36 churches of our members.
 - We promoted the WPC mission opportunities as well as the Thankoffering Dinner.
 - We collected and mailed almost 60 pounds of cookies and notes of encouragement to our Troops in Qatar. Cindy Noll's son is stationed there and distributed them for us.
 - We are also sending canceled stamps to the Stamp Ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Cross- Notre Dame, IN. The proceeds from selling these stamps support many different ministries to the poor around the world! **WPC-- Please save your stamps with 1/4" or more around the edge and put them in the box for canceled stamps in the Narthex- or, just save your envelopes and we will cut off the stamps!**

As always, we depend solely on the Lord's provision for WOW. THANK YOU for being a part of that!

Our Admin Team and POW-WOW groups [Prayers of Women for Women of the Word] pray for you and the church!! Let us know if there are any specific prayer requests. All of you [and men as well -- if you don't mind being out numbered!!] are always welcome to visit or join us for any of our meetings, ministry, or events.

Again- we are so thankful for WPC and each of you on Session and Deacons who serve our Lord.

**** Suit up, stand firm and remember: He HAS THE VICTORY in this new year, and always!!**

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[WOW Administrator]