

'Women of the Word' 2017 Annual Report

* **2017, Second Semester of our 18th year:** [ME: Morning Edition; EE: Evening Edition]

- On 1.19, we resumed our 'Armor of God' Study by Priscilla Shirer with the theme '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 spent two weeks on each lesson, learning about how to use our BDU's, custom made armor and weapons to assure VICTORY over our enemy! This slow pace allowed us more time to practice putting on our armor and writing specific Prayer Strategies to combat the enemy! This was one of the most 'life impacting' and useable studies we have done! We realized how much the enemy is involved in our daily lives and found new ways to combat him! About 90 women were registered from 38 churches and 17 towns!
- A few new members started our new 'WAR ROOM' study on March 9th. We viewed the 'WAR ROOM' movie and then followed up with the 5-week workbook/video study, plus several of the outtakes and extra DVD features. There were only 2-3 children in our Children's Program.
- In February, several WOW gals attended First Baptist Geneva to see 'Corrie ten Boom' in Monologue [Gayle Haas] and learn how to participate in the SOLE HOPE mission project. Eleven women also attended their 3/11 Annual Women's Retreat, "Immeasurably More" with inspirational speaker, Susie Larson. We were so blessed to have one of our 'miracle/recovering' WOW sisters join us!
- We sent another encouraging post card to the over 100 pastors/churches we have been praying for this year. Several written and verbal THANK YOUs were received from them saying they were grateful for the prayers and encouragement in the midst of their daily battles with the enemy!
- Our annual INSIDE/OUTside SPA Day at the Lifespring Women's Shelter, Aurora, was canceled at the last minute because of their low census. We continued praying for more women and their children to come into this life-changing residential program.
- April 6th was our last meeting and we shared Praises and Testimonies and then, a Potluck Salad Lunch in the ME and Potluck Supper for our EE group. Perfect Attendance was awarded to 7 members for 2nd Semester and 7 members for the Full Year! Our Full Year attenders received an 'Armor of God' magnet, and golden 'Armor of God' coins were awarded to all our WOWderful STAFF!
- April 20th was our finale event, 'Wide Awake for the Battle', featuring Shari Tvrdik, Author/Missionary on the front lines in the Mongolian Slum District. She encouraged us to wake up to face our true enemy with eyes wide open! Our own Worship Squad led our time of worship, and we collected the old pairs of jeans brought by our attendees. Afterwards, we had fellowship around tables as we cut out 60+ pairs of children's shoes for SOLE HOPE, Uganda. We also wrote notes of encouragement to the Persecuted Church around the globe. There were about 50 women and men in attendance.
- For our 4/27/17 Leader Mystery Meetings, we all made BLESSING BRACELETS, which related to Priscilla Shirer's study thoughts that pointed to GRATEFULNESS is a KEY to victory! ME ate lunch at Indian Oaks Country Club; EE enjoyed pizza, salad, and cupcakes at the church. We are so grateful for a community of believers who help 'hold up each other's arms in the battle'!
- May 4th- 7 p.m. WOW Hosted a Community Service of Worship and Prayer for 'World Day of Prayer'.

* **2017, Summer:**

- Our annual picnic 7.20 was switched from the Park to the Paw Paw Presbyterian Church because of the heat. Many women attended for an evening of food, fun and fellowship! We enjoyed hearing an update and testimonies from Dan & Ailin Fick and their 4 children who are missionaries to Bolivia. It is such a privilege to support their ministry which is bringing life changing results to so many!
- Our Administration Team worked hard this summer to plan an exciting new year for our area women! Team Members are: Head Teaching Leader- Cindy Noll, Secretary- Julie Ness, Treasurer/Assistant-

Colletta Schweisthal, Morning Edition Co-Directors- Barb Nelson and Lisa Karlsson, Evening Edition Co-Directors- Denise Horn and Pam Gaston.

- August 24th was Registration and our evening 'Growing in Godliness' Kick-Off Seminar featuring a favorite guest speaker, Shari Tvrdik/CCWM. She reminded us that we are "INVITED" into HIS-story, because He has a place for us in HISTORY through completing a mission beyond ourselves!! Ginger Fay and Debbie Fenske provided Worship, and we sadly said goodbye to Debbie who moved away. We gifted her a photo memory book of the 18 years she blessed us! 41 women and men attended this annual evening event for anyone in the community, whether or not they plan to attend WOW.

*** 2017, First Semester of Our 19th Year!!**

- Our new Bible study year began 9/21, using a study by Ray VanderLaan, "ISRAEL'S MISSION: Becoming a Kingdom of Priests in a Prodigal World". We focused on the Parable of the Lost, and realized how we need to reach out more to those around us. Again, we spent 2 weeks on each lesson so we could incorporate them into our lives. We also watched testimony clips from Voice of the Martyrs. There are about 65 women registered from about 30 different churches and many towns!
- On Tuesday, 10/3, 8 WOW gals went for our 9th visit to Lifespring Women's Shelter to bless their 7 residents/8 children. Because of the generosity of our women [and partnership with the Federated Church, Sandwich], we were able to provide ALL of the needs on their list totalling over \$1,000!
- Over 30 women were blessed to sign up for Right Now Media membership through River Valley CC.
- Nine women had perfect attendance for the first semester ~ God IS FAITHful, and so are our women!
- Our last day included ME Lunch Potluck & presentation by Julie Morsch for Hanukkah EE Supper.
- On 12/14 a nice group of women, men and children went caroling in Shabbona at Prairie Crossing Nursing Home, the Assisted Living facility and ended at the Waterman 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 informed our women of WPC mission opportunities and the invitation to the Thankoffering Dinner.
 - 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!!] 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.

~~ You too are invited to....'Come to the Table'.... He has ALL you need!!! ~~

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[WOW Administrator]