

'Women of the Word' 2018 Annual Report

*** 2018, Second Semester of our 19th year:** [ME: Morning Edition; EE: Evening Edition]

- Our THEME, 'Come to the Table', reminded us how important it is to accept His invitation to exchange all our sin for His forgiveness, love, grace, freedom and the abundant life He has for each of us! Our focus VERSE reminded us that when we feast at His table, we can carry His yoke with ease! His food enables us through His strength! ~"Come to Me, all you who are weary...and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me...", Matthew 11:28,29. Our 10-lesson STUDY of II Corinthians by Lois Lindley focused us on UNITY and STRENGTH. Our women led our teaching times in the large group/worship times and we heard heartfelt weekly testimonies. CD copies were available to distribute.
- We continued seeing short Voice of the Martyr video clips of the persecuted church around the world.
- On 1.18, our second semester kicked-off with a movie: 'I Am Not Ashamed: The Rachel Scott Story'.
- On Saturday, March 10th, 18 WOW members and guests attended the Chapelstreet [FBCG] Women's Conference, and were inspired by Lisa Harper, 'The Sacrament of Happy'.
- With his passing on to GLORY, March 8 was Billy Graham Week. We learned more about his ministry, and heard personal testimonies of how his life and ministry affected our lives. After WOW, we enjoyed the movie, 'Billy- the Early Years', and a Fireside Lunch.
- That day we also honored and celebrated our 'Senior-Seniors', although only Helen Hill could be present. She now lives at Prairie Crossing Assisted Living. Both Alice Wilhelm and Florence Hipple are homebound, so we brought them birthday cupcakes, cards and visited their homes after the movie.
- Thursday, March 29th was our 9th annual Lifespring INSIDE/OUTSIDE SPA day. Eight WOW gals ministered to 8 Lifespring women and their children. We blessed them with many tangible gifts!
- We also shared 1-minute 'Be Jesus at the Well' stories of how we reached out to care about others. We heard about Mission trips from Hannah Donovan [going to Zimbabwe, Africa, this summer] and member Alice Kellogg, who went to Ukraine for 3 weeks to teach 80 students English/Bible with CRU.
- April 12th was our last meeting and we shared Praises & Testimonies, and then a Potluck Salad Lunch in the ME. Our EE group did the same with a Potluck Supper. Perfect Attendance was awarded to 10 members for 2nd Semester and 3 members for the Full Year!
- April 19th was our finale event, "Come to the Table", with speaker Wendy Keller, CLL, and special music by 'Union Cross', Earlville. There were about 50 there [8 men] and we enjoyed great food -- Lisa's homemade bread, dipping oil, grapes, etc.- and great fellowship at the tables!
- For our CORE Leader Mystery Meetings, both ME and EE learned how to make tortellini, which was then cooked and served with sauce for our lunch/supper! It was a very fun time as we came to celebrate all we have learned at 'His Table' together this year!
- May 3rd at 7 p.m. WOW Hosted another Community 'National Day of Prayer' Service at WPC.

*** 2018, Summer:**

- Since our annual picnic is so often moved because of weather, we just planned it indoors this year. On July 19, we all enjoyed the food and the air conditioned Shabbona/Resource Bank Schoolhouse!
- Our Administration Team worked hard this summer to plan an exciting new year for our area women! Other Team Members are: Head Teaching Leader- Cindy Noll, Secretary- Julie Ness, Treasurer- Colletta Schweisthal/Sue Hipple, Morning Edition Co-Directors- Barb Nelson and Lisa Karlsson, Evening Edition Co-Directors- Denise Horn/Sue Hipple.
- A summer Book Chat on "Lies Women Believe, and the Truth that Sets Them Free!" was led by Alice Kellogg, Hinckley.

- August 23rd was Registration and the community was invited to our evening 'Growing in Godliness' Kick-Off Event. Almost 60 men and women attended 'Our Israel Adventures', presented by Barb Nelson, Cindy Noll, Susan Hipple who traveled to the Holy Land. 'Not by Chance'/Chance Hoffman and his sisters led worship. We later enjoyed Challah bread, Shavuot Cheesecake and more.
- We spread the news about WOW through several Farmer's Markets and town Parades!

*** 2018, First Semester of Our 20th Year!!**

- Our new Bible study year began 9/20, using a study called 'Discerning the Voice of God- How to Recognize When God Speaks', a 7-week video study by Priscilla Shirer. We then began 'Acts: Kingdom Power', a 12-week study by Jack Hayford along with DVD's by Ray VanderLaan from two of his 'That the World My Knows' series: #14- 'The Mission of Jesus- Triumph of God's Kingdom in a World of Chaos', and #15-'A Clash of Kingdoms- Paul Proclaims Jesus as Lord.'
- There are about 65 women registered from about 25 different churches and many towns! About 15 of these are new to WOW! Many of our women continue to learn and grow through the 'Right Now Media' membership provided for us through River Valley Community Church, Aurora.
- WOW 'Mission GO' [helping others GO]: missionary Samuel Karanakaran with Orphans/Widows Ministry in Uganda; we collected 38 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes [led by new member Susan Minas, DeKalb, who is the area OCC Church Relations Volunteer]- PTL we found out that each box impacts 7-10 people with the Gospel, which equals 380 people impacted by the Gospel message!!
- Sixteen women had perfect attendance for the 1st semester ~God IS FAITHful, & so are our women!
- Our last day, 12/6, included sharing of faith stories, ME Lunch Potluck, & EE Appetizers & Fellowship.
- 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:
 - We offer two monthly Prayer gatherings- one in the morning and one in the evening. Plus E-Mail Prayer Chain and a Women of the Word Facebook page. Any are welcome to join these!
 - 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....'Therefore, GO!' Share His GOOD NEWS/HOPE with all!!! ~~

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[WOW Administrator]