



The Encourager

“...my God turns my darkness into light.” Psalm 18:28

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The “411” of Women's Ministry — by Julia Bettencourt

I have just been made the women's ministry leader at our church and although I've done women's ministry for a lot of years, we've only been at our church for just around a year and so it's kind of like starting all over again.

I began thinking of what I really wanted for this women's ministry and what my view is on it that I can share with our ladies. I began mulling all of this over and I had all of these thoughts but I couldn't pull it all together.

Then one day I went downstairs to our laundry room and the TV down there had been left on the public station. An old Julia Child's show was on and this chef she had on was telling her that the recipe for the fried potatoes he was going to do was easy to remember. He said, "It's the 411". I believe it was 4 parts potato, 1 part butter, and 1 part egg. I only paused for a few minutes to listen before going on to switch out my laundry but that 411 just rang through my head along with all those women's ministry thoughts I was telling you about. By the time I finished putting the clothes in the dryer, I knew all the "information" I wanted to share on women's ministry for my ladies. It's the 411!

- 4 Parts People**
- 1 Part Prayer**
- 1 Part Progress**

The 1st Part People is the leaders; myself as the women's ministry leader and the ladies who will be working alongside of me. We have a purpose and plan to carry out. We have a job to do. It's so very important that we are where we should be spiritually so that we can serve Christ by serving others through our ministry.

The 2nd Part People is the ladies we will be working with and ministering to. We want to get to know them, their needs, and concerns. We want their feedback and want an open communication with them. We need to know what they want from our women's ministry so that we can

make it tailored for them.

The 3rd Part People is our local church family. We want our women's ministry to revolve around our church family and be an asset to it and to our church family members. Women's ministry should be helping to meet the needs of the entire church body not just the women. Women's ministry is an outreach of the church not the other way around.

Our 4th Part People is our community. What are we doing to show our love for our community? Are we involved in showing an impact? Are there programs or projects that we can do through our women's ministry to fill a need in our community?

Our 1 Part Prayer is a vital part. Whatever ministry we do for Christ has to have prayer behind it. We as leaders need to pray but we need the women and all of our church family involved in praying for our women's ministry. We have to make prayer a priority.

Our 1 Part Progress is those things that we will work on including all of the activities, events, and programs that we will be doing as a women's ministry. We are going to need help in all of these things. Everyone has to be involved, not just the leaders but we will be calling on others to help. We want to have opportunities for everyone to serve and get involved. We'll need feedback so we can move forward. We don't want to stay stagnant but have a vital ministry that reaches out and meets needs, mentors, and helps women grow in their relationship with the Lord.

So, now when someone asks us what our women's ministry is all about, before we start talking about how many teas, retreats, or projects we'll have during the year, we can let them know it's all about people, prayer, and progress. We can give 'em the 411.

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Calendar of Events

July 7

AM Summer Bible Studies
9:30 a.m.—11:45 a.m.
Magnolia Room

July 8

PM Summer Bible Studies
6 pm—8 pm
Fireside Room

September 2

Fall Studies
OPEN HOUSE
Grand Foyer
6 p.m.—8 p.m.

September 8 & 9

AM & PM
Fall Bible Studies

Contact:

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The “Right” Info

I think the “411 Information” article says everything we have recently said about our women's ministry here at FBCW. I encourage the women of our church to stop by the women's ministry booth and pick up our own brochure, “**But What Can I Do?**” and prayerfully consider joining us in this adventurous journey of serving God by serving others through this women's ministry.



Donna Burroughs

—Donna Burroughs
Director
FBCW Women's Ministry

So, How Do I Hear God Speak?

By Debbie Casey
 FBCW Women's Ministry
 Prayer Coordinator

Does Scripture teach us that we can and should actually hear God speak to us today? (Hint – YESSSSS!) And if so, is it a “clear, important and repeated teaching” or “one that can only be supported by manipulating small portions of Scripture to prove a point”?*

Jesus himself taught the *necessity* of hearing God speak to us. His most repeated statement in the New Testament (15 times) was, “*He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*” And, the last seven times he said it (Revelation 2 & 3), he added, “*let him hear what the Spirit is saying,*” because Jesus was speaking from heaven and the Holy Spirit was (is) here on earth.*



Debbie Casey

So, how do I “hear” God speak? Peter Lord, in his book,

“Hearing God,” explains it best, saying it involves a “basic premise and a basic choice: the premise – “having ears to hear; the choice – using those ears to hear. When we are born again, God’s gift of spiritual life contains the ability to hear *in* and *from* the spiritual world, i.e., “*ears to hear.*” All born again believers have “ears to hear.” The choice then is, will you use your ears to hear, i.e., “*let him hear?*”* The capacity is there, the choice is yours to make.

Oh sweet ladies, deprive yourselves no longer! The most wonderful, intimate relationship with the most wonderful, perfect companion is yours for the “hearing.” LISTEN! Don’t be shy – Talk to Him – about everything – then listen! There is no sweeter voice than the voice of your Father in heaven, made known to you through His Spirit. He knows exactly what you need to hear, when you need to hear it. Just listen.

*All quotes taken from “Hearing God” by Peter Lord, Baker Book House, Publisher

“Where in the World is the Women’s Ministry Booth?”

You’ll find it in the Worship Center on Level 2 — near the Magnolia Room hallway.

We invite you to stop by the booth and pick up some of our publications. We’re there on Sunday mornings and would love to meet you. Just look for us next to the black & pink polka dots!

Joy

“He’s [God is] crazy about you! He’s done many things to prove it!”
 — Pastor Johnny Hunt
 (In a sermon on 11/2/08)

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April 17-19, 2009
 October 16-18, 2009

There is a Time

balancing demands
 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Mylonn Ministries, Inc. invites you to attend the 2009 Balancing Life’s Demands Women’s Spring & Fall Retreats

“There is a Time”

Callaway Gardens

April 17-19 & October 16-18

Speakers include: Babbie Mason, Jan Silvius, Traci Alexander, Dee Brestin, Cindi Wood, Esther Burroughs

For more info: www.mylonn.com