

# Women Today thrive!

April/May 2009

The Women's Ministry at The Chapel at CrossPoint

Linda Penn, *Director*

## What is THRIVE?

**T**HRIVE is the women's ministry program at The Chapel. It is a place where you can safely explore, truly encounter and wholeheartedly experience the love of Jesus. Get connected with other women ... get connected with God. THRIVE is all about connecting women to women, meeting them where they are and taking them where they need to go. THRIVE is a place to believe that Jesus died on the cross for you, to know you are made in His image, and He has a plan and purpose for your life. It is also a place for you to become the woman, wife, mother, grandmother, and/or professional that God wants you to be. Join us!

**Transformed by the Word**  
**Honoring Christ**  
**Reaching the World**  
**Influencing Others**  
**Virtuous Living**  
**Embracing Womanhood**



## Taking Chances

by Kim Holet



Recently on American Idol, one contestant was a young woman who seemed to think the “chance” to become the next American Idol was the most important thing in life. She believed if she won, she would finally have “made it” and thus be happy, successful and at peace with the world.

Don't we all fall into thinking that “if I only had the chance then \_\_\_\_\_” (you fill in the blank)? Taking chances is a part of life ranging from small cups of coffee (Tim Horton's “Roll up the Rim”) to electing a new president to guide our nation. The deal with taking chances is you can only win or lose. There's no other option. So, you need to be wise in the chances you take.

I heard a Mercy Me song, challenging my idea of taking chances. The chorus goes:

*Bring me joy, bring me peace  
 Bring the chance to be free  
 Bring me anything that brings You glory  
 And I know there'll be days  
 When this life brings me pain  
 But if that's what it takes to praise You  
 Jesus, bring the rain.*

While singing the song, I re-evaluated what chances I was willing to take to bring God glory. Did I value my relationship with God enough to take the chance to say “Lord bring anything or do whatever it takes to bring You glory through my life?” My fears were He would ask me to move to Africa, live in a grass hut, and eat bugs. God calls us to step out and take chances on Him continually, which is called faith. How often I am willing to put all “my chips down” on God determines how deep my faith grows. Faith is like a rubber band; the more you stretch it, the bigger it gets. Each time God

calls me to step out in faith and I act on it in obedience, I've moved to a new place in my relationship with Him. My faith increases because my view of God is enlarged. The larger my view becomes, the more I base my desired outcome on who God is rather than just crossing my fingers hoping I made the right decision. So, there is a difference between faith and chance. Chance is based on random choices and can be potentially dangerous. Faith is based on trusting God; and, while sometimes painful, is always good. Romans 8:28 says that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who've been called according to His purposes. We can trust God to always have our best interest in mind and do the best for us. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” Taking a chance on God is always a winning situation. You never lose.

So, before you take a chance with the guy who's not your husband; before you take a chance with a bottle of wine; before you take a chance with anger, impatience, or violence; before you take a chance with quarter slots at the casino; weigh the possible outcomes. Then ask God to show you what it looks like to take your chances and risk all for Him. I promise you, His outcome will not only surprise you; but you'll be amazed at YOUR God and how He cares for you.

Ephesians 3:20 states, “Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

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## Woman to Woman Mentoring

“A person can hear, but a friend listens for the meaning.

A person can look, but a friend sees the heart.

A person can know, but a friend understands your dreams.”

This describes what we experience in Woman to Woman Mentoring. When we start out at our Orientation Coffee, we are women (unknown to each other for the most part) coming together, all because God has drawn us to either pour into another woman’s life or to be poured into by another woman. Women who can hear, look, and know.

The “mystery” takes place when God matches each woman together with another, pairing them for a six-month journey living life together side-by-side. The women make the commitment to meet a minimum of one hour a week.

The “mystery” of the matching is something only God can achieve, since He knew us before we were born and knows exactly what we need at every moment. The one thing we constantly hear is wonderment at how God does the matching. Often the women are amazed at just how much they have in common, sometimes in areas unknown

to others. He then takes the relationship and begins to beautifully and perfectly knit together the hearts of two perfect strangers to develop a deep, wonderful relationship where He, time after time, does a miraculous work in the lives of both women.

As time goes on the mentor, who was once a stranger, becomes a friend. A friend who, instead of just hearing only, listens for the meaning. A friend who, instead of just looking, sees the heart. A friend who, instead of simply knowing, understands your dreams.

My desire is that each of you would experience a mentoring relationship. We begin new sessions every February, June, and October. There is no limit to the blessings that you will receive either as a mentor or a mentee. If you are a seasoned Christian woman who can commit one hour a week to pour into another woman’s life, please consider and pray about serving in this area.

Sign-up at the THRIVE Table today for the Orientation Coffee on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 6:30 PM in the Fireside Room of the Chapel. The Training & Kick-off Meeting will then be held on the following Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 6:30 PM in the same location.

## THRIVE Happenings



### Schedule

April-May 2009

For info call Dana Hensley 984-0691.

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| April 2  | <b>Choose Your Own Adventure</b><br>Easter Celebration |
| April 16 | <b>Fun House</b><br>Family Fun                         |
| May 7    | <b>Lazy River</b><br>Spa Day                           |
| May 21   | <b>Tea Cups</b><br>Tea & Testimony                     |

SPRING FLING  
BLING TRING

**Monday, June 1, 2009**

**6:00 PM**

Dinner and a movie  
Choice of 3 great restaurants



## Breakaway Weekend

October 23-25, 2009

**Mark your calendars now!**

featuring Jackie Kendall  
& Other Special Guests

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>April 2009</i>			1	2 MOPS 9:30 AM	3	4 WNY Networking Brunch
5 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	6 GIRLFRIENDS UNLIMITED Evening Edition 6:30 PM	7 Morning Break 9:30 AM Mentoring Potluck 6:30 PM Cornerstone Chapel 8:00 PM	8 Cornerstone Craft Night 6:30 PM	9	10 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7:00 PM	11
12 RESURRECTION SUNDAY Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	13 No Evening Edition	14 No Morning Break	15	16 MOPS 9:30 AM	17	18 Cornerstone Dinner 5:30 PM
19 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	20 Evening Edition 6:30 PM	21 Morning Break 9:30 AM	22	23 Mom to Mom 9:30 AM	24	25 MOPS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
26 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	27 Evening Edition 6:30 PM	28 Morning Break 9:30 AM	29	30 Mom to Mom 9:30 AM		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>May 2009</i>					1	2
3 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	4 6:30 PM Last Evening Edition GIRLFRIENDS UNLIMITED	5 9:30 AM Last Morning Break Mentor Half- Time Refresher 6:30PM	6	7 MOPS 9:30 AM	8 FRESH GROUNDED FAITH 7 - 9 PM	9 FRESH GROUNDED FAITH 9AM - 12:30PM
10 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	11	12	13 Cornerstone Craft 6:30 PM	14 Mom to Mom 9:30 AM	15	16 Cornerstone Dinner 5:30 PM
17 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	18	19	20	21 MOPS 9:30 AM (finale)	22	23
24/31 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	25	26	27	28 Mom to Mom 9:30 AM (finale)	29	30

# *Thrive Women's Costa Rica Missions Trip*

March 7-15, 2009

## **Thursday, March 5, 2009**

Linda and Dr. Lora worked with the SCORE staff to translate the hand-outs and PowerPoint. Theresa Hoffman worked on learning her worship songs in Spanish. The English to Spanish translation required much effort to be able to effectively communicate to the pastor's wives and missionaries.

## **Friday, March 6, 2009**

Almost sixty women—pastor's wives as well as missionaries—attended the overnight retreat. Linda and Lora taught leadership training. During the decision time many pastor's wives and missionaries responded to the Holy Spirit's direction to make decisions of forgiveness by nailing pieces of paper with their responses to the cross.

## **Saturday, March 7, 2009**

After the first Bible message the morning of the retreat, commitments were made of surrender for God to be in control of the women's lives. The women enjoyed making bead bracelets and opening their gift bags with donated items from women at The Chapel and friends. The retreat time ended with testimonies and practical application of service by washing each other's feet.

Theresa Hoffman and Evelyn—a SCORE missionary—did a fabulous job of leading worship for the weekend. Theresa sang about the alabaster jar as people responded to the message.

It was a beautiful time of servanthood with women from different countries sharing similar womanhood struggles and discoveries. One woman shared that since they're always giving out so much it was wonderful to be refreshed themselves. They were fed through the Word of God and personal stories that Lora and Linda shared of their struggles and hurts in ministry. The God-lessons helped them grow closer to the Lord in their brokenness and gave them the ability to minister with greater depth.

The other twenty-two team members arrived mid-afternoon. We were met by many students studying Spanish who are staying at the Villa (GAP students) along with other groups coming in and out all week.

## **Sunday, March 8, 2009**

At church, Pastor Jose Prados from SCORE preached on staying close to God. About forty of the 200 plus people came forward to commit to following Jesus more closely.

The children's program was inspiring and successful. Our team ministered to the children with a puppet show on making correct choices, a re-enactment of Jesus walking on the water with a lot of audience participation, and a craft.

Charity Demko was called upon without warning for a lesson to adolescents. She then encouraged them to write out stories on Biblical characters who learned to trust in Jesus.

Following lunch at the church we headed for a nearby city park. Passing out tracts with Spanish translators we spread the Gospel. We noticed that the Costa Rican people were very receptive to receive the tracts. At least a handful of people prayed and trusted in Jesus.

## **Monday, March 9, 2009**

We went to a poor community, Los Guidos, for a medical day. Several GAP students went as our translators.

While most of the team set-up, a group walked through the community inviting people to the clinic. The room filled quickly with those needing attention. Moreso than supplying medical need, people heard how their lives could be changed through Christ through four testimonies given by our women as well as preaching by Dave Kennedy and the local pastor.

Three nurse practitioners (N.P.) gave care and other medical professionals met needs, including pharmacy, physical therapy, and dentistry. As one N.P., stated, "People were treated with love, respect, and dignity."

One woman that a N.P., spoke with said she wasn't ready to trust in Jesus. After a few conversations, however, she realized that she wanted to make that decision and prayed to trust in Him.

The day was hectic yet gratifying. Dr. Olina Dulak, a dentist, performed many examinations and extractions. Jennifer Colon (from Amherst Baptist Church)

assisted Olina and lived her dream of playing a "doctor" for the day!

The last dental patient of the day, a little boy named Carlos, almost didn't make it to the clinic in time. As he waited, he said to Dave Kennedy in plain English, "Thank you Mister. I love Jesus, I love God, too."

After leaving the clinic, we stopped at an impoverished area called "The Hole" where we distributed tracts along with toiletries. One team member spoke of how happy the people were despite their poverty and other circumstances due to their relationship with Christ.

## **Tuesday, March 10, 2009**

Today was a free day for the team. We went souvenir and grocery shopping for treats and some of the yummy coffee Costa Rica is known for.

Even on our free day, we were still ministry minded and handed out tracts. In one shop, the giving of a tract led to a conversation with Victor, who said that he's not a Christian. So, please pray for Victor and all of the other people that we shared the gospel with to become Christ followers.

We then had a great lunch at a seafood restaurant where some ordered a whole fish, head and all. We then traveled to a botanical garden. It had many large, unusual plants, beautiful flowers, and trees. This setting was so peaceful it was a perfect opportunity to encounter God.

Costa Rica has a church in Cartago that many Roman Catholics visit to see the "black virgin." We saw how people were so steeped in religious tradition that they fail to see how lost they truly are. Even here, though, we were able to hand out tracts and witness to people before and after entering the church.

## **Wednesday, March 11, 2009**

The team was up bright and early to make preparations for the day. We then traveled to property owned by SCORE, which will be the future home of their International Complex. The complex will include a dormitory to house GAP students and missionary teams, gym, outdoor soccer field, and orphanage.

*Thank you for your many prayers, donations, and financial support.*

*(continued on page 6...)*

# Thrive Women's Costa Rica Missions Trip

## Photo Moments





“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

*Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)*

These are the words Jesus gave us, His followers. Recently over 35 women

took this challenge to heart attending the Renada Training: Part II – Advanced, a concentrated, three days of Ministry Training, presented by Jean Milliken, director of Sonlife Ministries. Jean’s desire is “to assist women in ministry in knowing God’s plan and purposes for a ‘Great Commission’ ministry.” Here, at The Chapel, women took the opportunity to pursue the same desire. Throughout the training, we had a great time of teaching, prayer, and small group discussions. We learned skills to be more effective disciples of Jesus and covered both personal and ministry-focused strategies for growing a healthy Women’s Ministry. We were reminded, as followers of Jesus, to be prayerfully dependent upon Him, to intentionally

build relationships with others, and to allow God’s Word to be central to our hearts and actions. On the ministry level, we all learned that we need to be intentional, have a vision, and plan and set goals to carry out God’s plan for us, His disciples. Personally, this training was a great encouragement as I serve our Lord. My heart is be obedient and follow the example Jesus set for us. I am now better equipped with some new tools to walk in the model Christ set for us to follow. If you have a desire to serve in ministry, I encourage you to take part in any future Renada training sessions. You will truly be blessed by the instruction that you will receive.

*by Sue Arnts*

## *THRIVE Women’s Costa Rica Missions Trip*

*(...continued from page 4)*

Please pray for funds for this endeavor and for God to raise up men and women to come and partner in this effort.

After lunch, we went to Los Guidos for ministry to young moms and their kids. Testimonies were given by two team members. A skit on giving our heart to the wrong things of the world showed how God can heal the broken-hearted. The women did a craft, had lunch, then received education on diabetes. Twelve women trusted in Christ.

The team ministered to forty-five kids. They had puppet shows, crafts, lunch, music, and a Bible lesson. It was quite a challenge with so many children in such a small area but the team pulled it off.

### **Thursday, March 12, 2009**

Another medical day. The team cared for over sixty adults and twenty kids. Members of the team walked the streets at various times to invite people to the clinic and to evangelize, which resulted in at least one salvation. At least four people at the clinic trusted in Jesus.

We saw some unusual diagnoses. One woman had minor surgery to remove several large moles on her back. The busiest stations were physical therapy and dentistry. It was a hot day in the sun for some of the team who worked outdoors with the children. The clinic

patients expressed their appreciation of helping them with their medical needs.

### **Friday, March 13, 2009**

This morning we went to minister at an orphanage (it was more of a foster care facility). The children were so precious, wanting to give us hugs and play with us. Many children had special needs. One boy in a wheelchair, was deaf and blind, and showed that he loved being with us.

We sang a few songs, acted out a few skits, gave a Bible lesson, and prayed for the children. This was a miracle since last year, at the same orphanage, they did not allow us to do anything spiritually-based. We were so blessed to make a spiritual impact this year in these children’s lives. Before leaving them, we gave each of them a stuffed animal and a pair of sunglasses.

Lunch was BBQ (Argentinian style), which was absolutely delicious, to raise support for SCORE missionaries. Then we prepared for tomorrow’s retreat. The preparations included crafts for women and children, lesson plans, and boxed lunches.

### **Saturday, March 14, 2009**

This was the women’s retreat. Around 255 women and over 50 children came to the event from many areas of Costa

Rica. At least five women trusted in Christ at the event.

Women on our team and some Costa Rican ladies gave testimonies throughout the day. The main session was given by Dr. Lora and Linda speaking on the Samaritan woman. The women were then given a choice to go to one of four electives taught by our team including The Proverbs 31 Woman, The Legacy of a Christian Home, Making Godly Choices, and Ministerial Leadership.

The children’s ministry ran very well due to effective planning from the team and space available at the facility. We divided the children into four age groups and rotated them through four areas in the morning and four in the afternoon. In the different classrooms, they had music with Bible lessons and skits, then follow-up questions and snack, crafts centered around the Bible lesson, and time on the playground.

The day ended with commitments to surrender all areas of the women’s lives to God. Similar to the story of the alabaster jar, oil was poured out to represent their submission.

Please pray for the women to keep their commitments and apply all of the spiritual principles they learned to grow in their walk with Jesus.

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# FAITH



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**May 8–9, 2009**

**FRIDAY:** 7:00–9:00 PM ✨ **SATURDAY:** 9:00 AM–12:30 PM

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A REGION-WIDE WOMEN'S EVENT CO-HOSTED BY

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**Michael O'Brien**  
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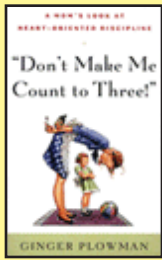
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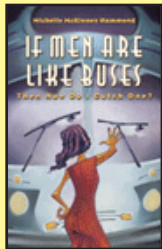
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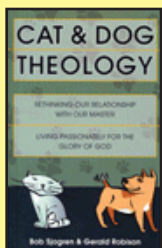
If Men Are Like Buses, then How Do I Catch One

For the single woman to know God's will for relationships.



The Love Dare

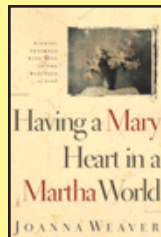
Dare to take the challenge and see your marriage change forever.



Cat & Dog Theology

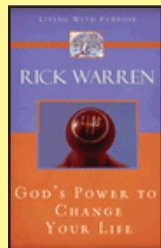
Challenging our views on our relationship with God Almighty.

# Summer Book Clubs!



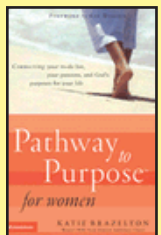
Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World

Sitting at the Master's feet versus serving Him



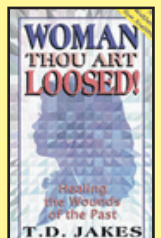
God's Power to Change Your Life

Explore 10 different areas of your life to apply God's Word.



Pathway to Purpose

How your life roles, heart's longings, and experiences point you toward your life mission



Woman, Thou Art Loosed

Find Emotional Healing from the wounds of life



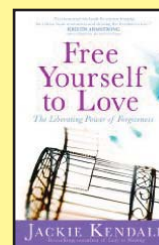
Praying for Purpose

A prayer experience like no other.



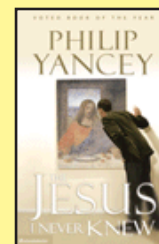
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[www.thrivewomen.com](http://www.thrivewomen.com)

THRIVE Ministry is a part of The Chapel at CrossPoint's Kingdom Come family of ministries that seek to ensure that every man, woman and child has repeated opportunities to hear and see the Gospel of Jesus Christ.