

# Women Today thrive!

February/March 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



## Pressing On

by Linda Penn

My family has always been different. My father was 50 when I was born, my mother was 14 years younger than my father, my brother was 17 when I arrived, and there were two of us (twins). I think we were known as “double trouble.” (Just kidding.)

Both my parents came to know Jesus later in life, but before I was born. We learned, on a regular basis, how to live in a Christ-centered home, one which transformed my parents' lives considerably. I remember my mom and dad regularly reading their Bibles, serving, and teaching us kids to love God and obey...now that took some doing! I look back now knowing that their prayers and discipline helped mold me into the Christian person I am today. They weren't perfect, but they loved Jesus and us.

My brother, Jack, has had significant health issues over the years. Recently, he's been hospitalized in acute care for over three weeks. When I went back to Ohio this past Christmas, we didn't expect him to live to see 2009. Well, he is now in a skilled rehab facility, making remarkable progress, and may get to go home soon.

I visited him recently at the nursing home.

He was feeling so much better and was very talkative. We had a great chance to revisit the past. We chatted about our childhood, how we came to know the Lord, and how it has been walking with Jesus over the years.

I asked Jack what helped him through the tough times in his life (cancer from second-hand smoke thus causing removal of his voice; losing a good paying job, because of downsizing, that he never recovered from due to cancer; losing his wife to cancer; and other trials and challenges over his lifetime). His answer was, “every time life brought something that ‘pressed in on me’ I ‘pressed on’ into Jesus.” He went on to say, “His grace will sustain you and your faith will enable you.”

Because my brother is not bitter, God's grace radiates from him. Jack has a depth of grace and peace about him. One which is immeasurable, indescribable, and incomprehensible by human nature. Jack has been able “to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that he is filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:17-19). This love relationship came from knowing Jesus.

My brother's walk has been a process through the years (struggling at times), growing in his faith, surrendering his life, loving the word of God, not allowing his feelings to dictate his actions or thoughts, being still before God to let Him be known to him, and praising Jesus with a heart of thanksgiving and gratitude. This is the faith he walked in year by year.

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## THRIVE Happenings



### MOPS Schedule

February-March 2009



MOPS meets the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of every month. But, MOPS will be meeting the 2nd & 4th Thursdays during February. For MOPS info call Dana Hensley at 984-0691.

February 12	<b>Kissing Booth</b> Intimacy
February 26	<b>Demon Drop</b> How Not to Look Old
March 5	<b>Challenged by Children</b> Instructing Your Children
March 19	<b>House of Mirrors</b> Who AM I?

## FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

featuring **Krolick's Barbecue Catering**

**Friday, February 20, 2009**  
**4:30 - 6:30 PM**

**Drive Thru - Pick Up - Dine In**

**TICKETS \$10 EACH**

Call 631-2636 x273 or stop by the THRIVE Table

*Proceeds benefit the THRIVE Missions Trip to Costa Rica*

**SPRING FLING**  
**BLING TRING**

**Monday, June 1, 2009**

**6:00 PM**

**Dinner and a movie**

**Choice of 3 great restaurants**



## Renada Training: Part II - Advanced

- Gain a biblical understanding of vision
- Define your personal vision
- Identify ministry strengths and weaknesses
- Learn assessment and evaluation tools
- Develop a vision plan for your ministry and first steps for implementation
- Dialogue with other ministry leaders about your ministry stick points
- Includes a 150 page manual filled with tools and resources to help in your follow-through

**\$200 value for ONLY \$99**

**Dates: Thursday, February 26, 2:00-9:00 PM**

**Friday, February 27, 8:00-4:00 PM**

**Saturday, February 28, 8:30-4:00 PM**

*Contact: Linda Penn 631-2636 ext. 1-234*

Register on-line at [www.thrivewomen.com](http://www.thrivewomen.com)

## Breakaway Weekend

*October 23-25, 2009*

**Ladies, mark your calendars now!**

featuring Jackie Kendall

& Other Special Guests

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>February 2009</i>						
1 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	2 GIRLFRIENDS UNLIMITED Evening Edition 6:30 PM	3 Morning Break 9:30 AM Mentors 6:30 PM Cornerstone Chapel 8:00 PM	4	5 Mom to Mom 9:30 AM	6	7
8 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	9 Evening Edition 6:30 PM	10 Morning Break 9:30 AM Mentors Training 6:30 PM	11 Cornerstone Craft 6:30 PM	12 MOPS 9:30 AM	13	14
15 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	16 NO Evening Edition	17 NO Morning Break	18	19 Mom to Mom 9:30 AM	20 Fish Fry Fundraiser 4:30 - 6:30 PM	21 Cornerstone Dinner 5:30 PM
22 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	23 Evening Edition 6:30 PM	24 Morning Break 9:30 AM	25	26 MOPS 9:30 AM	27	28
				<b>Renada Training: Part II - Advanced</b>		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 GIRLFRIENDS UNLIMITED Evening Edition 6:30 PM	3 Morning Break 9:30 AM	4	5 MOPS 9:30 AM	6	7 COSTA RICA MISSIONS TRIP
8 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	9 Evening Edition 6:30 PM	10 Morning Break 9:30 AM	11 Cornerstone Craft 6:30 PM	12 Mom to Mom 9:30 AM	13	14
<b>COSTA RICA MISSIONS TRIP: MARCH 7-15</b>						
15 Family Worship 9&11 <b>COSTA RICA MISSIONS TRIP</b>	16 Evening Edition 6:30 PM	17 Morning Break 9:30 AM	18	19 MOPS 9:30 AM	20	21 Cornerstone Dinner 5:30 PM
22 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	23 Evening Edition 6:30 PM	24 Morning Break 9:30 AM	25 Teachers & Table Leaders Training 6:30 PM	26 Mom to Mom 9:30 AM	27	28
29 Family Worship 9:00 & 11:00 AM	30 Evening Edition 6:30 PM	31 Morning Break 9:30 AM	<i>March 2009</i>			

# Thrive Women's Costa Rica Missions Trip

March 7-15, 2009

Ladies, our third trip to Costa Rica is coming soon. Even if you are not able to go, you can still be a part of our trip by praying for our team members listed below or bringing donations from the list that follows. Thank you for your faithful support!



## TEAM MEMBERS:

Jennifer Colon	Tiffany Hoffman	Linda Penn
Kim Crispin	Cyndy Jones	Kelly Reese
JoAnn DeMarco	C. David Kennedy	Sue Pruet
Charity Demko	Sharon Kilgore	Rhonda Schultz
Mary Dowd	Peggy Killewald	Mary Ilene Tarapacki
Olina Dulak	Susan Melancon	Jessica Venne
Jeff Hackett	Nicole Noto	Pam Walck
Theresa Hoffman	Vivian Park	Lora Warkentin

*We are collecting items for several projects. Supplies needed for each endeavor are listed below.*

### **Gift Bags and Kits for Missionaries, Pastors, Pastors' Wives, The Poor, and The Homeless**

- travel-size toiletries for women and men
- bath net sponges
- journals for men and women
- nail polish, lip gloss, lipstick, lip balm
- scarves and earrings
- pretty book markers
- Avon/Mary Kay samples
- razors, shave cream, deodorant for men & women
- travel size manicure sets for men and women
- men's black dress socks or white ankle socks
- medium size gift bags & colored tissue paper

### **Women's and Children's Ministry Crafts**

- gift cards for Walmart and various craft stores
- beads for stringing (wooden, plastic, and glass)
- multiple colors of waxed cotton jewelry cord
- stickers & necklace charms (cross, flower, butterfly, others symbolizing transformation)
- Elmer's glue, Aleene's Tacky glue, glue sticks
- multiple colors of glitter glue
- 1" foam paint brushes

- crayons and colored pencil sets
- Bible-themed coloring books
- paper cups (bathroom size)
- 3x5 lined index cards
- pre-cut white note cards with envelopes
- face paints (preferrably the colored pencils kind)
- balloons (general & for balloon animals) & string
- cotton balls
- pipe cleaners
- popsicle sticks
- construction paper
- assorted toys from the Dollar Tree

### **Medical Supplies** (for a medical aspect we've added to our missions experience this year)

- Vitamins: infant drops, children's chewable, adult multi, and adult multi with iron
- Tylenol: infant drops, junior, adult
- cough and cold meds for adults and children
- toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss
- bar soap
- washcloths
- sandwich, quart, and gallon size zip lock bags

*Please bring your donations to the THRIVE Women's Ministry Table no later than Sunday, March 1, 2009.*

# FRESH GROUNDED

# FAITH



WARM YOUR HEART, AWAKEN YOUR SPIRIT™

FEATURING

Jennifer Rothschild

Speaker ✨ Best-selling Author of *Lessons I Learned in the Dark* ✨ Featured on *Dr. Phil*, *Billy Graham TV Special*, *Good Morning America*, and *Women of Faith*

"Jennifer Rothschild is the real thing. She knows what she's talking about." — BETH MOORE



May 8–9, 2009

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

WESTERN NEW YORK AREA

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

The Chapel at CrossPoint and Area Churches (see website for list)

Location: The Chapel at CrossPoint

Ph: (713) 631-2636 ✨ 500 CrossPoint Parkway, Getzville, NY 14068

## SPECIAL GUESTS



Anita Renfro  
Comedienne



Michael O'Brien  
Musical Guest

## TICKETS

Early Bird Special (thru April 13 2009)

\$34 Individual

After Early Bird Special (after April 13, 2009)

\$44 Individual

Premier Section (limited, reserved section)

\$54 Individual

★ Bonus: Buy 12 Tickets, Get One Free †

† Group Orders must be placed online or call 800-859-7992

INTERNET: [www.FreshGroundedFaith.com](http://www.FreshGroundedFaith.com)

PHONE: (800) 859-7992

MAIL: Print form at [www.FreshGroundedFaith.com](http://www.FreshGroundedFaith.com)

IN PERSON: The Chapel at CrossPoint



Tickets are non-refundable, but fully transferable.

Saturday coffee break included.

TICKETS: Call 1 (800) 859 7992 or visit [www.FreshGroundedFaith.com](http://www.FreshGroundedFaith.com)

# Death by Chocolate Highlights



I sit here typing at 6:30 am after a long night with Baylee, my newborn. I experienced God's tender side just last night and it overwhelms me with joy and so many other feelings abounding too!

Baylee has not been eating at all the last couple days and has been waking frequently through the night after previously lasting 5 hours between nighttime feedings. Last night, at 1 am, I was at a loss. She was awake and upset but would only take 1 oz of milk. I put her back to bed a half hour later knowing that she would be up again soon and not knowing what to do.

The only thing I could do was to call upon our LORD! I told Him that He was my only hope to bring clarity to the situation and bring her sleep and a peaceful spirit. I drifted back to sleep praising Him and listening to a slightly fussy baby on the monitor and woke four hours later to a baby ready to eat again. God cared enough for me to answer my prayers in the midst of a troublesome time! He is so good to me even when I may not feel I deserve it!

As I went to feed her at 6 am I felt like God clearly impressed Baylee's problem on my heart. She has been coughing here and there lately, but this morning was more congested and having a hard time with her bottle. I was saddened about the problem, but praising God for the answers to my prayers! Like I said, praise the Lord for hearing our cries and caring enough for us to respond!

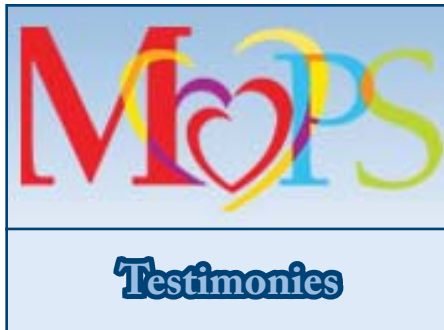
I am ever thankful for the Lord we serve! My heart's overflowing with joy this morning!

by Melanie Budz



This past Christmas was a bit difficult, financially speaking. My husband, Dan, and I set a strict budget for spending. It was hard, but inspired us to really think about what we wanted to get each other and to spend and choose wisely.

There was one thing in particular that I wanted to get for Dan. It was a new fragrance he had tried, but it was expensive. I found a blog about a giveaway of the fragrance. By the time I read it, however, the deadline for entries had passed. Disappointed, but certainly not dissuaded, I sent an e-mail anyway. I mentioned I was sorry to have missed the contest, described our family, our Christmas situation, bragged on Dan quite a bit, and then mentioned if any other samples of anything were available, I would be most grateful for them.



I never heard back until January 2nd. Samples were available but only of aftershave and lotion. Overjoyed, I responded and stated that I would be so grateful for them, and would be willing to pay for the shipping.

When I received the box, there were the samples, as promised (and not those tiny vials you get as a trial at the store). There was also a bottle of lotion. Both men's fragrances I had never tried before, but really like! Then at the bottom of the box, there was another box, with a note wrapped around it. It read something like, "Your response was so sweet, I had to send you a full size of something to go along with the samples." Lifting the notepaper, I read the box. It was the fragrance that I had wanted to get Dan!

Three weeks before delivering our second son, I was enormous. But, I was clapping, giggling, and jumping up and down in our kitchen thanking Jesus. I

sent Dan a text message saying I had a surprise for him at home. He was ecstatic and so thankful when he came home. I shared this story with my mother-in-law. She said the most amazing thing to me, "Walking with Jesus day by day is so fun!" Honestly - I have known Jesus all my life, and been overjoyed and extremely thankful on many occasions, but never put it quite like that. She's right! It's more than grace and mercy. It's more than God the Father wanting to bestow gifts on us. He hard wired us. He knows us. He made us with a sense of humor and fun, and loves to have fun with us, too! He does care about those little things. Little did the person who sent the gifts know how he was used to bless our socks off.

I wanted to share this because I know many, if not all of you, know Jesus. If you are not experiencing daily joy by knowing Him...something is missing! God sees us all, and meets us where we are at. Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart." Later, Psalm 149:4 says, "For the Lord takes delight in His people." I hope and pray you remember serving and walking with God is a joyful and rewarding thing. Yes, it's hard sometimes, but take some time to reflect on His goodness in your life. He loves to dote on us! Take your hand off the wheel and let Him take it. You'll be amazed where He leads and what He shows you. We did so simply by being good stewards with our money and not charging Christmas on our credit cards. I am still overwhelmed by the generosity shown to us. I have not adequately explained the contents of my heart, but I hope you catch a glimpse of how I'm not just thankful at getting a gift - but also thankful at God's absolute undivided attention and interest in us - the HUMAN side of us, not just the spiritual side. This truth is turning my head and heart around as I, perhaps for the first time, fully realize a different side of Him in my life.

I pray you are touched by Him in amazing ways this week and every week.

by Shannon M. Durant

## Thank you for spreading the good tidings of Christmas with Buffalo City Mission, Cornerstone Manor, Teen MOPS, ISI (International Students Inc.), and SonRays.

For Christmas, men at the Mission received warm, hooded sweatshirts, chess and checker sets, and many other gifts. On Christmas Eve, women and children at Cornerstone Manor opened gifts of PJ sets and slippers and the children each received a plastic bin to be used as their very own toy box. Christmas morning at the Manor surprised the residents once again as they opened many more gifts and each lady received a beautiful gift basket of her very own full of items sure to pamper them as all ladies enjoy. Additionally, many gift cards were distributed to various ministries, homemade pies and turkeys fed the masses, and families hosted ISI students in their homes for the holidays.

Teen MOPS held a MOPS Mall, praying that God would provide and did He ever! They are ever so grateful for the abundance of gifts you gave Teen MOPS for Christmas. The teen moms were so excited to spend their "MOPS BUCKS" on diapers, wipes, toiletries, and baby supplies which you so graciously donated. They had worked hard to earn their "bucks" by participating in meetings, reading to their children, getting good grades, and other activities. Thank you for shining the love of Christ through your giving.

MORE THAN  
**70**  
ORNAMENTS  
SIGNED OUT FOR TEEN MOPS

**155**  
CHRISTMAS GIFTS  
FOR MEN  
COLLECTED

MORE THAN  
**295**  
CHRISTMAS GIFTS  
FOR WOMEN + CHILDREN  
COLLECTED

*continued from page 1...*

Our lives are not about "the something" but about the "someone." God's love brought us our salvation through his Son, Jesus. He is our only hope for yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

"Consider it pure joy, my sisters, when you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, she should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to her." (James 1:2-4)



Scripture also says, "But one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13b,14)

Pressing on toward the prize! What a picture of the Christian life. In actuality, for Paul (the author of Philippians), that meant taking his share of sufferings, giving himself daily for the cause of Jesus and for the sake of fellow believers. It meant doing things God's way instead of his own. That's what is summed up in the phrase, "I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me... forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me." (Phil. 3:12b,13b)

My visit with my brother gave me a lesson on how to press on. It doesn't matter if you have failed. It doesn't matter if you are discouraged. It doesn't matter if you don't have control over the circumstances. Those are times to PRESS ON. Pressing means going beyond the com-

fortable limits, the easy victories, into the uncharted path known to but a few. Jesus knew what it meant to suffer. Jesus cheers you on and strengthens you as you go. We "press on into Jesus."

When life "presses in on you" don't forget to "press on into Jesus." His grace will sustain you and His faith will enable you, just like it does my brother, Jack.



THRIVE is the Women's Ministry at  
The Chapel at CrossPoint  
500 CrossPoint Pkwy.  
Getzville, NY 14068  
716.631.2636

[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.