

2or MORE

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them. Matthew 18:20



Greetings Stonecroft leader! I love the fall. Signs of the season appear right before us. As the leaves change color and the weather cools, we also see changes in activity all around us—kids return to school, vacation photos filed, and at Stonecroft, new outreach activities and events planned.

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This edition of *2orMore* is full of great tips to spark that evangelism passion within all of us!

You will find valuable information on every page, whether you are a Stonecroft Bible Studies leader ready to recruit new Guides for the surge of studies this fall, or an Outreach Group planning team looking for new leaders and fresh recruiting ideas. Whatever your involvement, *2orMore* is for you.

We have a great article on how to introduce Stonecroft Bible Studies and AWARE Evangelism to your church. Need some ideas on how to share Stonecroft with your pastor or other leaders? See page 6.

It's Fall Fundraiser time and we want to encourage your teams to support the ministry of Stonecroft. See page 11.

Prayer Coordinators—we have three months of prayer linked to the Harvest! Our prayer focus

"...the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ...For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field."

— I Corinthians 3:5, 9 (ESV)

is on planting seeds, waiting and watching for God, and thanking the Lord for the Harvest.

Each of us, working together, planting seeds of the Gospel, watching life grow through Stonecroft Bible Studies, rejoice as we all work to accomplish an abundant Harvest!

We thank the Lord daily as we labor together with our eyes on the Harvest.

Grace be with you all!

Doris Thompson
Vice President
Field Ministry



Passion with a Purpose if You are in a PICKLE

By Lisa Heidrich, Mid-Southern Field Director

Recruiting leaders and volunteers to serve and glorify God using their strengths may not be as difficult as it sounds! Just remember “PICKLE.”

P = Pray, asking God to specifically show you the women you need on your teams. For example: pray specifically for a Prayer Coordinator with a gift of intercession. God will reveal the names and faces!

I = Identify strengths. A spiritual gifts survey is always fun to do together. Set a date and see how the Lord created each potential leader to serve from the passion He wired into her DNA.

C = Compliment women for what they are good at and plug them into those vacancies. Women with administrative gifts serve well as leaders; others who are more creative might do well assisting the Vice Chair with publicity. The position and person must compliment one another.

K = Keep in touch when you ask a volunteer to consider a position. Always leave the conversation with a follow-up date and call-back time. When you do call, ask: “Is this a good time to talk?” You don’t

want to get an answer from someone stressed out, eating dinner, or with kids screaming in the background. Always wait until she’s had the time needed to decide. Remember—she needs a chance to talk to God and wait for His answer.

L = Love them no matter what the response. You can always suggest a “trial run” for a few months just to see if it might be a fit. When women know it isn’t a lifetime commitment, they are more apt to give ministry a try. When they know you care about them personally, they will also be more open to try ministry, knowing you will walk with them.

E = Encourage. Be your volunteers’ best cheerleader. You’ll have fun and build relationships that ignite and fill your spirit everyday. Enthusiasm is contagious!

Remember, you are inviting women into ministry. Erase the word “job” from your vocabulary. No one wants another job—and this is not a job, it is an adventure! Serving the Lord in ministry is an experience that will change a woman’s life for all eternity.

Speak Out!

By Margaret Smith, Regional Speaker Trainer

Many women are ready to speak out about the Lord’s redeeming work in their lives, and need to know of the training opportunities available through Stonecroft Ministries.

As you plan your speaker training event, simply take these steps:

- **Pray** for God’s wisdom and direction. Form a team of reviewers and other leaders to join you.
- **Plan** ahead. It may take three months.
- **Communicate**. Tell leaders about training times for potential speakers. As they think of people to invite, suggest they look beyond current attendees by considering past feature guests or musicians, women of other cultures, and younger women. Inform local pastors of training opportunities. Ask them for the names of those who have a passion for sharing the Gospel or connecting with other women.
- **Think topical**. Everyone knows someone with gifts and talents who may be willing to share—draw

from those who garden, budget, are into fitness and healthy living—the list is endless!

- **Send** invitations a month before the event with a sneak peak at what they can expect. Let those invited know they should bring a friend. Follow up with an e-mail two weeks before the event.

“Has the Lord redeemed you? Then speak out!”

— Psalm 107:2 (NLT)

Be sure to share the vision of Stonecroft with training attendees. (See “From Notice to Neighbor,” an article from Cheryl Davis, Stonecroft’s Vice President of Ministry Development, about becoming actively aware of people God has placed around us, posted now at *Leaders OnLine*.) Encourage interaction and questions. Let potential speakers know they will receive information on how to share the Good News in the marketplace. **Pray! Plan! Prepare! Communicate! Think! Send!**

Ministering to Moms

By Pauletta Staley, Upper Northwest Field Director

Listening to the hearts of mothers, I've discovered four key elements in preparing events to meet their needs. Make them creative, fun, relevant, and kid-friendly.

We have the wonderful opportunity to speak into this busy season of moms' lives and offer them God's message of hope!

- **Discover what young moms are interested in.** Take a look at magazines that target them. Talk to moms and ask them to share their ideas.
- **Choose special features with appeal for teens and tweens—and their mothers will attend too!** Topics such as skin care for summer (with light make-up tips), healthy eating (including a smoothie taste-test), and tips in safe dating were all features at well-attended and well-received events.
- **Engage mothers in the leadership of your group.** Pour into them encouragement and confidence. You'll be amazed at what will happen when you let them lead.
- **At events planned for girls, having a young speaker who can relate well to them is very important.** Ask God to give you eyes to see young women with a passion for making Him known who you can cultivate as speakers.
- **Find ways to engage moms and daughters together**—at the park, through a book club, with a grocery coupon co-op, etc. Be creative.
- **Let moms in the community know what Stonecroft offers.** One creative SRA held an informational event at a park so moms could participate in “A Playdate with a Purpose.” More than 40 moms and their children attended this “mock” Pray & Play.
- **Be family-friendly.** Offer babysitting on site. Let women know their children are welcome at your outreach and prayer events. Provide a quiet space for older, homeschooled children.
- **Go where mothers are.** Offer a Stonecroft Bible Study at the gym, coffee shop, or park.

Stonecroft.org is your best source for a remarkable array of online tools that help women connect with God, each other, and their communities.



From our home page, launch into stories about changed lives, upcoming events, dynamic ministry materials, and prayer and leadership resources, such as:



Our **Stonecroft Bible Studies** section, featuring introductory studies, studies for growth, and studies in Spanish



Pray & Play, a Playdate with a Purpose where young moms learn about God as their children play beside them or nestle in their laps

Open the window to stonecroft.org today!

Upfront and Cross-Cultural

By Gail E. Dudley, Cross-Cultural Ministry Director and Ohio River Valley/New York City Field Director



God is taking us into the mission fields of the world so we can all be involved in evangelism in and outside of our own communities. While there are plenty of people just like us that need to be reached, there are many more within our reach who are different and God is calling us to reach them too.

It is time to walk through the open door the Lord has before us. To take advantage of these opportunities, we must be willing to think differently and learn to minister effectively in multicultural settings. In today's world, our effectiveness in outreach will be limited if we continue

Marketplace Ministry

By Cheryl Gochmauer, Staff Writer/Editor

Stoncroft's new Marketplace Ministry initiative draws on Stoncroft's historical desire to proclaim the Gospel to working women—whether they're stationed in an office building or running a home-based business.

At Marketplace luncheons, Stoncroft offers women opportunities to network, present their businesses, build clientele—and hear the Gospel.

Marketplace is focused more on ministering *through* these women than ministering *to* them. That's because a major goal of this new initiative is to tap into the service mindset so prevalent among today's young professionals. Stoncroft provides these conscientious

to allow cultural differences to keep us from sharing the Gospel with all.

Through Stoncroft's Cultural Awareness workshops, volunteers gain the ability to work effectively in cross-cultural situations. It is essential for volunteers to develop the awareness, knowledge, and skills to respect different cultural values, beliefs, traditions, customs, and norms—to effectively evangelize cross-culturally.

"...to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

— Ephesians 4:12-13 (NIV)

Stoncroft Ministries has enjoyed proven success for more than 70 years in reaching women for Christ. However, there remains an underrepresented "mission field" in many metro/urban centers of the nation.

It's time! Let's get "Upfront and Cross-Cultural."

E-mail gdudley@stoncroft.org to learn more or schedule a workshop.

women opportunities to band together on community projects, acting as the hands and feet of Jesus as they care for those around them.

This initiative's outward-focused mindset also spurs mentoring as mature Christian women work alongside their younger counterparts. Marketplace Ministry is now underway in cities in Louisiana, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Visit stoncroft.org to learn more about Marketplace Ministry outreach in your communities.