

2or MORE

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



Why Stonecroft?

Why does Stonecroft Ministries exist?
 Why do we do what we do?
 The answer is amazingly simple:
Because people need Jesus.

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Our goal is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with every age, every stage, every face. Lives will be transformed, new believers will grow in their faith, and—in turn—reach out to others with that same Good News.

This issue of *2orMore* contains valuable equipping and encouragement for reaching our goal—ideas about reaching young women and mature women; women building young families and building their careers. Help in reaching across cultural barriers and in reaching out to your own communities. Fresh ideas and resources to jumpstart your creativity and encourage your outreach efforts.

At this time of the year, hearts often refocus on gratitude. We are grateful for you—our leaders. Through your prayers, your efforts, your giving, your part of this worldwide network

known as Stonecroft Ministries, lives are being transformed by Jesus Christ. Thank you!

We are especially grateful this time of year for those who plunged into Fall Fundraisers with enthusiasm! Your continued support for the outreach of Stonecroft Ministries keeps us advancing in the U.S. and around the world. Thank you for your loving efforts!

As 2009 draws to a close, may we fill each day with thanksgiving to God—with gratefulness for His loving provision, with eternal gratitude for the gift of His Son, and with great joy for the continuing opportunities He provides to share the Gospel.

Geneva Vollrath
 President and CEO



A Call to Prayer – Stonecroft has called together a select group of evangelists to pray, dialogue, and strategize about reaching women under 30 with the Gospel. Millions of souls are at stake and Stonecroft is uniquely positioned to be used by God to proclaim the Gospel to these women. Mark your calendars for Dec. 4-5 to pray during this vital event.



Connecting women with God, each other, and their communities.



A quarterly publication from Stonecroft Ministries designed as a toolbox for volunteer leaders impacting their communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Visit our web site at stonecroft.org
 E-mail us: communications@stonecroft.org
 Call us: 800.525.8627

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SERVE with Stonecroft

By Nancy Sprouls, Upper Mid-Atlantic Field Director

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” – Matthew 5:16, ESV

Is your light shining? Christians express Christ’s love in tangible ways to those around them. As an evangelistic ministry—one which makes Christ known—do others see the light of Christ through our good words and our good works?

This year we encouraged groups to consider how to be a missionary force by serving those in their communities. So how is your group doing? Are you shining your light by loving and helping one another and those around you?

This winter, many in our communities are in need. Let’s reach out together, shining our light by our good works, as we are always ready to share the hope within us. When we do this, we will see God glorified!

Stonecroft’s foundation is prayer. So first, pray as a group for the Lord to lead you in reaching out to your communities.

Then:

1. **Call** local para-church ministries or social service agencies, such as a homeless mission, prison, or pregnancy care center.
2. **Offer** help through your hands (not finances) as an expression of Christ’s love.
3. **Set up** a process for meeting a specific need, such as providing blankets for the homeless, going on hospital visits at Christmas, volunteering time at a homeless shelter, or collecting mittens for kids at an orphanage.
4. **Attach** a Stonecroft Life Publication, such as *A Gift for You* or *Prayer Journal*, to items given.
5. **Include** an invitation to your next outreach. (*Donors could offer to cover the meals at your next outreach.*)
6. **Share** your service idea by sending an e-mail to communications@stonecroft.org

Why Topical Speaking?

By Jodi Curran, Regional Speaker Trainer

In the 60’s, Bob Dylan sang “the times they are a changin,” but we had no idea how fast they would change. To reach women today, we need to accommodate the next generation’s preferences and availability.

Today’s young working woman has little time to attend anything not stimulating, educational, and interesting.



The demands on her time sometimes isolate her from others. She wants authenticity and transparency in her relationships, as well as from speakers.

Topical presentations, rather than traditional testimonies, are more appealing to modern women. Talks must be sharp, to-the-point with current and usable information, and delivered to accommodate busy schedules. To stay on mission, they must also include a faith story that blends with the topic.

Current magazines provide great ideas for topics. You’ll see titles such as “How to Get More Out of Life,” “Rock-Solid Confidence,” and “More Time for You.”

These same topics that sell magazines will also draw women to your outreach group, which exposes them to caring and relational women—and the Gospel!

Visit Leaders OnLine at stonecroft.org for format and idea suggestions for topical presentations.

A Playgroup with a Purpose

By Trina Pockett, Pacific Gold Coast Field Director

Will you be among the first to bring Pray & Play to moms in your state?

Pray & Play is sweeping the nation! Six states already have groups and 15 more groups are currently being formed. Pray & Play multiplies quickly because it is easy to lead, fun, and requires little preparation.

Moms want to connect. They want to pray together. They want to spend time together with their kids. Pray & Play groups create this relaxed atmosphere for moms who know Jesus, and those who don't yet.

Each mom has her own *Pray & Play Devotionals* filled with inspirational writings and relevant tips for moms raising young children in today's culture. As they read the Scripture, combined with inspirational devotions, they share together thoughts and reflections.

Pray & Play Devotionals also include positive building blocks for children, such as talking to your children about how beautiful and unique each one of them is and how God made them special.

At the end of every Pray & Play gathering, moms pray for their marriages, children, communities, nation, and personal concerns. Children can join in or play as their moms pray.

Current Pray & Play groups are meeting at parks, church nurseries, military bases, community centers, homes, and restaurants with playgrounds (this is especially helpful when it is raining or snowing).

Visit www.stonecroft.org/prayandplay to share news about your Pray & Play group, ask questions, and to learn more about Pray & Play.

IMPACT '10 ~ Stir

By Hannah Wilson, Special Events Coordinator

Technology is advancing, the climate is changing, and the world economy is quaking, but what is underneath all of it?

God is *stirring* His people. The question is—how are we responding? How are YOU responding? Your local church? Stonecroft Ministries? The Body of Christ?

Impact '10 ~ *Stir* will address these questions and more during a worldwide conference October 2, 2010.

As you look forward to your 2010 local and regional training event, plan so you can join women from around the world during this 4-hour LIVE feed from Kansas City.

To start a Pray & Play simply visit www.stonecroft.org/prayandplay to access the free Leaders Guide, other resources, and to order *Pray & Play Devotionals* (\$6 each) for moms in your group.



National Conference Calls

Pray & Play will be featured in one of our upcoming National Conference Calls.

Watch the weekly e-newsletter and stonecroft.org for more information on this and other National Conference Calls, including:

- What's Cross-Culture training all about?
- Ins and outs of Vital Network groups
- Regional Leaders Connecting Together—and more!

To receive the weekly e-newsletter from Stonecroft Ministries, e-mail your contact information to connections@stonecroft.org.

We will supply you the technical requirements.

Can you see it now? God is moving — *stirring* — and together we will discover how to become involved in making Christ known in our communities.



Contact your Field Director, SRA, or e-mail specialevents@stonecroft.org to begin planning your event to coincide with Impact '10 ~ *Stir*.

Becoming moreAWARE

By Cheryl Davis, Vice President of Strategic Ministry

Today, it's easy to become isolated. Stonecroft women continue outreach by acknowledging that first we must be aware of the lost around us. If we don't know people, how will we reach them? If we are not in touch and involved in their lives, how will they hear about our Savior?

Stonecroft Ministries is unequivocally committed to effective evangelism in today's culture. We saw this modeled by our founder, Mrs. Helen Duff Baugh, who led this ministry in what was then—for her culture—a very out-of-the-box style of reaching people for Christ.

The word about Stonecroft is *evangelism* and more and more people are hearing about it.

Maybe you saw our ad in the September 2009 *Christianity Today* focused on evangelism—and more

specifically, about the body of Christ becoming *more aware* of those around them. As a ministry called to evangelism first, Stonecroft launched the moreAWARE campaign to gently shed light on this part of the heart of God.

Please pray with us as churches, pastors, women's ministry directors, and other Christian leaders learn about Stonecroft and use AWARE Evangelism as a first step in understanding the critical need to make Christ known today.

Jesus said to look at the fields. Let us each pray God will open our eyes so we can see those who need Him.

Visit www.stonecroft.org/moreAWARE.

Pass it On!

By Peggy Banks, Director of Leadership Development



When we prepare young women to share the Gospel with their peers, we reach a generation. When we listen to young women share about how to pass on to others the great truths God has given us in the Gospel, we reach a generation.

Through internships, Stonecroft invests in the lives of faithful young women who are passionate about the Gospel. Young women who want to know how to meet the needs of the world around them are discipled, mentored, and gain valuable work experience in ministry. These women are passionate about helping their peers know their identity, purpose, and value in Jesus.

Jackie Happeny, a former intern with the Communications Team at Stonecroft, shares this about her mentor:

“One of my goals was for me to start journaling again. My mentor has been a great blessing to me because she encouraged me to write and pursue my future goals. I still consider her a dear friend.”

Today Jackie works as a writer in a Christian outreach to the homeless.

In his letter to the young pastor in Ephesus, Paul encouraged Timothy to “teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others” (2 Timothy 2:2, NLT). Stonecroft internships exist to equip our next generation of women leaders with the tools and skills that will make an impact in our world for Jesus.

Learn more about Stonecroft internships at www.stonecroft.org/internships.

Networking Events

Stoncroft Networking Events prove to be fun, exciting, and effective ways to reach your communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Would your group like to double attendance? Would you like to see more women come to your outreach event who respond to the Gospel as they make decisions for Christ?

Stoncroft Networking Events start with an approved Stoncroft speaker who educates the audience with a noteworthy topic—one which is cutting edge and relevant. Topics are promoted in the community and become part of the exciting buzz of the event!

Networking events engage business owners. Ask local home-based and service-based business owners to sell their product or services at your outreach group. Collect a non-refundable fee from each vendor that covers their luncheon meal and a table to merchandise their product.

Now is the time! Christmas time is ideal as your guests can be looking for presents to buy. Easter, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, Back to School time, etc.

How many? The more shopping, the greater the shopping excitement—more in attendance, more to hear the Gospel.

Questions? Contact your Field Director or e-mail connections@stoncroft.org

See Networking information in the Outreach Manual on Leaders Online.

Intersections: Relationships without Walls

By Gail E. Dudley, Cross-Cultural Ministry Director

Matthew 28:19 says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (NIV).

People from diverse backgrounds are inherently able to work and live together with respect and harmony. Prejudices, fears, and stereotyping about people who are different from us are learned behaviors that often interfere with healthy communication and trust. Working effectively in cross-cultural settings begins by developing awareness of different cultural values, beliefs, traditions, customs, and norms.

"Intersections: Relationships without Walls" is an interactive workshop that uses a combination of presentation, group exercises, and hands-on practice to help participants challenge their own everyday assumptions. Participants will begin to understand cultural differences in an atmosphere that is friendly, safe, and respectful.



Through the focus of evangelism, each participant will gain an awareness of personal filters and core cultural challenges, as well as acquire skills to work effectively in a cross-cultural ministry environment.

Become a part of the Stoncroft Cross-Cultural initiative. Our goal is to evangelize "every age, every stage, every face."

To schedule your cross-cultural session of "Intersections: Relationships without Walls," please contact your Field Director or e-mail Cross-Cultural Ministry Director Gail Dudley at gdudley@stoncroft.org.

Vital Network By Meryl Bishop, Vital Network Liaison



Vital Network gives Planning Teams a solution for groups which need to revitalize a passion for evangelism.

Meryl Bishop, former National Prayer Coordinator, now travels the country teaching Planning Teams how to be effective through Vital Network.

"You are the light of the world...let your light shine" (Matthew 5:14, 16). Belonging to Jesus, we become containers of His light, shining in dark places. Are your outreach and/or Stoncroft Bible Studies groups effectively shining light? We have an enemy who seeks to destroy our effectiveness by extinguishing our lights. He does this mainly through discouragement. Have you lost your enthusiasm and concern for reaching out to your community? Are you struggling with rising meal costs and problems with your meeting

place? Has your attendance dropped? Answer "Yes" to any of these questions and Vital Network is for you.

Vital Network is an exciting new outreach. Its "Community Component" connects you in meaningful ways with your communities, the "Spiritual Component" provides speakers, and the "Stoncroft Component" connects you as God continues to use Stoncroft Ministries locally, nationally, and internationally.

It's encouraging to watch the light come on as groups are revitalized through Vital Network. New excitement and enthusiasm are generated, the Gospel is proclaimed, and communities are impacted!

This same enthusiasm and excitement can be yours. See Vital Network information in the Outreach Manual and learn more at www.stoncroft.org/vitalnetwork.

To request a visit from Meryl, e-mail connections@stoncroft.org.