



Stonecroft Strategies



Three Strategies for Reaching More Women with the Gospel!

1. Enhance the Outreach of Women's Connections and Stonecrock Bible Studies (SBS)

I sometimes hear stories of Groups and SBS who have lost focus on our mission and no longer invite guests who do not yet know Jesus. If staff and volunteer leaders can help these Groups and SBS regain their excitement about our call, can you imagine the impact on women's lives? We want to inspire you to encourage your Groups in two ways so that more women are exposed to the Gospel:

- a. Increase the number of first-time guests in each Group, particularly women who do not yet know Jesus
- b. Increase the number of SBS that follow each Group – so seekers have a place to continue their exposure to the Bible and the Gospel

If we are able to see movement in just these two areas, many more women will hear and respond to the Gospel! That's why we've rewritten our handbooks. That's why Cheryl Davis, Vice President of Women's Connection, leads the effort to rejuvenate Women's Connection, SBS, and the prayer and Speaker ministries. That's why we are working to have Stonecrock Regional Administrator (SRA) coverage for every single Group and SBS. That's why we are expanding our Ministry Support Team in the Home Office. That's why we started the *Women's Connection Communiqué*. That's why we want to establish more SBS to engage women who attend Women's Connections. That's why we are offering new resources.

And that's why we continue to pray for revival!

2. Engage Younger Women as Stonecrock Volunteers in New Avenues of Outreach

The message of the Gospel never changes, but we must always adjust the means by which we share it. This is why we must become "all things to all women that we might save some." (See 1 Corinthians 9:19-23). Staff and volunteers have therefore worked for the last few years to create new avenues by which younger women can share the Gospel. Hundreds of young women have now served as Stonecrock volunteers and introduced their friends to Jesus through our Stonecrock outreaches such as *Pretty Hurts*, *Military, Pray & Play*, *Detox – find your balance*, *Conversations*, *Story Marks* outreach, and more local outreaches that many of you have been part of!

3. Plant Hundreds of Local Stonecrock Mission-Focused Organizations ("Hubs")

Four years ago, we realized that if local Stonecrock volunteers were to continually adjust their outreaches to meet the changing needs of their communities, we would have to establish mission-focused local Stonecrock organizations. We called these "affiliates" when we first introduced the concept to you at the Compelled events and at subsequent regional events. We recently changed the name to "hubs" because each of these local Stonecrock volunteer-led organizations is the "hub" of Gospel outreach to women in the community. Please read a detailed description of these local Stonecrock organizations such as Stonecrock Dallas and Stonecrock Lakeland on the next page.

These local Stonecrock volunteers gather for prayer, training, outreach, community, and celebration. They take the Gospel to other women in their community through whatever avenues seem best for their place and the time. Each hub determines how to reach their community with the unchanging message of Jesus Christ.

Most of the volunteers involved in these hubs have never heard the name Stonecrock until they were invited to receive training or engage in evangelism. The No. 1 way our Divisional Field Directors (DFDs) are recruiting young women into Stonecrock is by asking them to lead and join these new hubs. And the young women love it! Our staff and other volunteers train them to share the Gospel and together they are launching new outreaches all over the U.S.

Roles in the Stonecrock Hubs

What's your role in the hubs?

Some of you have been involved in planting these hubs and, to some of you, this is all new. It gives us great joy to see younger, diverse volunteers engaging in evangelism – but they can't do it alone! We know that you and your volunteers are extremely busy with your own effective outreaches, but these new volunteers would especially covet your prayers.

Each hub is led by new young Stonecrock volunteers, but if you or your key volunteers desire to be involved, there's much to do. You can introduce young Christian women to your DFD. SRA Kris Driskill recently prayed a commissioning prayer over the three new volunteers – in their 20s and 30s – who will lead Stonecrock Kansas City. Kris helped immeasurably in connecting our DFD Suzy Stjernstrom to potential volunteers – including one young woman who Kris had known since she was a child. Through the



years, Kris invested prayer, time, and encouragement in this woman who is now a leader for the new hub. Some Stonecroft volunteers also serve as mentors and trainers for the new volunteers and some participate as hub and outreach volunteers.

We also want to make sure you know what's going on. The DFDs will endeavor to keep key leaders informed of any hub activities in your area. Activities include initial catalyst meetings with potential volunteers, Gather Dream Go launch meetings, and various outreaches.

What's the DFD's role?

When I joined Stonecroft, DFDs supported all of our field ministries – Women's Connection, SBS, and new outreaches. However, we learned in the last couple of years that it takes 100 percent of a DFD's time to focus her efforts recruiting new young volunteers into hubs – and helping these young women launch new outreaches. Therefore, the DFDs now function more like our "city girls" or National Reps, moving from place to place to start new Gospel initiatives – the hubs. They simply won't be as available as in the past to support our flagship outreaches.

Who supports Women's Connection and SBS?

Years ago, after the National Reps started a Group or SBS, the Home Office took over volunteer support. We are returning to that model now! For your specific Women's Connection, SBS, prayer, and Speaker needs, please continue to communicate with the Women's Connection and Ministry Support Team at connections@stonecroft.org. We have a fantastic group of women at the Home Office ready to support you in every way possible!

The Stonecroft Hub

The Stonecroft hub is a local volunteer organization of Christian women – age 20s to 90s – who are passionate to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Stonecroft volunteers love without judgment, serve with passion, and accept others because Jesus accepts us. They join Stonecroft because they love Jesus and desire that other women experience His love.

This local Stonecroft volunteer organization therefore takes the Gospel to women in their communities, each one where she is – where she lives, works, and plays, and as she is – no matter her background or lifestyle. They share the Gospel with women who need to know Jesus through a variety of outreach avenues, each tailored to the unique needs of the community and using the special gifts and talents of the volunteers.

This hub is Stonecroft's presence in a local community. This organization stands at the center of an outreach wheel (see next page). The hub is the epicenter of Gospel-sharing activity for women in a community. Volunteers share the Good News with other women through a variety of avenues, from large events to small community groups where resources introduce the Bible and Jesus.

Women's Connection and SBS will continue to receive their primary support from their SRA and other local leaders. All outreaches will have a relationship with the hubs whose leaders report to DFDs.

Hub volunteers in a community come together to pray, receive training, plan and conduct outreaches, and celebrate how God has worked through them to transform lives and their community. Volunteers meet regularly for:

Prayer – Stonecroft volunteers start every activity with prayer – asking for the Spirit to awaken the hearts of Christian and seeking women alike. They ask for God's compassionate heart, power, wisdom, and creativity to best reach women in their communities with the Gospel.

Training – Stonecroft staff and volunteers empower women by providing the training, tools, and mentoring to help them share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in relevant, creative, powerful, appealing, and non-threatening ways. Women learn to share the Gospel through their own personal stories or through a variety of outreach activities.

Outreach – Stonecroft volunteers assess their communities and dream big ways God could use them to share the Gospel with women around them and have a transformative impact on the culture. Stonecroft



staff provides outreach ideas, handbooks, guidelines, and training to support this effort. Volunteers create a plan of outreach activities unique to their communities, then go out and do it: share the Gospel in a variety of ways through the year. The number and types of outreaches differ from hub to hub, depending on the volunteers' visions, the diversity of women, and the length of time a hub has been established in a community.

Community - There's nothing like participating in a movement bigger than yourself - and as women join the local Stonecroft hub, they experience deep fellowship around their shared heart to impart the Gospel with others. They find in the hub a community of mutual purpose and vision. Throughout the year, Stonecroft volunteers encourage other Christian women to join their mission to reach women in their community with the transforming Good News of Jesus Christ.

Celebration - Volunteers share the vision to transform their communities with the Gospel, and encourage and inspire one another. They rejoice that God has used them to have a radical impact on women's lives as they share the Good News. As women hear about lives transformed through Gospel ministry, they are challenged to find and answer God's call in their own lives.



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