



Celebration Women's Ministry Year End

Report By Linda Johnson, Treasurer



*Have a
Merry
Christmas
and Blessings
for a New
Year!*

Save the date for our
next National Spring
Conference on
April 8-10, 2011 at the
Omni Hotel Westside
in Houston, Texas

See Page 3 for details

Featuring
Rhea
Briscoe
and
Dr.
Shirley
Arnold!



Celebrating

As we near the end of another year and prepare for another, we experience two very important holidays – Thanksgiving and Christmas. The foundation of both is gratitude: Gratitude for all our many blessings, especially gratitude to God for sending His Son, Jesus, our Savior and Lord – God with us, Immanuel. A pretty amazing gift, isn't it? And then He adds the Holy Spirit on top of that – wrapping the gift up with a bow! And what do we do with those gifts?

Rick Warren in his e-newsletter "Purpose Driven Connection" said something that keeps coming to mind. God doesn't bless you so you can be greedy; He blesses you so you can be generous. You give away and God gives back to you so you can give more away and he can give more back to you and on and on and on. God doesn't give you things so you can pile them up. When you let go of what's in your hand, it's now empty to receive greater blessings from God.

Celebration is in need of your "open hand." I pray that you will consider a financial gift to the ministry, to receive God's blessings and bless the ministry. (We are a charitable organization for which contributions are tax deductible.)

- You might wish to become a "Partner" with Celebration and pledge a periodic donation – monthly, quarterly, or annually.
- Or will you consider a one-time gift in support of the administrative costs? Our operating expenses, including newsletter and training events, total \$640/week. This doesn't include Program-related expenses for luncheons or National Conference.
- Or you might wish to underwrite National Conference expenses, as our costs do exceed the fees we charge, especially for the Youth.

"If I see the gift as God's, who allows me to use it for a time, then the gift can flow more freely, as I join with others to be a channel of God's love and mercy." (From the Kyria devotional, Author Unknown.) If you would like to make a contribution, please contact me at Treasurer@CelebrationMinistries.org or (936) 435-9989. Whatever your gift, God can and will use it to channel God's love and mercy. Thank you for your "open hand" as well as your prayers.

Trust and Obey



Judy Graham
President

*Celebration Women's
Ministry, Inc.*

.....
our lives at this time. What a blessing to be in a place of trusting God and obeying His word.

The last verse of one of our old gospel songs "Trust and Obey" says *"Then in fellowship sweet, we will sit at His feet, or we'll walk by His side in the way; what He says we will do, where He sends we will go; never fear, only trust and obey."* What great benefits for trusting Jesus and obeying His word.

Do we really believe Jesus meant what He said in Matthew 6:25-35?

*"Therefore I say to you, **do not worry about your life...** Steep your life in God-reality, God initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.*

As we begin the New Year 2011, wouldn't it be wonderful to live free of cares and worries? This past summer, I attended a prayer conference and, as we do, I bought several books that looked interesting. Recently, I picked up one of the books that related to casting your cares on the Lord. It is a great topic and very timely for all of

"Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes."

How about what is written to us in I Peter 5:6,7, 8? *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, **casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you.***

My last scripture to share and one of my favorites concerning being anxious about situations in life is Philippians 4:6-8.

***Be anxious for nothing,** but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

The Word is clear, if we allow ourselves to worry or let cares weigh us down or become anxious over "things," then we are not trusting God. It's time to ask forgiveness and purposely and confidently roll our works upon the Lord. The enemy loves nothing better than to have us spend our energy focused on our problems and not on God's solutions. *Trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, ...!*

Celebrating Jesus,

Judy

Judy C. Graham

Beth Domingue VP of Praise & Worship Retires

It's with great sadness that our precious, national board member and VP of Praise and Worship, Beth Domingue, is leaving to make a new transition in her life. Beth was given the opportunity to complete her degree in three semesters with an academic scholarship. This has been a long time dream

for Beth to receive her bachelor's degree. We are thankful for this opportunity for her to fulfill the desire of her heart. She is not saying goodbye. She loves Celebration and all of us very much. Blessings Beth! Dawn Stoker will be our interim VP of Praise and Worship. Meet Dawn at our Spring Conference!

Celebration Women's Ministry National Spring Conference



Celebrating
HOPE
April 8-10, 2011

Colossians 1:27
To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Save the date for National Spring Conference! Omni Hotel at Westside • Houston, Texas

April 8 - 10, 2011 – 3 days, 2 nights includes conference registration, deluxe hotel stay, all meals on Saturday and *Continental* breakfast on Sunday

Quad (4 per room) \$160 each • Triple \$175 each • Double \$200 each • Single \$295
Day Rate \$115 • Teen Rate \$50 each (must room with an adult)

Keynote Speaker

Rhea Briscoe keynote speaker for our National Spring Conference, “Celebrating Hope,” has a passion to see women experience the freedom and power found only in Jesus Christ. She enjoys sharing the love of Christ and watching women be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rhea married her best friend, David, and as the proud parents of seven children, David and Rhea enjoy ministering together in their home, at their church and at conferences and retreats. They live in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

Rhea draws from experiences of God's faithfulness in painful times and uses His word to minister the love of Christ to others. God uses her words to remind us of His "treasures of darkness" as He summons each of us by name. *Isaiah 45:3*



Saturday Speaker

Dr. Shirley Arnold will be our guest speaker on Saturday. One of her topics is “Our Spiritual Gifts.” Dr. Arnold ministers with a strong prophetic mantle on her weekly nationally televised program, “TLC Live with Dr. Shirley Arnold.” She pioneered “The Secret Place,” a training facility for mentoring and restoring ministers. She is a published contributor to “Charisma” and “Ministries Today.” She has appeared on nationally broadcast television programs as a guest and Church fundraiser for growth plants in the Kingdom of God. She has authored several books, her latest entitled “Woman, God’s Original Intent.” She and her husband are co-pastors at TLC Family church in Lakeland, Florida.

Register for the weekend at www.CelebrationMinistries.org

Fall F.E.S.T. (Faith Empowered Sisters Together)

Report and Testimony By Jennifer McDaniel, Chair of the Event

The Houston Area Fall FEST took place on Saturday, September 25, at Cypress United Methodist Church. The warm day did not feel very Fall-like, but the Holy Spirit blew in like the first cool front after a long hot summer. We had an awesome day with over 120 Celebration sisters in attendance. After some greeting and shopping, the awesome praise team led us in worship.

I was so blessed and honored not only to be a member of the hosting church, but also to be chosen as the Special Event chairwoman for Fall FEST. I did not think that the Board had chosen the right woman for the job, but they had faith in me so I had faith in myself. I was surrounded by a group of encouraging, empowering and equipping women. It was their faith in me, many prayers and my wish to serve our awesome God (with my right-hand woman, **Karen Bidinger**, and the entire team) that helped the day to be a success.

Keynote speaker and gifted singer, **Kirsten Hart**, shared her life story with all of us. She knows how much God loves her and shares that through her testimony of finding her birth mother and the circumstances surrounding her life and adoption. I know about how God shares love through His people because three years ago, He whispered in my ear to go to Celebration. I do not remember the speaker, but I went in with a burdened heart for my mother. After asking for prayer and sobbing on the chapter president's shoulder, I was able to forgive myself. Sometime after that, I was asked to be the Vice President of the Cypress Chapter. After serving as Vice President for about a year, I stepped up to the position of President when she stepped down.

For every step along the way I have not felt quite ready enough, but I have stepped out in faith. I have also been surrounded by the faithful, God loving, supportive women who wanted the best for me – my Celebration Sisters! God has equipped me through this ministry to help touch the lives of other ladies who might need what I received from Celebration – someone to lean on, talk to and maybe even a shoulder to cry on. I am blessed to have Celebration in my life!



Beth Domingue with the Praise and Worship team.





Cardboard Testimonies were shown in the form of a skit. Celebration Ministries is blessed to know how we have helped bring you through your trials and tribulations. We are all LOVED!



Rev. Stephanie Hughes (far left) won the coveted door prize of an ALL PAID quad-rate room and registration for the upcoming National Spring Conference!



Leadership News

Leadership Retreat *Renewing Our Vision*

Camp Cho-Yeh, Livingston, Texas

Friday evening, February 4 – Saturday afternoon, February 5, 2011

All Celebration Leaders are encouraged to attend!

This year we are inviting ALL Celebration chapter officers and leaders to attend our Leadership Retreat on February 4 & 5, 2011. We believe this time away will be good for you and your entire board/team.

All areas that are in the chapter manual will be covered – guidelines for a successful chapter through Intercessory Prayer, Chapter Meetings – renewing our vision for the ministry. **Relax!** Come connect with your Celebration sisters, make new friends and grow in your leadership role.

To register: Send \$75.00 and completed form to Cindy Masterson, 15 Woodcliff Dr., Texarkana, TX 75503 by February 1, 2011. E-mail: Leadership@CelebrationMinistries.org. Cost includes overnight stay and meals.

Name _____ Chapter _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Leadership position _____

Make checks payable to Celebration and write in the memo: Leadership

Winter Calendar *Happy New Year*

January 2011

Saturday, January 8,
Nederland, TX Chapter
9:30 am to Noon
Free Brunch and child care provided
Speaker: Dori Powledge,
"Healing of the Heart"

Saturday, January 29
Eureka, WI Chapter
9:00 am -11:00 am
Speakers: Eureka Celebration Board Team
Contact: Kathy Jungwirth,
lkjungwirth@charter.net

February 2011

Saturday, February 5
Nederland, TX Chapter
9:30 am to Noon
Free Brunch and child care provided
Speaker: Susan Jackson
"Christ Centered Relationships"

Saturday, February 26
League City, TX Chapter
Brunch: 9:30 am
Program: 10:00 am
Celebrating our 6th Anniversary as a Chapter!
Speaker: Judy Graham
RSVP to Marsha Kershaw,
281-332-3184,
mak@kershawtexas.com

March 2011

Saturday, March 12th
Eureka, WI Chapter
9:00 am -11:00 am
Speakers: Pastor Mary Counsel-Austin
Contact: Kathy Jungwirth,
lkjungwirth@charter.net

Remembering Dr. Alta Harvey

Dr. Alta Harvey, our sister in the Lord and Celebration Speaker, went to be with Jesus on October 1, 2010. She has blessed us through the years as she ministered God's Word at our conferences and chapter events. Dr. Harvey was a member of Windsor Village United Methodist Church.

Wisconsin *Fall Weekend Retreat*

Report By Robbin Wiley, Event Planner

Our Wisconsin Celebration REFRESH retreat weekend (Oct 8-10) was incredible! The Holy Spirit had been camping out for weeks at the hotel and His angels protected each of us as we entered the doors.

Our keynote speaker, **Amy Towns**, exceeded our expectations. We gave her free reign to speak on whatever the Holy Spirit led her to share. She is passionate about the God she serves and it was evident as she shared from her heart.

The weekend was attended by approximately 40 women. Some had never experienced a Celebration event before and their lives were touched. Our praise & worship, led by **Karen Bong**, was beautiful. Our voices raised in harmony to glorify our Father was sweet, sweet music to His ears.

Women had an opportunity to hear three break-out speakers - **Sheila Luck**, **Peg Muenzel**, and **Kathy Jungwirth**. Topics included *Intimacy with God*, *Prayer: Communication with Your Savior*, *The 6 'R's' of Forgiveness*, *Proverbs 31 Woman*, and *Grapple with Guilt/Shed the Shame*.

We provided a prayer room for quite reflection, chair massages for a small fee, and Celebration Boutique.

There simply aren't enough adjectives to describe the mighty work done in the hearts and lives of the women who attended.



Please send in your chapter event calendar and web info to news@CelebrationMinistries.org

Want to get news via e-mail or street address? Contact news@CelebrationMinistries.org to be added to our list.

To receive the Table Top Prayers (Chapter and National Prayers), e-mail Julie Puckett at juliepuck@yahoo.com

To make a donation or partner payment, contact Linda Johnson, Treasurer@CelebrationMinistries.org or send them to Linda Johnson, 558 Elkins Lake, Huntsville, TX 77340

Join us at our National Spring Conference in Houston April 8-10, 2011

To register or get more information, please go online at www.CelebrationMinistries.org



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Celebration Women's Ministry *Update*

We wanted to give you an update on the ministry. Since we have been praying the *Prayer of Jabez* for Celebration and ourselves this past year, some exciting things are happening. In praying for the Lord to enlarge our territory, we have had interest in starting a chapter from:

- a pastor's wife in Tampa, FL.
- a pastor's wife in Lock Haven, PA.
- Julie Puckett, who has moved to Bristol, VA, has had a positive response from her UMC pastor about Celebration.
- Barbie Gidley Petty, has moved to Springfield, MO and is going through the process of starting a Celebration Chapter in her new church.

"Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!"
—1 Chronicles 4:9-10



Outreach Plans for 2011
Mentoring program for young women
Celebration ministering to women in prison
Sharing at nursing homes

If you would be interested in helping in any of these areas, contact us at President@CelebrationMinistries.org.

Celebration Women's Ministry, Inc. Officers:

Judy C. Graham, President
Linda Johnson, Treasurer
Margie Filer, Secretary
Brandy Stevens, VP of Conferences

Cindy Masterson, VP of Leadership Development
Dawn Stoker, VP of Praise & Worship (Interim)
Karen Bidinger, VP of Communications