



Grace Fellowship Church
15150 S. Oak Park Avenue
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Grace Fellowship Church Women's Ministries

Issue 4

H.O.M.E. Ministry

That amazing (and sometimes infuriating) Proverbs 31 woman gets up while it's still dark out and she's already thinking about the meals for the day. She puts me to shame sometimes, not so much in winter when the sun rises at 7:16 - but definitely in July. But no matter how much we aspire to emulate our industrious and virtuous sister, the circumstances in life sometimes give us a reality check. We just can't always do it all alone.

The H.O.M.E. (Helping Other Meat Emergencies) ministry at Grace was created for times such as these, when girlfriends need girlfriends. Babies are born. Spouses get sick. Surgeries happen. In the midst of it all, our families still need a hot meal. When we just can't do it all, it's a gift from God to have a loving heart drop by with a chicken casserole and something green and leafy to feed to our kids.

Sybil Schoonveld is the compassionate coordinator of this ministry. She's tuned-in to the heartbeat of our church family, always listening for an opportunity to minister through meals. Sybil has a list of reliable women who are willing to serve our church family, but she could always use more names on that list. If you are willing to cook and deliver a meal to a hurting church family near you, please consider putting your name on her list. You can reach Sybil at 532-5037 or leave your name with the church office.

Confession time. I've never felt completely confident about how to cook for a family I don't know well. If your heart desires to help but you feel like me, it might encourage you to know that the Women's Ministry Team is putting together some Helpful Hints for Providing Meals. Give us a few weeks to pull it together and then ask Sybil for a copy when you call her to volunteer, or ask for a copy in the church office.

Volunteer Opportunity

If you can spare 30 minutes a week, you might be interested in an important-yet-unseen ministry at our church. A team of faithful women is needed to straighten up the pews in the sanctuary. If you would be interested in serving our church in this way a few times each year, please contact Kelly Johnson or the church office.

Woman On A Mission: Jodi Keller

Jodi and her husband, Andy, serve the Lord in Kenya with Africa Inland Mission. Andy is a pilot who flies for the African church to reach the continent with the gospel. Jodi cares for her family and assists in the hangar office when needed. Jodi was recently in the States to visit family during the holidays. She spent some time in the ease and comfort of American life - you know, shopping malls, Starbucks, mega-grocery stores. And then she went back home in Kenya.

I flipped on the news this morning, and the top BBC story was about the continuing political unrest in Kenya. Two weeks after the questionable re-election of President Kabaki, more than 600 people have died, a quarter of a million have been forced from their homes, and an estimated 6,000 people have fled to neighboring Uganda. I watched the media footage of the carnage, and then looked out my own window. Quite a difference. My neighbor was walking her fluffy little dog; some kids were on their way to school with their Spiderman backpacks; the UPS guy was delivering a box. I tried to imagine what it would be like to look out my window and see police in full riot gear, clouds of tear gas, and angry protesters with guns in the streets.

This is where Jodi lives.

In an email, Jodi sent this update about how things are going since her return.

"I just got a text message one minute ago on my phone that there may be skirmishes again today as the people watch and react to the proceedings of the Parliament. Our family has not particularly felt threatened as targets in this situation. The biggest concern is keeping out of harm's way and concern for our Kenyan friends. We really appreciate your prayers on our behalf and know that God is our protector.

Many things have been canceled or postponed so we are trying to get things back to "normal" as much as we can. Our kids will go back to school 3 weeks late (arriving on the 19th). I know they would appreciate prayers for a smooth transition and not too much extra work by their teachers in the effort to catch up.

I always need prayer to adjust to them being gone. (I do still have one at home). Thanks so much!"

God has sent faithful servants like Andy and Jodi to every corner of the world. Every time we turn on the news and see the ravages of sin and hatred, we should be mindful that, most likely, there is a brother or sister in Christ somewhere nearby.

Pray for the Keller's during this crisis in Kenya

Showers

If you're new to Grace, you might have wondered how those nice church showers get organized. Elaine Lavin is our go-to girl with all the answers. She keeps track of the first-time moms and newlyweds and coordinates the arrangements. If you ever have a question about church showers, give her a call (or contact the office for her number.)



For many years, Grace has supported our local pregnancy care center, PASS. One of our privileges has been to host a virtual "baby shower" each Sunday in February. The donated items are distributed by PASS to needy mothers in our community. The response to this ministry has been overwhelming in the past, but the problem is - we never get a chance to "ooo" and "ahhh" over those cute little booties together.

This year, the Women's Ministry Team will host a live baby shower for PASS, and you are all invited. Bring a friend! It's not mandatory to bring a gift, but if chose to donate an item from the list below, make sure it's new and unwrapped. We'll, of course, have dessert and girl chat, but we'll also hear what God is doing at PASS's new facility.

Evenings like these are important for women. The societal pressures in our lives can leave us feeling overwhelmed and isolated. Sharon Jaynes wisely observed that "throughout scripture we see how God placed women together in relationships to encourage one another and provide a place of retreat. Just as God sent Mary to Elizabeth and Ruth to Naomi, He continues to place women together for mutual support, accountability, and support." Sherry Allchin, counselor and teacher from Biblical Counseling Center (as well as a wife and mom), will be joining us to share encouragement from the Word about how women can minister one another and pass on God's wisdom, comfort, and love.

Please plan to join us for a fun and encouraging evening on February 22nd at 7 PM.

PASS Baby Shower Needs

Shampoo	Onesies (undershirts)	Pants or shorts
Lotion	Receiving Blankets	Dresses
Baby Oil	Sleepers	Socks
Baby Bath Soap	Maternity Clothes	Crib Blankets
Vaseline	Bottles	Diaper Wipes
Shirts (winter and summer)	Pacifiers	Bumper Pads
Diaper Ointment	Formula	Car Seats
Outfits	Cereal	Cribs
Booties	Q-Tips	Crib Sheets
Disposable Diapers Sizes 1-5		