

Grace Fellowship Church  
15150 S. Oak Park Avenue  
Oak Forest, IL 60452

# Women of Grace

Grace Fellowship Church Women's Ministries

August 2007

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## ***Grace Women's Ministries***

Years ago, our resolute sister, Eleanor Pankow, painstakingly typed the first *Women-In-Touch* newsletter on a *real* typewriter. It was a work of love, embellished with hand-drawn hearts. She desired to connect the women of Grace Fellowship Church and encourage them to serve together and care for each other.

Since the debut of that first newsletter, our church family has nearly doubled in size. As we approach our 20<sup>th</sup> year of ministry in the south suburbs, we rejoice that over 200 women call Grace their home church. With that growth in numbers comes the challenge to stay connected as the body of Christ and a kindred of sisters. The scriptures teach us what we know in our hearts to be true – women need women. We need to teach and admonish each other, serve the needs of the church and our community together, and encourage one another.

The mission of the renewed *Women of Grace* newsletter is to promote awareness about our church's upcoming events and ministries that impact you. We'll introduce you to church members and missionaries as well. Our goal is to keep you informed about what's going on and what's coming up so that you can become involved or pray more effectively.

***Serving***  
***Connecting***  
***Teaching***  
***Encouraging***

The Oak Forest Community Awareness Fair is held each year in October at Oak Forest High School. Once again, Grace Fellowship will be represented by a booth. If you interested in giving a few hours of your time to hand out brochures and chat with people about our church, contact Colleen Hardt. She's also looking for some helping hands before the Fair to prepare give-away items.

## Women of Grace

### Woman On A Mission



Leonid & Lena  
Ignatenkov

*She gathers fresh vegetables from her garden as she plans her menu for her guests. She turns over her home completely to strangers and treats them royally, always with a grateful heart and cheerful smile.*

Sounds like a quote from Proverbs 31, doesn't it? It is, in fact, the sentiments of Jill Carrera as she reflects on her visit to Smolensk, Russia and the home of Elena Ignatenkov. Aside from her employment in a local hospital where she does dental work in squalid conditions, Elena's primary work of ministry is hospitality to anyone whom the Lord brings into her life.

Georgia Coyle has been the recipient of Elena's indefatigable hospitality during several trips to Russia. But she speaks with equal admiration about Elena's ministry of friendship to military widows, her labor in the church kitchen to prepare lunch for over 40 people every Sunday afternoon, and her colorful family background including her martyred grandfather.

Please make plans to attend the Missionary Conference, Sept. 13-16. Come extend your friendship to Elena and hear what God is doing by her willing hands and generous heart.

● ● ●  
*Offer hospitality  
to one another  
without  
grumbling.*

~1 Peter 4:9

### Community Opportunity

In *This Splendid Journey*, Dr. Joel Niderhood writes, "Nothing is more necessary for us than to look at life as the Bible does. What impresses us does not impress God. He looks within our hearts; our attitude is what counts." The "giving" attitude of the volunteers at **Orland Park's Bibles for Missions Thrift Center** exemplifies that sentiment. More volunteers are needed. If you can spare a few hours per month, please call the Thrift Center (708-614-6972.)

### Small Groups

For the first 300 years, the church didn't *have* small groups – it *was* small groups. The early church gave us a model for meeting the physical, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of believers. In today's busy, disconnected world, there is great need to return to these simple principals for growing healthy relationships and steadfast faith. A small group is not just a Bible study; it is a place to grow together intimately through shared prayer, vision, and resources.

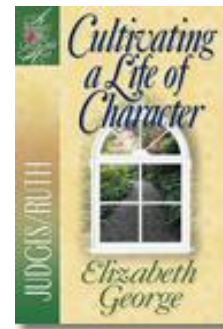
Like everyone else, you probably have many choices for spending your time this fall. As you make your commitments, consider: When life comes at you with great hurt or great joy this year, who will be there to share it with you? What will be the source of your spiritual growth, encouragement, and accountability this fall?

### Fall Women's Bible Study

There's something about fall that inspires us to sharpen both our pencils and our minds. If you haven't been involved in a Women's Bible Study in the past, please consider joining us this fall. Sign up in the church foyer on Sunday or contact the church office.

Tuesday Studies (9:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m.) begins Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

### *Cultivating A Life of Character* by Elizabeth George



*In the midst of the dark days of the Judges, God faithfully raised up men and women of character to lead his people. Journey through Judges and Ruth and marvel at the godly character of women such as Deborah, Jephthah's daughter, Samson's mother, Naomi, and Ruth—God's woman of excellence. Women seeking God's heart are encouraged to:*

- \* See giant-of-the-faith potential in ordinary lives
- \* Cultivate the good qualities of character
- \* Honor God's faithfulness with our own

- ❖ The Precepts study, which previously met on Thursday mornings, will be on hiatus this fall. Watch for more news concerning this study later in the year.