



Grace Fellowship Church Women's Ministries

Issue 3

Call Waiting

from Today's Christian Woman

Pick up the phone!" Recognizing my mother-in-law's voice on the answering machine, I remained at my computer, wanting to finish the project I was working on. I knew I could get back to her later. I smiled, thankful the answering machine allows me to screen calls when I'm in the middle of something and don't want to be interrupted.

Sometimes, however, my answering machine brings frustration. That same afternoon, after running errands in town, I checked for messages. One was from a dear friend—a mentor who'd had a profound impact on my life as a young woman. She lives in another state and it had been years since I'd seen her. The message said she was passing through town and hoped we could have a cup of coffee together. My disappointment was so acute, I dropped to the floor in tears. "Oh God," I cried, "Why couldn't I have been home when she called? You know how much I would have loved talking to her!" Immediately God sent the thought, What about MY calls to you? Do you ever mind missing them?

Sometimes, I treat God the way I treat my mother-in-law. He gets pushed down to the bottom of my priority list because I know I can always get back to him later. Modern technology has provided us with answering machines, faxes, call waiting, pagers, e-mail, and voice mail, all in the hopes of making communication more convenient. But none of them enhances my communication with God—and in many instances, they hamper it.

While I've never put a caller on hold while I talk to God, I don't hesitate to interrupt my prayer to answer the phone. When I think about it, how audacious it is to put Almighty God on hold! I'm grateful for a loving, merciful Father who doesn't hang up on me no matter how long I keep him waiting. Putting God on hold, however, limits his availability to me and complicates what he intended to be simple. Until daily time alone with God becomes the one non-negotiable activity of my day, he will never be the power in my life he wants to be.

In Revelation 3:20, God has left an ongoing message on the answering machine of my heart. Very loosely paraphrased, it says, "Yoo-hoo! I'm trying to get a hold of you. If you hear my voice and pick up the phone, I'll visit with you and you with me."

The wonderful thing about God's message is that it never says he's just passing through town. Instead, it reminds me he's always here, always available, just waiting for me to pick up the receiver and say, "Wait, wait! I'm here! Let's get together!"

When I do, what awesome communication I experience—no call waiting, no leaving messages. Just God and me without interruption, spirit to spirit, heart to heart.

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

Woman On A Mission: Kendra Cumberland

Kendra is serving the Lord in Singapore. She teaches at International Community School, the only Christian international school in that country. She teaches first grade and is establishing a Special Education program. About half of the students in the school are American, and many are the children of missionaries. If you would to learn more about Kendra's adjustment to her new life and what God is teaching her day-by-day, you can visit her blog at <http://www.xanga.com/kenicumbie>

We had a break this week since it is Hari Raya Puasa, a Muslim holiday that marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan and involves exchanging gifts, eating food, and visiting family. (Sound familiar?) So I was riding in a taxi last weekend and my driver was Indian and Muslim. We talked about the weather and where I am from; I told him I am going home to visit my family in cold, snowy Buffalo, New York for Christmas. He remarked that his "Christmas" was coming up this weekend and I was struck by the very deep realization that he was right.

There were a couple of things that really penetrated my thoughts as I considered it further later on. First, he was perfectly comfortable discussing Christmas with me even though I did not share his faith. I, on the other hand, was not comfortable merely conversing with him because I realize that Mohammed can't save him from his sins. Had we been in a traffic accident and both of us had died, I would have spent eternity with my Lord and Savior in heaven and he would have spent eternity with the one he has worshipped in the pits of Hell.

This struck me very hard, I think the reason for this is that we so often walk amongst people in this world, yet never see them the way God sees them. Have you ever stopped to look at the people around you and truly considered how God sees them? Do you ever wonder if the clerk waiting on you, or the bus driver, or the lady you pass on the street has ever had a personal encounter with the King who paid so great a price to ransom their soul? And if the answer is no - then my question is why not? It should truly break your heart to meet people who have never accepted the priceless gift of salvation that is available only through Jesus Christ. I know I won't always remember this - I fall so short - but it is a blessing to allow your heart to be broken the way the Father's is broken. Will you allow it?

Celebrate the Season with GFC Family

Joyful Noise presents a Children's Christmas Musical

The Mystery of the Manger

Saturday, December 1 and Sunday, December 2 at 6:00 pm



Christmas Cantata

December 16 at 3:00 and 6:00 pm

Encouraging Our Sisters in Christ

At the Girl's Night Out Event in November, a love offering of \$400 was taken for Reid and Misty Zeller who are on full-time staff at Campus Crusade for Christ.

It's wonderful to be a small part of God's plan for spreading the gospel to 250,000 college students in San Diego and Tijuana. Please continue to pray for the Zellers.

