



A Reflection on Titus 2 Gatherings :

...so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our savior. Titus 2:10b the dictionary defines the word “adorn” in this way: make more beautiful or attractive. As women, we are very familiar with this practice. From our hair to our toes we expend a great deal of effort to present ourselves as “more beautiful or attractive.” This summer several of our Lakewood Park ladies gathered together to share a meal, to share a portion of themselves with each other at my home. What a blessing it has been to get to know many of you better. We shared laughs. We shared burdens and passions, and we shared tears. What was so evident to me at each gathering was our need for help. Help to live out our faith in a manner that “adorns the doctrine of God our Savior.” We don’t need self-help or a pep rally or a 12 steps to the best you... we need each other. A recurring phrase was, “I need someone who will speak Gods truth to me.” When life is hard. When we’re struggling with the mundane. When relationships crumble. When our children stray. When our bodies give way to sickness and disease. When we are tempted to respond to all these things in fear, anger, or selfishness. Another woman’s encouragement and council from the word of God can make the difference between a good choice and a bad choice. a godly response, and an ungodly response. It can quite literally be lifesaving. Not only for us personally, but for those around us. My mentor challenges me in my thinking, speaking and doing. That I might live in such a way others would see the beauty of the gospel. If our heartbeat is to truly know Jesus, and make him known, to be imitators of Jesus, we would soon recognize that this is best done in community not in isolation. Mentoring is simply giving biblical council to another, with grace and truth. It is challenging another to examine our hearts and to repent of anything that would cause harm to the gospel of Jesus Christ. What an awesome privilege it is to serve the Lord Jesus in this way; to serve our sisters this way. It is presented in Titus 2:3-6 as a command, not an option. Our father knows our tendency to hide and retreat, rather than reach out for help, or offer that help to others. I hope that our gatherings were an encouragement to each of you, and that they served as a gentle nudge to consider how you might seek a sister out to mentor or to be mentored. What a beautiful way to love one another, and so adorn the Gospel of Christ.

BY MARY ANNE WARNER

Upcoming Events :

August 23rd, 6:30pm:
Kick off

August 28th, 9-10am:
MOPS coffee / donuts
registration

August 30th, 6:30pm:
A Walk in the Psalms

Sept. 6, 9am and 6:30pm:
Bible study begins

Sept. 25th, 9-11:30am:
MOPS begins, in worship center
(and Oct. 23, Nov. 27th)

October 6-8th in Hillsdale, MI:
Women’s Retreat

November 1st, 6:30pm:
Cards that Care ministry

November 8th, 6:30pm:
Fill the Freezer ministry

November 15th, 6:30pm:
Christmas Gathering

November 19th, after church:
Pie Auction and Family Eat in

Kari Harvey
Women’s Ministry Director
kharvey@lakewoodpark.org

Register Now!

2017 Lakewood Park Women's Retreat

SEASONS
of *change*

October 6-8, 2017
Michindoh Conference Center ~ Hillsdale, MI

Purchase a Cookbook for \$15.
All proceeds go to scholarship ladies
for our FALL RETREAT.
Apply ASAP!!!

MOPS

free indeed

MOPS at Lakewood Park
5555 County Road 29, Auburn
260-925-2006
4th Monday of the Month
September-May with additional playdates
Register Online: www.lakewoodpark.org
Cost \$30 for 9 sessions
You can also register at mops.com for additional resources

this is motherhood
If the Son sets you free,
you will be free indeed. *John 8:36*

STEADFAST

Love

8 week Bible Study
Psalm 107
by
Lauren Chandler
September 6
through
October 25
REGISTER NOW!

Network Connection by CJ EATON

What is the status of your network? Have you got a good connection? Are you hooked in to all the hot spots or are you wandering in a dead zone? How reliable is your service and where in the world is customer support?

This has nothing to do with your phone. It is all about your relationships. Who is in your life, who has invested in your life, whose life are you investing into? When you get the urge to reach out, do you actually touch anyone? Or does your voice sound like it's coming from the bottom of a deep, empty well? Far too often women get caught up in all the things that have to be done – the daily details, the petty problems, the missing socks, the lost keys, the endless laundry, the relentless housework, the irritable child (or husband) bossy bosses, nosy family members, loud neighbors and the endless requests to volunteer, participate and rally around someone else's soapbox.

Does this sound familiar? Chances are that on a very frequent and regular basis you find yourself swamped with other people demanding your attention, hijacking your time and depleting your emotional resources. I don't want to be the bearer of bad news but this probably won't stop any time soon. But I want you to think about something...

You are not reading this by accident. It was not simply chance that brought this to your attention. God's design is in every moment and He determines our steps. You may be a young single, a newly married, a mother, a grandmother, an aunt or a widow. Wherever you find yourself, there will always be someone who needs something from you. And that is perfectly fine – it is one of the ways God demonstrates His goodness.

Consider the foundational reason God created us. We were designed and crafted to be helpers. Our role originated to be the support, encouragement, the extra hands on the team to do what just couldn't be done by one man. We were made to be a companion, the walk-along-beside hand holder sharing the beauty and awe of God's creation. After thousands of years, the essence remains but the scope has expanded exponentially.

God, knowing and seeing all things in all time, knew very well the significance of our position when we became flesh. His hands molded us perfectly for His purpose. He has always understood that at this time and in this place, you would be exactly who you are, with goals, dreams, needs, passions, frustrations and burdens. And joy.

And because His plan was never for us to be isolated, He blessed us with a community of other women with whom we can share – victories as well as defeats, fears and failures, sorrow and sadness. Somewhere close by is a woman who has walked the path you are on and survived – even thrived. Within a few steps is a precious daughter of the King in dire need of the wisdom and counsel of a mature Christian woman who can hold her hand and speak truth to her.

Around any corner you could possibly find a face you don't recognize, looking a little lost, a bit bewildered, maybe wondering how she could fit in. You might be that person, unsure, uncertain, uncomfortable, feeling like no one is ever going to offer her name and ask yours.

Have you been there and missed the opportunity? Did you wonder if it was your place to say anything? Maybe you were in the middle of a task and didn't take the time to pay attention. Then there is always the hope that someone else will step up and step in...

If you have any doubt about our purpose, consider Jesus' ministry. He walked this earth, fully God, fully man, the Holy Son of our Heavenly Father – and yet He never considered Himself too important, too busy or too Holy to reach out to anyone who called to Him. His time was spent with those in desperate need, who recognized His goodness and who had a thirst for His love.

He connected with a core group of disciples, who became His hands and feet. He built a network of followers, and taught them His Father's truth. He established relationships among and between the people who chose to believe in Him. And His is the greatest friendship any of us could ever hope for.

Connecting. Building a network. Establishing relationships. Creating friendships.

He still has a mission for us. We still are His hands and feet. He is still creating disciples and is working His will through His children. We are still to be in community with each other. He still wants us to love each other to the truth.