

PCA *Women's Ministry* RESOURCE Quarterly

Christian Education and Publications

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

2006 INTERNATIONAL

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

CONFERENCE

September 15 - 17
2006

Georgia World
Congress Center/
Omni Hotel
at CNN Center

*Look for
brochures in
October*



"God's Faithfulness Generation to Generation"

*Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.
Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God,
til I declare your power to the next generation,
your might to all who are to come.*

Psalm 71:17-18

2006 Conference Purpose:

For thirty-three years, the WIC purpose statement* has guided women's ministry in the PCA. Today it is still viable. The continuity of biblical principles makes it foundational. This conference is a call to teach our biological and spiritual daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters to be women committed to gospel ministry and biblical theology; women who love God's church and who are kingdom disciples, obediently declaring His faithfulness generation-to-generation.

* The purpose of the Women in the Church is that every woman know Christ personally and be committed to extending His kingdom in her life, home, church, community and throughout the world.

LIVING LETTERS

Travel the sovereign journeys of two leadership women whom God has called to serve Him on the West Coast. We go first to Yorba Linda, CA to meet the newest Women's Advisory Sub-Committee representative for the West Coast. and hear her personal reflections of what it means to serve on the West Coast as a pastor's wife and leadership woman. Then we go to Ojai and catch a glimpse of how a PresWIC is reborn.

NEWEST WOMEN'S ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WEST COAST

. . . Meet Sally Gleason

I grew up in a church-going family, but did not know Christ as my Lord and Savior until I was 24. Six months later, my husband Ron also became a Christian. Our conversions changed our lives forever. Ron served as a youth leader, pursued his Masters of Divinity and later studied theology in the Netherlands.

In Holland, our family grew to a grand total of six. We encountered two great personal challenges while there. One of our sons died at four months of age and one of our daughters, now 27, was born with developmental and learning disabilities. The sufficiency of Christ for all circumstances became very clear.

After ten years in Toronto, Canada, at a large reformed church, we moved to California where Ron became the founding pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church. We have been in California for eleven years and the congregation we serve there is a joy to us.

My greatest passion is Christ and my greatest blessings are my husband, our children, and our ten grandchildren, and my most important priorities are our church, our marriage, and our family. I am also a professional writer and presently work for Wycliffe Associates. At church, I teach and counsel women, speak at women's retreats and with my husband at marriage retreats. I delight in seeing God's people grow in faith and passionately follow Christ. I look forward to my time as WASC representative. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be with the many godly and wise women I have met in the PCA.



Moving from East to West



WHAT DO CALIFORNIANS NEED?

By Sally Gleason

After nearly twenty years of ministry, God called my husband, Ron, to do something unexpected—to become a church planter. The church began in a local college auditorium. That Sunday, Ron knelt on a dirty stage surrounded by a small band of faithful men who placed their hands on him and prayed as he became the founding pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church, PCA.

Today, nearly ten years later, this congregation is multi-cultural, multi-generational, vibrant, growing and spiritually strong. It reminds me of the church at Philadelphia. "I know your works," wrote the Apostle John to that church, "You have little power yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name." Our center point is Christ and our vision statement is the truth of God's Word in all its fullness.

Our church is in Orange County, which is larger than some of the states of the union. Orange County is politically conservative and economically solid. But spiritually, California rests on shifting sands. Image drives the culture and innovation is highly valued. But even the gas stations are pretty here. California actually looks great if you avoid the real issues. In the religious arena, California is the birthplace of "new theologies," religious cults, and syncretistic approaches to faith. If there is a new philosophy to embrace, someone in California is already busy embracing it. One would expect Californians to be the most satisfied people in the world—but they aren't. In reality, they suffer from a terrible, fatal malady—leanness of soul.

Californians, like so many Americans, have jumped on the secular bandwagon and convinced themselves that happiness is found in the possessions, personal freedom, and affluence. They have forgotten to nurture their souls and so they are spiritual anorexics, without God and without hope in the world. They have set their hearts on the things of the world instead of the things that are above, hidden with Christ.

Californians don't really need the church to be their source of good music, motivating speakers, interesting drama, friendly people, or clubs and interest groups. They can find all those things outside the church. But apart from the church, they can't find spiritual truth. They cannot learn about the beauty of a relationship with the living God, hear the pure preaching of God's Word, experience the wonder of peaceful worship, and become a part of a spiritual family that cares for their souls. It is the church's differences from the culture that help Californians discover the reality of Christ's love and mercy.

It is amazing to watch the positive changes that take place in people's lives when they turn their hearts toward spiritual matters. In particular, I love to watch the women. They thrive when they understand the truth of God's Word, when they begin to experience prayerful encouragement, when they learn spiritual wisdom in cross-generational settings, when they are lovingly supported in true Christian fellowship, and when they embrace their biblical purposes as women of the Lord.

So, here in our small but growing congregation, in spite of our failings and shortcomings and in the knowledge that apart from the Lord we can do nothing, we make it our aim to offer Californians the Gospel. And the Gospel is exactly what California desperately needs.



GO WEST YOUNG WOMAN

By Debbie Glass

In May of 2003, California was probably the last place in the world I would have wanted to live. Nashville, Tennessee was home. Everything was going smoothly. I had been involved with the Nashville Presbytery's PresWIC board for five years and was serving as president. God had blessed me with a beautiful home, a wonderful church and loving friends. The weekend of Mother's Day was probably one of the worst in my life. My husband, Robert, lost his job, a tornado hit our house and I was diagnosed with a broken hip. God was rocking my boat. My smooth ride was over.

My husband accepted a position in Oxnard, California. We moved to what seemed like a foreign country. The nearest PCA church was in

Ojai, forty-five minutes away. Christ Church Ojai seemed so small and the congregation looked older. There were only five children in the church. At first sight, we did not seem to fit in, but after the initial visit we fell in love with Pastor Roy Bennett and his family. We did not visit another church. God had truly brought us home.

We soon found out that Roy and his wife, Norma, had been praying for a family with a PCA background to come to their church. Robert is an ordained deacon, I am an experienced women's leader and our children, Kaitlyn and Jamie, added to the youth group.

Shortly after, I realized that our presbytery had no PresWIC. I was told of unsuccessful attempts to form a presbytery-wide women's group. An independent spirit and the geographical size of the presbytery were given as two of the main reasons.

I had been so connected with all the women in the covenant family in Nashville and I longed for the same support in California. These women did not know what they were missing.

With the support of Roy Bennett as liaison, the Pacific Presbytery approved the organization of a PresWIC. I started with a meeting of only a few churches represented. Norma Bennett and I attended the Leadership Conference in 2004 to connect with the women of the larger Church. After returning home, I held another PresWIC meeting that was poorly attended. Finally in September, we had a meeting in Ojai with twenty-

four women from many churches who evidenced a real interest in connecting as a community. God caused good things to start. Due to our large geographical size, we also launched a newsletter to keep us connected. By the end of February 2005, four women from the churches in Pacific PresWIC attended the WIC Leadership Conference. There we met with Sally Gleason, our WASC Leader and several ladies from the South Coast Presbytery. The conference was such a positive experience. We spent many hours talking, praying and connecting.

It's April 2005 and I now can look back at May 2003 and see the road that God has brought me down and I am so glad for the journey. What I thought was a curse has turned into a true blessing. God took me out of my comfort zone, shook up my life and caused me to grow.

The Pacific PresWIC has had a slow beginning. Things do not always happen the way we think they should. God is sovereign. Please pray for us.

*** SEE Pacific Coast Newsletter in WICK Section

LEADERSHIP 2005— WERE YOU THERE?

The Monday following Leadership Training 2005, Jane arrived in her office, opened her computer and found many emails thanking CE&PWIC for another good conference. We found the following articles. We are amazed at how conference weary women were able to take the time to send in a diary of the weekend and a copy of a letter written to a pastor while flying home. The CE&P staff is grateful for women who value and affirm the training and resources we offer. Listen to their experiences, praise and prayers for what they gained from attending 2005 Leadership Training.

USE THESE ARTICLES TO:

- **PRIORITIZE** this event for your PresWIC Councils, Bible Study and local WIC leadership
- **REMEMBER** there are two conferences in 2006 - Plan Wisely
- **ENCOURAGE** and **PRAY** for your pastor and session

Leadership Training— A First Time Attender's Account

By Amy N. Thomas

Although I'd been a PCA member for fifteen years, I'd never attended a Women in the Church event, or any of Christian Education & Publication's training. But I thought I was headed to my first one well prepared. I'd read *The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood*, packed my favorite steno pad, and set goals for the weekend. First, I wanted to learn a few tips to improve my Bible study leadership. Second, I wanted to meet fellow Reformed writers in attendance. Third, I hoped to find out the difference between a WIC and a WASC and whether either required pest control. I entered the Hilton Hotel, goals and expectations, by God's grace, left behind.



The first session's speakers on Thursday afternoon clarified this was no "how-to" conference. Sandy Hartley, a Bible study leader from the Tennessee Valley, said she learned from a prior conference what constituted reformed teaching: be biblical, do theology. Dianne Balch, author and seasoned women's leader, said, "Healthy ministries are birthed by spiritual leaders who desire to see Jesus formed in the group." Jane Patete, coordinator of women's ministries for CE&P, admonished us to challenge women to think biblically about the church and then the Spirit will

bear fruit to equip women to serve. This was not going to be a "four easy steps to better Bible studies" weekend. On the contrary, three sessions were devoted to ecclesiology, or what the Bible teaches about the church.

The 2005 Leadership Training was under girded with sound doctrinal teaching from current Moderator of the PCA, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, MS, and President of the Alliance Council of Confessing Evangelicals, Dr. Ligon Duncan. From I Timothy 3, he taught us that the church is where disciples are made and truth is propagated. Teaching from Ephesians 3, he reminded us that the Spirit wants our hearts to be a suitable habitation for Christ and outlined Paul's five petitions for the church to grow more like our heavenly Father. Dr. Duncan also taught from I Timothy 2 that there is a scriptural mandate for women to teach women. We must always act biblically. We must be obedient teachers to the next generation.

The overriding message of love for Christ's church set the tone for the additional training sessions. My notes from the Bible study sessions reflected a consistent message that solid Biblical teaching is the means. A Christ-like community is the end.

- "The goal is to grow Christ in the hearts of those in your Bible study," said Donna Dobbs of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS. She added that the goal of their ladies' Bible study is not attendance, but involvement in the body of Christ.
- "Our churches and homes should be stronger based on what happens at Bible study," said Susan Hunt, author and Bible teacher. She outlined a strategic approach to Bible study that taught a strong helper design that leads to community within the church and compassion for one another.
- "Bible study is the means to know God's Word for the purpose of living it," said Carol Ruvolo, author and Bible teacher. "It's getting the Word inside our hearts and out in our lives." The end result will be harmony with others.

On the drive home, I reflected on original goals. I had learned how to better teach the Bible because I had received 48 hours of solid biblical teaching. I had met fellow writers, but more importantly, I had met fellow sojourners and lovers of Christ. And I actually did learn the difference between WIC and WASC, and also RUF and BFW, but it's not the titles and programs that define our denomination; it's the covenant care.

Amy Thomas is a wife, mother, homemaker and part-time writer. She lives with her husband David and their two sons in South Carolina, where they worship at Christ Community Church of Simpsonville.

..... **WILL WE SEE YOU NEXT YEAR?**

March 9-11, '06

March 2005

Dear Pastor,

I have just finished attending the PCA WIC Leadership Conference. I am writing for two purposes: 1) to express my gratitude again for your continued headship, oversight, and pastoral shepherding; 2) to respectfully appeal for your leadership in encouraging our women to begin to participate in WIC at the denominational level.

To the first point, I reiterate my thanks for ministering the whole counsel of the Word to us. Thank you for not wasting women's gifts, but for encouraging us to be biblically astute, theologically trained, and Spirit-led in our role as helpers. Thank you for not warping biblical headship into sinful dominance, but for leading us by serving us and proactively looking to us to help you to serve our Body well.

Secondly, I respectfully ask you to please consider taking a leadership role in encouraging the women of our local church (and our entire Presbytery) to begin to participate in the Women in the Church Ministry of the PCA denomination (WIC).

Why do this? Because, just as you are experiencing the benefits of being members of our Presbyterian denomination and impacting the ministry of the covenantal Body of Christ far beyond the reaches of our church membership, your women have an obligation, calling, duty, and joy to do the same.

Beloved pastor overseers, I would never write this if my only goals were to have our women gather for the personal pleasure of enjoying fellowship at teas, crafting sessions, and antique shopping trips. My passion in writing this is the supremacy of Christ and the proclamation of the Gospel! Just as you counsel and guide us every day, our evangelism efforts and discipleship are to be covenantal, within the Church. Since half of the Church is comprised of women, I truly believe our women could benefit our entire denomination (and benefit from our entire denomination, too). This is true especially because of your headship of us.

We are grateful for our Session's leadership and headship. I don't believe that your view of women's service to the Body is only of a "separate" ministry "for women." But instead, we are an integral part of the Body. You have the opportunity to encourage our amazing women to humbly demonstrate what it looks like to engage the culture with biblical truth without accommodating the culture. To submit to our elders especially when we disagree with them. To be a part of the redemptive church discipline process. To help minister to the Body in ways that men simply cannot. It would not only be inappropriate, but in fact impossible.

Perhaps you might consider putting out an announcement letting our women know how they can serve at the denominational level and encouraging them to do so. Also, how strategic and wise it might be to begin to set aside funds for five or even ten women to attend the International WIC conference in September 2006 and for one or two to attend WIC Leadership in February 2006.

As Christian women, we impact eternity when we serve our children and husbands well. We impact eternity when we pray and study and teach and submit and serve. And we impact eternity when we encourage and help our husbands and elders in their roles as leaders. We disciple. Teach. Conciliate. Pray. Lead Bible studies. Evangelize. Do mercy ministries. Go overseas and do missions.

Beloved pastor (and the entire Session), you help us by your headship. Please help us to help others too. I truly believe that the next ten to twenty years will be extremely important in the life of our denomination. Will we stay true to Scripture or embrace pagan views of manhood and womanhood? Will we abdicate biblical roles? Will we warp biblical roles? What about the next generation? Where will the young, educated, passionate, gifted women be?

Elders, you have an historic opportunity to help our denomination. Thank you in advance for considering my thoughts and requests.

With great love and gratitude-

Your sheep,

To order recordings of the content from WIC Leadership 2005, please use the order form included in this issue on page 8.



**Leadership
Training
2006**



Registration— Welcome!
We are glad you are here.



Donna Dobbs, Director
of Christian Education,
First Presbyterian,
Jackson, MS acquaints
us with her pastor,
friend and co-worker.



LT 2005 Pastor, Teacher Ligon Duncan
Pastor, First Presbyterian, Jackson, MS



Panel Discussion "What to do When? Leadership Challenges" for PresWIC
Leadership. Left to Right: Kathy Stair, Karen Crawford, Debbie Glass,
Lisa Supplee, Susan Granger



Stacey Van Voorhis, first timer with a smile!



2005 Calendar

- June 14-17 PCA 33rd General Assembly - Chattanooga, TN
- June 18 Hilton Head, SC - Multi-church WIC Training
- June 19-25 Presbyterian Youth of America Leadership Conference - Covenant College
- August 13 North Georgia Presbytery WIC Training
- September Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church WIC Training
- October 17-19 Directors of Women's Ministry Retreat - Simpsonwood Conference Center, Atlanta, GA

2006 Calendar

- March 9 -11 Leadership Training Conference, Atlanta, GA
- June 20-23 PCA 34th General Assembly, Atlanta, GA
- **September 15-17 PCA 2006 Women in the Church International Conference, Georgia World Congress Center/Omni Hotel at CNN Center**

An International Conference - Why we do what we do

AN APOLOGETIC

One of the most frequently asked questions is "when are you planning another major conference?" Often PCA members assume that Christian Education & Publication has a regular schedule for conferences—a formula—every three years, a major conference. But the truth is that the Lord has sovereignly led and each conference has met a particular need that flowed out of CE&P women's ministry philosophy.

The 1989 conference was a call to PCA women to come together and celebrate our common identity in Christ and to stand firm in a changing world. It helped strengthen attempts to identify, develop, and train a network of leaders.

The 1992 conference focused on community. It was designed to equip women to cultivate churches that would be safe places for women and that would equip women to reflect their redemption.

In 1995 we spread out and had Regional Conferences in various parts of the US. These smaller conferences enabled us to emphasize training and encourage Regional relationships.

The 1997 Helpers By Design Conference was for women whose husbands are called to the specific leadership positions of teaching elder, ruling elder, or ministry staff, in the church. This conference called leadership wives to explore the unique privileges and responsibilities of helping their husbands.

The 1999 international conference focused on compassion. It was designed to call women to ministries of mercy, but also to show that this ministry should be carried out as a part of the total ministry of the church.

In 2001 the West Region and Florida hosted regional conferences that were planned to build unity and community in the regions. In both conferences there was a strong partnership of presbytery and PresWIC.

Now we stand on the threshold of another PCA Women In the Church Conference. WHY? Were we market driven? Did we want a forum for promoting a personality? Did we need another conference for conference sake? I can truly say to you none of the above was true.

In 2003, at the annual fall WASC meeting, the possibility of another international conference was on the agenda. We weighed the personal cost of planning another major conference and waited overnight giving time to individually seek the Lord's wisdom. The next morning found each woman tearfully committed and ready to count the cost for her daughters and granddaughters. A conference was born.

WHY? Because God has called us to be obedient to His challenge to intentionally and carefully pass on the faith to the next generation. We must not fail! This conference's purpose is a call to teach our biological and spiritual daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters to be women committed to gospel ministry, and biblical theology; women who love His church, and women who are kingdom disciples.

Watch our website for more information on conference registration, events, speakers and more at www.pcacep.org/Wic/index.htm.

See WICK for some regional promotional plans.

Leadership Training Conference Order Form

Individual Plenary Sessions and Workshops

Please indicate how many of each session you would like to order.

#	Title	Presenter
	The Heart of a Teacher Item # 7043	Barbara Juliani
	Christian Education: God's Strategy for Life-Change # 7044	Susan Disston
	Biblical Peacemaking # 7045	Tara Barthel
	Falling in Love with the Church # 7046	Ligon Duncan
	What Jesus Wants His Bride to Look Like # 7047	Ligon Duncan
	Knowing Scripture: Inside/Out # 7048	Carol Ruvolo
	Biblical Philosophy of Women's Bible Study # 7049	Susan Hunt
	Help Others Respond to Conflict Biblically # 7050	Tara Barthel
	Why Have a Women's Ministry? # 7051	Ligon Duncan
	Evangelistic Bible Studies: Dynamite in Discipleship # 7052	Diane Balch
	Titus 2 Ministries # 7053	Susan Hunt

TOTAL # Compact Discs @ \$6 each \$ _____

GA Residents add 6% sales tax \$ _____

Shipping charge per order: \$5.00 \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT (cash, check, charge) \$ _____

Make checks payable to CE&P

Credit card # _____

Cardholder name _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

SHIPPING INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Christ Presbyterian, Santa Barbara, CA has a thriving women's ministry with a goal of working with the deacons in mercy ministry. Besides serving needs within the body, the women reach out to a rescue mission who runs a women's program and where many gifts can be used to impact the women and children with word and deed ministry.

be providing 11 scholarships. In a covenantal gesture, since many of the women of Mid-Atlantic can easily drive to Atlanta, they are encouraged to donate frequent flier miles to a woman that will need them.

- **Northeast Region** came up with a host of ideas: charter a bus—have fun/community on the way; urge local churches to adopt international women with whom they have a personal relationship, save \$1.00 a week, suggest that teens can raise money to attend through various "Student for Hire" service projects (such as babysitting, yard care, etc), ask businessmen to provide a scholarship, ask older women to sponsor a younger woman and to pray Ephesians 3:15-17.

Stay tuned for more creative ways to get to Atlanta in September 15-17, 2006

Christ Church, Ojai, CA women's ministry is also focused on building covenantal relationships among the members of this young church plant. Some of the ways this women's ministry serves the Lord and disciples women are through: Truth Hospitality events, book clubs, writing clinics, mercy ministries in the community, and Reformed Bible studies to women who are unchurched.

Regional Goals for Presbyterian Church in America 2006 Women In the Church International Conference

Here are some good ideas that grew out of a regional time of prayer and planning for this conference

- **Mid-Atlantic Region** chose one practical goal for their region—each PresWIC is to provide a scholarship to send one woman to the conference. That means Mid-Atlantic will

If your church or WIC has a newsletter, please send it to the PCA WIC office. Put us on your mailing list so that we can see what things are happening at your church or in your PresWIC. We depend on you for information and creative ways of ministering to the Daughters of the Covenant. Let's share with one another the good things God is teaching us.

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Charles H. Dunahoo, Coordinator; Jane Patete, Coordinator of Women's Ministries*

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

2006 INTERNATIONAL

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH
CONFERENCE

Atlanta, Georgia • September 15 - 17

Look for more information to come!

In this WTIC we are featuring ministry ideas from the newly formed Pacific PresWIC. Rejoice and pray for the Lord to increase His witness in this cultural leading edge region of our country.

Christ Church of Pasadena,

Pasadena CA is a new church enjoying the covenantal connections of the newly formed Pacific PresWIC. Small groups of four to five women meet regularly to fellowship, pray and engage in Bible study. One of the groups walks three miles together on Saturday mornings.

Cornerstone Community Church, Artesia, CA began as a mission work in 1971 and met in a mortuary. They had a great organ and plenty of "slumber rooms" for Sunday school! Their next church home was a Women's Club; the high school Sunday school class met in the teacher's VW van. Despite the early struggles, this church continues to rejoice in God's faithful providing of sound preaching. Women's ministry seeks to be connected with the training opportunities both in Atlanta and regionally.

2004 WIC Love Gift

5652	
Date <u>February 28, '05</u>	
Pay to the Order of	<u>Mission to North America</u> \$ <u>79,500</u>
<u>Seventy-nine thousand, five hundred & no/100</u> Dollars	
For	<u>2004 Love Gift Offering</u> <u>Charles Dunahoo</u>
]: 051000054[: 0001639857 ::: 5652	

Bethann Tyson, Women's Ministry Advisory Sub-Committee Representative for the Northeast Region, presented Jim Bland, MNA Coordinator, a check for \$79,500.



Dr. Charles Dunahoo, CE&P Coordinator
 Mrs. Jane Patete, CE&P Women's Ministries Coordinator
 1700 North Brown Road, Suite 102
 Lawrenceville, GA 30043-8122




Dear Charles and Jane,

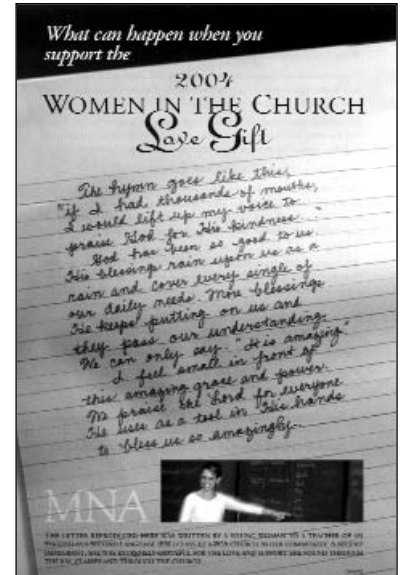
On behalf of the Mission to North America (MNA) Committee and staff, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Women in the Church (WIC) ministry as well as the Christian Education and Publications Committee and staff for the generous 2004 WIC Love Gift Offering.

As you know, the monies from the WIC Love gift Offering will be used for the development of Hispanic American church planting movement leadership and English as a Second Language (ESL) development. Tim McKeown currently provides overall leadership for these ministries. Alex Vilasana, pastor of Oaklawn Presbyterian Church in Houston, serves as MNA Hispanic American Movement Leader.

Recently Nancy Booher, a member of Chapelgate Presbyterian and an experienced ESL teacher, discussion with us about serving in ESL leadership. We have asked Nancy to serve as MNA ESL Director, effective June 1. The timing of the WIC Love Gift Offering was most helpful.

We greatly appreciate all that you have done to further the advancement of the Gospel through MNA, and look forward to God's work through us as we serve Him together.

In Christ,

 Jim Bland
 MNA



It is not too late to view the video and contribute to this worthy project. For information call 1-800-283-1357.

2005 WIC Love Gift—

COVENANT COLLEGE



At the recent 2005 CE&P/Women's Ministry Leadership Training Denominational Dinner, hosted by Covenant College, a young Covenant College student, Becca Uthlaut, stepped to the podium to share why the 2005 WIC Love Gift for Covenant College's Art Department is a needed gift.

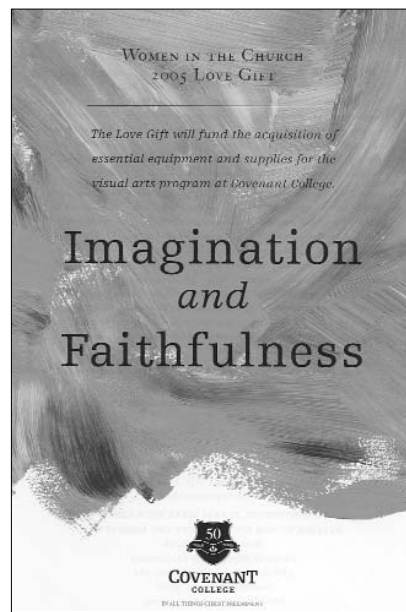
***A note to a wise WIC—copy and use this testimony to promote the 2005 WIC Love Gift in your church.*

I am a doodler. Ever since I can remember I have been scribbling away over class notes, my dad's mail, and important phone messages. In high school, there was even one time when I was on the phone and unwittingly doodled all over my Covenant College application.

When I actually did enter college, I have to confess I was petrified of the art world in general, being that it was much more than just doodling. I felt lost in a sea of all those "isms" and I wondered if I would have to become that artist figure I pictured—the tormented soul withering away in solitude with his art. I was perplexed as I tried to sort out what art was all about.

Thankfully, I am not here to explain the wonderful world of art to you. But I am here to tell you how the Lord has used art to develop His relationship with me...to softly remind me who He is, and what it means for me to be His child.

First, it was through the understanding of who I am in Christ that gave me the confidence I needed to continue making art. Being a beloved child of His freed me to use my talent—however great or small—to glorify Him. I came to understand that as the Lord had given me life and breath, so He had entrusted me with ideas to give birth to, worlds to explore and be inspired by. My art, therefore, belongs to Him.



Second, art is a way for me to quiet my mind and to hear the Lord speaking to me as I create. As the book of Romans says, "since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made." So when I observe nature and explore His world through art, His attributes are revealed to me.

Lastly, God gives me great joy through artistic expression. The picture of a joyful artist certainly clashes with my former idea of the tormented soul. And while there may be, at times, periods of what we at Covenant like to call "art pain" where we languish over technical or conceptual difficulties, the Lord grants me great joy in the fact that I am being like Him. I imitate my Father, who is a creator, who gives life, shape, texture and beauty, who brings order of chaos. I can stand in my Father's presence and plumb the depths of my creativity with the unfettered wonder, curiosity and joy of a child.

In conclusion, I have developed more confidence in the Lord, more of an ability to trust Him with my artwork, and even to trust Him with what other people think of my work. For there is no seal of approval that means more to me than to see the Lord's fingerprints on my canvas. And you and the Love Gift will be that colorful key stroke that God uses to help develop the canvas of so many other young artists' lives.

Love Gift

Please schedule our church for the 2005 Love Gift video.

Church name, city, state and zip _____

Your name _____ Telephone (_____) _____

Email _____

UPS shipping address _____

Number of bulletin inserts needed _____ (shipped in packs of 50)

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or copy this form and return to Jan Magnuson: *Video Library, 1700 North Brown Road, Suite 102, Lawrenceville, GA 30043*

You may also order by email: video@pcanet.org. In your message please include all the information requested on this form.
When sending in your Love Gift, please indicate the Love Gift YEAR on your CHECK.

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