

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP THEMES

SEPTEMBER

QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH JESUS THE MESSIAH

Feature: “Digging Deeper”

To begin the new AWM year, ask your pastor if you can show the new AWM promotional DVD during a service. Hang posters and hand out personal invitations to women of all ages to remind them of your opening meeting. At the meeting, have members of your leadership team greet them with a water bottle. On each bottle, have a label promoting the theme “Thirst Quenchers” and the verse Psalm 63:1. Begin your meeting with the National Project DVD explaining “Mission Critical.” An important ministry in the country of Guinea is showing the love of Jesus to people by digging wells for much needed fresh water in villages. What is daily life like without fresh water? What happens to crops, your front lawn or the plant on the table in your living room when they do not have water? What happens to our souls without a daily measure of the “Living Water” that brings sustenance to our spirits? Dig deeper into God’s Word and read John 4:1-14 and discuss ways to build relationships with women you know who need to meet Jesus. Like the Samaritan woman at the well, we need to drink the water of eternal life that comes only from knowing Jesus the Messiah.

OCTOBER

QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE

Feature: “The Bread is in the Oven”

There are always good cooks in a church! Ask these ladies to make a variety of breads and bring copies of the recipes to share. Set up your meeting like a coffee house. Decorate the tables with trendy table cloths, plates and napkins, a Bible and a basket with slices of breads. Serve coffee as the women arrive. Have someone lead worship, using an acoustic guitar if possible and sing “Seek Ye First” by Karen Lafferty. Share Deuteronomy 8:1-3 and discuss the ways in which the LORD “feeds” and prepares us for life. An important ministry of AW through the years has been the stamp ministry. The funds go towards the publication of Christian education materials in Latin America. Imagine, used stamps are sold to collectors and a publication house in Argentina prepares and distributes teachings from God’s Word to God’s people and to those who have not heard the Good News! Give out brochures describing the stamp ministry (contact Shell Point Village in Ft. Myers, FL) and encourage your church to participate in this important work of the C&MA. For details and directions for this ministry check the Work Guide for AWM at www.alliancewomen.org.

NOVEMBER

QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Feature: “Shine, Christian, Shine”

In Thailand, an important event in November is the Festival of Lights or Festival of Floating Boats. Thais take small boats or leaves, and place on them lighted candles, incense and small coins. The belief is, as they float away, they carry away misfortunes or sins. Share this and discuss the teaching of Matthew 5:14-16. What can we do as those who know the Light and have forgiveness of sins? We can make a difference in bringing Light to the world! Have each person share a way she can “let her light shine” in her family, church, community or the world. Then have them write that suggestion and their name on a piece of yellow paper with the words “Let Your Light Shine” at the top. Fold them and place them under an overturned basket. The women will each then take one and be an accountability partner with that person for the next month for the “Shine, Christian, Shine” project. End with prayer, asking God to give wisdom and blessing to each. You could also ask everyone to save coins for a month to give as a “Shine the Light” offering to the National Project. We cannot buy our salvation because Jesus has paid the price, but we can give so women around the world can live in the “Light”.

DECEMBER

QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH JESUS FROM ABOVE

Feature: “Happy Birthday to you”

Send personal invitations to women of all ages for a Christmas Birthday Celebration. Request that each bring toiletries like shampoos, toothbrushes, scented lotions, etc., to give as gifts to a local shelter for abused or homeless women. Prepare a box decorated as a gift for the women to place the items in as they arrive. Start off the festivities with a game, such as a “word scramble” using holiday words. Give out prizes to the winners. Include others in your program by asking them ahead of time to read Isaiah 9:6 and Luke 2:1-20. Invite a special speaker to share about her spiritual birthday. Let the women know there is someone available to talk to if they have questions. Sing Christmas carols, and just before refreshments sing “Happy Birthday”. Serve birthday cake decorated with “Happy Birthday, Jesus”. Give a gift to each woman, such as a Christmas ornament, to remind her of God’s gift to the world, Jesus. Prepare a decorative schedule of the Christmas activities at your church with a special invitation to attend and give to any visitors.

JANUARY

QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH JESUS THE DOOR

Feature: “Knock, Knock, Who’s There”

A good way to start back after a busy holiday season is to hand out personal invitations and make calls. Post reminders on doors in the church. Don’t forget the ladies restrooms! Make invitations on door hangers and have the fellowship team go to the homes of women in the church and hang them on the front doors. Begin your time with a skit using “Knock, Knock” jokes. While working on a craft, such as door hangers or wreaths, read Matthew 7:7-8 and ask the women to share things they are asking for, seeking, and the doors they would like to have opened in their lives by the Lord in the New Year. In what ways are they listening so that they can hear if He knocks? Are they already knocking on the door that leads to Him and His ways? What are doors for...they can protect us, they allow us to go where we need to go, they need to be properly sealed or problems can arise, etc. Equate these things to our spiritual lives and the presence of “Jesus the Door”. C&MA missionaries are reaching out to the people of Burkina Faso through their physical and spiritual needs, leading them to the “Door” of eternal life. Prepare prayer reminders for these ministries. End with a note of encouragement and give away a couple of door prizes to show appreciation for those who walked out the doors of their homes and walked into the door of fellowship for the evening.

FEBRUARY

QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Feature: “Professions and Professions”

Christians around the world are impacting their communities and workplaces, not as ministry professionals, but as professionals with a ministry. There are women among you who go to work, give up breaks and lunch hours, and step out each day to share their faith. They take the chance of experiencing the disapproval of those who do not understand so that they can show the love of Jesus with the lost. Invite a woman who is known for professing her belief in Jesus in her place of work to speak to your group. A bonus would be to have a woman “who was lost and now is found” share what how a Christian at work told her the Truth. The International Fellowship of Alliance Professionals include Christian businessmen and women, teachers, medical personnel, and others who are living in places in the world where they cannot be missionaries, but because they have professional skills and are willing to live for Jesus, the Lord opens opportunities for the Good News to be heard. Pray for those who need boldness in sharing their faith, and for those whose lives would be totally changed if they could pray, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want...”

MARCH

QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH JESUS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

Feature: “Save-a-Life”

Just as it is important that we know how to lead someone to find eternal life, it is also important that we know how to help in unexpected life and death circumstances. This can be done by providing an opportunity for women to be trained in CPR. It is very important to first get permission from your pastor to use the church facilities for such a purpose. If this is not possible, check into sponsoring a class at a community center. Inquire if someone in your church is certified to teach a class. If not, contact the local chapter of the Red Cross or the nearest hospital. Announce information about the class and ask people to sign-up and bring a friend. Individual groups can decide on how to defray the costs of the class. Promote the feature “Save-A-Life” with posters about eternal life and CPR. On the day of the class, prepare refreshments and have salvation tracts to hand out. At the end of the class, ask for prayer requests. Do follow-up with phone calls and notes of encouragement. For a missions project, you could include the entire church by collecting medical supplies or money for the Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Koutiala, Mali, West Africa.

APRIL

QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH JESUS THE TEACHER AND LORD

Feature: “Living and Learning”

This month would be a great time to have girls’ night out! Time in God’s Word, some tasty snacks, a good movie, and a circle of sharing and prayer would make for a refreshing time of fellowship. Read Psalm 119:9-11, Psalm 119:105, and Colossians 3:16-17. How important is the Word of God in your life? Do you read it, memorize it and make it part of your being? Are you listening to what the Lord is trying to teach you? Are you looking at the circumstances of your life and asking Him to reveal His will? As women, we find ourselves overwhelmed by the responsibilities of life or in difficult places that we never dreamed would happen to us. How do we cope with these times? Who do we depend on? Two women who found themselves in circumstances beyond what they could handle in themselves were Corrie and Betsy ten Boom. Their story is portrayed in the movie “The Hiding Place”. They were women desperately in need. The Lord Jesus and the promises in the Word provided answers to everything. In your prayer time for one another, remember the C&MA missionaries in Chile who have the responsibilities of starting new churches, teaching God’s Word and preparing Chilean Christians to go out as missionaries.

MAY

QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH JESUS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE

Feature: "Asking Directions"

Why not organize a Saturday picnic in the park for a mother-daughter event? Serve a delicious meal of fried chicken, potato salad, fresh veggies, cookies and pies. Invite friends and family and be sure the ladies understand that even if they are not moms, they are daughters and many are spiritual moms. When dessert is served, ask everyone to gather around and have a special guest give a devotional about getting direction in life using Isaiah 48:17. Jesus, the Source of our direction and our obedience in following directions, makes a difference in the directions we take in life.

Remember that many young girls and women in Cambodia never get the chance to have a choice in what happens in their lives, and sadly do not experience a loving relationship with a mom or daughter. They are often sold into the slavery of prostitution at young ages. Pray for the girls and women in Cambodia.

At your picnic, have a scavenger hunt emphasizing the need to follow directions. Hold relay races, three-legged races, and potato sack races giving and changing directions to add to the challenge! Provide lawn chairs for those who wish to be spectators. Make sure you have plenty of prizes and ribbons. At the end of the day, give thanks to the Lord for the gift of family, friends, and most of all, the gift of His Word that provides the directions for life's questions.

JUNE

QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH JESUS THE VINE

Feature: "Staying Connected"

The summer months are often a time when ministries are stopped because of vacations and relaxed schedules. Be careful not to lose contact or ground on budding relationships. How about having a ministry of "staying connected" for the summer? Invite women to gather for an informal evening of planning ways to continue to care for one another during the summer. Here are some suggestions:

1. Have each woman fill out a contact sheet with name, mailing address, email and phone numbers.
2. Draw names for summer prayer partners.
3. The fellowship team could make calls during the summer to get prayer requests and offer encouragement.
4. Set up an email network and send weekly devotionals on staying connected with Jesus in daily life. Also, share prayer requests given. Send snail mail or make phone calls to those who do not have email.

It will keep you busy, but ask for volunteers! It might lead to new connections for ministry. Remember to pray for the C&MA missionaries in Spain as they make connections through teaching English and church

planting, and pray for one another in anticipation of what the Lord will do in the summer months! A fun way to end the evening would be to play board games.

JULY

QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH JESUS THE FIRST AND LAST

Feature: "Freedom"

Ask for a volunteer to host an evening cook-out in her yard. Have hotdogs, burgers, chicken, baked beans, salads and ice cold lemonade. Be daring and toast marshmallows or even treat your selves and make s'mores! Sit on lawn chairs or quilts on the grass, and sing silly songs and praise songs. Ask two or three ladies to share the first thing they learned as a new Christian and the last thing each has learned in her relationship with the Lord. Read II Corinthians 3:17 which says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." Go around the group and have each tell one thing about what it means to her to have freedom in Christ, and one thing she is thankful for about living in a free country. End the evening praying for one another. Give an opportunity for those in need to ask for prayer for something in life she may need to be freed from. Remember to pray for continued freedom to do God's work in Hong Kong.

AUGUST

QUENCH YOUR THIRST WITH JESUS THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR

Feature: "School Days, School Days"

What gets you going in the morning? Start your day in the presence of Jesus! Psalm 5:2 says, "In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation." Fall is a time when mornings are once again filled with rushing around, and the One who can hold it all together often gets left out. Spend time together preparing to depend on Jesus as an important part of your daily schedules. As the first day of school approaches, check with schools to see if there is any way your group might volunteer to help teachers prepare. Invite your church to collect school supplies for families in need. Plan a day to hand these out at the church. Include daily devotionals and a schedule of ministries in your church. For your church, prepare a list of the children, teens, college students and teachers in your church. Include the schools in your community and the MK schools supported by the C&MA. Design a prayer card to use throughout the year. If your AWM group has an MK, prepare a package of school supplies. Take a picture of your group and include a letter. Ask in return for a picture of them at their school and for prayer requests. Nothing builds a bond of fellowship like a common purpose. Join with Jesus in making a difference in the lives of families by starting your day bringing these special people before the throne of grace!