

MONTHLY FELLOWSHIP THEMES

Submitted by Dale Hughes

SEPTEMBER

PASS THE SALT WITH WISDOM

Fellowship in the Word

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone” (Colossians 4:5,6 NIV).

Fellowship Among the Women

Wherever believers are, we should know what to say, when to say it, and how to say it as we talk about Jesus Christ with whomever might question us. Words are important. Wisdom from God is essential. Show the Alliance Women Ministries National Project DVD to prepare the ladies for this year’s spiritual emphasis and ministry. Hand out a list of the new projects and ask everyone to pray for them through the year and to consider giving according to the way God impresses each heart. Spend some time together playing word games like Scrabble or Taboo or Catch-Phrase, to name a few. Serve popcorn and munch on chips and dip as you see just how good you are or how frustrated you might get with words in some interesting situations!

Fellowship with the World

Over half of the population in Indonesia is under 18 years old, and HIV/AIDS is rapidly spreading. Wisdom is needed to reach children and teens for Jesus. Two proposed projects: AWANA Leadership Training and HIV/AIDS Awareness Training for Teens.

OCTOBER

PASS THE SALT WITH PURPOSE

Fellowship in the Word

“God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing” (Ephesians 2:10 NCV).

Fellowship Among the Women

How about having a good time with a purpose? Ask the ladies to get together to write up a menu that can easily be multiplied. Schedule a time for shopping and for cooking either at the church or someone’s home. Prepare enough to share a meal together and to also take meals to others in need such as shut-ins, the sick, or someone who is struggling financially either in your church or your community.

Fellowship with the World

The Open Door Church in Moscow, Russia provides many different ministries with one purpose in mind: To reach people having individual needs and varied interests with the Good News of Jesus Christ!

NOVEMBER

PASS THE SALT WITH TEAMWORK

Fellowship in the Word

“Together you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a part of that body” (I Corinthians 12:27 NIV).

Fellowship Among the Women

The Encarta Dictionary defines recipe as “a list of ingredients and instructions for making something, especially a food dish.” In spiritual terms, Christians are the ingredients, God’s Word provides the instructions, and the result is the building of God’s Kingdom! Jar recipes are very popular for use as Christmas presents, wedding favors, welcome gifts, or fund raisers. One source for locating a variety of recipes is www.creativeladiesministry.com. Decide on a project and invite the women to spend an evening working together. Send invitations on jar-shaped cards! If the project is for personal gifts, calculate the cost for each person. For a fund raiser, make a list of needed items and ask for donations. Lots of team work is needed to organize ingredients, wash Mason jars and write recipe cards. Trim jar tops with colorful cloth and ribbons. Snacks, drinks, conversation, laughter and a little music all add up to memory-making fun! Don’t forget—every part is important (including clean-up!).

Fellowship with the World

In Uruguay, there is a need to reach the upper middle class on the eastern shore of the capital city, Montevideo. The project is too big and expensive for one group. The combined efforts of the National Church, lay people, missionaries and Alliance Women will provide the resources.

DECEMBER

PASS THE SALT WITH GOD’S LOVE

Fellowship in the Word

“This is what real love is: It is not our love for God; it is God’s love for us. He sent his Son to die in our place to take away our sins” (I John 4:10 NCV).

Fellowship Among the Women

Cookies and coffee for Christmas! Gather the ladies together for a celebration of God’s love. Ask each to bring a plate of their favorite holiday cookies and to invite a friend or family member who does not know Jesus as Savior. Sing Christmas carols. Share the story of God’s love by showing the movie The Nativity Story.

Fellowship with the World

A Community Center is needed in a creative access country. International workers will show God’s love by providing a coffee shop and library and by offering English classes.

JANUARY

PASS THE SALT WITH STORIES

Fellowship in the Word

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son” (I John 5:11 NIV).

Fellowship Among the Women

We all have a story to tell. The living of each day makes that story unique. It is important to share how we meet Jesus on that journey...and how His presence makes a difference. Invite women of all ages and encourage them to also invite someone to a celebration of life. Have each person write her name and birthday on decorative tags. On a separate paper, ask each woman write a date or event that is important in her life. To begin, have them share about this date or event. You can do this in small groups. Invite a special speaker to tell her story about how Jesus met her on the journey of life. Make your event special and serve birthday cake to honor the life of each one there. Make it extra special by having a cake for each month of the year! You could make baking cakes a pre-fellowship fellowship!

Fellowship with the World

Many people in Paraguay want to learn to read and write in English. Through these ESL classes, they have an opportunity to hear the story of Jesus.

FEBRUARY

PASS THE SALT WITH BOLDNESS

Fellowship in the Word

“Now, Lord...enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness” (Acts 4:29).

Fellowship Among the Women

What happens when you are asked to do something you don't usually like to do—for example, give your testimony or eat something out of the ordinary? Host a “Get out of your comfort zone!” party. Beforehand ask everyone to write down one reason they believe in Jesus. Put these into a “Pass the SALT with Boldness” booklet. Serve a meal made from recipes in a book like “FOREIGN FLAVORS” compiled by WMPF in 1985. Prepare recipe cards for all the dishes and ask the cooks to talk about the ingredients and the cooking process. Challenge the group to be bold and try something new! Give each a copy of the booklet and have extra recipe cards to share.

Fellowship with the World

In a creative access country, a Community Center is being built. International workers boldly develop relationships with men and women through teaching English and with women through creative exercise classes.

MARCH

PASS THE SALT WITH GRACE

Fellowship in the Word

“The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly...” (I Timothy 1:14a NIV).

“My grace is sufficient for you...” (II Corinthians 12:9a).

“Let your conversation be always full of grace...” (Colossians 4:6a).

Fellowship Among the Women

As believers, are we thankful for the grace of salvation? Do we rely on that grace promised to us in the trials of life? Are the words we speak tempered with the grace of a loving God? The emphasis this month is Taiwan, so enjoy a dinner at a Chinese restaurant or cater a dinner at the church. Create a Chinese ambiance with pictures and costumes, music and chopsticks! Have theme prizes. One suggestion: A gift for anyone whose name is “Grace”!

Fellowship with the World

The people of Taiwan are in great need of the grace available for the world through the love of Jesus Christ. Evangelistic materials to reach the working class and evangelistic Scripture portions to use for evangelism ministries are essential.

APRIL

PASS THE SALT WITH INFLUENCE

Fellowship in the Word

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord” (Romans 12:11).

Fellowship Among the Women

Think about all the people you have influenced and those you continue to influence. What in life is your passion? It may be music or art, crafts or reading, politics or sports. Our greatest passion should be Christ. This will lead to influence because we cannot help ourselves from speaking out and acting on that love and conviction which creates that passion for Him within us. People with a passion for cooking have many mediums for sharing and learning which influence eating, cooking tools, even professions. Malls and schools offer demonstrations. The website www.tasteofhome.com is a great source for videos, recipes and cooking tips. What's your favorite food?

Fellowship with the World

In Colombia, the goal is to train strong, committed leadership in the church plant in Cali West. This ministry is among the upper class. The influence of godly leadership will be a key ingredient in reaching these people with the Gospel.

MAY

PASS THE SALT WITH STRENGTH

Fellowship in the Word

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can fight against the devil’s evil tricks” (Ephesians 6:11 NCV).

Fellowship Among the Women

Have you ever been to an old-fashioned taffy pull? Making salt water taffy takes teamwork—the ingredients, the process, the upper-body strength! Just as in all aspects of our spiritual lives, it is definitely not something you can do alone! Try out the Science of Cooking website for a recipe and some interesting tips or go to www.eHow.com and do a “taffy pull” search to get directions on how to host your own party.

Fellowship with the World

The goal in Gabon is to have a strong national church that embraces the vision, leadership and administration of all ministries, and for the national church to become an overseas worker-sending church. This spiritual battle can only be won in the strength and protection of the Lord.

JUNE

PASS THE SALT WITH KNOWLEDGE

Fellowship in the Word

“Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be capable, having all that is needed to do every good work” (II Timothy 3:17 NCV).

Fellowship Among the Women

Get back to summer by getting to know one another! A sense of community and mission is greater as we have more knowledge of our gifts and talents and are more comfortable in one another’s company. A suggestion? Host an evening of backyard fun! Think about how great a hot dog or hamburger tastes cooked outside over a fire. Roast marshmallows, make s’mores. Games are always good to break the ice. Anyone play guitar? Sing silly songs and folk songs, songs with fond memories and praise songs. Share a devotional about the importance of knowing God, knowing His Word and knowing how to share Him with others. Making this event uniquely yours is all in the planning!

Fellowship with the World

Church leaders in Venezuela are developed through gaining knowledge of the Word at the Bible Institute. A growing church plant is needed to make an impact in Caracas. A Chinese work is in progress on the island of Margarita.

JULY

PASS THE SALT WITH PRAYER

Fellowship in the Word

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed” (Mark 1:35 NIV).

Fellowship Among the Women

This is the month to celebrate living in freedom through Christ and living in a country that grants us freedom to worship Him. Host a prayer breakfast with a speaker sharing how prayer guided a specific woman or group of women in the history of our country. Prepare prayer requests with an emphasis on those who do not know Jesus and ask guidance as individuals or a church family on how to reach them. Pray in small groups or with the group. Remember to pray for our government leaders and our men and women in the armed services.

Fellowship with the World

Each place and peoples of the world have their own histories, their own needs. Much prayer is needed for those who serve in Kosovo. The work is unique as partnerships are formed with the evangelical churches already established in that country.

AUGUST

PASS THE SALT WITH INTENTIONALITY

Fellowship in the Word

“I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ” (Philemon 6 NIV).

Fellowship Among the Women

Acts 29 Ministries are spreading rapidly across the country. Living out the Love of the Gospel in your community is essential to sharing the Truth of the Gospel with those who are lost. Enjoy the fellowship of believers and spend a day intentionally helping someone in need. Choose from projects like gathering school supplies for low income families, collecting non-perishables for a local food cupboard, holding a clothing drive for a homeless shelter, or serving meals at a rescue mission. Share yourself and share your faith!

Fellowship with the World

CAMA (Compassion and Mercy Associates) Services, Inc. ministers with intentional compassion to the world through refugee relief, disaster relief, famine relief, clean water wells, occupational training, and language and vocational training.