



NEWSLETTER

About the Director

By Meredith Norfleet

Debby Boyer became Columbia's Center for Women's Ministries second Director in January 2006 after serving on the board of CWM since its inception. She brings a broad background in business, church and community service. Her devotion to God is obvious to all who meet her. Because of many personal challenges over the years, she has a heart tuned in to hurting women and toward helping them get the help they need. This was what drew her toward involvement in CWM.

Debby is married to John and is the mother of four adult children. She grew up in Boonville and moved to Columbia about seven years ago. John and Debby are members of The Crossing Church. While in Boonville, Debby put in many volunteer hours designing and implementing Boonville's first and only Mother's Day Out program through the First Baptist Church. Her involvement included every aspect of the program: forming the committee, hiring teachers, planning curriculum and marketing.

Reliance on God started at an early age, and she would tell you today that this is what has brought her the most peace and joy. Through many challenges, she has learned to surrender problems

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to the Lord and trust Him to give her His wisdom in each situation. She shared that on more than one occasion she cried out through her tears, "God, do not let this pain be wasted on me. Help me to be the godly woman You want me to be. Let me help other women in the midst of the storm so they can know peace and have victory."

Before the local CWM was opened or she knew there was such an organization, Debby prayed for a place where women could go to be heard, helped and set free. What a joy it is to see how God has answered that prayer and has prepared Debby to be our director. She coordinates the board and volunteers, but considers one of her most important responsibilities guiding women closer to Christ to experience His peace.

Book Review: Discerning the Voice of God

By Marilyn Hogan

The subtitle of Priscilla Shirer's book is 'How to Recognize When God Speaks.' This would have immediately grabbed my attention when I picked up this book, but my appetite had already been greatly whetted. A dear friend, whose faith has enriched my life many times, had read it and said, "Marilyn, if you want to be truly blessed, you will want to get this book, and soon."

That was enough for me! And I want to share with you that much that I have experienced personally has been affirmed, and new avenues of thought and discernment have been opened up to me.

Sometimes, we think only people who lived in Biblical times heard God's voice.

He always finds a way to speak to us in ways we can understand. We know He spoke from a fire and a cloud; He spoke through a burning bush. He has not stopped. A number of well-known Christians share how they have discerned His voice and been led by it. Mark 4:24-25 (New Living Translation) says: "Be sure to pay attention to what you hear. The more you do this, the more you will understand—even more, besides. To those who are open to my teaching, more understanding will be given."



I Met Jesus This Week

By Debby Boyer

I met Jesus this week

Many of you who volunteer at the Center never really know what goes on here. You come in at night to a dark Center, counsel your client, fill out your client notes, shut off the lights and leave. It probably gets a little dull and lackluster after awhile. I just want you to know that I personally have the privilege of taking the intakes and really get to hear the stories of the women in crisis. Let me tell you of just one lady who shared her heart with me:

On the intake she marked, depression, fears, financial, parenting, pregnancy, self-esteem, spirituality and wounds from childhood. As we talked, something in me told me to ask her if she had ever been sexually abused. That's when the tears began to flow.

She had an abusive father who hung her up on the wall at five years old and beat her. He was addicted to crack, and in order to pay for his habit he started selling this precious little girl at the age of nine. She was sexually molested many times until he left when she was 13. My heart just went out to her.



A Counseling Moment: The Basic Goal for Those Seeking Help

By Anita Gamble

GOAL - "the end toward which the effort is directed"

Are we sure as helpers that we know the clear goal for each of the people we help? Sometimes we think we cannot know this until we meet with the person and hear their particular problem. Hearing the problem is important, but should not affect the basic goal we must have for all those seeking our help. The goal is simple but then remember, "simplicity is the essence of all things profound."

We must assist them in learning to walk in the Spirit (keep their heart - Proverbs 4:23) in the midst of the tribulation or difficult circumstance. This is God's requirement and this pleases Him. Secondly, it gives the person a measure of power at a time they feel very powerless and oftentimes, hopeless.

When the circumstance or person will not change, the Bible says there are only two ways to deal with it. By the flesh or after the Spirit (Romans 8:4b). We can

PRAYER

Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. is a very special time at the Center. A number of women meet to pray for the needs of the Center, both local and international. We invite you to join us! God continues to respond to the prayers of His people, and we have many reasons to praise Him

These are many of the stories I get the privilege of hearing. We are so high on confidentiality around here that I pondered as to whether I should share this information with you. But it's so very important that you know that after four years we have seen hundreds of women and truly helped them. WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE! So when I call you to take an intake, don't just think of it as just one more thing to add to your to do list. Please remember you are talking to Jesus. Read the following Bible excerpt and you will see where I am coming from:

Matthew 25:34-40 (New International Version)

Please see *Jesus* on page 3

instruct them to sit before the Lord and ask Him to reveal the negative reactions that are filling their heart over the unfair or difficult circumstance. We can assure them these reactions (anger, resentment, bitterness, self-pity, malice) are expected and natural but still sinful in God's eyes. These are not fruit of the Spirit but "works of the flesh" and have only one remedy: confession and replacement. Once truly and completely confessed, Jesus will fill their hearts with His presence. Instead of anxiousness and distress, they will manifest the fruit of His Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, thankfulness and self-control (Galatians 5:22).

Our primary goal is to help the person see this profound truth. They will learn that they can be free to deal with their problem from a spiritually fit condition by first dealing with their own heart and then, and only then, dealing with the problem. This way they experience peace, joy and comfort in the midst of their circumstance. They learn they have power, power not to be controlled by their own negative emotions.

Please see *Counseling* on page 3

CINNAMON ROLLS

Stop by the Center to purchase rolls, which are available to take home with you for \$10 a dozen. They are stored at the Center frozen and can either be baked directly from frozen form, or thawed first and then baked.

Either way, they are a treat and fun to serve. At the same time, purchasing them helps out the Center.



Counseling from page 2

We can never be assured that we can relieve their circumstance but we can always be assured that we have helped them learn to live the abundant life in spite of the circumstance.



'Hearing the problem is important but should not affect the basic goal we must have for all those seeking our help.'

HO! HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

If you are a volunteer serving the Center for Women's Ministries in any way, then you are invited to a Christmas Open House on Saturday, December 13th from 10:00 – 11:30 am.

Come by and stay as long as you want! The Board will be there and want to see you! There will be refreshments. Please RSVP to colcwm@mchsi.com if you can come or call 256 – 1799. Thanks and we look forward to hearing back from you as soon as possible.



Jesus from page 2

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Please join me in our highest calling that of serving Jesus by serving these hurting women.

**Columbia Center for
Women's Ministry**

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Web site
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WISH LIST

Items needed at the Center, which would be gratefully received:

"Forever" Postal Stamps
Nutritional Snack Bars
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Kleenex
Financial Donations
Ink Cartridge for a HP Laser Jet 1020
Ink Cartridges for Canon MP210 (black and color)
Large refill bottles for liquid hand soap
Swiffer wet mopping cloths (24 in box)
Pledge - Duster plus refills

Board Members

Debby Boyer
Janie Bonham Cherie Stott
Nancy Fedorchak
Alice Schawo Yolanda Sekol



Columbia Center for Women's Ministry
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Hours

Daytime: Mon. - Thurs. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Closings

The Center is closed when
Columbia Public Schools are closed.