

June 2009 Networking Newsletter

*“So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing”
1 Thess. 5: 11*



Dear Friends:

On May 2nd, 14 women from across the District met at Drumheller Alliance Church for a day filled with food, friendship, a word



from our speaker Gail Rodgers and a little bit of pampering. We had an absolutely great day together! Many thanks to Shirley Oakman for hosting our Retreat. This month I thought you should hear some of the feedback from those who attended our Retreat.

Here's what the ladies had to say:

“I really enjoyed the retreat that was held in Drumheller. It was good to connect with other pastors' wives and to feel loved and pampered. I felt like the speaker was speaking to me where I was at in my life. The thoughts and challenges she shared have been helpful and I find myself meditating on them, transforming my mind with truth. The day truly was a retreat.”

“I really enjoyed Gail's talks-I felt the Spirit of God speaking to me and encouraging and challenging me through her words. I left the day feeling encouraged about being a Pastors' wife and that I wasn't alone in this interesting journey we call life in ministry. I think that Pastors' wives are a much overlooked group that need to be ministered to.”

“It was good to get together with other pastors' wives. I appreciated the time we could cluster together for prayer for each other. The speaker was also very good. The food was wonderful-so nice to not have to cook or plan a meal!”

“It was hard to make the time to come and at first I wasn't sure if I wanted to take part, but being together really helped. I've met a few more people and will keep in touch with them.”

“It was great to have our lunch provided, it gave us time to get to know each other and visit.”

“Our prayer time in groups of three at the end of the day was great.”

“It was my first experience and I didn’t know what to expect. I had ample reasons not to attend, but the prompting of the Lord compelled me to say yes. I could feel a oneness in spirit and sensed a deep passion for the Lord amongst the leaders and participants. I got to know 2 ladies more intimately when we broke into groups of 3 to



pray, and I truly treasure that gift of friendship. I was touched and challenged by the authentic sharing of the realities of constant struggles in life and witnessed the truth of God’s promised love and abundant love in the lives of our leaders. Overall the retreat was uplifting, refreshing, motivating and comforting. I’m so glad that the one day sacrifice of our busy schedule was most rewarding.”

“I had never served communion the way we served it to each other, it was very meaningful.”

“I don’t feel so alone, now. Thanks.”

Personally, I don’t think I know how important taking a bit of time out for a retreat is for my spiritual health. I do know that there are complicated logistics involved in life and just the thought of getting away can be overwhelming. Babies, children, sports practices, work schedules and even husbands all require us to pre plan our days. Making a way to “exit” for a few hours sometimes feels close to impossible. And yet, we need to learn to do a better job of taking care of ourselves!

The day apart allowed several women who have recently moved into new communities within Alberta an opportunity to meet and share with other women in our Alliance family. It didn’t take long before our conversations were filled with encouraging words for each other. We were all blessed to hear from our speaker, Gail Rodgers. Most of the women who attended drove several hours in order take part in our time together. It was a blessing to be able to share with each of you. Thank you!

We can all give a cheer to Lucy Newness (Brooks Alliance) for sharing her great pictures with us! Lucy, you didn’t get anyone to take a picture of you...how did that happen?

We have some good news to share this month! On September 26th, 2009 we will be able to meet once more for a day of retreat. We are beginning to make plans to meet at Devon Alliance Church. If any of you have any suggestions or input regarding our next Retreat, please be in touch with me! Make a plan to join us in the fall! Devon is just west of Edmonton...about 10 minutes from the famous West Edmonton Mall. Maybe some of you will combine a retreat with some shopping therapy!

Blessings in Christ, *Elizabeth Chotka,*
Network Coordinator for Ministry Spouses