

October 2009 Networking Newsletter
From Elizabeth Chotka



“...When I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the Christians, I couldn’t stop thanking God for you – every time I prayed,
I’d think of you and give thanks.”
Ephesians 1:15 and 16, *The Message*

Dear Friends:

October brings with it Thanksgiving Sunday. This year, I wish to share with you how very thankful I am for each of you! Two weeks ago a group of ministry spouses had the opportunity to meet together for a few hours for a Fall Retreat. I must tell you, we ministry wives are an

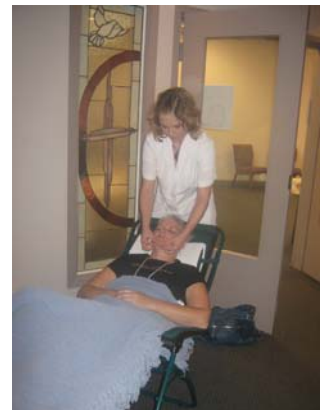


impressive bunch! Our group of 20 is only a small sampling of the women who serve in ministry families across our District. Each week, it is my pleasure to hear from you and learn about the variety of ways you bless those around you. In your own unique ways, each of you is doing exactly what Paul speaks of in Ephesians 1. Daily, you are in the business of “pouring out the love of Christ” - in your families, your marriages, your churches and beyond. As we shared around our table groups in Devon, the “solid trust” in Jesus was evident in each person present.

Quietly pouring out the love of Christ comes so naturally to most of you that many aren’t even aware of the amazing impact you make on a daily basis. Whether upfront or behind the scenes, it’s important for you to know that your contributions of love and care are valued and recognized by others. Maybe your gifts are less noticed than some because you are lending a listening ear to a lonely person. Maybe you are contributing to the ministry of your congregation by serving in the nursery or making coffee so that people can have the opportunity to share in fellowship with each other. Maybe your primary calling at the present time is being present to your family, or to those in your workplace. Whatever “place” you find yourselves in; you need to know that you are a vital part of the ministry of the Gospel in that “place.”

As we connected in Devon, we all learned a bit more about each other and were able to support each other. Some of us were able to receive a bit of well deserved pampering, too! We wanted to share a couple of pictures with you. The massages offered during our Retreat were a big hit! On behalf of those who enjoyed their mini massage, I wish to thank Jen Bowzeylo for providing her services to us. Grace Siemens, Jennifer Dolsky and Larissa Stroud hosted us for the day, and we wish to thank them for their hospitality. Thank you, as well to our speaker Gail Rodgers.

As women in places of ministry, let’s all be intentional about telling someone that we recognize they are a blessing to us. At our Retreat, each of us exchanged names with one other person and agreed to pray for them



during the week. Maybe you know a pastors' wife who you could encourage this week. Why don't you take a minute and tell them that you are thankful for them. Drop them a short email, or give them a quick phone call.

I look forward to seeing some of you in Banff at the November Prayer Retreat. All of you are invited to our annual Tuesday morning session. This year we will to hear from Darlene Delamont, Birgit Sam and Wendy English. We've entitled our time together "Alterations in Progress!" We hope that you can join us there! May your Thanksgiving week be a blessing to you and to those around you!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Chotka
Network Coordinator, Ministry Spouses'



ALTERATIONS IN PROGRESS