

from the **Heart**

**Fall 2007**  
*A Publication of  
 the Network of  
 Evangelical  
 Women in Ministry*

"...to strengthen women who minister to women..."

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**NEWIM Member Tea**

Bright pink bougainvillea gracefully climbed its way around the patio archways at the Italian Villa style home of Amber Stinson, daughter of NEWIM's president Ginger Bertoni. Tucked away in the rolling hills of Coto de Caza, it was the perfect setting for NEWIM's first Member Tea.

Upon entering the lovely home, each woman was warmly greeted with a hug and a smile. The fresh air breezed through the open doorways and windows bringing with it the smells of baked goods from the kitchen. The food was delicious and included such tasty treats as chocolate dipped strawberries, chicken salad sandwiches and even heart shaped blueberry scones. The Italian cream cake was scrumptious (see recipe on page 2.)



Along the way to the kitchen guests passed by a room decorated with baskets for the much-anticipated basket raffle. These were no ordinary baskets, but were exquisite, charming and created by the NEWIM team. There was something for everyone; from the Spa Collection basket to the handmade purse basket and even one for dog lovers. One of the most popular was the money basket with bills folded to form a perfectly shaped country style rooster. Guests purchased tickets and were thrilled as their numbers were called and they came forward to accept their prizes.

Adjacent to this room was a large open doorway to the terrace where the main program was held. The bright pink flowers made a perfect contrast to the white chairs and umbrellas placed around the yard. The scene was set for the featured speaker, Stephanie Edwards, former news anchor and Rose Bowl Parade Hostess. She challenged us to trust God for what He is doing through us in the present. Stephanie reminded us to be aware of our doubts but not to believe them. She told us to doubt our doubts, and trust God. Doubts about ourselves, our past or future should be thrown off. Instead we should begin to believe God for what He will accomplish through us today. God's will for you and me is today, not in the past or future. Stephanie's words of encouragement touched us all, and we could relate to many of her struggles.



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## Member Tea

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It was time now to hear from Ginger. She highlighted the women behind the various NEWIM ministries. These ministries include The Springs, The Return, The Oaks, local chapter meetings and The Oasis. These ministries have much to offer and you can find out more about them at [www.newim.com](http://www.newim.com).

Ginger's genuine love and concern for the women was felt by all. By the end of the day, our hearts, minds and tummies were pleasantly full.



Submitted by Alisha Kirkland, administrative assistant to Ginger Bertoni, president of NEWIM.



### Italian Cream Cake

Prepare three 9" round pans by coating them with grease, waxed paper and flour.

Separate 6 eggs: beat egg whites stiff, not dry, with 1/4 t. cream of tartar and set aside.

Beat together very well: 6 egg yolks, 1 c. butter, 1-2/3 c. sugar.

Whisk together: 2 c. cake flour, 3/4 t. baking soda, 1/2 t. salt.

Set aside: 1 c. buttermilk, 3/4 t. vanilla, 2 c. shredded coconut (not sugared), 1/2 c. quartered maraschino cherries.

Add buttermilk alternately with flour mixture, ending with flour mixture. Add remaining ingredients by hand. Fold egg whites into batter.

Bake in 350° oven for 30-40 minutes. Cool 10 minutes and remove.

Frosting: mix 1/2 c. butter and 8 oz. softened cream cheese. Add 3/4 t. vanilla, 4 c. powdered sugar.

Options: 1 c. chopped pecans maybe be added to batter. Also may add cherries and/or coconut on top of frosting.



—provided by Connie Scott

## A Matter of Choice

By Tammy Tkach

It's been said we do what we really want to do and the rest is just excuses. This must be true. I can't seem to find the time to do the ironing, but I make time to go bowling once a week. I also manage to see a movie or two each week (usually rented), but can't seem to find the time to clean out the garage. So when I say, "I didn't have time to do such and such," I really mean I didn't want to do it.

Everything we do or don't do involves making a choice. This includes our spiritual life. We make a choice every day to pray or not to pray, to read scripture and spend time with God or not. We also choose how close we will be to the Lord. Author J. Oswald Sanders said, "We are now, and we will be in the future, only as intimate with God as we really choose to be" (*Enjoying Intimacy With God*).

Sanders describes four circles of intimacy with God: the outer circle, the second circle, the third circle and the inner circle. Jesus' outer circle consisted of the 70 he called and sent out two by two to preach the gospel. The 12 disciples made up the third circle. In the second circle were the three who were closest to him: Peter, James and John. But one was especially close; one seemed to have a special place next to the Savior.

John described himself as the one "whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23). He was the one who reclined next to Jesus at dinner and through whom Simon Peter asked about Jesus' betrayer.

Did Jesus love John so much because Jesus played favorites? Was John teacher's pet because he was special or perfect? Jesus didn't have favorites, but John did. John chose that special place because he loved Jesus so much and wanted to be as close as he could get to the Master. And Jesus loved him back, recognizing John's deep desire to be close. As Sanders says, "Mutual love and confidence are the keys to intimacy."

Have you ever wanted to be closer to Jesus? God puts that desire in our hearts, but we are the

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## A Matter of Choice

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ones who choose how close we'll be. Perhaps we feel more comfortable in the outer circle, choosing to keep a little distance. Or maybe the second circle is as close as we've ever been. It feels so good, moving closer doesn't seem possible.

Being in the outer circle or the inner circle is up to us. Jesus has already invited us to get closer (Matthew 11:28). "The place on Jesus' breast is still vacant, and open to any who are willing to pay the price of deepening intimacy" (Sanders).

If we're willing, we can be close to Jesus in the special place next to his heart. We too can be the ones Jesus loves. It's a matter of choice.



*Tammy is the editor for this newsletter and the NEWIM website administrator. She speaks at retreats and has traveled extensively. Tammy enjoys bowling, card making, walking and yard work.*

### We'd love to hear from you!

If you would like to contribute to *From the Heart*, we'd love to hear from you. To share news, encouragement and testimonies, please e-mail Ginger Bertoni at [hartcol110@aol.com](mailto:hartcol110@aol.com).

Please e-mail Ginger if you have workshop ideas, opportunities, resources or knowledge to share.

You may also e-mail Tammy Tkach at [tammy.tkach@wcg.org](mailto:tammy.tkach@wcg.org) with chapter news or any other item of interest.

It's all about connecting and sharing!



Beginning in 2008, *From the Heart* will be published twice a year, once as a printed newsletter and once as an electronic newsletter. Please update your e-mail address so you won't miss an issue!

## The Oasis

Are you interested in a time of refreshment, renewal and rest? Do you need a time away but can't get away? Then the Oasis Personal Retreat DVD is for you.

The Oasis retreat is a five hour retreat if the five sessions are shown in sequence. If used separately, the sessions can be effective tools for spiritual training in specific areas.

The five sessions are:

- A Quick Look at Your Life (clearing away distractions)
- Moments with a Friend (all about quiet times)
- Journal Keeping (writing for spiritual growth)
- Hidden Treasure (walking with the Lord through Scripture)
- Lunch with Jesus (enjoying extended time with the Lord)



The speakers are Jackie Rettberg and Luann Budd. Jackie is a well known Bible teacher who served as a Teaching Leader for Bible Study Fellowship for nineteen years. She has been an insightful and much loved speaker at numerous retreats and conferences for over twenty years.

Luann Budd is the author of *Journal Keeping—Writing for Spiritual Growth*. She has a Masters degree in English and has taught writing at Long Beach State and San Jose State. Luann is a frequent retreat speaker.

When you buy the retreat package, you will receive the Oasis Personal Retreat DVD, a CD with instructions and masters (in pdf format) for all written materials and a three-minute informational DVD.

The Oasis Personal Retreat DVD may be purchased through the online store at the NEWIM website for \$49 which includes shipping and handling. Or you may send a check for \$47 (shipping included) to NEWIM (Oasis DVD), P.O. Box 9200-395, Fountain Valley, CA, 92708. For more information, e-mail Jackie Rettberg at [oasis631@aol.com](mailto:oasis631@aol.com).

# NEWIM Chapters

**Chapter meetings**—make a small investment of your time (two hours, a few times a year), and you will leave enriched, encouraged and invigorated as a woman and as a ministry leader.

## Why Should I Go to a Chapter Meeting?

I received an invitation to another NEWIM chapter meeting. Seems like they just had one last week! I can't go because:

- I don't have time
- I don't have anything to offer anyone
- I don't need anyone
- I don't like to dress up
- I get lost on the freeway
- I don't like public speaking
- I never win a door prize

I did enjoy the last one though. The muffins were really tasty! And I laughed more than I had all that week. Well, maybe I should go after all. I can:

- meet new friends
- connect with ministry resources (both human and program)
- hear from God's Word
- be challenged and inspired
- be encouraged in the Lord
- soak in information that will help me in my ministry
- find a mentor or mentee
- laugh!
- be introduced to some good books
- discuss leadership characteristics
- be introduced to and challenged by local ministries
- consider serving in a local or global ministry
- meet with women from all walks of ministry
- exchange ideas
- discuss ministry challenges
- roleplay solutions
- have some refreshments!



NEWIM offers chapters all over Southern California, including San Diego, and in Northern California. Now that you know the benefits far outnumber the excuses, consider attending a chapter near you.

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## Chapters

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Following are chapters and contact information.

### Los Angeles

President: Cinda Herring,  
wordcc@cfaith.com

### Orange County

President: Susan Booker,  
sobooker@yahoo.com

### San Diego

President: Bev Amsbary Davenport,  
wmdir@efcc.org

### San Joaquin Valley

President: Shirley Barber,  
sbarber@peopleschurch.org

### Kern County

President: Teri Thompson,  
btthompson587@sbcglobal.net

### Inland Empire

Liaison: Tammy Tkach  
tammy.tkach@wcg.org

### San Fernando Valley

Liaison: Jan Lackey  
jlackey@rockypeak.org

### South Africa

President: Glenda McMinn,  
sistercircle@iafrica.com

Please see [www.newim.com](http://www.newim.com) for more information, including meeting dates and times, speakers and topics.

The God who has the whole world in his hands has grace for the whole world in his heart.



—Lewis Smedes,  
*Things I've Learned on My Way to Eighty,*  
Program #4411

## Go to [www.newim.com](http://www.newim.com)...

...to update your e-mail address, keep up with chapter events, buy the Oasis DVD and read previous issues of Food for the Soul.

You may also register and pay for the Springs (see page 7 for more information).

Visit the website often and keep up with NEWIM as we grow and change into an even more effective resource for you. If you experience any difficulty using the website, please don't hesitate to contact us at [info@newim.com](mailto:info@newim.com).

[www.newim.com](http://www.newim.com)

## Not Too Busy to Write

Busy is the way most of us would describe our daily lives—especially those who work full-time. You may think there's no time to write for this newsletter...but think again!

I've found a short cut I'd like to share. I've begun keeping a separate small notebook with my devotional materials and each time an idea, thought or phrase comes to me that's worth remembering or sharing it goes in the journal. I'm amazed how quickly a page fills up, and soon another. In a brief time, I have enough on paper to pull together for an article. Granted, it may take an hour or two to pull the thoughts together, but it's time well spent to share our hearts and thoughts with our sisters in Christ.

—Hannah Knaack,  
a friend of NEWIM



## Book Recommendation

*Growing a Passionate Heart: Help, Hope, and Healing for Women Wounded By Childhood Sexual Abuse*, by Wendy J. Mahill, ISBN 978-1-60266-461-6. The toll free number for churches or organizations is 1-866-381-2665, ext 117.

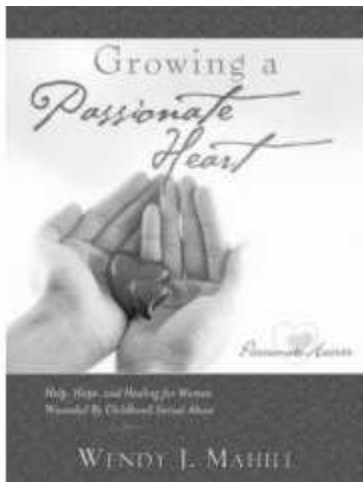
From the Amazon.com editorial review: “While giving survivors the freedom to wrestle with God and His sovereignty over their abuse, it helps them explore what it means to passionately love God, themselves, and others including abusers with a love that is both tender and bold. It helps survivors see their story, painful and ugly as it seems, is truly a part of God’s beautiful redemptive story.

Wendy J. Mahill serves in the People Encouraging People Ministry of River Lakes Community Church as a lay counselor and as leader of a Passionate Hearts support group, which is a Christ-centered, curriculum-based support group for women who have been wounded by childhood sexual abuse. She also serves on the curriculum writing team for her church and is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors.”

Wendy lives in Bakersfield, California.

—Submitted by Ginger Bertoni

If you have a book to review or recommend, please e-mail us at [info@newim.com](mailto:info@newim.com).



## A Moment in the Kitchen

By Christy Read-Gomez

Have you seen this paper towel commercial? An average mom is standing in the kitchen. Her school age son enters, shaking a 2-liter bottle of soda. He points it in the general direction of mom. Innocently he proceeds to unscrew the top and unleash an explosion of sticky orange soda on her and her recently cleaned kitchen. Huge mess. Horrifying. The kid’s face registers panic. “Jimmy, what’s the matter with you!!” the mom shrieks. Oh yeah, I’m thinking as I’m watching this...here it comes...I’m with ya sister. But wait, what’s this? She grabs the sprayer from the sink, takes aim and says, “This is much better!” as she gleefully hoses him down. Wait—what?

Oh puhlease, I think bitterly to myself later as I’m refolding stacks of laundry trampled by my kids. Lovely mother-son moment, but they don’t show the 45 minutes it took to clean up after that little exchange. Still, the images stick with me as I work, and I can’t escape the nagging feeling there is something to be learned from this mom’s reaction. Okay, so maybe I need to be a little more relaxed about the messes my kids make and their constant interference with any semblance of order I create in my home. But really, could I ever imagine myself doing anything that would even remotely positively reinforce my child shaking, opening or even holding a 2-liter soda bottle? I think not. Even on my most brilliant, patient day—could I just calmly say, “Oops, honey, we’re gonna have to clean that up”? Maybe. The thing is, I realize, the mom didn’t just accept the mess, she fully embraced it.

Then later as I’m thinking about this silly commercial yet again, wondering if 20 seconds of liberating mayhem could really be worth the 45 minutes on the knees with paper towels, it hits me that those 45 minutes of work are actually a small price to pay for a memory her son will

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# Future NEWIM Events

## THE SPRINGS

A THREE DAY PRAYER &  
REFLECTION RETREAT

Madeleine L'Engle writes:

“Every so often I need OUT; something will throw me into total disproportion, and I have to get away from everybody—away from all the people I love most in the world—in order to regain a sense of proportion.”

Transformation is God's doing—not ours—and yet it happens because we choose it.

This year the Springs Prayer and Reflection Retreat will be held in Redlands, November 14-16, and in Central California, November 14-16 at St. Anthony's Retreat Center in Three Rivers. We hope you will join us.

If you plan to attend, we encourage you to sign up quickly as space is limited.

For further information, e-mail Sunny Schrimsher at [sschrimsher@allianceinsurance.com](mailto:sschrimsher@allianceinsurance.com) for the Springs in Redlands. Contact Darlene Derby at [darlenederby@comcast.net](mailto:darlenederby@comcast.net) for the Springs in Three Rivers. The cost includes a private room and private bath, 2 nights and 5 meals. You may register online.

Scholarships are available.

## RETURN TO BE Encouraged

**Return To Be Encouraged 2008** is in the planning stages. Plan now to join us in beautiful Orange County **June 20-21** for another wonderful and inspiring conference.

Our special guests will be Amy Hilliker, Kay Warren's daughter, Debbie Eaton, WM Director at Saddleback and Kay Warren, wife to pastor Rick Warren.

Please join us in prayer for God's blessings and guidance in every aspect of planning.

## A Moment

*(Continued from page 6)*

probably have *forever*. He will remember it forever because in the instant she turned the hose on him with a smile, his mom gave him a radical moment of grace. She fully embraced her son in his mistake and joined him right where he was. Ohhh, my breath catches in my throat. Now *that* resonates with my soul at the core. She gave him a teeny weeny taste of the mind blowing grace God offers us, and hopefully when that grace is offered to this son, he will accept it as something sweetly familiar.

Of all the lessons and experiences I want to give my children, a radical moment of grace is truly the most beautiful. Maybe I should stock up on *Bounty* after all...



**The Northern and Southern California  
Springs Teams**

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*Christy is the publicity leader of a MOPS group at EV Free in Huntington Beach. Reprinted from the MOPS newsletter with permission.*



# The Oaks

conference for  
directors of women's  
ministry

The next *Oaks* conference will be Wednesday through Friday, March 5-7, 2008. It will be held at the beautiful Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, California. Please go online at [www.newim.com](http://www.newim.com) or contact Bev Amsbary Davenport at [wmdir@efcc.org](mailto:wmdir@efcc.org) for more information.

*The Oasis*

Please page 3 for exciting new information about *The Oasis* retreat on DVD!

Address Service Requested

(714) 964-7236  
Fountain Valley, CA 92728  
P.O. Box 9200-395

NEWIM