



April 2008

## Good To Go With the Alliance Women's Ministries

*"God is able to make all grace abound to you so that in all things at all times,  
having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2  
Corinthians 9:8*

The theme for the Alliance Women this year has been, "Good to Go as We Engage our World" The theme reflects the fact that as women of faith in Jesus Christ, we always want to be our best for Him. As we step out the door in the morning to face our day, or whether we stay inside ministering to those under our care, we want to be spiritually fit to engage those we meet as a reflection of Jesus Christ and His attributes.

The chosen motif for this year is the handbag. Handbags were chosen as a motif because women usually carry everything they need for the day in their handbag. Handbags come in all sizes and shapes and are unique in our culture today. Just as we take time to fill our handbags with the essential items we need to keep us going throughout the day, the handbags reminds us to do the same for our lives. We will need to fill our lives with the Word of God and allow the Holy Spirit to minister in and through us if we want to be Good to Go *Spiritually*.

2 Corinthians 9:8 gives us hope and a promise that God will fill us with everything we need to do the works that He has given us to do. In fact, it says we will abound in every good work. This means we will not just do an adequate job, but we will do an excellent job, not because of who we are, but because of God who is at work within us!

Our spiritual emphasis this year is that we need to be preparing for action by developing attitudes that motivate the Christian to keep *spiritually fit*.



# SHARING THE GOSPEL AND WHY

## PART 2 of 2

By Joe Ortiz – Pastor of Evangelism & Outreach

### What should motivate any believer to share the Gospel?

Jude tells us what should motivate us to share the

Gospel



#### 1) **Compassion or Mercy - And of some have compassion, making a difference**

Compassion means to feel sorry for or to have pity on because of the hurt, pain or loss that people are facing. Christ showed compassion and mercy to those who were hurting while He walked on the earth. Shouldn't we also show compassion to others, He showed it to us? Yes we should and that should be one of our motives to sharing a message that will bring lost people hope.

2) **Compulsion** – Verse 23 - **And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire;** Here verse 23 reminds us that we must act quickly – as one who sees an adult or child in a house engulfed with flames and sees an opportunity to go in and pull them out of the fire – wouldn't you do it! Compulsion is needed. For when the opportunity comes we MUST be ready go into action and respond no matter what the threat is.

3) **Caution** – verse 23 (last part) ...**hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.** There must be a caution when dealing with unbelievers. Unbelievers are in sin that can contaminate us. Sins that may tempt us to give in to that sin. We need to hate and despise sin. We should never ever compromise our walk with Christ in order to lead some one to Christ. We should never try to become like them in order to win them to Jesus. NO we must use caution. Never let your compassion and your compulsion destroy your caution.

These are three basic motives we should have in sharing the Gospel. We must not forget that God sees our thoughts and motives and calls us to be authentic.

Here is some scriptures that remind us that God knows our motives even before we act so you can't fool Him with any ulterior motives.

*I Chronicles 28:9 NIV*

*"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever."*


*Hebrews 4:12 TNIV*

*"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."*

*I Corinthians 4:5 TNIV*

*"Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of people's hearts. At that time each will receive their praise from God."*



Right motives are also part of our future judgment in heaven. Those seemingly good deeds in this life that were born of self-centered motives will not be rewarded. Those deeds born of pure motives will be. Let's guard our hearts and minds to keep out selfish motives. 

**Ladies!** You won't want to miss the Alliance Women's 2008 Retreat, **April 25 - 27** at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in Ridgecrest, North Carolina. The theme is "Ready, Set, Go!"

Turn in your Registrations to Micki Otto or Sandy Bosiljevac

### RETREAT COSTS & REGISTRATION

Registration Deposits are due by April 4, 2008: \$25.00

2/room: \$145.00 each\*

3/room: \$130.00 each\*

4/room: \$110.00 each\*

\* includes registration fee

#### Visit:

<http://www.sadcma.org/Ministries/AW/WomenRetreat.html>

## Spiritual Fitness

### Exercising our Spiritual Muscles!

*1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV) For physical training has some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*

Paul told Timothy that godliness holds value for all things. But how do we become godly? Just like that, in order to become physically fit you must exercise your muscles. So becoming godly takes exercise, the disciplines of spiritual fitness.

In order to understand what is meant by "spiritual fitness", let's compare *spiritual fitness* with "physical fitness". Why do we need to stay physically fit? In order to have a healthy body, so that we can recover from illness faster, so that diseases, such as diabetes, cannot take hold of our bodies, and sometimes because disease has taken hold of our bodies. We also need to stay physically fit so that we can engage in activities and not burn out from overexertion.

In the same way, we need to stay spiritually fit. If we exercise our spiritual muscles, we develop a strong faith in the God we serve. We begin to understand his will for our lives and engage in the world around us so that we will abound in every good work. We will be able to stand against any scheme that the evil enemy may throw at us. The LORD tells us in 1 Peter 5:8, that our adversary the devil is like a roaring lion seeking those he may devour. If we are spiritually fit the evil one cannot over take us and destroy not only our good works and testimony for Christ but our faith in God as well. The adversary's ultimate goal is destroying the body of Christ. So, we need to be not only physically fit, but spiritually fit as well.

So, how do we exercise our spiritual muscles? Here are a few examples to help get you started on your journey to spiritual fitness. Just like physical exercises requires us to first be highly motivated and disciplined in order for us to engage in the activity itself, we must also first develop attitudes and disciplines that motivate us to keep spiritually fit. We must realize our need for spiritual exercising and then review what kind of examples we set as parents that help or hinder our children's attitudes toward learning how to exercise their own spiritual muscles. Kids will realize their own need for having strong faith muscles by primarily watching their parents and that should motivate everyone.

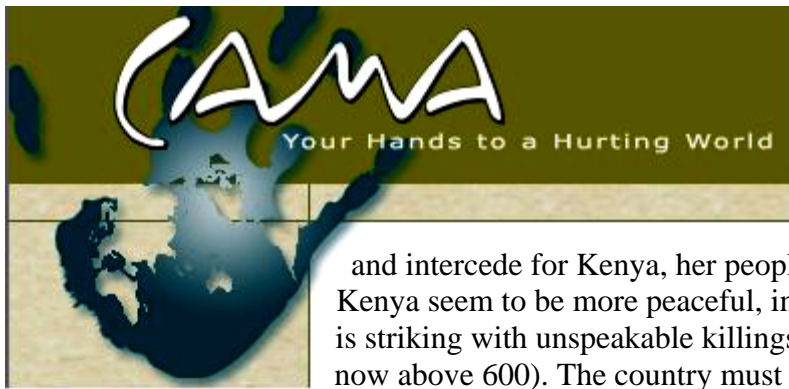
After we become motivated, the exercises begin. For some people, they like to lift weights. They take heavy pieces of iron and lift them over their heads. As they become accustomed to the weight and it becomes easy, it is then time to add a little weight to the routine, so that their muscles will not remain small but grow. In the same way the spiritual discipline of waiting on and trusting God is much like spiritual weightlifting. It strengthens us by teaching us that our joy and peace and hope don't depend on when our needs and wants are met. Instead they come from what we choose to do in the meantime when life is hard and so is waiting (Lessons I learned In The Dark by Jennifer Rothschild). In order to strengthen the mind and remain sharp some like to exercise their brains by working puzzles that make their memory stronger. This is like the spiritual exercise if reading God's word - bible study. In order for you to become sharp and mindful of the things of God you need to stretch your knowledge of Christ and what His word tells us. Other spiritual disciplines are learning how to put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-19), faith, prayer, praise and worship.

Just like becoming physically strong when we exercise, becoming spiritually strong is a process also. It won't happen overnight but over time. The key is in disciplining ourselves and being committed. Being spiritually fit holds value for both the present life and the life to come. ■

*Happy Administrative  
Professionals Day Mary Taylor  
From the Bloomingdale Alliance  
Church Family!!!*



*Wednesday, April 23, 2008*



## CAMA Priority Project – 4-47410-43 Kenya

and intercede for Kenya, her people, and leaders. While things in many places throughout Kenya seem to be more peaceful, in others, vengeance is striking with unspeakable killings (estimated total now above 600). The country must now deal with the

over 250,000 displaced people. They are essentially sleeping without shelter, with little to no food, and are beginning to suffer with communicable diseases. \*IFAP workers in Kenya are providing blankets, food, cooking utensils, clothing, water purification, temporary shelter, sanitation and medical care with spiritual ministry.

Your gift will enable CAMA Alliance workers to continue to provide medical and humanitarian assistance in Kenya in the midst of chaos.

You may give to CAMA via telephone using your credit card. You may arrange to have a regular deduction made from your checking account through our CAMA Direct plan. Please call our toll-free number for more information on these giving options. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (Mountain Time Zone) .

Please clearly mark all donations “CAMA” and include the project code of the project that you wish to support. Ten percent of all project donations go toward project administration.

### Contact Us

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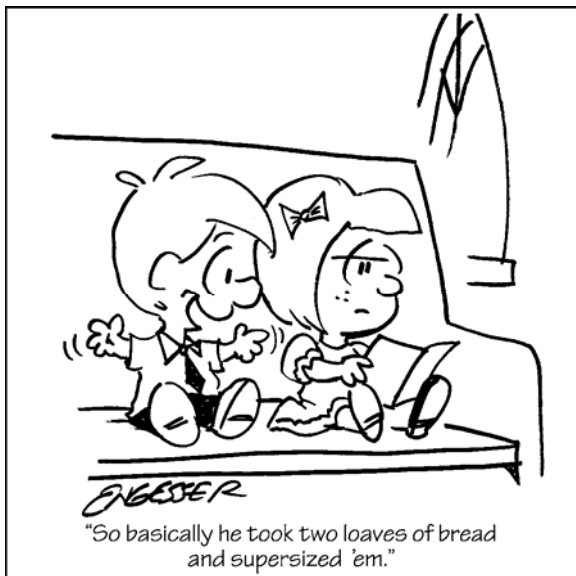
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**\*To Learn about this project and others go to:**

**<http://www.camaservices.org/priority>**



## The Investor

Two old friends met one day after many years apart. One man asked, “How has everything been going with you?”

“Well, I used to be as rich as Bill Gates,” replied the second man.

“Wow! How did you manage that?” asked his stunned friend.

“One day I opened the Bible at random, closed my eyes and dropped my finger on a word. The word was ‘oil.’ So I invested in oil, and boy, did the oil wells gush! Then another day I dropped my finger on a different word in the Bible, and it was ‘gold.’ So I invested in gold, and those mines really produced!”

“Amazing! But you said you ‘used to be as rich as Bill Gates.’”

“Yeah, I lost it all. One day I closed my eyes and pointed at a page. When I opened my eyes, my finger rested on the words ‘Chapter Eleven.’”



Have you ever been to Ridgecrest, and have ever wondered what it is like to experience Ladies Retreat?

Follow Carolyn Collins as she describes for you her experience at Ladies Retreat 2000.

AW District *Retreat*

## *Gleanings from Ridgecrest 2000*

(Dedicated to Mrs. Evie Smith and all who love Ridgecrest.)

### **Friday, April 14, 2000**

*Boarding the van for a weekend at Ridgecrest brought a little apprehension and a few tears at the thoughts of leaving family and routine so far behind. In an exercise of faith we entrusted family and life to God's protection and began the journey.*

*The van became our cocoon as only muffled sounds of rain and interstate traffic penetrated its walls of safety. Small talk and soft music soothed heightened emotions.*

*Thanks to God for answering the prayers of His children and wonderful drivers for being diligent and patient. The trip took on an air of adventure, fun, and relaxation. We became better acquainted and looked forward to the events planned for the weekend.*

*Registration was a snap, thanks to Micki. We just had to get our luggage in room, eat dinner, and get to the auditorium on time.*

*The night's speaker, Carolyn Eckman, did not disappoint us. The message was straight forward, but powerful, and left us (eight hundred plus) with the question, "How's the well of prayer; encouragement; understanding and freedom; generosity; and love and kindness operating in your life and home?" Ouch!*

### **Saturday, April 15, 2000**

*Alarm clocks and alternating hot and cold showers soon had everyone awake and ready for breakfast, even though visits to the bookstore and late night chitchat had kept many awake until after midnight. Over the delicious breakfast, we discovered that more than one had had no control over the temperature of the water in the shower.*

*Although the mountains were hiding behind the rain and fog, we rejoiced in the scenic beauty of the grounds.*

*The morning service began at 8:45 a.m. Our Bloomingdale Worship Team (KC, SG, SM, and TR) led in praise. "The Potter's Hands" was a favorite.*

*Once again, Carolyn Eckman, was ready. She used Dueteronomy 23, and verses from [the books of] Numbers and 2nd Chronicles, as the basis of her statement that putting God first equals blessings. Then, she revealed the idols that creep into our lives and grow to gigantic proportions, if allowed. She began the list of ten with the Idol of Appearance and ended with the Idol of Bitterness. In between, she warned of the Idols of Materialism; Sports; Money and Finances; Education and Occupation; Internet; Fame; Selfishness; and Negativism. As she elaborated on each, we could understand how they could or had become idols in our lives.*

*We were dismissed for lunch about 12:00; the Missionary Rally would begin at 1:30 p.m.*

**continued on opposite page**

### **Saturday Afternoon**

*The fifty or so missionary ladies paraded down both sides of the huge auditorium in colorful array. Each one introduced herself and deposited a pair of shoes after explaining where those shoes had carried her. (Guess what the theme was.) A high level of enthusiasm radiated from these energetic ladies, reminding me of the women of faith in the Bible. Each distinctly different in personality, yet all strong and vibrant in the Lord.*

*The Zairian Worship Team, three ladies, sang without music. I could envision the song services of born-again believers around the world, each in native tongue echoing the joyous news of faith in Jesus as they worship.*

*“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10: 13-15)*

*“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)*

*After the Missionary Rally several options were available: rest; visit the bookstores; or a short shopping trip to some the downtown stores. Some of the ladies new to the retreat began to express some apprehension about the rumored initiation for first-time attendees. But with dinner being at 5:30-6:30, choices were quickly made.*

### **Saturday Night-April 15, 2000**

*One lady portrayed Mary Magdalene in retelling the story of the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Her costume, dramatic voice in word and song, and actions transported our minds and imaginations to that time and event in history. We were richly blessed as she glorified Jesus.*

*The night’s speaker was Betty Constance, missionary to Argentina since 1963. She spoke from the text of John 4 which gives the account of the Samaritan Woman at the Well. Jesus used the woman’s physical need for water to show her the Savior that would satisfy her spiritual need for the Living Water. Mrs. Constance said to step forward when we find ourselves in a desert, because of (1) disbelief or unbelief; (2) unconfessed sin(s); (3) relationship failure; and/or (4) confused hearts and/or minds.*

*“Golden -glow” followed the Saturday evening service. Our (Bloomingdale) ladies gathered in a central location and shared some thoughts and ideas. A warm fellowship within the circle developed. We prayed for each other. This “favorite memory” for some left me with a greater appreciation for the ladies of the Bloomingdale Christian and Missionary Alliance Church.*

*Carolyn Collins*