



# SOAR!

by Life Change Report  
design for 2013-2014  
ministries

**Run John, run, the law commands  
but gives me neither feet nor hands.  
Far better news the gospel brings,  
it bids me fly and gives me wings.**

**Attributed to John Bunyan (1628-1688) or John Berridge (1716-1793)**



December 2014

Dear Partners in Ministry,

The obstacles for godly living are many in our society. Sadly, our culture glorifies the antithesis of what God requires of his children. Isaiah's clarion pronouncement of judgment is as true for our generation as it was for his: Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and shrewd in their own sight! (Isaiah 6:20-21). The need for a band of godly women (and men also) to stand in the gap and intercede for a generation in peril is as great now as it has ever been. *by design ministries* is committed to equipping women and encouraging them to set a standard of godly leadership within their sphere of influence so that our peers and our children will be affected in a life-changing way by the power of the Gospel. We want to give them wings to fly and confidence in their competency for effecting change for the kingdom of God. Indeed, *we wait upon the Lord who will renew our strength, and we shall*

*soar on wings like the eagles* (cf. Isaiah 40:31).

The women who comprise the backbone of this ministry have proven themselves to be sacrificial and dedicated to the Lord and to our mission of reaching and equipping other women throughout New England. I am of the opinion that they are among those who "soar" by God's grace. They exhibit an enthusiasm and energy in serving the Lord and his people. They exhibit a desire to grow in their faith and increase their effectiveness in ministry. Though many are involved in multiple ministries, they continue to "press on" (Philippians 3:12-16). I am blessed to serve with them! We continue to expand our network of women in ministry. This year 37% of the women who participated were new. Sixty percent of our women are serving as women ministry leaders; the other 40 percent are actively involved in other areas of ministry within either their church or organization. What an amazing contribution these women are making! Through the well-equipped committed woman, we are investing in the life and health of the local church.



I want to thank our faithful supporters, committed volunteers, and gifted staff for their involvement in this ministry. Their contributions and prayers have made our vision a reality.

As our ministry continues to grow and develop we praise the Lord for encouraging our labors. The investment in the lives of women is priceless; indeed, it has an eternal dividend!

With a grateful heart,

Linda Moore  
President and Executive Director

## Our Philosophy of Ministry

Our mission and passion is to develop women who are servant leaders for the equipping of God's church and the enlarging of His Kingdom.

We accomplish this through events, educational tools and developing relationships that encourage and equip women to grow in Christ and increase their competency to minister to others.

We believe women reaching women is a pattern for ministry blessed by God. Women, properly trained and confident of their God-given abilities, are positioned to make an eternal difference. We are committed to the discovery, development and deployment of women and their God-given design for kingdom service.

## Reflecting His Values

Acknowledging our prayerful dependence upon the Lord ...

We want to reflect women who value the Word of God as the foundation of all life and ministry. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

We want to reflect the importance and centrality of the local church. Acts 2:41-47

We want women to realize that they are created in the image of God, redeemed by Jesus Christ and gifted by the Spirit of God. Genesis 1:27; Galatians 2:26-28; Acts 2:17-18

We want women to reflect lives that are holy, expressed in purity, integrity and virtue. 2 Corinthians 7:1; Titus 2:11-14

We want women to learn through partnerships and mentoring relationships. I Thessalonians 2:8

We want women to esteem the diverse expressions of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13; I Corinthians 12:4-8

We want women to be involved in the extension of God's Kingdom in the church and into the community and the wider world. Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20

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# Who We Are



*We are passionate about helping women catch a vision for being used by God and affecting a Christ-honoring and God-glorifying change in their family, church, and community.*

## Equipping through Leadership Training Classes

This year we had 82 women involved in five leadership training classes, where instruction concerning personal and ministry needs was presented. One goal we had this year was to host classes in Connecticut and Vermont. In addition to meeting this goal, we partnered with three churches that hosted our classes, two of which were new to our ministry.

The following comment is from a woman who attended our New Testament class in the spring. (The class included a review of the Dr. Carol Kaminski's Old Testament class presented in 2013). Dr. Jewel Hyun was our instructor this year.



# Wings to Flourish



*"I had the pleasure of being able to sit in on these classes a few weeks ago. What a great introduction/explanation of the overall view of both the O.T. and N.T., but more importantly the connection between the two testaments. Jewel followed God's redemptive plan from inception through consummation, that is, Genesis through Revelation.*

*I loved these classes and was reassured in the direction that I am taking as I study. Jewel clearly understands what she is teaching and keeps the focus on what God is doing. Any teacher of the*

*Word of God must have a contextual understanding of both testaments in order to grasp the true message. Jewel begins to open this door of understanding. There are not many people in churches today that teach this information. Jewel also offers additional resources. Very valuable class!!"*

*~ Dianne*



One of our most popular and well attended classes this past year was presented by Rhonda Bennett, a life-coach for over 30 years. We held this class in Maine and in Connecticut. Forty-three women participated. Her topic, "Change Your Home, Change Your Life," resonated with the women who attended. Here is one woman's reflection on the training.

*"All that Rhonda shared is just too good to keep to ourselves. I have already shared the message with four different people and would love to share it soon with the women from my church. I want to get a frame and place this inside: "Jan. 20, 2016-What have I done with my life, and my goals these past two years? How have I lived my life since attending the seminar on Jan. 20, 2014?" I want to include areas like relationships, health, and ministry. I can't thank you enough; the weekend was another life-changing event." ~ Daryl*

Another major milestone occurred this year. We published, "Understanding Your Personal Calling and Mission," one of our leadership training core curriculum classes. To date, this is our third published class. We anticipate much fruit from this newest "Educational Kit" to train and encourage women in their various callings.

# and Grow



## Want to help extend *by design* to more women?

- You can **provide scholarships** so more women can be equipped and encouraged at our events and programs
- You can **promote** this ministry to women in your church
- You can **pray** for our Director, Staff Members and Volunteers
- You can **present** this ministry to your Church's Missions Board and ask them to support it in their annual budget

## Together Group Ministry

This small group ministry is designed to nurture and support women as they seek to maintain a proper balance in life and to help women cultivate a network of godly friendships and mentoring relationships. These meetings include time for prayer, sharing resources and ideas, fellowship and equipping. Currently, we have six active Together groups meeting in Massachusetts and Maine, with one starting soon in Connecticut. Some groups have met for over six years now and great friendships and partnerships among ministries have resulted.

*"I came to New England in 2004 from Indonesia with my husband and four children. I desperately needed some kind of support system, as I was struggling to learn all new things in New England. From culture to weather, from being a mom, a pastor's wife and a student, I was pressed by inadequacy and a sense of unending adjustment. We planted a church and also started a women's ministry that met regularly at our place. As the ministry grew, I was praying to find a circle of friendship to help me grow with a sense of accountability, but also a place where I can share my passion. Just in time, I was connected to **by design**. I came to the retreat for the first time and found a group of women who brought me such joy and inspiration for my personal journey and ministry. The best part was the follow-up when I joined my first Together Group in N. Hampton, NH.*

# Wings to Undergird and Support



*Maybe I was the youngest one in the group and so it was a little harder at first because I was at a different season of life compared to others in the group, but as I listened, shared and experienced, I realized that was all I needed: learning from other women. I was encouraged by their story. Their journey of faith and their insights on the Word of*

*God have enriched my own journey. Other than that, there are several more blessings of being in a Together Group.*

- *First, being face to face with other women in a healthy, godly and purposeful relationship, is an ultimate need in our era where women and leaders today can easily be trapped into isolation.*

- *Second, it contributes benefits on my own*

*leadership development by engaging and learning together as leaders.*

*My Together Group is not just a group for sharing the Word and the works of God, but also a small forum for best ideas being developed. A place for brainstorming on women and their needs, the culture and other challenges we are facing collectively as leaders. A great group where prayer is vital, and learning together with women from different Christian traditions or backgrounds is helping me understand the unity in Christ, and the uniqueness of God's design for each person and their calling. I see our Together Group as one of the pillars God has placed in my life to nurture my passion for reaching out to women, and shaping my personal growth, commitment and spiritual discipline. I am blessed."*

*~ Deibi*

## Retreat

Our annual women's retreat helps women of influence find a place of rest and refreshment. It is a time to step out of the noise and confusion of a busy and full life and an opportunity for women to leave behind the treadmill of expectations and the pressures of daily life and ministry. It is a time to be nurtured and cared for by other sisters in Christ. Women who are involved in leading and serving need the body of Christ and the nourishment of loving sisters sharing, praying and holding one another accountable just as much as any of those God calls them to serve.

This year's retreat drew women from twenty-eight churches. And we had women attend from five New England states, including Vermont, which hasn't been represented in our retreats for many years. We continue to draw in many new women to the retreat, thus expanding our network of women leaders in New England. Below one woman reflects on her experience at our retreat:

*"The Lord spoke to me through testimonies and wisdom from the women in my small group and round table discussion time. Cindy McDowell's message affirmed the truth that God is all I need for effective ministry. I also enjoyed the opportunity to get to know a few women from my church at a deeper level. I need to process how to keep the Lord at the center of my ministry and to make sure, on a practical, everyday basis, I am abiding in Christ. I also plan to pray for a mentor who can help me grow deeper spiritually." ~Jane*

# Wings to Affirm and Uphold

We want to regularly affirm and honor those who have faithfully and whole-heartedly served the Lord month after month, and year after year.

Our Celebrate Together event, held annually at a local hotel, is one way we endeavor to show our appreciation to these women who often serve in multiple roles within their church or organization. This year's event featured author and speaker Linda Anderson. She shared insightful and practical points on trusting the Lord in difficult circumstances. It was a great stimulus for the discussion period following her talk.

Our event also offers the opportunity for other area ministries to be featured during our program. These "exhibitors" help to educate and inspire us to consider other fields for ministry. These are valued partners in our kingdom work!

We initiated the "Alice Mathews Award" two years ago. The award formally recognizes women whose lives have exemplified five key areas described in our vision statement (See below.) This year's award went to Lois Marshall from Ft. Square Presbyterian Church in Quincy, MA. What a delight to acknowledge dedicated women of God who have faithfully served the Lord for years.

Based on Psalm 1:1-3, we envision women who are committed to serving the Lord and who are:

- Continually connected to Him
- Courageous in adversity
- Confident in His call
- Consistently bearing fruit
- Compassionately reaching out to others



**Lois Marshall**  
*Alice Mathews Award*  
2014

# Financial Report



Like the apostle Paul, we never tire of saying “thank you” for your partnership in the ministry. The Lord continues to bless us through the investments of your prayers and financial gifts to this work, and we in turn, are able to continue encouraging and equipping women across New England.

## Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2014

### Income

Individual and Church Donations	\$18,625.52
Conference and Event Registrations	\$ 7,187.77
Other Income	\$ 5,350.33
Total Support and Other Income	\$31,163.62

### Expenditures

Salaries	\$16,462.00
Program	\$ 8,391.21
Operations	\$ 7,383.24
Other Expense	\$608.40

Total Expenditures \$32,844.85

Net Income/Loss <\$1,681.23>

## Significant Stats

This year 187 women were actively involved in our ministry, a slight increase from last year.

37% of those participating this year were new to our ministry.

We had a 12% increase in the number of churches represented by the women who participated in our ministry this year.

The women involved in our ministry represented all six New England states.

Over \$1,000 was donated in scholarships for women to attend events.

Increasingly, our ministry continues to involve more women from a variety of ethnic backgrounds; Indonesian, African-American and Haitian.

## Next Year We Have These Goals...

- To publish one new Educational Kit from our 24 leadership training classes
- To continue to increase networking opportunities among women leaders
- To develop new Together groups, especially in Connecticut and New Hampshire
- To expand our base of contributors. This year saw a decline of 18% in individual and church donations.
- To continue to offer spiritual growth and ministry skill development opportunities through our training events



by  
design  
ministries

*We believe all women are uniquely designed to contribute significantly to reaching our world for Christ. This ministry is committed to assisting women in the discovery, development and deployment of their God-given design for their lives.*

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