

Shine!

by **Life Change Report**
for 2012-2013
design ministries



And they that be wise shall shine
as the brightness of the firmament;

and they that turn many to righteousness
as the stars for ever and ever.

(Daniel 12:3)



September 2013

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Women are crucial to God's plan for evangelism and discipleship. Women are strategically positioned in the home, workplace, church and community to advance the kingdom of God. Together with our brothers in Christ, we are making a significant contribution in reaching our world for Christ. We labor to be counted among those that are described in Daniel 12:3; *And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*

This year we expanded the network of women involved in our ministry. **Sixty-two percent** of the women who participated in our ministry were new! The majority of the women we served are actively involved within the women's ministries in their local church. And, not surprisingly, many of the women serve in multiple areas of ministry. As you read through this report you will be impressed with great and mighty things the Lord is

doing in the lives and ministries of these amazing women. It is through the well-equipped committed woman that we are making a dramatic difference in the life and health of the local church.

With a grateful heart, we are thankful for our faithful supporters, committed volunteers, and gifted staff for their involvement in this ministry. Their contributions and prayers have made our vision a reality. We praise God for the evidence of his financial blessings as He once again allowed us to finish the year in the black.

As our ministry continues to grow and develop, we praise the Lord for these encouraging results and we remain committed to coming alongside women, equipping them to become more effective leaders.

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.

We want to be among those who *will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.* (Daniel 12:3)

Board of Directors

Sarah Bartley	Susan Moody
Phyllis Bennett	Linda Moore
Jean Marrapodi	Pauline Morgan
Victoria Melvin	

Reflecting His Values

Acknowledging our prayerful dependence upon the Lord ...

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

We want to stress the importance and centrality of the local church for the advancement of the kingdom of God. 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 the character of Christ through holy lives expressed in purity, integrity and virtue. 2 Corinthians 7:1; Titus 2:11-14

We want women to grow in Christ and enhance their ministries through partnerships and mentoring relationships I Thessalonians 2:8

We want women to appreciate 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, the community and the world. Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-20



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

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 94 women involved in five in-depth leadership training classes. During the spring, we expanded our ministry into Vermont where we conducted two classes at our host church in Chester. Women from 11 different communities participated in the training. Given the very positive response to the training, we anticipate returning to Vermont for additional equipping this coming year.

Women were given tools to improve their devotional lives (**Holy Habits**) and they were challenged to view their ministries from a variety of perspectives including ethnic diversity (**Learning From Our Differences**). We examined the life of Moses and the importance of physical and spiritual rest as we invest our lives in others (**Renewal in Life, Relationships and Ministry**). We were taken through a one-day Understanding the Big Picture of the Old Testament class (**From Eden to Jerusalem: A Journey through the Old Testament**), which highlighted God's amazing redemptive purpose through the centuries. We also learned the importance of seeing God's perspective on our self-worth (**Biblically Balanced Self-Worth for Women in Leadership**).

Praise God for the lives and churches impacted through this training! For more detailed information, visit bydesignministry.org and click on the Leadership Training link.

reflecting our desire to

grow

Before we attended the Journey through the Old Testament Class, my daughter Liz had the same questions as I did. We could not understand what help this ancient history could offer us. It is so hard to understand; it has lengthy, boring lists of unusual names and seems so far removed from us today!

Since taking the class, Liz has been ignited with a desire to read more. After she finished reading Genesis we went for a walk and discussed what she read. She was able to see in the story of Joseph the hand of God working in his life to save Egypt. Joseph had gained wisdom and understanding despite his brothers' betrayal and deadly actions, and realized God's higher purpose and that ultimately it was not about what his brothers did to him. She thought it was an example for us to see God's grace in the messes of our own family and lives and that saving grace can come from unlikely people and unlikely circumstances.

As we discussed the importance of the humble servants' heart, we were impressed by how the "messes" and dire situations in the OT are so much like our contemporary life. History shows that God indeed knows our hearts. After the class we could see that the anxieties, worries, doubts and fears that faced ancient people are not unlike those we face. This contributed to their seeking to connect to a false god, a shiny replica, an empty and lifeless idol in which they were in control, rather than being directed or disciplined by the one true God. The self-centered, controlling nature of people was as real to OT people as it is today.

Being a conceptual learner, it was wonderful to look at the big picture and see God's message of love and redemption woven through the Old Testament. In light of the information presented, I am excited to dig into some of the more challenging books in the Old Testament. Thank you for making this wonderful day possible.

Kimberly





reflecting support and encouragement

Why do I make a Together

Group a priority? Like most people I am faced with significant time commitments already. I am a single professional project manager for a large insurance company. My weekly schedule is dominated by work for the better part of 50 to 55 hours. Then you add preparing and teaching Bible study, personal devotions and quiet time, coordinating ministry at my church where I serve as Director of Women's Ministry and meeting one-on-one with several women who I disciple, mentor or just encourage. Add in food shopping, laundry, housekeeping... well you get the picture.

So why does a Together Group and by design ministries become such an important part of my life? Why would I give up one of my few precious days off? Because without the support and fellowship I receive from the wonderful group of ladies who meet once a month, I would be overwhelmed with a sense of responsibility without accountability. I love to hear everyone's update for the past month. I get to share my burdens knowing these women will love me and pray for me. They encourage me to rest in Christ, take appropriate time for myself and plan fun times with family and friends to balance out my life.

Pauline

Together Group Ministry

This small group ministry is designed to nurture and support women as they seek to maintain a proper balance in life, as well as helping women cultivate a network of godly friendships and mentoring relationships. We attracted more women to this ministry through our "Block Parties," where new women are invited to experience for themselves what a Together group is like.



Retreat

Our annual women's retreat helps women of influence find a place of rest and refreshment. It is a time to step off the treadmill of expectations and 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 was the best attended in the past six years. Here is one woman's experience.

What did I get from attending my first retreat? More than I thought I would. I thought I was there to learn to help others. I signed up to attend one of the round table discussion groups in order to learn about working with difficult people because I was soon taking on a new role leading a single parent group at a summer camp and I wanted to extend God's grace to new people. As it turned out, God met me on a whole 'nother level! I had a major work issue going on in my life and God used the women I met at the retreat to help me in this area. One woman in particular counseled me to stand up in a particular area. When I took her advice I was set free from a lot of anxiety. God showed me that He can meet me in the weirdest places and at unexpected times, even when I am not consciously looking for healing.

Paula

Celebrate Together

We want to regularly affirm and honor those who have faithfully and wholeheartedly 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 Gail Macdonald. Gail challenged us to live intentionally, not just letting life happen or reacting to the moment, but disciplining ourselves for our overarching goal of "living the Jesus life."

We established the "Alice Mathews Award" at last year's event. Each year we formally recognize women whose lives have exemplified the five key areas described in our vision statement (See below). This year's Dr. Alice Mathews award went to Lu Linda Tucker from the First Baptist Church in Sudbury, MA.

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

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



reflecting affirmation

Shining Stats

One hundred and eighty four women were actively involved in *by design* last year, including 94 women who participated in our leadership training and coaching classes. Over 6,700 women have participated in our training since this ministry's inception in 2001.

62% of those participating this year were new to our ministry. This is a 20% increase from last year.

Our individual and church donations remained steady this year.

The women attending our events represented 94 churches and all six New England states.

Over \$700 was donated in scholarships for women to attend events.

Our ministry continues to involve increasingly more women from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.

Even in light of our country's current financial uncertainty, we completed the year in the black.

Financial Report

Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2013

Income	
Individual and Church Donations	\$22,987
Conference and Event Registrations	\$8,039
Other Income	\$333
Total Support and Other Income	\$31,359
Expenditures	
Salaries	\$15,348
Program	\$9,710
Operations	\$3,472
Other Expense	\$55
Total Expenditures	\$28,585
Net Income	\$2,774

Next Year We Have These Goals...

- To publish three new Educational Kits from our 24 leadership training classes
- To increase networking opportunities among women leaders
- To develop new Together groups in Connecticut and New Hampshire
- To continue to offer spiritual growth and ministry skill development opportunities through our training events
- To produce the 7th edition of our Speaker's Directory for event and retreat event planners

**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.