

Women's Ministry Update

So what is "Sweetwater" all about?

If you have been active in our women's ministry or classes, you may have read, or heard, this devotion before. But, periodically, I like to come back to the message that is the basis for our women's ministry. And so, I am including our Sweetwater Message here today. You can find this at anytime on our Women's Ministry web page: <http://sweetwaterministry.wordpress.com/>

Have you ever felt dry?...I mean really dry? Here in the desert area of Phoenix, one thing we always remember on a hot day is to carry our water bottle! Just a few hours without the refreshment of liquid can parch our palette. Should we go even a day without water in the desert, we could see our skin start to dry and crack, our eyes may cease to make tears, we could feel sick, grow weak, and become confused!

Are our physical symptoms any different than those we experience when we grow spiritually dry? When we walk in the desert, away from God, soon, we start to crack. Our spirit ceases to make tender tears and instead grows bitter and hard. Rather than a physical illness or weakness, our spiritual, and emotional, health begins to suffer. Surely, we become confused and without direction. When we are physically dry nothing refreshes like a cool drink of water. When we are spiritually dry, God will always provide refreshment – if we seek it.

The Sweetwater message is two-fold: We are to constantly be refreshed in The Lord and also allow God to use us as a refreshment to others! This message comes to us from Exodus 15:22-26: *Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah. So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" Then he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree; and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them. And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the Lord, am your healer.*

The longer we wander in the desert – away from God – the more likely we are to find bitterness and grumbling. But when we surrender and cry out to The Lord, He can take an ordinary thing (like the limb of a tree – like you and me) and turn our bitterness into something sweet and refreshing for our benefit, and for the benefit of those around us. But there is more...God gave us a guidelines to live by. If we follow His led, seek what is right, and keep His commands He will Heal us!

Ladies, let us be like this limb God used. Let us be an ordinary thing that He can use to make refreshing Sweetwater!

Bible Study Changes...

We are making some changes to our ladies Bible study schedule. Many of the ladies who wish to participate in a ladies study are serving in children's ministry or nursery during the Sunday school hour. Therefore, we have decided to suspend our Sunday morning Ladies Bible Study. We are working with the ladies who attended that group to help them find another Sunday morning group that meets their needs. In the future, we hope to begin a ladies bible study, at different time, when more ladies should be free to attend. Current feedback indicates that a Sunday 6PM Bible study would be favorable. If you would like to participate in a regular ladies Bible study group, please contact Mrs. Kristy for more details about upcoming studies.

Cooking with Connie Maybe you're too busy to cook—or too tired—or just not motivated. Well, we want to help you get out of the kitchen fast and still have a regular rotation of home cooked meals! **Friday evening, January 13th**, Connie will share 3 easy recipes that you can make at one time — and you can store them away for future use! Bring a dish to share for the fellowship time, your Bible for the devotion time, and a friend just because! You're under no obligation; However, kitchen items will be also be available for your purchase, and funds raised will benefit the ladies ministry.

Feb 25th Women's Conference: Need a ladies retreat but can't get away for the week? Then come & get away for *the day* at our Women's Ministry Conference, Sacred Romance. Jasmine Frazier will teach us about God's LOVE for us, there will be worship by us & for us, lunch, girl talk, and give aways! What else could a girl ask for? We are also seeking volunteers to help set up, clean up, and staff the event. So get connected with ladies around the AZ Baptist community by assisting with this exciting event!

Questions or comments? Email us at admin@fbcgl.com or call the church office at 623-936-7148.

Help wanted: Paid child care provider needed on Feb 26th. Min wage. Call the Church office 623-936-7148.

January 5, 2012



FBC Church Ladies head to retreat. September 2011.

Keep Up to date...

You can follow happenings at:

www.gardenlakesbaptist.com

"Like" our Facebook Page:

FBC Garden Lakes

check out our women's ministry at:

<http://sweetwaterministry.wordpress.com>

SPOTLIGHT

Women in Business! Church Business that is...

From teaching to tallying from technology to typing—the women of FCBGL help keep His house in order. If you have been looking for a way to fruitfully spend your free time, there are many opportunities for you to connect and volunteer in the ministries here.

Volunteers are needed on an ongoing basis. There are small reorganizing projects to big repainting plans that constantly need to be completed around the church house. But, we can't do it with just a few—everyone needs to get involved.

Looking for something more? Connect with one of our ministry leaders, or the church office, to learn of the steps needed to serve in ministry. We need nursery workers, teachers, Awana leaders, greeters, mission workers, drama team performers....

And what's this about church business? Did you know that all active church members are invited, and encouraged, to attend church business meetings? We review our finances, hear reports from our ministry teams, and our elders share the direction and vision God is giving them for our church. There are also opportunities for you to ask questions and give input.

I encourage our ladies to get involved and stay connected through an area of ongoing service and ministry! Contact me, or Melissa Kacer, for assistance in finding a place to serve. - Mrs. Kristy

March 9th—Bunco for Missions

April—Arizona Baptist Women's Retreat to Williams, AZ