

God Has Gifted You!!

Pastor Dan Teehey

April 2008

CNN founder Ted Turner once said, "Men should be barred from running for public office for 100 years . . . men have been running the world for the last, God knows, how many thousands of years, and we've really, kind of, I think, screwed it up." About the same time Turner said this, I was asked to write about the role of women in ministry for an online magazine and I ended up saying something very similar.

I wrote: "The church has failed to affirm the Holy Spirit's work through the lives of gifted women and subjugated them to the sidelines of ministry. Both women and the church have paid a price for this disregard of the Holy Spirit's movement. Ultimately, the church must decide whether its attitude concerning gender will be determined by the biases and misguided values of history or our oneness and freedom in Christ. It is time to let the Holy Spirit of God work through all of God's people. It is time that the diverse spiritual gifts of women are affirmed by the church."

I want to affirm your giftedness and encourage you to confidently live out your passions and desires for God's work in our community.

For several years, the Women's Ministry at Riverside has shined as an example of God's work. Through the Women's Ministry, God has led women into spiritual discipline, Bible study and intimate fellowship.

God has gifted you because He wants to accomplish unique things through you. Do not underestimate your ability to influence your family, friends and community. You were created in the image of God and should proceed confidently through life knowing that your gender places no limitation on the work that God can do through you. The church needs women of influence that are willing to lead others to Christ by their Christ-like lives. If God has placed a particular concern, passion or desire on your heart for Riverside, I encourage you to talk with me about it. God wants to use you to strengthen the faith of Riverside and to increase our effect on those yet untouched by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You are vital to Riverside truly being the body of Christ and my prayer is that you will ambitiously pursue opportunities to utilize your giftedness amongst our fellowship and community.



Lessons in Lifecare

Late Thursday evening my husband was just coming home from a business trip for the third week in a row. My six-month-old son and I were on day three of our lives as gypsies as we evaded the construction crew replacing the floor in our house, when I realized that the LifeCare banquet was tomorrow and I

Megan Mills

didn't have a baby-sitter. The idea of trying to find a sitter, figuring out where my husband was going to go to work the next day (his home office was still out of commission), and deciding what we were both going to wear, seemed overwhelming. I was tempted to throw in the towel.

But LifeCare ministry was something I had a heart for as early as high school, although I had unknowingly laid it aside and quickly forgot. It wasn't until the birth of our son that I was reminded of the millions of women who find themselves in a desperate situation, making the decision to have an abortion.

Initially when the opportunity to attend the LifeCare banquet came up, I was excited and saw it as a first step to find out how to get involved. But now driving home in the dark and homeless since 8:00 a.m., with my exhausted son in the back seat, the banquet seemed like just another item to add to our already overloaded schedule. I just wanted to stay home. But my husband seemed up to the challenge, so I made some calls to find a sitter. Thankfully, my in-laws were available and willing. The moment we dropped off Jonathan, I was at least thankful for the evening alone with Everette.

Once the banquet began, I was glad we were there. In fact, I couldn't remember why I didn't want to come in the first place. Two LifeCare clients shared their stories and I was reminded of how so many women are uninformed, misinformed and alone when they find themselves pregnant unexpectedly. Moved with compassion, I felt that familiar burden return. It was a good feeling, a warmth that begins in your heart and radiates to your fingertips. Jesus





Ministry corner

The Special Events Ministry Team is an active part of Riverside's women's ministries. Their goal is to provide opportunities to reach women for Christ through special events; to draw them into the fellowship of service, utilizing their gifts and talents, while furthering God's Kingdom.

If you enjoy planning, organizing, attending to details, or have creative talents, we need you. We have a wonderful team, but there is always room for one more! Your involvement can be

total or whatever suits your life style. As a team, we have meetings and workshops filled with great fellowship and usually food too! We are currently preparing for the spring luncheon. Many women have poured their hearts into making this a lovely time for all to share. It's amazing to see how God will take a few of our ideas and grow them into a truly unique and special event.

The next Riverside event for ladies is our 2nd Annual Women's Retreat (see box below). For more information about the team contact Nancy Umbeck (see below).

LifeCare Cont'd... said, "Come to me all who are weary . . .for my yoke is easy and my burden is light..." It is so true. I spent the whole week weary and stressed out by my own yoke and my own load of worries. The idea of taking on someone else's was the last thing I wanted. But the thing about Jesus' burden is, it is light. And when you spend your efforts "seeking first the Kingdom of God" He takes care of everything else. When the evening ended, I knew that God was calling me to fill out that volunteer card. I wasn't sure how much time I had to give, but I knew that He had called me to be involved, and I was excited about it! Once again I was reminded about what God can do when we quit thinking about ourselves and start seeking God's Kingdom.

Woman in the spotlight

Brenda Fassnacht

Each issue we will highlight different women in the church, giving you a chance to meet someone new, find a common bond and make a new friend.

Testimony: I accepted Jesus into my heart as a little girl during Good News Club, but have been learning about God's grace for a lifetime.

Advice to Christian Women: Depend on God for everything. From the smallest concern to the greatest. I love to read, but I have never met an author with such attention to detail and intricate plot lines (Have you read Daniel!?) as my heavenly Father. This mother of two, doesn't know how anyone can raise

children without living in complete dependence on the One who knows all, loves greatly and has the power to change the weather... and our attitudes.

Hobbies: Flower arranging, singing, sudoku, and reading (when I have the chance)



Brenda attends RCC with her husband Mike, her son Nathan and her daughter Catherine.

Write these on your calendars!

- **April 26th 12-2 PM RCC Spring Ladies' Luncheon**
- **Godly Wisdom for Women @ RCC Wednesday Evenings April 23-**
- **Summer Book Clubs-Date & Location**
 - *Wed. May 28, 6:30 PM Nancy Umbeck
 - *Wed. June 25, 6:30 PM Dar Muehlhausen
 - *Wed. July 23, 6:30 PM Stephanie Brennan
- **August 1-3 Women's Retreat-Women of Faith in Indianapolis**

Feel out of the loop?

Get emails about upcoming events, sign up for our email list, go to the women's ministry page of the church website, who knows what else you'll find there!

www.rcovenant.org



contact us

Director of Women's Ministries

Rhonda Ausk

497-2421 rhonda.ausk@verizon.net

Lifelong Learning -Have an idea for a bible study or a summer book? Contact **Lisa Harker**

497-7262 lisalisa@insightbb.com

Prayer -Need Prayer or interested in being on the prayer team? Contact **Melissa Guipe**

490-4066 t.guipe@insightbb.com

Mentoring - Want to mentor other women or want to be mentored? Contact **Linda Bogan**

490-0000 lbogan@trinitymission.org

Encouragement -Want to be on the encouragement team, or know someone who needs encouragement? Contact **Lanie Nelson**

464-2542 (weekdays) 404-4096 (nights and weekends) lanienelson@yahoo.com

Special Events -Know of an upcoming women's event, or like to plan events? Contact **Nancy Umbeck**

497-9270 numbeck@yahoo.com

Missions -Have an idea for a mission project or want to join the team? Contact **Polly Timmerman**

469-3126 pollytimmerman@aol.com

Communications -Have an idea for the newsletter or want to join the team? Contact **Megan Mills** 532-2507 megan@elmills.com or **Stephanie Brennan**

471-1530 thebronchobrennans@yahoo.com