

Women's Connection

Western Great Lakes District Alliance Women Ministries

August 2011

www.alliancewomen.org

<http://www.wglcma.org/AWM/AWM.htm>



In November of 2003, my husband and I had the great privilege of going to Thailand with other missions-minded people from C&MA

districts around the country. It was a trip that I will never forget! I will always remember visiting the Hmong Village and witnessing the tremendous love that they had for God, in spite of the poor living conditions and lack of material goods. I still have memories of the tuk-tuk rides, the elephant ride, the night market trips, and the train ride from Bangkok to Chang Mai. But the thing that always comes to mind first when I think of that trip is the horrific odor that immediately hit us when we arrived in Bangkok. I have never smelled anything like that, and can't even really explain what it was like. I can only say that I hope I never have to smell it again. It was an odor that lingered in the streets of the city and at times actually made me gag.

I've been told that I have a very acute sense of smell. Maybe that's why Bangkok bothered me so much. I can also remember when I was a young girl and my family would head west from Nebraska to Colorado for our summer vacations. Numerous times in those trips we'd pass alfalfa mills, and whenever we started coming close to them I'd immediately hide my head in my pillow, where I'd

stay until my family gave me the "all clear" sign. I'm allergic to alfalfa, and I'm assuming that is why that smell was so detestable to me. I'm the same with mold and mildew...I can smell it wherever it lurks!!

On the other hand, good smells also really stand out in my mind. My grandma's home-baked cinnamon rolls. Coffee brewing. Brownies baking! My mom's laundry room...sparkling clean!

Just as bad smells can be really offensive and turn us off to the source of the odor, so can good and pleasant smells give us the desire to further investigate the origin of the aroma. This year you will be hearing a lot about smells and fragrances, as the theme for Alliance Women Ministries is "Simply Fragrant." Our theme verse reminds us that we are the sweet smell of Christ to a lost world. If we stay close to Him, we can be used of God to spread His fragrance wherever

God uses us to spread His knowledge everywhere like a sweet-smelling perfume. Our offering to God is this: We are the sweet smell of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are being lost. 2 Corinthians 2:14-15

we go.

If we want to emulate Christ's fragrance, we need to learn from Him and take on His character. I encourage you to use the Bible Studies found in the Leadership Link that was mailed to you early this summer. (If you did not get a copy of it, please let me know, and I'll send one to you.) The Bible Studies will concentrate on the character qualities of Jesus as He lived on this earth. Our desire should be to exhibit these qualities ourselves so that people will catch the aroma of Christ when they are around us! Let's be *Simply Fragrant* throughout this year!

-Jean

Fragrant Tidbit...

...One of the very best ways to enjoy your fragrance is to spray the air and walk through it. I do that every morning and it subtly fragrances my clothes, skin and hair - hair is a great "carrier" for fragrance - and I get wafts of my fragrance, through the day as I move." --Karyn Khoury



Alliance Women
MINISTRIES

**WGL District AWM Retreat
 October 7-9, 2011
 Green Lake Conference Center
 Special Speaker: Susie Larson**

By now, you have received information about the district AWM Retreat and are hopefully promoting it in your church. More information and the retreat brochure and registration form can also be found on our district website (www.wglcma.org) on the AWM page. If more forms are needed, you can print them from there.



**Registration
 Deadline is
 September 21!**

For more information, contact our Retreat Planning Committee Chairperson...Sheri Rens at sheri@mycrosswalk.net or at 262-706-3152

**Western Great Lakes AWM
 Leadership Team**

- Director—Jean Birr
- Assistant Director—Sheri Rens
- Secretary—Barb Schoenherr
- Treasurer—Betty Jo Petry
- Retreat Planning Committee Chair— Sheri Rens
- TCK Coordinator— Lori Wiggins
- Publications Coordinator— TBA
- Ex-Officio— Linda Russell

Also serving in an unofficial capacity as our Webmaster is Jenny Roberts



*Dear Alliance Women of the WGL District,
 Thank you so much for the help with "Back to Basics" money that you gave me when I arrived on home assignment recently. This is very much appreciated, and a great blessing. It is such a privilege to be a part of this district, and to know the love, support and faithful prayers of Alliance women. Having served as a missionary now for almost 34 years, it means so much to know that there are Alliance women who are there to help in meeting our needs and care for us. You truly are partners with us in obeying God in "pushing back the darkness."*

I hope to see many of you while I am here this year on home assignment. It will be a delight to be at the retreat this Fall, and to be in some of your churches on tour.

Many thanks once again.

Joyfully in Christ,

Valerie Stellrecht

Women's Leadership Studies

Training To Lead

Unit Two is Coming to Wausau, WI

- Who We Are and What We Believe
- Assessment and Integration of Leaders

Saturday, November 12, 2011

8:30 - 5:00

To view syllabus, instructor information and to register, visit: www.alliancewomen.org/wls

- ◆ Cost for this Unit is \$59. (Audit fee is \$55)
- ◆ Two full scholarships will be given out at the WGL District Alliance Women's Retreat in October. One scholarship will be for Unit 2, one scholarship will be for Unit 3 to be held next Spring. Make sure you sign up at retreat if you are interested in a scholarship.
- ◆ First-timers to WLS please **contact Jean Birr** (djbirr1013@hotmail.com) for a \$10 scholarship for Unit 2.
- ◆ A hot lunch (and morning and afternoon snacks) will be served for a fee of \$5
- ◆ Registration ends November 5, 2011.

Wausau Alliance Church
2125 Franklin Street
Wausau, WI 54403

For More Information, Please Contact
Jean Birr, WGL District Director
920.533.4516 djbirr1013@hotmail.com

ENvision – Something New

...by Raeni Roos, Plymouth Alliance Church

Our family is embarking on a new journey. Our family is: Tony, my husband; a youth pastor at Plymouth Alliance Church for the past 8 years; Fayth, age 9, loves to read and swim; Hannah, age 6, the self proclaimed funny one is always putting on a show, and myself, Raeni, wife and mom to the above individuals.

About a year ago Tony and I felt God preparing our hearts to go on to something new. No ideas about what that was exactly, just this idea that we should be preparing to go. For me personally, it was preparing my heart to leave behind my beloved church, community and home and look forward to something new. We tried to search out what it was God had but he wasn't ready to reveal all of the details to us. He just asked us to prepare.

Through a trip Tony took to Asia, with five other WGLD youth pastors, in October 2010, ENvision was brought to our attention. As soon as we heard the vision we were excited. That was it! That was the new thing God had prepared for us! We quickly went through the accreditation process and in May of 2012 we were officially approved to be International Workers to launch the new ENvision Paris site.

What is ENvision? ENvision is a fairly new initiative set up by the Christian and Missionary Alliance to engage 18-30 year olds in the United States. In many of our churches this is a lost generation, the age group that isn't there. ENvision wants to ignite the passion in them by using their gifts and talents around the world. They can sign up for trips that last 2 weeks up to 2 years.

Our site in Paris will be taking young adults and using them to aid the current missionaries serving on the field as well as looking for new and creative ways to reach the 1,000,000 college students living in France. Our primary role at this time is to coordinate all the logistics of housing, feeding, and finding ways to serve for those who are coming Paris.

One other unique feature about ENvision is that ENvision is a completely self-funded project. Self-funded means that we do not receive funds from the GCF, but need churches and individuals to partner with us to get to & keep us in France. We need churches & individuals to join us in prayer and finances so we have the resources to not only get to France but to launch & maintain this new site.

If any of this strikes a chord in your heart please check out our website: roos4paris.com. There you will find the

story of how we embarked on this journey, prayer requests, details on how you can sign up for our newsletter, and how to contribute financially. Or you may contact me directly at raeni_roos@hotmail.com

Here are a few ways that you can pray for us currently:

- Praise that schooling has been figured out for all of us as well as housing.
- Pray that we would be able to start learning French even while we are here in Plymouth
- Pray that our transition would go smoothly
- Pray that the finances would come in quickly.



Thanks to the following churches who gave money to the outfit fund during the last fiscal year to help our International Workers buy what is needed before leaving for their term overseas:



Our International Workers Thank You!

East Lincoln Alliance (Amery)
 Appleton Alliance
 Living Hope Community (Cable)
 Campbellsport Alliance
 Chetek Alliance
 Faith Alliance (Chilton)
 Keystone New Life Alliance (Cornell)
 Curtiss Alliance
 Bethany Alliance (Fennimore)
 Cornerstone Community (Iron Mt.)
 Orchard View Alliance (Janesville)
 Kiel Alliance
 East Gate Alliance (Marshfield)
 Melrose Alliance

Alliance Church of Menomonie
 Alliance Bible (Mequon)
 Faith Bible Alliance (Neosho)
 Crosspoint Community (Oconomowoc)
 Riverview Alliance (Oconto Falls)
 Plymouth Alliance
 Lake Park Alliance (Shell Lake)
 Alliance Church of the Valley (St. Croix Falls)
 C&MA Church in Superior
 Maple Valley Community (Suring)
 River Valley Alliance (Watertown)
 Crosswalk Church (Waukesha)
 Wausau Alliance
 Community Church (West Bend)



This past year we have had as our theme "On the Move", with money being given to Creative Access Countries outreach ministries.

In looking over the financial report given to me by our treasurer, I see that only **seven** of our district churches gave money this year to the National AWM Project. Those seven churches did an **amazing** job, giving a total of \$4,510.89 either thru walkathons or other methods of raising the money. **Thank you!** But I am saddened to think that the rest of our churches missed out on the blessing! Let's do better this year! I'd love to see the percentage of churches giving to "Simply Fragrant" rise to at least 50%, if not more. Let's join together with churches in our district and churches around the country as we work toward the goal of \$350,000 to provide National Leadership Development around the world.

At the AWM meetings held in Kansas City in May, Edna Mapstone was appointed as the National Interim Director of Alliance Women Ministries. Edna works with her husband, Jerry, at Life Impact Ministries. Life Impact is an office under Church Ministries, planning events such as LIFE, International Bible Quizzing finals, Council, Alliance World Fellowship, and Celebrate 2012. Edna lives in New Freedom, Pennsylvania, and is an avid AWM cheerleader! Jerry and Edna have 2 daughters, Kimberly (married to Randy) and Kristen. Please be in prayer for Edna as she assumes the added responsibilities of being the Interim AWM Director for this coming year.



ALLIANCE WOMEN MINISTRIES

Simply Fragrant

Happy Birthday to you...

Encourage our International Workers by sending them a card or e-mail for their birthday! Upcoming birthdays are:

August

- 7 "D" of "J and D"
- 12 "M" of "B and M"

September

- 10 "T" of "T and H"
- 11 Mike Soderling
- 12 Val Stellrecht
- 13 Mark Long
- 28 Val Mullenix

October

- 6 "J" son of "B and M"
- 15 Jenna Manfred
- 17 Wendy Lovell
- 18 "Z" son of "S and K"
- 31 "K" of "S and K"

***Initials are used for Creative Access Country Workers**

What's That Smell?!

By Barb Schoenherr

The household was awakened. The kitchen radio played faintly in the background and the aroma of fresh coffee wafted from room to room. The little girl stirred, eyes opening ever so slightly. Day was just breaking, light giving the window shade an eerie glow. Cozy under the covers, she was as snug as a bug and as warm as toast.

As she fully awoke, the buzzing that she had been waiting for began; an electric razor. Her daddy was shaving and she knew what that meant.

*"Morning by morning He awakens;
He awakens my ear to hear as those who are being taught."
Isaiah 50:4b*

Forsaking the warmth of her bed and all hope of going back to sleep, she popped up. The covers flew back, exposing her pink, pajama-clad body. Bare little feet connected with the cold wood floor, sending a shiver up her back. Even the doorknob was cold, but she had to hurry before she missed her chance.

Skipping down the hall, she burst into the brightly lit bathroom as the razor was completing its daily task. Just in time!

Her daddy stood before the mirror--all 6'4" of him. He looked over at her with a smile as he reached for the white bottle of Old Spice aftershave. The little girl loved it!

*"O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice;
In the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch."
Psalm 5:3*

Her daddy opened the cap, shook some of the fragrant liquid out in his large hands, and applied it to his cheeks. Then the moment she had been anticipating; he turned, bent down and patted her soft, rosy cheeks. Giggling, she turned and skipped out, the fragrance of her daddy floating alongside.

*"Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust.
Make me to know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul."
Psalm 143:8*

I was that little girl. Now at age 55, with a husband and grown family of my own, I'm supposed to be all grown up. But you know, at times I still feel like a little girl lodged in a big body, and I still need my daddy.

It's harder than it used to be to scrape out of bed and I certainly don't come out of my room skipping. But the incentive to get up is the same: I want to spend time with my Heavenly Daddy before I proceed into the day.

As I pray to him and He speaks to me through His Word, I begin to have an aroma about me, a distinct awareness of His presence in my life. I know I am His, and I am prepared to face the day.



*"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession,
And through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere.
For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved
and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death,
to the other a fragrance from life to life."
2 Corinthians 2:14-16*

"And they recognized that (she) had been with Jesus."

ALLIANCE WOMEN MINISTRIES
Simply Fragrant

Barb Schoenherr is the Secretary of the District AWM Leadership Team and publishes the monthly editions of P & P and W2P. Barb is also the Office Manager of Wausau Alliance Church and serves her church family in women's ministry. She is also a wife, mother, and grandmother. You may contact Barb at barb@wausaualliance.org.



Sundae Sunday

To raise money for the National Project to help equip Nationals to reach the Nations with the sweet smell of Christ...

One way to help promote our National Project this year would be to sponsor a Sundae Sunday at your church. The whole church can be invited and perhaps women would donate ice cream and toppings so that all proceeds can go directly to the project. This could be included as part of a pot luck or other event, or it could stand on its own. The smells of the ice cream and toppings are in keeping with our Simple Fragrant theme. (Idea given by the National AWM Team)

Our spiritual emphasis this year is to instill in others, through discipleship, a deep and abiding passion for Christ so that they can become more like Him. Below are some good resources you may want to use for mentoring, discipleship and coaching:

The Power of Mentoring

by Martin Sanders

Connecting: The Mentoring Relationships You Need to Succeed

by Robert Clinton

Mentoring 101

by John C. Maxwell

The Mentoring series

by Nancy Ortberg

Iron Sharpens Iron

by Howard Hendricks and William Hendricks

Spiritual Discipleship: Principles of Following Christ for Every Believer

by Oswald Sanders

The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus' Essential Teachings on Discipleship

by Dallas Willard

If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat

by John Ortberg

Christian Coaching

by Gary R. Collins

Did You Know?

- The same perfume can produce different smells depending on the user
- Blondes, brunettes and redheads are differently influenced by a perfume smell
- A woman's sense of smell is keener than a man's

AWM Reports were due July 15th. I'm still waiting for a few of them! Please go to the website [today](#) and fill out your report on the AWM page! I want to include your information in my district report!

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 7-9

District-wide AWM Retreat
Registration Deadline: September 21

November 12

WLS Unit 2 in Wausau
Registration Deadline: November 5