

WIT

A Women's Church Ministry
First Baptist Belleview, FL

Our goal: Helping women reach beyond their circumstances by discovering strength through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

WIT MINISTRIES

1. JAIL MINISTRY
2. CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL
3. WORDS OF HOPE JAIL PEN PAL MINISTRY
4. TRANSITIONAL HOME
5. RECOVERY PROGRAM
6. LIFE SKILLS CLASSES
7. WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
8. FOREIGN MISSIONS: ZAMBIA
9. WEB SITE

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

CHURCH SERVICES
10:45 AM & 6:30 PM
WIT SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30 - 10:30 AM

MONDAY

LIFE SKILLS CLASSES 7 - 8:30 PM

TUESDAY

CHRISTIAN 12-STEP RECOVERY
Sunday School Room 7 - 8:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER
6:30 - 7:30 PM

THURSDAY

WIT HOME BIBLE STUDY 7 - 8:30 PM

WIT LEADERSHIP TEAM

DIRECTOR: Dee Hillman
Director Emeritus: Ann Kuefner
CO-DIRECTORS:
Kathy Andriola, Vinelle Miller
Diana Hite

CORE TEAM MEMBERS:

Mona Ballard, Sandra Brewer,
Moggie Dobbs, Terrie Hudson,
Laura Jolley, Rosie Lacrone,
Colleen Malito, Denise Martel,
Sylvia Pope, Nydia Mechan,
Debra Pena, Brenda Seaman,
Sunny Sifford, Anna Thompson

"Women pastors / preachers?"

What does the Bible say about women in ministry?"

There is perhaps no more hotly debated issue in the church today than the issue of women serving as pastors/preachers. As a result, it is very important to not see this issue as men versus women. There are women who believe women should not serve as pastors and that the Bible places restrictions on the ministry of women, and there are men who believe women can serve as preachers and that there are no restrictions on women in ministry. This is not an issue of chauvinism or discrimination. It is an issue of biblical interpretation.

The Word of God proclaims, "A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent" (1 Timothy 2:11-12). In the church, God assigns different roles to men and women. This is a result of the way mankind was created and the way in which sin entered the world (1 Timothy 2:13-14). God, through the apostle Paul, restricts women from serving in roles of teaching and/or having spiritual authority over men. This precludes women from serving as pastors over men, which definitely includes preaching to, teaching, and having spiritual authority.

There are many "objections" to this view of women in ministry. A common one is that Paul restricts women from teaching because in the first century, women were typically uneducated. However, 1 Timothy 2:11-14 nowhere mentions educational status. If education were a qualification for ministry, the majority of Jesus' disciples would not have been qualified. A second common objection is that Paul only restricted the women of Ephesus from teaching (1 Timothy was written to Timothy, who was the pastor of the church in Ephesus). The city of Ephesus was known for its temple to Artemis, a false Greek/Roman goddess. Women were the authority in the worship of Artemis. However, the book of 1 Timothy nowhere mentions Artemis, nor does Paul mention Artemis worship as a reason for the restrictions in 1 Timothy 2:11-12.

A third common objection is that Paul is only referring to husbands and wives, not men and women in general. The Greek words in the passage could refer to husbands and wives; however, the basic meaning of the words refers to men and women. Further, the same Greek words are used in verses 8-10. Are only husbands to lift up holy hands in prayer without anger and disputing (verse 8)? Are only wives to dress modestly, have good deeds, and worship God (verses 9-10)? Of course not. Verses 8-10 clearly refer to all men and women, not only husbands and wives. There is nothing in the context that would indicate a switch to husbands and wives in verses 11-14.

Yet another frequent objection to this interpretation of women in ministry is in relation to women who held positions of leadership in the Bible, specifically Miriam, Deborah, and Huldah in the Old Testament. This objection fails to note some significant factors.

(continued on page 4)



JESUS DESIRES A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU!



Begin by reading HIS "Love Letter," the Bible.

Before you begin, pray:

"Lord, please grant me a new depth of wisdom and understanding for Your Will in my life. Help me to turn from my sins and follow you more closely!"
(Initial the blank following the verse, after you complete it.)

Monday: James 1:16-17- "My dear brothers and sisters, don't be fooled about this. Everything good comes from God. Every perfect gift is from him. These good gifts come down from the Father who made all the lights in the sky. But God never changes like the shadows from those lights. He is always the same." (ERV)_____

Wow -- you mean we can't take credit for anything we own or achieve? Look around and say thanks today. Everything good comes from God. What are some of the good things you've received from God?

Tuesday: Philippians 4:13- "Christ is the one who gives me the strength I need to do whatever I must do." (ERV)_____

You have dreams. God has dreams for you. Be a risk-taker for God's kingdom. What challenges are you avoiding because you are afraid of failing?

Wednesday: Galatians 6:9- "So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time." (NLT)_____

The promise of reward gets many to start a course. But how many finish? Keep doing what is good. You'll get there. What in your life needs finishing?

Thursday: Psalm 143:8- "Let me hear of your unfailing love to me in the morning, for I am trusting you [God]. Show me where to walk, for I have come to you in prayer." (NLT)_____

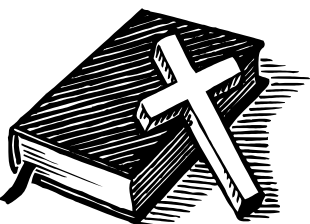
Expect good things today because God's love for you is unfailing! The more you spend time with Him, the more you learn to trust Him. What is your favorite time of day to speak to God in prayer?

Friday: Matthew 26:41- [Jesus says,] "Keep alert and pray -- otherwise temptation will overpower you. For though the spirit is willing, the body is weak." (NLT)_____

You can't see them, but spiritual powers struggle beneath the surface of your daily life. Sometimes they threaten to keep you from spending time with God. What can you do to keep distractions from tempting you away from God's Word?

Saturday: 3 John 1:14- "Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name." (NIV)_____

Remembering people's names can make them feel important and loved. Do this for someone while you're out and about today. Whom can you warmly greet by name today?



**"Your word is a lamp for my feet
and a light on my path."**

Psalm 119: 105 (HCSB)



HYMN OF THE WEEK

MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE

William R. Featherston, 1846–1873

"We love Him because He first loved us". (1 John 4:19)
 And shall I use these ransomed powers of mine
 For things that only minister to me?
 Lord, take my tongue, my hands, my heart, my all,
 And let me live and love for Thee!—*Unknown*

The spiritual depth of "My Jesus, I Love Thee" is made all the more remarkable by the knowledge that it was written by a teenager. William Ralph Featherston of Montreal, Canada, is thought to have written these lines of heartfelt gratitude to Christ at the time of his conversion experience when only 16. It is believed he then sent a copy of his poem to an aunt in Los Angeles, and somehow the text appeared anonymously in print in an English hymnal, *The London Book*, in 1864.

Several years later, a well-known American Baptist pastor, Dr. A. J. Gordon, discovered the anonymous hymn in the English hymnbook and decided to compose a better melody for it. With its new tune the hymn has since been included in nearly every evangelical hymnal and has been sung frequently by believers everywhere during hushed moments of rededication to God.

How marvelous are the workings of God in bringing together expressions such as these, providing a hymn that has been used in a remarkable way for more than a century to direct Christians to a deeper relationship with their Lord. May these words cause each of us even now to renew our devotion to God so that this love for Christ may be reflected in all of the activities of this day.

- My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine—For Thee all the follies of sin I resign; my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou: If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
- I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree; I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow: If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
- I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death, and praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath; and say when the death-dew lies cold on my brow, "If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."
- In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright; I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow, "If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

For Today: John 14:23; Ephesians 2:4, 5; 1 Peter 1:8; 2:9; 1 John 4:7–21

Express your own love for the Savior in fresh and fervent words; reflect on what He has done for you, what He is presently doing, and the future glory that still awaits. Determine to demonstrate your loving devotion for Christ with an encouraging word or deed for some needy individual.

Osbeck, Kenneth W.: *Amazing Grace : 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions*. Grand Rapids, Mich. : Kregel Publications, 1990, S. 56.

IN TOUCH WITH OUR WORLD



STUDENTS GIVE MONEY TO FIGHT SEX CRIMES IN ATLANTA

CBNNews.com

A group of Christian students has donated \$100,000 to the city of Atlanta to help fight human trafficking.

The money will be used to help the Atlanta Police Department combat sex crimes.

The students donated the funds at a three-day conference in Georgia's capital city known as Passion 2012.

The conference is part of a movement among collegiate Christians who unite in worship and prayer for spiritual awakening in their generation.

This year's event drew 42,000 students from all 50 states and 30 countries to the Georgia World Congress Center.

The focus of this year's conference is freeing the enslaved people around the world.

"There's 27 million slaves in the world today, that's men women and children forced to work," Bryson Vogelanz, with Passion 2012, told Atlanta television station WXIA. "The sex trafficking issue is here in Atlanta and all over the world."

NO MORE BARE FEET FOR PERU'S CHILDREN

CBNNews.com



Operation Blessing International is supplying shoes to children in Peru.

Children in many poor communities run around barefoot because their families can't afford to buy new shoes.

To help protect children from stepping on dangerous objects, like rusty nails, the Virginia Beach, Va.-based charity aid organization teamed up with Toms Shoes.

Toms is a company that donates a pair of shoes for every pair that's purchased.

The teams measured each child's foot and then distributed a pair of Toms to every child in the community.

Operation Blessing International and Toms have delivered thousands of pairs of shoes to children across Peru and also in China.

"Women pastors / preachers? What does the Bible say about women in ministry?"

First, Deborah was the only female judge among 13 male judges. Huldah was the only female prophet among dozens of male prophets mentioned in the Bible. Miriam's only connection to leadership was being the sister of Moses and Aaron. The two most prominent women in the times of the Kings were Athaliah and Jezebel—hardly examples of godly female leadership. Most significantly, though, the authority of women in the Old Testament is not relevant to the issue. The book of 1 Timothy and the other Pastoral Epistles present a new paradigm for the church—the body of Christ—and that paradigm involves the authority structure for the church, not for the nation of Israel or any other Old Testament entity.

Similar arguments are made using Priscilla and Phoebe in the New Testament. In Acts 18, Priscilla and Aquila are presented as faithful ministers for Christ. Priscilla's name is mentioned first, perhaps indicating that she was more “prominent” in ministry than her husband. However, Priscilla is nowhere described as participating in a ministry activity that is in contradiction to 1 Timothy 2:11-14. Priscilla and Aquila brought Apollos into their home and they both disciplined him, explaining the Word of God to him more accurately (Acts 18:26).

In Romans 16:1, even if Phoebe is considered a “deaconess” instead of a “servant,” that does not indicate that Phoebe was a teacher in the church. “Able to teach” is given as a qualification for elders, but not deacons (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9). Elders/bishops/deacons are described as the “husband of one wife,” “a man whose children believe,” and “men worthy of respect.” Clearly the indication is that these qualifications refer to men. In addition, in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9, masculine pronouns are used exclusively to refer to elders/bishops/deacons.

The structure of 1 Timothy 2:11-14 makes the “reason” perfectly clear. Verse 13 begins with “for” and gives the “cause” of Paul's statement in verses 11-12. Why should women not teach or have authority over men? Because “Adam was created first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived.” God created Adam first and then created Eve to be a “helper” for Adam. This order of creation has universal application in the family (Ephesians 5:22-33) and the church. The fact that Eve was deceived is also given as a reason for women not serving as pastors or having spiritual authority over men. This leads some to believe that women should not teach because they are more easily deceived. That concept is debatable, but if women are more easily deceived, why should they be allowed to teach children (who are easily deceived) and other women (who are supposedly more easily deceived)? That is not what the text says. Women are not to teach men or have spiritual authority over men because Eve was deceived. As a result, God has given men the primary teaching authority in the church.

Many women excel in gifts of hospitality, mercy, teaching, evangelism, and helps. Much of the ministry of the local church depends on women. Women in the church are not restricted from public praying or prophesying (1 Corinthians 11:5), only from having spiritual teaching authority over men. The Bible nowhere restricts women from exercising the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12). Women, just as much as men, are called to minister to others, to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and to proclaim the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15).

God has ordained that only men are to serve in positions of spiritual teaching authority in the church. This is not because men are necessarily better teachers, or because women are inferior or less intelligent (which is not the case). It is simply the way God designed the church to function. Men are to set the example in spiritual leadership—in their lives and through their words. Women are to take a less authoritative role. Women are encouraged to teach other women (Titus 2:3-5). The Bible also does not restrict women from teaching children. The only activity women are restricted from is teaching or having spiritual authority over men. This logically would preclude women from serving as pastors to men. This does not make women less important, by any means, but rather gives them a ministry focus more in agreement with God's plan and His gifting of them.

CLASS



NEWS

CINA GADSON, WIT Home resident, is facilitating Thursday night's Bible Study at the WIT Home. We are studying "**30 Life Principles**," a Biblical life application book by **Dr. Charles Stanley**. Last week's focus was on Principle #2: Obey God and leave the consequences to Him." Join us on Thursday nights as we learn how to walk the Christian life triumphantly!

PASTOR STAN HANNAN will lead a six week course to learn how to witness titled "Share Jesus without Fear." It starts February 5th at 5:15pm in the church annex. Sign up in the church lobby. There will be a cost of \$8.00 for the workbook.

DEE HILLMAN was blessed on Saturday, January 7th with a visit from her nephew, **RANDY ENLOE** and his family. They were on their way back home to Atlanta, Georgia after a trip to Disney World. Dee and her mom, **ARTIE MAY ENLOE** enjoyed a special time with their relatives!

PASTOR ADAM HAMMOND began a Sunday night series on "**How We Got the Bible**" Sunday, January 8th. He writes: "I love God's Word and seek to follow it every day. I believe it is Truth and want to be able to defend its authenticity as much as possible."

COLLEEN MALITO, WIT core group member, is back "in the driver's seat" after hip replacement surgery in November of 2011! Praise the Lord for His healing touch on our Sister in Christ!

Lift **MARLO FRYE** up in prayer as she seeks God's guidance. She is having chronic pain and asks for His direction in what to do next.

DIANA HITE, WIT Sunday School teacher, challenges us each week to dig deeper into God's Word. Next week's lesson is "**Compassion vs. Expendability**." Join us as we study **Psalm 139!**

WEEKLY WIT CALENDAR

<u>Monday</u>	Life Skills class- 7:00-8:30pm
<u>Tuesday</u>	12-Step Recovery Classes- 7:00 - 8:30pm
<u>Wednesday</u>	Prayer/Bible Study 6:30- 7:30pm-FBC
<u>Thursday</u>	WIT Home Bible Study-7:00-8:30pm

MONTHLY SPECIAL EVENTS

<u>Sun, Jan 15</u>	MCJ Jail Services-1:00-5:00pm
<u>Tue, Jan 17</u>	MCJ Jail Services-7:30-9:30pm
<u>Wed, Feb 8</u>	WIT Home Interviews/MCJ-7:00-10:00pm

WOMEN IN TRUTH JAIL MINISTRY

JANUARY PRAYER REQUEST:

SUN, JAN 15 & TUES, JAN 17:

*Pray that they will call on the Name of Jesus!
Pray for hearts to surrender!*

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY!



Jan 2	Tammy Pilcher
Jan 17	Cassie Hite
Jan 24	Debra Pena
Jan 25	Christal Silas

PRAY! ASK GOD TO REVEAL HOW HE WILL USE YOU FOR THE:



**WIT Zambia Mission Trip
July 28-August 7, 2012**

Pray God's guidance for Zambia WIT Ministry Director **STELLIA PHIRI** as she prepares for the 2012 WIT Zambia Mission Trip.

January Calendar of Events:

Monday Life Skills



**January 16-7:00-8:30pm-WIT Home
"Biblical Principles of Finance" with
Beth Dominguez**



**January 23-7:00-8:30pm-WIT Home
"God's 300 Prayer-" Join us as we seek
the Lord's direction in 2012!**



**January 30-7:00-8:30pm-Tea with Lee
"Cooking 101" with Lee Johnson**

**Women of all ages are welcome!
Sign up in Sunday School class or call/email
Kathy Andriola at 245-1720/ kandr413@aol.com.**