

**Women's Ministries, RCA**  
March 2007 E-Network Newsletter



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**Contents:**

Blessing Boxes  
Bible Study  
Women's Conference  
Missions and Hosting  
Prayer Teams

**Counting Our Blessings**

Your gifts of blessings are beginning to arrive and we are so grateful! The offerings from our Blessing Boxes will allow Women's Ministries to support Regional Coordinators and ministries in each synod. Our hope is to have \$50,000 in place by April 1<sup>st</sup>! Then we can begin the process of hiring for each region of the RCA. Your prayers, contributions and creative ideas are needed as we take this next step for the women of this denomination.

**Bible Study for Fall 2007**

Good news! A new bible study will be available this summer for your use this fall. "Above and Beyond: Hearing the Call in Jonah and Ruth" has been written by Carol Bechtel, professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary. This delightful study was commissioned by the women of the Presbyterian Church,

USA and offered to us to add our own cover and identity. Dr. Bechtel will join us at Women's Conference (Triennial) where she will lead the early morning prayers and reflections from this study. Each participant will receive a free copy in their conference tote; copies may be ordered from Faith Alive after July 15, 2007.

**Women's Conference Registration**

More good news! It's March and registrations for Women's Conference (Triennial) continue to arrive. In January the design team met in Chicago to finalize plans and they came home from that meeting energized and excited about how God is at work preparing the way for RCA Women to come to Chicago in July. If you and your friends are considering coming don't wait too long to register. Some morning workshops are already filled making your choices more limited. The

ballroom will only seat 1,400. Imagine....1,400 women worshipping together. Praise God!

### **We Continue the Commitment to Missions**

A common thread for all RCA women's gatherings is a commitment to missions. This Women's Conference will continue that tradition and add a few new ways to be missionally connected. Here is what is happening and some ideas on how you can help:

-Visit the Mission Mall during the event and spend time talking with our missionaries. Ask them how you and your congregation can become more involved in their Kingdom work. Also, commit to praying for their ministry.

-Walk through the Ministry Mall and learn from other women about the creative ministries they are doing back home in their communities.

-Encourage your congregation to send an offering to the two mission projects for this Women's Conference. They are the Beebouts in Niger and Clancy Street Ministries in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

And finally, consider hosting one of our international guests. These 20 women are coming from around the world to attend the conference. Their goal and ours is for you to have the opportunity to meet a sister in Christ and put down deep roots in friendship. They will arrive the weekend prior to going to Chicago and stay in your community; visiting and speaking with your congregation and then travel to Chicago with you. For more information on how you can be a host church contact Sally Tapley

(616-355-2538; [Sjt707@aol.com](mailto:Sjt707@aol.com)) or Roger DeYoung ([rdeyoung@rca.org](mailto:rdeyoung@rca.org)).

### **Prayer Teams Needed**

Have you ever considered taking your faith to the streets? In other words, would you be willing to spend time during the Women's Conference offering prayers and blessings to people outside our conference? God has graced us with so much opportunity to worship and study; learn and grow spiritually it only seems right to pass some of this blessing along to others out on the street.

Pray about it and if you feel God is nudging you toward this ministry, call our office and speak to Tim or Mary. God has blessed us to be a blessing! Let's take this opportunity to bless Chicago!

### **To learn more or to have a registration brochure mailed to you, e-mail**

[alive@rca.org](mailto:alive@rca.org) or call toll-free (800) 564-1582—the "Alive With Christ" Message Center. Give your name and address, and you will be mailed a reproducible registration form that includes all the conference details.

Toll-free hotline: (800) 564-1582

E-mail: [alive@rca.org](mailto:alive@rca.org)

Web site: [www.rca.org/alive](http://www.rca.org/alive)