



# THE ENCOURAGER

*"If there be any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." Phil 2:1-2*



## Our New Schedule

We're going to a new schedule – we'll produce the Encourager three times each year – just after Joint Cabinet, following workshops and following retreats in the fall. In the event that we need to, we'll do a special edition. Keep your eyes peeled for the next issue in June following workshops. If you'd like to contribute an article after your workshop, send it in and we'll hold it for you until the next issue is done.



**Disciples Women Executives**  
Barb, Robin, Deborah and Barbara

## Save the Dates!!

- Workshop dates:
- FCC, Hammond, April 10
  - Covenant CC, Byram, April 24
  - Broadmoor CC, Shreveport, May 1
  - FCC, Little Rock, May 15
  - Highland CC, Bella Vista, May 22
- Retreat dates for 2010:
- Arkansas, August 6-8
  - Mississippi, September 25-26
  - Louisiana, October 2-3
- Regional Assembly 2010: November 5-7, 2010 in McComb, MS

## Prayers & Concerns

**Sam Wright**, Central District Secretary, MS has been in and out of the hospital with heart problems.

**Barb Jones** became a Grandma to Austin Shuman on March 15<sup>th</sup> (Son, Kris is the proud papa) and daughter Kim is expecting in May!!

Your State Cabinet members at the DW Joint Cabinet meeting at  
Lake Tiak-O'Khata in February



**Mississippi Cabinet** – Robin, Pernella, Sam, Carole, Patricia, Sharon, Regina, Ann and Nearline



**Louisiana Cabinet** – Essie, Wanda, Marilyn, Jodie, Renee, Judy, Cindy, Bettie, Barbara and Stacy



**Arkansas Cabinet** – Thelma, Sharon, Virginia, June, Lucille, Carol, Deborah, Polly, Pam and Allison

---

**June Pierce**

**Arkansas Retreat Coordinator**

Please mark your calendars for the annual Arkansas Disciples Women Retreat to be held August 6-8<sup>th</sup> at the Arkansas 4-H Center just outside Little Rock. The regional theme "Strength for Today – Hope for Tomorrow" will continue with workshops and activities. Keynote speaker for this year will be Pastor Debra Matthews. Debra is the new minister at Highland Drive Christian Church in Jonesboro. She is pursuing her Doctor of Divinity degree at Memphis Theological Seminary.

---

**Cindy Soroe**

**Louisiana Retreat Director**

Ladies of all ages are welcome to come participate in the Louisiana Retreat at Tall Timbers on October 2-3, 2010. We are planning a fun working retreat – working on our spirituality, our mission-mindedness, and our health. We have two workshops planned so far – one on Tai Chi and the other making no-sew fleece throw blankets for the Southwest Louisiana shelters (that we're supporting as part of our Service Project). It is shaping up to be a fun weekend. Also we are planning a pajama party so start looking for your favorite pj's now. I hope to see all of you there. It is a great chance to see old friends and make new ones, all in Jesus' name.

**Mississippi Retreat** will be held September 25-26, at Lake Tiak-O'Khata in Louisville, MS (about 90 minutes northeast of Duncan Gray)

**Indianola Christian Church**  
**Nearline Hoskin, Co-Pastor**

**“Getting Over Your Past to Make All Things New”**



There is so much to consider when one begins to heal. It is a process through which hurts will be revealed, longings may or may not be fulfilled, and one must decide whether or not he/she will leave the past and take flight with a new pair of wings!

In retrospect of DW Joint Cabinet meeting of the GRRCC women, it was certainly a time to consider just that process. Healing and becoming new, refreshed, and prepared for a new year of missions. It was not only interesting how the news that Brother Vance Moore, Regional Pastor shared was so aligned with the mission that rested inside our hearts. Just as interesting was the news that our Executive Regional Minister, Barb Jones shared about the Dominican Republic. Our hearts were saddened at the fact that this form of slavery still existed in the world today. Sad though it was, we were convinced that all things worked according to God's divine plan!

Our intent as Disciples Women is to bring hope and healing to those who are desperately hurting due to human trafficking in the Dominican Republic. As we reached out as far as our arms would allow, we allowed our hearts to reach farther as we planned how we could assist in securing funds and human resources for services to continue in the DR. Our groups planned ways to include missions outreach to those who are affected by the inhumane attempt to enslave helpless individuals forcing them into underground employment and sex slave encounters. It is our hope that the little we do as a collective group will amount to a tremendous opportunity to help others heal from (get over) their past and learn ways to begin anew!

At the close of the meeting I delivered a brief message about getting over your past. We as Disciples Women are very fortunate as God has showered us with his favor. We acknowledged that our burdens weren't so heavy that we could not rise up and take flight on a new pair of wings. We learned to reframe our thinking, accept what has happened as a learning opportunity, and move from pain to gain! As many who are affected by human trafficking are discovering the healing that is taking place, there are many Disciples Women who are able to identify with them.

Relying and praying to God daily is the way we as Disciples Women will carry out the missions set before us that we may run out that race given by God Almighty! As we closed with hugs, pictures, tears and kisses, not to mention more workshop reminders, I believe we all pondered in our hearts that we would trust God to .."make all things new."

---