

# Direct Connect



JULY 2007

## Connecting With You

Direct Connect is still in the infant stage. You can help us grow by telling your Coffee Break and Story Hour co-workers and friends to sign up at [www.crhm.org](http://www.crhm.org)>[Subscribe](#). Our desire is to encourage you as leaders, support the ministries of Coffee Break, Story Hour and Little Lambs and to offer ideas and resources.

In this issue, you'll read of changed lives through *Coffee Break* and prayer. See the world through a child's eyes and smile at Emily's question about the angels. Be renewed in your passion for children's ministry as we give the ministry back to God.

The ministry of *Coffee Break* and *Story Hour* is alive and well and God is working around the globe to bring people to himself. We celebrate what he is doing through you!

-The Small Group Leadership Team

## Changed Lives!



"We know brothers (and sisters) loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction." I Thessalonians 1:4.

The gospel comes with *deep conviction*. This is not a shallow, temporary gospel we proclaim through the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is changing lives as we study the Bible together, pray, and learn from each other. Listen to these stories of real people who are walking with Christ instead of running from him because of *Coffee Break*.

"I just want to praise God and give Him all the glory for what He has done for me and my family," is the testimony of Lois Thunder from Bulhead, S.D. Her story began as a child in a broken home and dysfunctional family. A Christian grandmother told her about Jesus, but feeling hopeless and unloved, Lois began drinking at age 10. Alcohol abuse, pregnancies, marriage and divorce are all part of her story. More alcohol and another marriage on the brink of divorce led her to give up and start attending church. "What can God do for me?" she asked herself.

God answered in powerful ways, as he delivered her from alcohol and gave her the desire to learn more about Jesus in *Coffee Break*. Today Lois tells friends and family that giving their lives to Jesus is the best thing they can do for themselves. She prays for fellow *Coffee Break* women and leaders, and has started a group in her sister's home. Lois showed her courage and conviction to Christ as she stood at the 2007 Morning of Joy Conference in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., and began with these words, "Good morning. I greet you all in the name of Jesus. It is good to be here among other sisters in Christ!"

A *Coffee Break* group in Lindsay, Ont., began praying. The director asked each person who attended to choose one friend or neighbor, and the group began to pray weekly for each one. After several weeks one of the women who had been prayed for came to *Coffee Break*. The group embraced this person they had already been praying for! A few weeks later, another woman from the prayer list came. And then another. Over the course of the year at least 4 of the women who had been lifted up in prayer began attending, studying and growing. Isn't it amazing what happens when we pray?

Coffee Break and Story Hour leaders in the Chicagoland area met together and celebrated what God has been doing in their region. Stories of God at work changing

the lives of women and children were shared over a "Brown Bag Lunch." As iron sharpens iron, they learned from each other, sharing best practices, asking questions and praying for each other. Leaders were encouraged as they realized that they are not alone in ministry.

### Through the Eyes of a Child



Four-year-old Emily was helping make an angel food cake for her dad's birthday. As she watched her mom adding the ingredients to the batter she asked, "How are we going to get the angels in?"



### It's Mine!

If you lead Little Lambs, Story Hour, or have preschoolers you'll appreciate the Toddler's Creed. It goes something like this:

If I am holding it, it's mine.

If I was holding it before, it's mine.

If you have it and I want it, it's mine.

If I put it down and walk away, it's still mine.

Makes you smile, doesn't it? Even as adults, consider what we cling to. We become possessive of even the best things in life - *our* ministry, *our* church, *our* children. Next time you feel yourself claiming ownership of what is God's, take a deep breath, open your hands in submission say, "It's yours, Lord, NOT mine!"

### Resources



[Discover Your Bible](#) (DYB) has several new options for *Coffee Break* groups. *Discover Genesis* has been revised and condensed into two books. Part One, titled [Discover Genesis: Creation and Covenant](#) (12 lessons covering Gen. 1 - 12:18) is available August 1. Part Two, titled [Discover Genesis: For All Generations](#) (12 lessons covering Gen. 12:19-50:26) will be released on or before November 1.

Don't forget about the new [Hebrews](#) study that was recently released, exploring the teachings of Jesus and why faith in him matters today.

There are downloadable sample chapters of many of the DYB studies available at [www.faithaliveresources.org](http://www.faithaliveresources.org).

### Small Group & Evangelism Conference 2008



Christian Reformed Home Missions invites you to Lombard, Ill., on July 18-20, 2008! Plan now to attend this exciting and challenging event that is being planned by the Chicagoland Home Missions team. Speakers and breakout sessions are being planned that will inspire Coffee Break, Story Hour and Little Lambs small group leaders.



### Need a Refresher?



[Coffee Break and Story Hour/Little Lambs training](#) is offered throughout the United States and Canada by seasoned Small Group Ministry Developers. Host or attend a training to be inspired in the evangelistic opportunities of Coffee Break and Story Hour, prayer, and to learn practical ideas for leading women or children. To find the [Small Group Ministry Developer](#) in your area check out this [link](#) or call 1-888-644-0814.

### Donation Appreciated



*Small Talk* and *Direct Connect* resources are offered free of charge by Christian Reformed Home Missions. You can help support small group ministries through [your donation](#).