

# CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2000

## BOLD LOVE



**G**od had a message for those attending the Coffee Break/Story Hour Convention last summer—share my love with those who don't know me. The keynote speakers heard the message too, loud and clear, and they challenged us with passion.

What are you doing about Jesus? Are you keeping him to yourself? Sharing him only with your Christian friends? Or are you boldly reaching out to a hurting world, being willing to risk the messiness of getting involved in people's lives?

The message came with a sense of urgency. Bill Fay challenged us to repent of the "sin of silence" for not sharing Jesus with those whose lives touch ours.

**Repent of the "sin of silence" for not sharing Jesus with those whose lives touch ours.**

His book, *Share Jesus Without Fear*, is the wonderful testimony of a man whose life was radically changed because God touched his life.

Now he is passionate about sharing God's love with others.

I still remember clearly former Coffee Break rep Jean Dykshoorn's insight that we can low-key people right into hell in Coffee Break. That's convicting. Being low-key is comfortable and easy, and it is a very important part of Coffee Break. But it's not the whole story. We can't be low-

key forever. The Holy Spirit works in people's lives, and God expects us to reap the harvest. We need to prepare *now* for being bold about Jesus while being sensitive and respectful of who they are. It is risky, but it is God's desire that we do so!

Bold love can be illustrated in many ways. At convention, Debbie Holley shared that for one person it was snow shovels flashing in the moonlight, a labor of love clearing a snow-clogged driveway. Each "style" of evangelism that Lee Strobel told us about connects people to

Jesus. When we learn our style, we need to use it clearly, intentionally, and confidently, so we connect the disconnected to the Savior.

The fall season has just begun. Equip yourselves now for sharing bold love with the members of your Coffee Break small group. If you were unable to attend the convention and would like to share in what we learned, you can order tapes using the enclosed tape order form. Look forward with joy to how God will use *you*.

Betty Veldman, Director of Small Group Ministries

## WHERE THE RIVER FLOWS...

**A**s we begin our fall season of Coffee Break, for many of us the memories still linger from the July, 2000, Coffee Break Convention. We were taught, encouraged and challenged in our small group ministries as well as in our personal walk with the Lord. What a rich blessing to see and experience this with 1100 women!

As you read this, the **2002 Small Group Outreach Conference for Women** sponsored by Coffee Break/Story Hour/Little Lambs is in its planning stages. "**Where the river flows, everything will live,**" **Ezekiel 47:9b**, is the theme, and we'll celebrate that theme along the banks of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Friday, July 12 through Sunday, July 14, 2002.

In addition to replacing the word *convention* with *conference*, we are introducing the first **weekend** conference. We are continuing to broaden our audience by including women involved in any type of evangelistic small group. Why keep such a good thing all to ourselves? In choosing a weekend, we hope to make this conference accessible to all women, including those who work or need help scheduling childcare.

The addition of Sunday into our schedule brings a new dimension to our experience. We are planning for a tremendous worship service with over a thousand women's voices singing and praising God together. Expect many opportunities for worship, prayer and the study of God's Word on Sunday.

Be watching for more details in future *Connections*.

Jayne Termaat, Co-Director, 2002 Small Group Outreach Conference for Women



Coffee Break



Small Groups



Story Hour  
Little Lambs

## GOD SHOWS UP AT MUFFLER MAN

She was about to have one of those “divine appointments,” but she didn’t know that. What she did know was that inside of four days their computer crashed, the washing machine conked out, the family’s other car needed brakes, there was something wrong with the radiator, the windshield wipers wouldn’t shut off and the muffler on the car she was driving right then was getting noisier. She had a warranty and a destination: Muffler Man.



This shop’s location ended up being several miles closer to downtown Grand Rapids than she had anticipated, and it was going to be a long wait. It was hot. The shop was smelly. The guys were rough – “pierced everything”! As she noticed the amount of activity at a nearby beer store, she realized she was not relaxed and was even wondering if these guys would take advantage of her situation and overcharge her.

She decided she didn’t want to be there. She decided she wanted to be at a nice repair shop on 28th street. She decided she was crabby about this whole thing. She also decided she was not going to wait inside.

So she sat outside, spread out all her Coffee Break Bible study materials and was in a “leave-me-alone-mood” when a woman walked over and initiated a conversation.

This is where God showed up.

There was a woman who needed to hear assurance from God, and God was going to work through Sam Huizenga, if he could just get Sam to spend a couple of hours at a certain muffler shop!

The woman, fearful and unsure, began to understand her position in Christ when Sam explained Romans 6:23 by using the bridge illustration. “I knew I needed to talk to you; I was just drawn to you,” she told Sam. The woman then

shared with Sam that she had lost thirty pounds, was full of tumors and scheduled for surgery in mid-September. “I just needed to know,” she said.

The muffler was ready. Sam was ready to face the damages, knowing the warranty only covered the muffler. “How much?” she asked the worker. “Nothing,” he says. “Usually I charge for labor, but not today.”

“I cried my way down Plainfield Avenue. ‘Lord, thank you! Thank you!’ Not only did he put me in the muffler place at the right time to share the message of his love, but the repair was free.”

The ride home was quieter. And Sam was quieter, knowing she had not missed a divine appointment.

Marjo Jordan, Co-Editor

### LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM WORKSHOP

One of the ways to prepare for Muffler Man divine appointments and sharing bold love with others is through the equipping of the Lifestyle Evangelism workshop. If you’ve never attended one, please consider all you’ll learn there. Some of the issues addressed are:

- Fears that keep us from sharing our faith
- Why we’re sometimes ineffective at sharing our faith
- How to share your testimony
- How to present the gospel to someone

We must be “prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks [us] ... to give the reason for the hope that [we] have,” but we must also do this with “gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15-16). Sharing Christ’s love is not an option, but neither is it something we need to be afraid of. “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7).

To host a workshop in your church, contact the regional representative nearest you. Don’t know who that is? Call 1-888-644-0814 and we’ll connect you. God has great things in store. Enjoy the adventure.

Betty Veldman, Director of Small Group Ministries

## THE UNFINISHED STORY

### What You Can Do

This year is 1986 and Janet Krosschell orders coffee mugs and totebags for her church’s Coffee Break fundraiser. She places this order with a local small-business owner named Peggy.



- Two years later Janet orders coffee cup pins and tote bags for the 1988 Coffee Break Convention in Grand Rapids and again places the order with Peggy.
- Peggy moves to Wisconsin.
- In 1999 Janet locates Peggy to give her the 2000 Coffee Break Convention order for purple pens and coffee mugs. The two catch up a bit and discover they have both weathered very similar life experiences. Janet tells Peggy how her church family supported her and how her Coffee Break group shared her burden. “That was something I didn’t have,” says Peggy; she had to go it alone.
- May, 2000 – Janet contacts the Coffee Break in Racine, Wisconsin and asks them to pray for Peggy to join them.
- September, 2000 – Peggy expresses some interest in joining a Coffee Break.
- September, 2000 – The Racine, Wisconsin Coffee Break director extends an invitation to Peggy.

### THE REST OF THE STORY?

#### Here’s what you can do:

- Pray for Peggy to enter into the love of her heavenly Father. For those of you who attended the convention, say a prayer for Peggy when you take a sip from her purple coffee mug.
  - Never underestimate what God will do through you as you go about your ordinary day.
  - Always be listening to the Holy Spirit’s nudging.
- Watch for the sequel, *The Finished Story*.

Marjo Jordan, Co-Editor

## A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!

Thanking God for 30 Years of His Blessings, 1970-2000

Read the stories of changed lives through the Coffee Break/Story Hour ministry in *Coffee Break: Touching Lives with Love* by Marie Van Antwerpen.

#152063CT \$9.95<sup>US</sup>/14.30<sup>CDN</sup>

Order Online at [www.crcpublications.org](http://www.crcpublications.org) or call 800-333-8300



## "DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?"

**H**ave you ever asked this question when you're not sure you have communicated clearly? I know I have. In this day of super communication, we have more electronic tools and gadgets available to us than ever before. But do we really communicate better? Think about it. Does a computer or cell phone look you in the eye and tell you how valuable you are?

In children's ministry we have the opportunity to communicate the greatest story ever told. It needs the personal touch, the eye contact. Our challenge is to get down to the child's level, just as Christ gets down to ours and say, "I love you. You are important to me. I always have time for you."

In this newsletter we'll talk about a few ways to communicate with small children. But before you do anything with your Story Hour or Little Lambs children, be sure to *communicate* with your Father. No fancy tools are needed, just a childlike heart.

Let's look at some of the best ways to communicate with infants and children. As children grow, so does their learning capacity. We'll break this down into stages, beginning with the infant in the nursery.

### INFANTS

Never underestimate the value of a quality nursery, not just for the appreciative parents, but also for the child. There are many good ways to communicate love to an infant:

- ✎ While looking into the eyes of the baby, sing or say his name.
- ✎ Use loving touches and hugs. Lightly rub a baby's back while holding him or her.
- ✎ Play children's songs on tapes softly, and sing while clapping the baby's hands or bouncing her on your knee.
- ✎ Get down on the floor and play with the infants, letting them crawl over your legs and into your lap.

### TODDLERS (two and three year olds)

As children grow into the toddler stage, they are able to understand and follow simple directions. Their self-confidence is growing, and they need lots of positive encouragement. Two's and three's do best with simple, one-layer commands. This means giving just one instruction at a time. Toddlers have little concept of time, and telling them to wait or to do something "later" usually will not be understood. This is a great time to teach words such as "please" and "thank you." Eye contact with verbal communication is very important. Your tone of voice, smile, and gentle touch convey love to the child.

### PRESCHOOLERS (four to six year olds)

A consistent routine is necessary for preschoolers to feel that their environment is safe and secure. A predictable sequence of events helps the preschooler develop self-confidence. These children are beginning to understand the concept of "waiting," and can be told that something will happen next week, or after an event, etc. Praise and affirmation for good behavior is essential. Two-layer commands can be processed, i.e. "Please put the books away, *and* meet me in the corner of our room for the story." Games that practice following instructions are challenging but fun for preschoolers. Try playing "Follow the Leader" or "Simon Says," letting children volunteer to be the leader.

Do more than just talk! Continually look for ways to *communicate* Jesus to the children.

Diane Dykgraaf, Story Hour/Little Lambs Specialist



"Be careful. Don't think these little children are worth nothing."

Jesus (Matthew 18:10a, NCV)

## DON'T JUST SURVIVE, THRIVE!

I know that working with children can be hectic at times, but I hope you enjoy what you're doing. Here are some tips for thriving in children's ministry from Kurt Bubma, family and children's pastor in Spokane, Washington.

- 1 Above all, genuinely love the children.
- 2 Have fun! Having fun can be a "holy value" when done in a way that honors God and values people.
- 3 Believe the best about people, but expect the unexpected.
- 4 Plan ahead.
- 5 Be an expert. Read, study, and continually learn.
- 6 Recruit and train or die from strain. Always recruit and train because you'll always have the need.
- 7 Match people with the right job.
- 8 Affirm and appreciate each other.
- 9 Boldly destroy old paradigms about what children's ministry is and isn't.
- 10 Be open to change. Honestly evaluate and make necessary changes.
- 11 Intentionally communicate with the church and staff.
- 12 Attitude really is everything. Be positive. Have faith. See what can be, not just what is.

Adapted from "12 tips for Thriving", Children's Ministry Magazine, Jan/Feb 2000.

  
Story Hour  
Little Lambs

# STORY HOUR

An adult has to  
hear something ten  
times to learn it;  
a child only three.

Carol Veldman Rudie, Convention 2000 Workshop,  
*The Best Story Ever Told.*

# idea share



Coffee Break

## COFFEE WITH A PURPOSE

### Evangelistic Christmas Coffees

"This is not a scary thing. When God's in it, you can't go wrong," says Mary Lee Workman of Orlando, Florida. Two years ago she invited her neighbors for coffee the first week of December using the invitations provided by Campus Crusade for Christ. She arranged for another woman to give her testimony and an opportunity to receive Jesus. She prayed often, baked a few goodies, decorated her house for Christmas and basically followed the guidelines in the resource manual, *Christmas Gatherings, How to Host Evangelistic Christmas Gatherings* by Joyce Bademan. "It was so worth it!" says Mary Lee. Three of her neighbors agreed to join a Bible study with her, and one of them accepted Christ!

Mary Lee is hosting a similar coffee this year and has asked a friend to give her

testimony. "I am the hostess," she says. "The pressure of telling the story is not on me." As before, some of the Coffee Break women will help her serve refreshments.

Mary Lee's advice: Don't overdo it on the food. Keep it simple. Invite at least thirty women to assure ten guests at your coffee.

To order a *Christmas Gatherings Resource Manual* (\$10.00) or Preprinted Invitations (\$.30 each plus min. \$3.50 shipping), contact Christmas Gatherings, 24904 Logan Avenue, Lakeville, MN, 55044, Tel. 612-469-4793, [www.christmasgatherings.org](http://www.christmasgatherings.org).

## IDEAL CB CHRISTMAS GIFTS

### Why Christmas?

Give your Coffee Break members the Alpha booklet *Why Christmas?* for their personal use or to share with someone in their family or community. Using great cartoons, this evangelistic booklet asks questions about the significance of Christmas.

Available from CRC Publications.  
#230020CT\$1.29<sup>US</sup>/1.90<sup>CND</sup>

### A Christmas Digest

Heart-warming Christmas stories from Campus Crusade for Christ that present the truth of the season. \$.75 each. (or \$.70 each in multiples of 100).

[www.campuscrusade.org](http://www.campuscrusade.org),  
1-800-827-2788 US,  
1-800-667-0558 CAN.

## GIVING-TREE SERVICE PROJECT

To encourage the spirit of giving, set up a Story Hour Giving Tree. Designate a cause that children can identify with, such as bringing socks, hats, mittens, etc. Set up a Christmas tree and let the children bring their gifts and place them under the tree. Wrapping them may be a part of your session. Communicate clearly with the parents about the Giving Tree and whom the gifts will benefit.

If you have any ideas or stories, please send them to me. We're always waiting to hear from you. Thanks!

Diane Dykgraaf, Story Hour/Little Lambs Specialist  
e-mail: [dianedyk@aol.com](mailto:dianedyk@aol.com), or 861 Diane, SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

## E-MAIL LIST APOLOGY

It was awful, and we're very sorry. The former email list no longer exists. We are forming a new list with Listbot, and we will invite you to join when we're sure all bugs are worked out. Stay tuned!

## LOGOS ON THE WEB

Download Coffee Break, Story Hour and Small Groups logos off our web pages. Two options: [www.coffee-breakministries.org](http://www.coffee-breakministries.org) or [www.hmecd.org](http://www.hmecd.org) (Click on "Small Groups," then "Coffee Break.")



Small Groups

## COFFEE BREAK POSTCARDS

What a great way to send a short note of encouragement to your Coffee Break women! Or give each of your members two or three postcards so they can write their friends a personal invitation to Coffee Break.

Or mail info to your neighborhood: Carole Pettijohn of Grandville, MI used the new postcards in a bulk mailing to advertise their CB program. She did have to run them individually. Her tips: Use a Brother multi-function printer with toner cartridge instead of a heat press.



### Coffee Break Postcards in pads of 25.

#152065 **Traditional View**  
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#152066 **Contemporary View**  
\$6.95<sup>US</sup>/10.10<sup>CND</sup>

## NEW RADIO PROGRAM FOR KIDS

Tune in to *Kids Corner*, a lively, half-hour radio program for children ages 6-12. Through the adventures of Mr. Lizard and his friends, children hear how to follow Jesus as they deal with issues such as boredom, friendship, disappointment, fighting, and stealing. *Kids Corner* also offers correspondence, Bible studies and special gifts that reinforce the message of the radio broadcasts. Log in at

[www.kids-corner.org](http://www.kids-corner.org) to find out which radio station in your area broadcasts *Kids Corner*, a ministry of The Back to God Hour. For more information call 1-800-879-6555.



Story Hour Little Lambs

## FACE PAINT

Paint a holiday design on faces with a small paintbrush. Remove with soap and water.

### Ingredients:

- 1 tsp cornstarch
- 1/2 tsp cold cream
- 1/2 tsp water
- food coloring

Stir the cornstarch and cold cream until well-blended. Add water and stir. Add food coloring, one drop at a time until you get the desired color. The paint may be stored covered.

## CLAY DOUGH

This works especially well for making Christmas ornaments.

### Ingredients:

- 4 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 1/2 cups tepid water

Combine flour and salt. Mix well. Add water a little at a time until a ball is formed. Knead. It can be refrigerated in a plastic bag overnight. Roll out and cut in shapes. If you wish to hang them, use a nail to make a hole in the shape before baking. Bake at 325 degrees for about an hour on a foil-covered cookie sheet until very light brown. Cool and paint.



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Betty Veldman,  
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# SMALL TALK

## FOR SMALL GROUPS

WINTER 2000

### WHO'S IN CHARGE?

Our corporate culture today has learned what the church of Jesus Christ *should* have known all along: Servant leadership works best. More and more businesses are using a team concept to build their organizations, empowering employees to do what they are good at.

That has a familiar ring to it, doesn't it? Servant leadership isn't new. Jesus modeled it when he washed his disciples' feet. He made it very clear that he did not come "to be served, but to serve." But sometimes church structures get in the way of what Jesus modeled, and church leaders give in to the "sin of power," using a hierarchical structure and demanding mazes of authority lines to make sure everything is done right. The daunting challenge of navigating the "permissions" maze and the "reporting" process can destroy the passion for ministry God gives people.

Even small group leadership can give in to the sin of power. Those in charge of

small groups can create systems that drain the creative energy out of small-group leaders and consume the little discretionary time many of them have.

Systems are safe, and they are easy. It's easy for a small groups manager to review the forms his leaders fill out about their small groups. It's easier than picking

up the phone and asking that leader how things went in last week's small group. Investing in people, praying for them, and releas-

ing them to God's control seems much riskier and far more time consuming. But respecting God's call in people's lives and trusting the

equipping power of the Holy Spirit is vital for keeping the passion for ministry going.

Coming alongside small group leaders to support, encourage, and affirm God's call in their lives is far more Christ-like than "checking up" on leaders to make sure they're doing it right. **If you oversee the small group leaders in your church, instead of using forms, meet with the**

Sometimes church structures get in the way of what Jesus modeled, and church leaders give in to the "sin of power."



leaders one-on-one or in small groups and ask them:

1. What's going well in your group?
2. What discourages you?
3. What can I do to support you and make your job easier?
4. What resources would you find most helpful?

Be sure to pray for and with your small group leaders. If possible, set up an e-mail group and send a weekly e-mail of encouragement, with maybe one leadership idea or practical suggestion. Ideas for handling difficult members or recommending a helpful resource, including web sites, would be helpful. Above all, make it very clear that your desire is to make their job easier, not harder, that you're applauding their efforts, not criticizing what they're not doing. When you begin by letting your leaders know you care about *them*, the leaders in turn will do the same for their group members.

Dying to the sin of power is a win-win situation for everyone. It is God's desire. He's in charge. We can trust his leading.

Betty Veldman, Director of Small Group Ministries

### "IT IS WRITTEN"

#### Becoming Like The Rabbi

"Live the text! Pray the text! Die the text! Teach the text!" emphasizes Bible teacher and pastor Ray Vander Laan in his address to leaders at the Coffee Break/Story Hour 2000 Convention. Vander Laan had a spell-binding effect on his audience, and though tapes are not available due to his other copyright commitments, we've shared some of his challenges here. (over)

### CONNECTING THE UNCONNECTED

What kind of small group would you change your schedule to be part of? Small Group consultant, David Stark, of Church Innovations, Inc. suggests that people make small groups a priority and join them for one of the following four reasons:

- for building relationships
- to pursue their passions
- in response to a natural spiritual hunger
- because of felt needs

Using these four reasons as a guide will increase our effectiveness at building a small group ministry. Filter your small groups through this grid to see how you're doing in reaching the concerns of your church and community.

#### MORE THAN SMALL TALK

This *Small Talk* is part of a larger newsletter, *Connections*, that includes pertinent topics for small groups. If you wish to subscribe to the entire publication, let us know at 1-888-644-0814 or [jordanm@crcna.org](mailto:jordanm@crcna.org).



Small Groups

# SMALL GROUPS



**Small Groups**

He urges Bible study leaders to read through all four gospels at least once a month. He suggests they memorize the Scripture for that week's lesson and pray this Scripture throughout the week. "We need to reclaim the love for the text and plant the desire in others to know the text," says Vander Laan. Notice how often Jesus says, "It is written." How often do we point someone to the text? How many of us can quote the text by memory?

As for living the text, Vander Laan gets passionate about this subject. In the Jewish tradition people judge a rabbi's credibility by observing the rabbi's followers or disciples. Disciples do everything possible to become like their rabbi. So when Vander Laan's Jewish friends consider the rabbi Jesus and look to his followers to understand more of this Jesus, they have a difficult time. The Crusades and the Inquisition were committed by followers of the rabbi Jesus. The silence of the German church permitted the events that resulted in the Holocaust.

Vander Laan's challenge is for you and me to become more and more like our

rabbi. If we are going to lead small group Bible studies we need to know the text and love the text and die the text. It was the memorized text in Psalm 22 that is on Jesus' lips as he died. For Jews this is known as dying the text.

We, like Jesus, need to also live the text and pray the text and teach the text. Fifteen-minute-a-day devotions doesn't cut it. It seems daunting, doesn't it? But small steps forward eventually end in a wonderful journey. The trip will be worth everything we invest in it.

Take that first small step and meditate on a few verses right now. Choose a passage. Read out loud three or four verses from that passage. Read those same verses again, slowly and out loud. Focus on a phrase. Remember other promises in Scripture that relate to this text. Pray these verses back to God. Read the verses one more time. Think about them throughout the rest of the day.

You're on your way—walking in the steps of your rabbi.

Marjo Jordan, Co-Editor



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WELCOME

**WELCOME TO  
SAM HUIZENGA**

Joyce Huizenga will always be known as Sam. And synonymous with her unique nickname (how do you get Sam out of Joyce?) is a woman with a deep passion for God and for reaching those who don't yet know the wonder of his incredible love and forgiving grace. She is the small group rep God has called to continue the ministries of Coffee Break and small groups in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Sam is no stranger to small groups or Coffee Break/Story Hour. She and her church-planter husband, Jon, have used both Coffee Break and small groups to build their new church in Jacksonville, FL, and are currently using small groups to expand their new ministry in Rockford, MI. Both Sam and Jon live their passions and have a genuine love for the people God puts in their lives—like meeting a total stranger at Muffler Man and sharing God's love with her. If you live in her region, she'd love to hear from you. You can contact her at

jlhuizenga@aol.com or 616-874-2545. Or drop her a note at 7448 Agawa Trail, Rockford, MI 49341. We look forward with joy and anticipation to where God will lead in this next chapter of ministry in small groups.

**FAREWELL TO  
LINDA KLEIN**

Linda loves Coffee Break. She also loves leaders, and in her role as small group representative, she made it a priority to affirm them, encourage them, and equip them in leadership. She taught them the importance of "random acts of kindness" and modeled it herself. Her warm smile and honest, genuine, gentle spirit resonated in the hearts of the leaders and directors who came to know her well. With gratitude to God for his perfect plan and his perfect timing, we say goodbye to Linda and release her to God's care for the next chapter of ministry opportunities in her life. Thank you for serving small groups and Coffee Break, Linda. May God continue to use your passion for him to touch the lives of others.

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