

Certain Women

WM Annual
Kick-Off Event



Certain Women

(A Sample Program)
ANNUAL KICK-OFF EVENT

Church of God Women's Ministries

2007-08

- When?:** August or September 2007 (It is assumed that the local women's board would have met and planned the 2007-08 WM calendar of events before this takes place. Such advance planning is essential.)
- Where?:** Facility large enough to seat expected number at tables, e.g., fellowship hall, gym, hotel ballroom, convention center, restaurant, etc.
- Why?:** To recruit and inspire women to take part in activities and events designed to minister to women during the 2007-08 church calendar year. This should be a high-energy event designed to create high expectations for a wonderful year for women ministering to women! Attendees should leave wanting to be part of everything that is planned.
- Theme:** "Certain Women" (This theme may be for the entire year or only the kick-off event.)
- Scripture:** Acts 16:9-15, 40
- Publicity:** Announce at least a month in advance using bulletin inserts, pulpit announcements, bulletin boards, flyers, direct mail, website, etc.
- Registration:** Since this is a meal function, advance registration will be necessary.
- Audience:** All women who attend your church
- Décor:** Use the color purple since Lydia was a seller of purple, a product of her native Thyatira. Scenery suggestive of a riverside would be appropriate since Paul first met her at a riverside.
- Program:**
- Welcome (enthusiastic greeting exuding excitement about the new year of activity for women)
 - Scripture reading: Acts 16:9-15
 - Prayer for the event, the year of ministry, and the meal
 - Meal
 - Musical package or other entertainment
 - Speaker: Use accompanying speaker guide, "Certain Women," or something similar
 - Preview of the year ahead by WM board or other enthusiastic presenters
- Printed Material to Distribute:**
- A calendar of events for the year allowing them to save dates. Details can be given later as plans are completed.
 - Flyers for the various main events for 2007-08
 - Copies of a tri-fold brochure called "A Personalized Call to Unique Service."

Brochures may be ordered from International Women's Ministries office in Cleveland, TN. Call 423/478-7168 or access www.womensministries.cc to order online. First 25 are free, additional copies are 10 cents each plus shipping.

- Brochures for International WM emphases such as the "Women With A Mission" project are available through your state/regional office or by contacting the international office at the number and website above.

Display Areas:

- It would be helpful to have display tables, PowerPoint presentations, or other methods of transmitting information about the events, activities, and emphases of the coming year. These could include but are not limited to: WWAM mission project, "Mothers of Preschoolers" small group, Girls Clubs, quilting or other interests, state/regional/national women's conferences or retreats, Christmas gala, widows' ministries, single mom's support group, etc.
- Have each member of the WM board or small group leaders prepare a promotional display for a specific area of emphasis.
- This will allow each woman present to choose those emphases which hold particular interest for her. If your women's ministries is divided into small groups or circles, those groups can gather information for choosing their emphases.

Options:

- Some churches combine the kick-off event with a weekend or Saturday seminar in order to give adequate time for introducing a year-long emphasis. Make this choice based on the needs and preferences of your group.



“Certain Women” - A Speaker’s Guide
By Mary Ruth Stone

Scripture: Acts 16:9-15

Introduction: Give background about the “Macedonian Call” of the Apostle Paul. Refer to Acts 16:6-10. This began his ministry to Gentiles. Paul met “a certain woman named Lydia” who also had certain women as friends and associates.

I. Lydia was a certain kind of woman.

- Lydia was a very special woman worthy of note.
- Lydia was a business woman. She sold “purple.” Purple garments were a well-known product of her hometown, Thyatira.
- Lydia was a worshiper of God. She was a Gentile, but she worshiped Jehovah. She was a “proselyte” or one who was not born a Jew but had been converted to Judaism.
- Lydia’s heart had been opened by God so that she could receive Paul’s teachings.
- Lydia not only heard the Word, she was moved to heed the Word.
- Lydia believed in Jesus Christ as Messiah and was baptized.
- Lydia was not alone in her conversion. Her household also believed and were baptized.
- Lydia was a hospitable woman. She opened up her home for Paul and his team to stay.
- Lydia was a persuasive woman. She used her powers of persuasion to get Paul to stay in her home. She used her powers of persuasion to convert her household to Christianity.
- Lydia’s home seems to have become the gathering place for the first Gentile Christian church, because Paul met the brethren there after he and Silas were released from jail (Acts 16:40).

II. You are a certain kind of woman also.

- You are unique in creation, and God has planned your days (Psalm 139).
- Just as Lydia was a seller of purple, God has a work for you to do. It may be a career or a ministry or a special role, but He has a plan for you to be productive.
- God intends for you to be a worshipper.
- God intends for you to open your heart to the Word of God. Everyone needs to be continually studying, reading, and growing in the Word.
- We must be “doers of the word and not hearers only” (James 1:22).
- We must accept Jesus as our Savior and follow Him in baptism.
- God expects us to use our influence to win our families and our other associates to Christ.
- Hospitality is a gift from God. He expects us to open our homes for purposes of spreading the gospel and meeting the needs of others.

III. Those whom you know and meet are certain kinds of women as well.
(Refer to “A Personalized Call to Unique Service” tri-fold brochure.)

- There is a world full of women waiting for someone to understand them.
- All women have a need for God in one way or another.
- God created you as a “certain woman” to meet unique needs in the lives of other “certain women.”
- While you may feel inadequate to minister, God will help you.
- There is a ministry that you were uniquely designed to perform. Will you?

Appeal

Appeal to the women to commit to ministering to the women in their sphere of influence. Appeal to them to commit to helping the women’s ministries of your local church reach the women of your community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.