

An artistic illustration featuring a bouquet of blue flowers with yellow centers and green leaves. The flowers are arranged around an open book with a gold cover and a blue ribbon bookmark. The book's pages are white, and a gold cross is visible on the right page. The overall style is delicate and traditional.

International Women's Ministries
Heritage Observance Program

Our Legacy

by Oleda Atkinson



International Women's Ministries

Heritage Observance

October 6

Sample Program

- Objective:*** To highlight the Anniversary of Women's Ministries
- Project:*** Each congregation is encouraged to receive an offering for the International Women's Ministries. This will provide assistance for printed resources to equip women around the world! Monies should be sent to your state Women's Ministries for proper credit.
- Preparation:*** Ask your pastor to schedule some service, on or around October 6, to spotlight this Heritage observance.
- Decorations:*** Prepare an attractive display table containing a large white pillar candle on decorative stand. Have seven smaller candles that will be lighted to emphasis our legacy.
- Participants:*** Select seven women who will light their candle from the larger pillar candle and speak approximately two minutes on her assigned legacy.

Program Outline

- Scripture:*** *For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister (Hebrews 6:10).*
- Prayer:*** Ask the pastor to invoke the blessings of God upon the women in congregation.
- Tribute to Women:*** Read "*Here's to the Woman*"
- Offertory:*** For Translation, Publication and Distribution of Women's Ministries Resources
- Music:*** Select music to reflect service, commitment, etc.

Narration: Read “*History and Heritage*”

Today, we are surrounded by memories of those faithful women who were so instrumental in bringing to us what we know as Women’s Ministries. We treasure the memories of their sacrifice and commitment to this vital kingdom ministry.

The baton is being passed to us today. Our hands will carry the torch into the future. We realize that each of us has been called to use our giftedness. 1 Peter 4:10, “*As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*” We have been challenged to find our individual place of service.

Women of God, we must make ourselves available and open to His call. Ask Him to clear away all pre-occupations and distractions that would block our effectiveness. May He fill us with power and joy so that we may become more effective in our ministry.

Candle lighting: Ask the first woman selected to speak and light the first candle representing:

1. *Legacy of Integrity*
2. *Legacy of Love*
3. *Legacy of Discipline*
4. *Legacy of Endurance*
5. *Legacy of Faith*
6. *Legacy of Courage*
7. *Legacy of Commitment*

Continue until all seven have lighted their candles.

Commitment Prayer: Responsive Reading “*The Lord’s Prayer.*”





Here's to the Woman

Here's to the woman

Who knows where she's going
And will keep on until she gets there;
Who knows not only what she wants from life,
But what she has to offer in return.

Here's to the woman

Who is loyal to family and friends,
Who expects no more from others
Than she is willing to give;
Who is confident in her beliefs
And yet is willing to listen
To what others have to say.

Here's to the woman

Who guides and inspires
Not by quoting other's philosophies
But by living her own good example;
Who accepts both victories and disappointments
With the same grace;
And who can rise above life's challenges and move on.

Here's to the woman

Who gives the gifts of her thoughtfulness,
Who shows her caring with a word of support,
Her understanding with a smile;
A woman who brings joy to others
Just by being herself!

—Author unknown



History and Heritage *International Women's Ministries*

*L*ong before the first General Assembly in 1906, women were involved in ministry: evangelizing, pastoring and organizing churches.

Twenty-one delegates attended the first General Assembly in 1906 and seven of those were women! During that meeting church leaders recognized the important role women played in New Testament time and affirmed the value of women in the church.

Since 1936, the primary outlet for women in the church has been Women's Ministries which is now an international multi-ministry organization.

During the late 1920's, Mrs. S. J. Wood, wife of the overseer of Texas, decided that she and sixteen other women could do something to assist their local church in Electra, Texas. They made and sold quilts in order to purchase a new piano for the church. Through that venture, the "Ladies Willing Worker Band" was born.

After the piano project was completed, the little group continued to raise money through the sale of baked goods, ice cream, bonnets and tea towels. They raised money to help the pastor attend the General Assembly and to contribute funds for the general expenditures of the church.

The men of the Electra congregation were not totally in agreement with the long hours their wives worked away from their homes. However, when the church came up \$60 short of having enough money to meet church expenses, the LWWB made up the difference and took on a new significance to the church as a whole. Mrs. Woods commented: "Raising that much money in those times was like raising a thousand dollars today."

The idea of Willing Workers spread quickly as word of the Electra church success reached other areas. Within five years Mrs. Wood had established an LWWB in every church in Texas. Later, she presented a play at the General Assembly which drew national attention to the idea of women's groups.

*H*istory tells us that Reverend B. L. Hicks, then overseer of Kentucky, drew up guidelines for the LWWB:

*Do not overcharge.
Make friends as well as sales.
Except it be the last chance, don't serve dinners in the church house.
Be sure to use the money for the purpose for which it was raised.
Have prayer meetings and healing services each time you meet.
Keep up the spirituality of the band.
Contribute regularly to the support of the orphanage.
Visit the sick and needy and make clothes for them.
Visit the discouraged and invite them to attend your meetings.
Keep unity in the bands, regardless of the sacrifices.
Don't criticize those who won't help in the band.
Pray for them to get enough victory to put God's work first.*

Although the primary purpose of the LWWB was to raise supplemental money, there was a later and greater spiritual emphasis which has since given impetus to the expansion of women's ministries.

*F*rom these humble beginnings Women's Ministries has been given a *legacy* of perseverance, courage, strength and selflessness. This *legacy* is rich in dedication, concern and commitment. From our pioneer women we have learned the virtues of:

Integrity
Love
Discipline
Endurance
Faith
Courage
Commitment

May all those who come behind us find us faithful in every area of our service to Him.





The Lord's Prayer



Matthew 6:9-13

OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN, WE PRAISE YOU:

For placing us in Your kingdom; for justifying us by Your blood; for washing us with the waters of regeneration; for breaking the old patterns of sin and establishing new patterns of righteousness; for adopting us into a new family with a new Father and a new future; for calling us into ministry; giving us a real purpose and a new destiny. Holy Spirit, we praise You today.

THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE:

May the channels of communication be open with You. May we have a confident realization of who You created us to be. We ask that You establish unbreakable and relational bonds within our families. May Your will be done in our homes, church, community, and world. Anoint us to reach our world. Reveal to us Your plans for our lives and we will follow.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD:

Lord, we need new reservoirs of living water and manna from heaven. May our influence be broadened and may we be strengthened by Your power. Accept our willingness to commit ourselves as instruments used for Your purpose.

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US:

Cleanse us from all bitterness and unforgiveness. Wash our minds clean of anything that would hold back Your creative flow. Melt our will so that our performance will reflect our identity in You. Continue to mold and shape us into the finished product You desire us to be.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE:

Dear Lord, make our paths straight. Break every stronghold of Satan. By Your mighty power, every diabolical plan of darkness will fall. We know that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. We are surrounded by Your faithfulness. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER. AMEN:

Father, You have placed us in ministry. Use us for Your glory! Energize us by Your Spirit! May our lives light the way for others. We exalt You, praise and magnify Your name for Your past, present and future work through us. We commit to You completely for Your will to be done.