

International Women's Ministries Heritage Observance Program

MINISTRY FASHION AND FUNCTION

More than 70 Years of Styling and Smiling

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Church of God began in 1886 under the name *Christian Union*. When membership was offered, eight people joined, three men and five women. That number illustrates the fact that women have always been a vital part of the ministry of the Church of God.

Beginning in the 1920s, organized women's groups within local churches began to spread across the USA. Perhaps the earliest one was in Electra, Texas, where Mrs. Jonnie Belle Wood and sixteen other women formed a quilting group in order to raise funds to purchase a new piano. They called their group the *Ladies Willing Worker Band*. For many years, the LWWB remained primarily a fund raising organization.

In 1936, the general church recognized the LWWB as an official part of the organizational structure. Along with fund raising, prayer, Bible study, and other activities by and for women, LWWB became a vital part of the ministry of the local, district, state, national, and international Church of God.

Women's Ministries Heritage Week is usually observed during the month of October. October 6 is considered the anniversary of Women's Ministries.

(For a more detailed history, see *Church of God International Women's Ministries Resource Guide* available at www.womensministries.cc or 423-478-7168.)

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

- ◆ The Women's Ministries Heritage observance can follow various formats. It may be a worship service or a meal function.
- ◆ A PowerPoint presentation might include: Purpose, scripture, slogan, motto, colors, flower, and logo.

Purpose

To encourage spiritual growth, personal development and leadership among women and to contribute to the general welfare of the home, church, community and world.

Scripture

“Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates” (Proverbs 31:31).

Slogan

Beyond Ourselves

Motto

Serving My World With Love (Galatians 5:13).

Colors

White signifies **purity** and the **bride of Christ**

Purple represents **royalty** and **kingship**

Gold denotes **faithfulness, endurance, strength** and **honor**

Flower

Red Rose

The rose is one of the most fragrant flowers. “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing” (2 Corinthians 2:14, 15).

Logo

The globe represents the home, church, community and world—harvest areas where we endeavor to minister to the needy in body, soul and spirit, that all may come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (See 1 Corinthians 15:57, 58.)

(To download the Women’s Ministries logo from the Women’s Ministries web site, go to www.womensministries.cc and click on “Resources,” click on “Women’s Ministries Logos” and follow the instructions given.)

- ◆ Open with prayer and scripture reading.
- ◆ Have an 8-woman fashion show representing the prevailing style of each respective decade, e.g., '30s, '40s, '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s, and now ('00s). As each decadal fashion is modeled, present by PowerPoint or by reading, a decadal emphasis for women's ministries. This may be tied to your own local church history or emphases given in the *Resource Guide*. For example, when the '30s model comes out, say: "Jane Doe is wearing a . . . dress (description) and a . . . hat (description) accessorized with. . . ."

While Jane was dressing like this, she and the sisters of the church were engaged in fund raising activities in order to build indoor restrooms in the church and to supplement the pastor's salary. They raised plenty of money in those days making and selling quilts and selling homemade fried apple and peach pies. Remember, this was the decade of the Great Depression." Do something similarly appropriate for each decade of *Fashion and Function*.

- ◆ Close with a speaker emphasizing the concept that some things are always in *fashion*—choose any biblical principle such as a relationship with Jesus, modesty, a godly life, etcetera. No matter when we live, the Word of God is always in *fashion* and our *function* is as the body of Christ operating in unity.
- ◆ Pastoral prayer for the women of the church as well as the coming year's ministry by them and to them.