LOVINGTON
FIRST C.O.G.
(NON-DENOMINATIONAL)
WIDOW’S
MINISTRY

MANUAL
OF
EXAMPLES
LOVINGTON (NON-DENOMINATIONAL) WIDOW’S MINISTRY
EXAMPLES MANUAL

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WIDOWS MINISTRY

James 1:27 ... “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” NIV

... “The Christian who is pure and without fault, from God the Father’s point of view, is the one who takes care of orphans and widows, and who remains true to the Lord – not soiled and dirtied by his contacts with the world.” Living Bible

PURPOSE:
To meet the spiritual needs of women who have lost their husband to death.

Mission/Vision:
• To find purpose and meaning to life as a widow.
• To develop and grow in a personal relationship with God.
• To establish a support system of women seeking new avenues of Christian Service.

Goals/Objectives:
• To share life
• To study God’s Word
  – Bible study of women in the Bible
  – Bible study of widows
• To meet regularly (i.e. quarterly)
• To have social gatherings
  – Dinner/lunch/TV night/Theatre, etc.
  – Guest speakers
• To go beyond the church walls
  – Open to other churches
  – Open to the community and surrounding areas
LOVINGTON WIDOW’S MINISTRY
(non-denominational)

KICK-OFF LUNCHEON
June 6, 2010

AGENDA

Welcome & Prayer

Introductions
Sr. Pastors & Spouse
Accountability Team
    Guests

Lunch served

Program
Widows ministry
Pastor Rodney

Calendar of Events

Presentations
    Pottery
    Flowers

Closing prayer
Accountability Team

Sr. Pastor Rodney Houser … 873-4749
Assoc. Pastor Jeanene Carole-Inherst … 864-2897
   Rosie Clements … 873-4324
   Sherry Gregory … 873-8733
   Kay Hillman … 853-9522
   Pattie Wood … 873-4335

We are called to serve the needs of our widows
   1 Timothy 5: 3
   “Give proper recognition to those widows who are real in need.”
PURPOSE
To meet the spiritual needs of women who have lost their husband to death.

MISSION/VISION
To find purpose and meaning to life as a widow.
To develop and grow in a personal relationship with God.
To establish a support system of women seeking new avenues of Christian Service.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES
Share life
Study God’s Word
Study women in the Bible
Study widows in the Bible
Meet regularly
Have social gatherings
(Dinner/lunch/TV night/Theatre, etc.)
Guest speakers
Go beyond the church walls
Open to all churches … non denominational
Open to the community and surrounding areas

SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR 2010

JULY 13th (Tuesday): Bible Study
1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
Lovington First Church of God

AUGUST 15th (Sunday): Ice Cream Social
3:00 p.m.
Lovington 1st COG Family Life Center

SEPTEMBER 9th (Thursday): Luncheon
11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Lovington 1st COG Family Life Center

OCTOBER 22nd (Friday): Singspiration
6:30 p.m.
Lovington First Church of God

NOVEMBER 10th (Wednesday): Potluck
11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Lovington 1st COG Family Life Center

DECEMBER 13th (Monday): Christmas Party
11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Lovington 1st COG Family Life Center
LOVINGTON WIDOW'S MINISTRY

PURPOSE

TO MEET THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF WOMEN WHO HAVE LOST THEIR HUSBAND TO DEATH.

MISSION/VISION

TO FIND PURPOSE & MEANING TO LIFE AS A WIDOW

TO DEVELOP & GROW IN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

TO ESTABLISH A SUPPORT SYSTEM OF WOMEN SEEKING NEW AVENUES OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE
WIDOW’S PROMISE POTTERY

- SMALL CLAY POT OR BASKET
- RIBBON & BOW WITH THE PROMISE CARD TIED ON*
- FILL POT/BASKET WITH SHREDED COLORED PAPER
- CARDS ARE SIZE OF A BUSINESS CARD (6)
  - POTTERY CARD: JEREMIAH 18:6 *
    - VERSE EXPLAINS THE PROMISE
  - BIRD (DOVE) CARD: Matthew 10: 30-31
    - 2 SMALL PLASTIC DOVES
  - CANDLE CARD: PSALM 27: 1
    - VOTIVE W/CANDLE
  - COIN CARD: PHILIPPIANS 4:19
    - QUARTER
  - HEART CARD: JOHN 3:16
    - SMALL PLASTIC HEART WITH 3 CROSSES INSIDE
  - SEED CARD: MATTHEW 17:20
    - A PACKET OF SEEDS

WE GAVE EVERY LADY AT THE KICK-OFF LUNCHEON A ‘PROMISE POT’ AND WE GIVE ONE TO EVERY NEW WIDOW AT EACH FUNCTION AND WE TAKE ONE TO A NEW WIDOW (1 MONTH AFTER THE FUNERAL)

OUR LOGO IS A SINGLE ROSE - WE USE IT AS A CENTER PIECE & TO RECOGNIZE OUR WIDOWS
NAME: ______________________________________

(IF THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING)

ADDRESS: ________________________________

CITY: ______________________ ZIP: ________

PHONE: ______________________________________

CHURCH: ____________________________________

[ ] THIS IS MY FIRST TIME

[ ] I WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED

[ ] TABLE HOSTESS [ ] TELEPHONE [ ] PRAYING

PROGRAM IDEAS:
___________________________________________
___________________________________________
___________________________________________
THIS IS MY PRAYER REQUEST
PLEASE CONTACT ME [ ] NO NEED TO CONTACT
I WANT TO BE ON THE WIDOW’S PRAYER CHAIN
OLD FASHIONED HYMN
SING-A-LONG
A
‘SINGSPIRATION’
FRIDAY
OCTOBER 22ND
6:30 P.M.
(FIRST CHURCH OF GOD)
COMMUNITY INVITED
Featuring C.O.L.A. Talent

Sponsored by the
Lovington (non-denominational)
Widow’s Ministry

(If you have a song to share—contact Jeanene at 864-2897)
PURPOSE
To meet the spiritual needs of women who have lost their husband to death.

MISSION/VISION
To find purpose and meaning to life as a widow.
To develop and grow in a personal relationship with God.
To establish a support system of women seeking new avenues of Christian Service.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES
Share life
Study God’s Word
Study women in the Bible
Study widows in the Bible

Accountability Team
Sr. Pastor Rodney Houser … 873-4749
Assoc. Pastor Jeanene Carole-Inherst … 864-2897
Rosie Clements … 873-4324
Miriam DeCotes … 963-9928
Sherry Gregory … 873-8733
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We are called to serve the needs of our widows
1 Timothy 5: 3 “Give proper recognition to those widows who are real in need.”
GOSPEL ‘SINGSPIRATION’ PROGRAM

WELCOME & PRAYER

PRAISE CHORUS—WORSHIP JESUS

HYMN
WE HAVE COME INTO HIS HOUSE #16

SPECIALS
BARB BOCK
REV. GLENN BAKER

HYMNS
WONDERFUL GRACE OF JESUS #110
LET’S JUST PRAISE THE LORD #70
PRAISE HIM! PRAISE HIM! #74

SPECIALS
PRAISE TEAM—WALK BY FAITH
JILL WALKER
ABBY WALKER

LOVE OFFERING
MUSIC BY REV. JILL WALKER

HYMNS
HE LIVES #210
BECAUSE HE LIVES #209

SPECIALS
PRAISE TEAM—JUST A LITTLE TALK
ABBY WALKER
DON SANDERS

HYMNS
JESUS WE JUST WANT TO THANK YOU #131
BIND US TOGETHER #318

NUMBERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

RESPONSIVE READING #679

PRAISE TEAM—I’M TRADING MY SORROWS

CLOSING HYMN
AMAZING GRACE #127

CLOSING PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR JOINING
THE LOVINGTON (NON-DENOMINATIONAL) WIDOW’S MINISTRY
WE REPRESENT 11 CHURCHES & 7 COMMUNITIES
LOVINGTON (NON-DENOMINATIONAL) WIDOW’S MINISTRY
EVENT UPDATE

- GOD’S CALL TO BEGIN THE WIDOW’S MINISTRY (JUNE, 2009)
- PRESENTED TO SR. PASTOR (JANUARY, 2010)
- PRESENTED TO ‘CIRCLE OF SISTERS’ (WOMEN’S GROUP – JANUARY, 2010)
- FORMED AN ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM (FEBRUARY, 2010)
- PRESENTED TO AREA SR. PASTORS (FEBRUARY, 2010)
- KICK-OFF LUNCHEON (JUNE 6, 2010)
- ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON (1ST: JUNE 6, 2011 & 2ND: JUNE 6, 2012)

EVENTS TODATE:
- MONTHLY LUNCHEON OR ACTIVITY (I.E. ICE CREAM SOCIAL, SILENT AUCTION, HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS)
- BI-MONTHLY LUNCHEON 2ND YEAR
- BIBLE STUDY OF RUTH & NAOMI
- SINGSPIRATION (OPEN TO PUBLIC)
- PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

STAYING IN TOUCH
- MONTHLY CONTACT WITH EVERY WIDOW ON THE LIST
  - BEGAN WITH A LIST OF 60 NAMES - NOW HAVE 80+
    - EVERY EVENT AVERAGES 35 - 40
  - NEWSLETTER (BI-MONTHLY)
  - EVENT REMINDER CARD & TELEPHONE CALL
    - LIST IS DIVIDED BETWEEN THE ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM & CALLING COMMITTEE
  - PRAYER CHAIN

- WE HAVE 12 CHURCHES & 7 COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED
- WE GIVE A ROSE TO WOMEN AT THE FUNERAL OF THEIR HUSBAND
- WE GIVE A PROMISE POTTERY TO NEW WIDOWS
- THE ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM MEETS MONTHLY – PRIOR TO EACH EVENT

HIGHLIGHTS:
- TEENS DONATED $500 BECAUSE WE MINISTERED TO THEIR GRAMMAS
- A ROSE AT A GRAVESIDE FUNERAL – TOUCHED THE LIVES OF MORE THAN JUST THE WIDOW – SEVERAL TESTIMONIES
- PRAYER QUILTS GIVEN TO 2 NURSING HOMES (72 RESIDENTS)

- WE ARE STILL LEARNING
  - THE WELCOME/PRAYER CARD HAS BEEN MADE 2 SIDED TO AVOID CONFUSION
  - WE HAVE THE SOCIAL WORKING AND ARE EXPANDING THE MINISTRY (I.E. PRAYER QUILTS, HOSPITAL VISITS, MEN’S GROUP PROVIDING ASSISTANCE – SMALL JOBS, GAVE A STOVE)

FULL PACKET AVAILABLE: IT INCLUDES BEGINNING LETTERS, PROMISE POTTERY IDEA, NEWSLETTER, AND MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION FOR WIDOWS.
CONTACT PASTOR JEANEENE @ 1-217-864-2897 OR E-MAIL LDYPSTR@YAHOO.COM.
Psalm 91
For Doreen

Doreen, who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
Doreen will say of the Lord, “He is my  
Refuge and my fortress, my God, in Whom I trust.”
Surely He will save Doreen from the fowler’s snare  
And from the deadly pestilence.
He will cover Doreen with His feathers  
And under His wings she will find refuge;
His faithfulness will be Doreen’s shield and rampart.
Doreen will not fear the terror of night,  
Nor the arrow that flies by day,  
Nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
Nor the plague that destroys at midday.
A thousand may fall at Doreen’s side,  
Ten thousand at her right hand,  
But it will not come near her.
Doreen will only observe with her eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.
If Doreen makes the Most High her dwelling –  
Even the Lord, Who is her refuge –  
Then no harm will befall her,  
No disaster will come near her tent.
For He will command His Angels  
Concerning Doreen  
To guard her in all her ways;
They will lift Doreen up in their hands,  
So that she will not strike her foot against a stone.
Doreen will tread upon the lion and the cobra;  
She will trample the great lion and the serpent.
“Because Doreen loves Me,” says the Lord,  
“I will rescue her; I will protect her,  
For she acknowledges My Name.
Doreen will call upon Me, and I will answer her;  
I will be with Doreen in trouble,  
I will deliver her and honor her.  
With long life will I satisfy Doreen  
And show her My salvation.”

Psalm 91
For Cindy

Cindy, who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
Cindy will say of the Lord, “He is my  
Refuge and my fortress, my God, in Whom I trust.”
Surely He will save Cindy from the fowler’s snare  
And from the deadly pestilence.
He will cover Cindy with His feathers  
And under His wings she will find refuge;
His faithfulness will be Cindy’s shield and rampart.
Cindy will not fear the terror of night,  
Nor the arrow that flies by day,  
Nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
Nor the plague that destroys at midday.
A thousand may fall at Cindy’s side,  
Ten thousand at her right hand,  
But it will not come near her.
Cindy will only observe with her eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.
If Cindy makes the Most High her dwelling –  
Even the Lord, Who is her refuge –  
Then no harm will befall her,  
No disaster will come near her tent.
For He will command His Angels  
Concerning Cindy  
To guard her in all her ways;
They will lift Cindy up in their hands,  
So that she will not strike her foot against a stone.
Cindy will tread upon the lion and the cobra;  
She will trample the great lion and the serpent.
“Because Cindy loves Me,” says the Lord,  
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For she acknowledges My Name.
Cindy will call upon Me, and I will answer her;  
I will be with Cindy in trouble,  
I will deliver her and honor her.  
With long life will I satisfy Cindy  
And show her My salvation.”
Dear «First Name»

Thank you for being with us at the Widow’s Ministry Kick-off Luncheon. The fellowship was awesome and we are looking forward to our next event. It will be a Bible Study of Ruth & Naomi—“How they dealt with being a widow.” It will be Tuesday, July 13th, 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m. at the Lovington First Church of God, 301 W. State Street.

**FUTURE EVENTS**

Ice Cream Social: **Sunday, August 15th, 3:00 p.m., Lov. 1st COG FLC**
Luncheon: **Thursday, September 9th, 11:00 a.m., Lov. 1st COG FLC**
Singspiration: **Friday, October 22nd, 6:30 p.m., Lov. First COG**
Potluck Luncheon: **Wednesday, November 10th, 11:00 a.m., 1st COG FLC**
Christmas Party: **Monday, December 13th, 11:00 a.m., 1st COG FLC**

If you have any questions about the Widow’s Ministry or an event, please contact a member of the Accountability Team. If you need a ride … we are also available.

Jeanene Carole-Inherst 864-2897
Rosie Clements 873-4324
Kay Hillman 853-9522
Sherry Gregory 873-8733
Pattie Wood 873-4335

God Bless & Have a GREAT DAY!,

*The Lovington (Non-Denominational) Widow’s Ministry*
STARTING A WIDOW’S MINISTRY

Scripture encourages to “plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:17) and to “honor widows that are widows indeed” (1 Timothy 5:3). Learning to walk alone after the loss of a mate is not easy, but the local church and individuals can support, encourage and guide women who become widows.

THREE PHASES OF A WIDOW’S MINISTRY

FIND THE WIDOWS

MINISTER TO THE WIDOWS

EMPOWER THE WIDOWS FOR MINISTRY

HOW TO GET STARTED*

- The senior pastor discusses with the church the need for a ministry to widows.
- Appoint a coordinator to develop the ministry.
- Include interested widows in the planning of the ministry.
- Discuss finances to determine the budget, if necessary.
- Compile a directory of widows.
- Give each widow a questionnaire along with a letter explaining the ministry you will be starting. Encourage them to return the questionnaire within two weeks.
- As the questionnaires are returned, make a folder for each individual. Put all correspondence and information in that person’s folder.
- Prepare a calendar noting each widow’s birthday, special events, etc. (especially the date of spouse’s death). Make copies of the calendar to give to each widow. Encourage them to remember each other on special days.
- Develop a Bible study.
- Co-ordinate quarterly activities. (could be monthly – depends on group)
- Organize volunteers to help, “adopt”, or be responsible for communicating with widows. (I.e. men to fix plumbing, teens to mow the yard, women to clean house, etc.).
- Pray for this ministry
- Have a special dedication Sunday for the ministry.
- Declare a month to honor widows.

*Adapted from Lynn L. Bowman, Programs/Services Coordinator, Women’s Ministries Department, Assemblies of God, Springfield, Missouri. Used with permission.
WHAT IS ... ‘A WIDOW’S WALK’?

Our goal is to be able to connect with our widows in yet another dimension of their life ... the written word...

‘A Widow’s Walk’ is a short newsletter designed to do just that—stay connected.

We hope to offer some tips for survival, to share favorite recipes, books, short stories, and to maybe add a bit of humor along the way.

If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, send your information to: The Widow’s Walk, P.O. Box 62, Lovington, IL 61937

GOD BLESS!

Inside this issue:

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<tr>
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God’s Word tells us that He is our provider, protector and our promise of love, joy, peace.

THE LOVINGTON WIDOW’S MINISTRY

OUR PURPOSE:
To meet the spiritual needs of women who have lost their husband to death.

OUR MISSION/VISION
To find purpose & meaning to life as a widow.

To develop and grow in a personal relationship with God.
To establish a support system of women seeking new avenues of Christian Service.

OUR GOALS/OBJECTIVES
To share life
To study God’s Word
To meet regularly
To have social gatherings
To go beyond the church walls

THE LOVINGTON WIDOW’S MINISTRY

UP-COMING EVENTS ... MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FRIDAY—OCTOBER 22ND—6:30 P.M.—LFCOG
SINGSPIRATION: A NIGHT OF SINGING GOSPEL SONGS

THURSDAY—NOVEMBER 11TH—11:00 A.M.—LFCOG-FLC *(DATE CHANGE)*
POTLUCK LUNCHEON—BRING A DISH TO SHARE

MONDAY—DECEMBER 13TH—11:00 A.M. LFCOG-FLC
CHRISTMAS PARTY

Special points of interest:

• What is ‘A Widow’s Walk’
• The Ministry Purpose
• Upcoming events
• Who to call
• How not to cut the grass!
**PRAYER FOR TODAY:**

Lord, thank you for your perfect love which casts out all fear from my life. Help me to always remember that there is no limit to your love...it is unconditional! Amen

**ACCOUNTABILITY TEAM ... who to call**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeanene Carole-Inherst</td>
<td>864-2897</td>
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<td>Miriam DeCotes</td>
<td>963-9928</td>
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</table>

**POTENTIAL FOR MINISTRY:**

- Making ‘Linus’ blankets
- Nursing home visits
- Telephoning a fellow widow
- Praying for one another
- Sharing the Word of God in a Bible Study

**HOW NOT TO CUT THE GRASS**

- Sitting w/ our scissors & basket
- Under an umbrella w/scissor—in the rain

Life as a widow can be challenging—especially if your husband did it all. I bet there are days that getting out of bed is a chore and you need a roadmap for the day! Take heart—there’s a lot of us going through the same motions. Yet with a bit of humor we can face even cutting the grass, getting out of bed or eating alone. George Burns once said ‘I’d rather be a failure at something I enjoy than be a success at something I hate.’ So, my friends, enjoy the moments you have. Share your mistakes and your accomplishments with a friend you can laugh with—especially if you are laughing at yourself. Life can be fun and we can do this. Find something you enjoy and go for it with gusto!

**Promise for tomorrow**

Psalm 37: 5  “Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him and He will do it.”
1. WELCOME & INTRODUCE TEAM (JC/ROSIE/SHERRY/KAY/PATTIE)

2. PRAYER
   a. UNSPOKEN NEEDS

3. THE BOOK OF RUTH
   a. ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE WIDOW
   b. A PICTURE OF STRENGTH, FAITHFULNESS, OBEDIENCE & PURPOSE
   c. MORE THAN A LOVE STORY – AN ILLUSTRATION OF GOD’S GRACE & LEADING
   d. PRACTICAL LESSONS
      i. NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THE SITUATION, IF WE SURRENDER TO THE LORD AND OBEY HIM – HE WILL SEE US THROUGH.
      ii. NO PERSON IS SO FAR OUTSIDE OF GOD’S GRACE THEY CAN’T BE SAVED.
      iii. GOD PROVIDENTIALLY GUIDES THOSE WHO WANT TO OBEY HIM AND SERVE OTHERS.
      iv. IT DOES NO GOOD TO BLAME GOD,
      v. THERE ARE NO SMALL DECISIONS WITH GOD.
      vi. IT’S WISE TO WAIT ON THE LORD AND LET HIM WORK OUT HIS LOVING PURPOSE.

4. BACKGROUND
   a. EVENTS OF RUTH ARE TAKING PLACE DURING THE DAYS OF THE JUDGES – TURMOIL AND FAMINE IN THE LAND
   b. RUTH & ESTHER – ONLY 2 BOOKS NAMED AFTER WOMEN.
      i. RUTH – A GENTILE – WHO MARRIED A JEW
      ii. ESTHER – A JEW – WHO MARRIED A GENTILE
      iii. GOD USED BOTH WOMEN TO SAVE A NATION

5. LOOK AT THE 3 MAIN CHARACTERS
   a. NAOMI
      i. SHE MAKES A WRONG DECISION
         1. SHE & ELIMELICH CHOOSE TO TAKE THEIR 2 SONS TO MOAB.
         2. SHE BECAME CARNAL IN HER WANTS & DESIRES.
         3. HER FOCUS WAS ON SELF NOT ON GOD
            a. WE REFER TO THAT AS BEING BACKSLIDDEN.
         4. HER WRONG DECISION BRINGS THEM THE DISCIPLINE OF GOD.
         5. NOTE: IT IS BETTER TO STARVE IN THE WILL OF GOD THAN TO EAT THE ENEMY’S BREAD!
      ii. SHE GIVES A WRONG DIRECTION (ADVISE)
         1. SHE WANTS TO RETURN HOME BUT IS NOT WISE ENOUGH TO INVITE HER DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW TO GO WITH HER.
         2. SHE WAS Sending THEM BACK TO THEIR HEATHEN IDOLS.
            a. ORPAH – CHOSE TO RETURNED TO MOAB
            b. RUTH – CHOSE TO GO WITH NAOMI AND SERVE HER GOD
iii. SHE HAS A WRONG DISPOSITION
   1. FAMILY SEES A GREAT CHANGE IN HER
   2. SHE HAS A BITTER SPIRIT AGAINST GOD AND BLAMES HIM FOR HER CIRCUMSTANCES & HER WIDOWHOOD.
   3. CALL ME ‘MARA’ – WHICH MEANS BITTERNESS.
   4. GOD USES RUTH TO CHANGE HER MOTHER-IN-LAW’S ATTITUDES TOWARD LIFE AND GOD.

b. RUTH
   i. SHE IS DEDICATED & DETERMINED
      1. “LET ME NOW GO TO THE FIELD”
      2. “LET ME GLEAN”
      3. “LET ME FIND FAVOR”
   ii. SHE ENTERS INTO THE HARVEST AS A POOR GLEANER.
   iii. GOD LEADS HER TO THE FIELDS OF BOAZ = HER KINSMAN-REDEEMER – FUTURE HUSBAND.
   iv. SHE IS SERVING HER GOD & HER MOTHER-IN-LAW
   v. SHE IS USED TO RESTORE NAOMI’S BLESSING.
   vi. SHE IS SURRENDERED
      1. WILL OF GOD.
      2. DIRECTION OF NAOMI
         a. WASHED, ANOINTED WITH FINE OILS
      3. SHE WENT TO THE THRESHING FLOOR
      4. SHE LAY AT THE FEET OF BOAZ (THE CUSTOM OF THE DAY) – ASKING HIM TO BE THE KINSMAN-REDEEMER AND CLAIM HER AS HIS WIFE.
   vii. SHE IS SATISFIED
      1. SHE HAS A SON
      2. SHE BECOMES AN ANCESTRESS OF DAVID AND THE MESSIAH

c. BOAZ – THE KINSMAN-REDEEMER
   i. HE IS AN OLDER WISE, WEALTHY MAN OF GOD
   ii. HE IS RUTH’S PROTECTOR LONG BEFORE HE MARRIES HER.
   iii. HE WAS WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE TO REDEEM RUTH AND HER ESTATE BECAUSE HE LOVED HER.

6. NAOMI IS A PICTURE OF A CARNAL CHRISTIAN – FOCUSED ON SELF

7. RUTH IS A PICTURE OF AN OBEDIENT CHRISTIAN – FOCUSED ON GOD

8. BOAZ IS A PICTURE OF CHRIST – OUR KINSMAN-REDEEMER. WILLING TO SACRIFICE SELF FOR ANOTHER.
1) WHEN WE FACE BITTER TIMES REMEMBER:
   i) GOD WELCOMES OUR HONEST PRAYERS
      BUT
   ii) DON’T ALLOW BITTERNESS AND DISAPPOINTMENT TO BLIND US TO OUR
       OPPORTUNITIES
   iii) HE IS WITH US THROUGH THE HARD TIMES

2) FIND GOD’S WILL & PURPOSE FOR OUR LIFE
   i) RUTH SOUGHT GOD’S DIRECTION
   ii) BOAZ DID WHAT WAS RIGHT AND IN THE RIGHT WAY.
      (1) THERE ARE NO MORAL SHORTCUTS
      (2) THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO KNOW GOD’S WILL
         (a) PRAYER
         (b) THE WORD
         (c) WISE COUNSEL
         (d) CIRCUMSTANCES

3) BE AN ENCOURAGER
   i) NAOMI ENCOURAGES RUTH
   ii) RUTH ENCOURAGES US

4) I BELIEVE THERE IS ANOTHER APPLICATION THAT GOES BEYOND THESE OBVIOUS
   WAYS OF DEALING WITH OUR PERSONAL LIFE AS A WIDOW
   a) THE BOOK OF RUTH IS ABOUT THE HARVEST!
   b) IT IS ABOUT GOD SHOWING THE CHURCH HOW TO BRING THE WIDOW INTO A PLACE
      OF PURPOSE THAT HE HAS CALLED US TO – FOR THE END TIME HARVEST!
   c) IT IS ABOUT A PLACE OF SERVICE WE LONG FOR AND THE CHURCH NEEDS
   d) THERE IS A SPIRITUAL TRUTH REVEALED IN THE BOOK OF RUTH:
      i) NAOMI MENTORED RUTH IN THE LAWS OF ISRAEL. SHE KNEW THE STRANGER
         AND THE WIDOW COULD GLEAN THE FIELDS
      ii) A HARVEST WAS RESERVED IN WHAT WAS MISSED WHEN THEY FIRST GLEANED
         THE FIELDS. IT WAS LEFT FOR THE FATHERLESS, THE WIDOW AND THE
         STRANGER TO GLEAN.
      iii) THE LAWS OF ISRAEL RESERVED THE CORNERS OR BORDERS OF THE FIELD
          FOR ONLY THE FATHERLESS, THE WIDOW AND THE STRANGER TO GLEAN.
      iv) WIDOWS ARE TO CALL SOULD INTO THE HAREVEST THROUGH PRAYER AND
          GOD WILL ESTABLISH THE BORDERS OF THE WIDOW (PROV. 15:25)
      v) GOD WILL USE THE WIDOW TO EXPAND HIS KINGDOM.

5) IN MATTHEW 13:39, JESUS SAYS THAT THE REAPERS ARE THE ANGELS & THE
   HARVEST IS THE END OF THE AGE. THE WIDOWS ARE CALLED FOR THIS SEASON THIS
   TIME!
   a) AS WIDOWS WE ARE CALLED TO WORK WITH HEAVEN’S ASSISTANCE TO BRING IN
      THE HARVEST. (IT IS THE “ANNA ANOINTING” THAT CAN COME ON WIDOWS WHEN
      WE FAST AND PRAY AND WATCH FOR HIS APPEARING (LUKE 2:36).
      i) WE CAN RECOGNIZE THE MOVE OF GOD FIRST.
      ii) WE CAN SEE JESUS AND HIS PURPOSE AS WE SPEND TIME WITH HIM.
      iii) WE CAN HELP Usher IN HIS RETURN AS ANNA USHERED IN HIS COMING!
   b) AS WIDOWS WE NEED TO CATCH THE VISION OF OUR PASTORS AND THE
      MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT.
   c) WE ARE THE BACKUP ARMY!
   d) WE ARE THE “WATCHMAN” WATCHING OVER THE HARVEST.
6) THERE ARE GROUPS, NATIONS, CITIES, FAMILIES - SET ASIDE FOR US TO GLEAN!

7) WE ARE TO BE ALERT AND LOOK FOR THOSE BEING PUT IN OUR PATH AND WE NEED TO BE PRAYING FOR THEIR SALVATION.

8) WE ARE TO MENTOR OTHERS TO HELP THEM RECOGNIZE JESUS AS OUR REDEEMER, SO THAT OUR GOD BECOMES THEIR GOD.

9) WE NEED TO COMMIT TO A FIELD AND COME UNDER THE COVERING OF THE PASTOR AND LEADERSHIP. GOD HAS PROVIDED PROTECTION AND TIMES OF REFRESHING FOR US.

10) AS WE SPEND TIME IN HIS WORD, THE LORD WILL CLEANSE AND PURIFY US.

11) RUTH WAS WILLING TO LET GO OF THE PAST AND BE POSITIONED FOR THE FUTURE.

12) RUTH WAS WILLING TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE THAT NEEDED TO BE REDEEMED

13) IT WAS TIME TO MOVE OUT OF MOURNING AND INTO A POSITION OF PRAISE.

14) IT WAS A NEW SEASON OF HER LIFE AND A NEW CALLING TO MOVE INTO.

15) WHEN A WIDOW DEVELOPS INTIMACY IN THE SPIRIT WITH GOD AS HER HUSBAND, SHE CAN CONCEIVE THE SERVANT’S HEART, AND BIRTH WORSHIP. WORSHIP WILL Usher IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

16) WIDOWS HAVE TO MOVE TOWARD PRAISE TO BE RESTORED. IT IS A FORM OF TRUSTING GOD EVEN WHEN WE HURT.

17) PRAISE OPENS THE DOOR OF GIVING INTO ANOTHER’S LIFE AND POSITIONS US FOR PURPOSE.

18) RUTH POURED INTO NAOMI’S LIFE – WE SEE THAT THROUGHOUT THE BOOK OF RUTH.

19) RUTH’S SERVICE BROUGHT HER HEALING AND MOVED HER INTO HER DESTINY.

20) RESTORATION COMES WHEN WE CAN MOVE OUT OF OURSELVES AND MINISTER TO OTHERS – EVEN WHEN WE DON’T FEEL LIKE IT.

21) THE CHURCH IS CALLED TO CARE FOR THE WIDOW WHICH HELPS TO BRING HEALING.

22) THE CHURCH IS CALLED TO HONOR THE WIDOW WHICH GIVES HER VALUE

23) THE WIDOW IS CALLED TO MAKE A CHOICE
   a) TO BE A WASH POT OR A SECPTER OF PRAISE
   b) TO BE A VICTIM AND A CASTAWAY OR MOVE INTO HER PLACE OF HONOR AND AUTHORITY
   c) TO BE A WIDOW WITH A PURPOSE! AN ARMY OF PRAYER WARRIORS!!
PROV. 15: 25 “THE LORD TEARS DOWN THE PROUD MAN’S HOUSE BUT HE KEEPS THE WIDOW BOUNDARIES INTACT.”

HE ESTABLISHES OUR BORDERS AND HE EMPOWERS US TO MINISTER TO THE HURTING, CARE FOR THE OPPRESSED AND MOST IMPORTANTLY GLEAN SOULS FOR AN END-TIME HARVEST.

IN ISAIAH THE 54TH CHAPTER HE TELLS US WE ARE TO ENLARGE OUR TENT AND WE ARE NOT TO BE AFRAID FOR OUR MAKER – IS OUR HUSBAND – THE LORD ALMIGHTY IS HIS NAME – THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL IS OUR REDEEMER.”

AND THEN ONE OF MY FAVORITES

1 CHRONICLES 4: 10 - THE PRAYER OF JABEZ

JABEZ (MEANING PAIN) CRIED OUT TO GOD: “OH GOD THAT YOU WOULD BLESS ME AND ENLARGE MY TERRITORY! LET YOUR HAND BE WITH ME AND KEEP ME FROM HARM SO THAT I WILL BE FREE FROM PAIN.” AND GOD GRANTED HIS REQUEST!!!!!

1ST JABEZ HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND A CONFIDENCE TO KNOW GOD LOVES AND WANTS TO BLESS

2ND JABEZ ASKS GOD TO INCREASE HIS TERRITORY OR IN OTHER WORDS HIS RESPONSIBILITY

3RD JABEZ PRAYS GOD WOULD BE WITH HIM AND STAY CLOSE

4TH JABEZ ASKS GOD TO KEEP HIM FROM HARM & PAIN

GOD ANSWERS JABEZ AND HE WILL ANSWER OUR PRAY AS WELL!

HELEN STEINER RICE POEM – HELPSTO EXPRESS MY THOTS.

MY PRAYER FOR YOU TODAY IS THAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD BE STRONGER, THAT HE ENLARGE YOUR TERRITORY AND THAT YOU BRIGHTEN THE CORNER WHERE YOU ARE = BLOOM WHERE YOU'RE PLANTED.
THANK YOU!

I want to extend a note of gratitude to those who have made the Lovington (Non-Denominational) Widow’s Ministry a reality.

First and foremost I praise God for giving the vision and for enabling and equipping us to proceed with this much needed and valuable ministry.

Next

Lovington First Church of God Sr. Pastor Rev. Rodney Houser for recognizing the need and for wholeheartedly coming along side with his endorsement, his encouragement and his prayers

LFCOG Circle of Sister’s Women’s group for their support, their prayers and their commitment to the Widow’s Ministry

Widow’s Ministry Accountability team: Ruie Blyth, Rosie Clements, Rev. Miriam DeCotes, Kay Hillman, Sherry Gregory and Pattie Wood for their prayers, their faithful support and their efforts on behalf of the widows we minister to – they have been and are awesome

LFCOG Helping Hand’s Men’s group for offering to help with minor repair jobs for the widows – regardless of their Church affiliation

Jan Harner for providing such wonderful luncheon menus, her prayers and her great support

C.O.L.A. – the Lovington area Senior Pastors who endorsed this ministry and supported it with their prayers and speaking at our luncheons

Last but not least

Christian Women Connection for also recognizing the need and standing ready to share the Widow’s Ministry efforts of the Lovington First Church of God with Churches across America.

With much love, humility and gratefulness,

Rev. Jeanene Carole Bode, Coordinator
# WIDOW’S MINISTRY TIME FRAME
(Idea & Planning began June, 2009)

## 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Events</th>
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| January | Meet with Sr. Pastor Rodney  
              Present Ministry to Circle of Sisters |
| February| Organize a Widows Ministry Team  
                    Present Ministry to C.O.L.A. |
| March   | Present Ministry to the Congregation  
                        Bulletin inserts (Finding widows) – every Sunday  
                        Present to Visioning Conference (March 7) |
| April   | Letters with Invitation, questionnaire (profile) to widows |
| May     | Database of Widows prepared  
                    Invite representative from local churches to Team meeting |
| June    | First Sunday – MINISTRY KICK-OFF LUNCHEON  
               All Widows invited – no charge  
               Sr. Pastors invited  
               Present each widow with  
               Promise Pottery  
               Time of Sharing  
               Short presentation of encouragement  
               Door Prizes  
               Team Meeting – inviting a representative from COLA churches  
               Begin recruitment of volunteers to ‘help’ widows (i.e. cleaning gutters, etc.) |
| July    | Begin a Bible Study  
               (Ruth & Naomi as widows – Gleaning the ‘Harvest’) |
| August  | Ice Cream Social – widows and their family |
| September | Luncheon – with a speaker & picture activity |
| October | Gospel Singspiration |
| November | Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration |
| December | Christmas Party – inspirational program |
A YEAR OF PLANNING IDEAS:  (Kick-off luncheon: June 6, 2010)

June
Kick-off luncheon, birthday and anniversaries – celebrate by recognizing everyone’s birthday and wedding anniversary.
Cooking for one or two – invite a home economist to discuss proper nutrition and to demonstrate cooking for one or two.

July
Birthday and anniversaries – celebrate by recognizing everyone’s birthday and wedding anniversary.

August
Ice Cream Social
Watermelon Fellowship – summer favorite - have games
Bible Conference – Use as an outreach to the community.

September
Salad Luncheon – share your favorite salad – bring for 2
School Days – plan a skit around school activities and serve a box lunch
Grandparent’s Day – invite widows to bring their grandchildren photos to your meeting.

October
Singspiration
Family Dinner/Talent Show – ask members to invite their children/grandchildren to share their talents.
Sing Fest - Plan a gospel sing

November
Thanksgiving Luncheon – potluck – devotion @ giving thanks.
Thanksgiving Feast – ask widows to bring favorite dishes and share recipes
Veterans Day Theme – let the widows honor those who served in the military.

December
Christmas Party – plan a program to entertain/inspire your widows.
Carol Sing – visit and sing for shut-ins and at nursing homes.

2011
January
Income Tax Program – someone to explain the new tax laws.
Winter Bible Study – A weekend retreat or 1 day meeting

February
Love notes to missionaries – provide names and addresses of missionaries – write love letters to them
Presidents Day Observances - ask volunteers to give excerpts of famous presidential speeches.

March
Ides of March – plan a program based on laughter, including jokes & stories from your own members.
Gardening – invite a gardening expert to give gardening tips.

April
Picnic – enjoy the outdoors with a picnic away from church
Book Review – invite a local author to review and autograph their book

May
Concert – invite a choir to sing for you. Provide food.
Film Festival – in different areas of the church – show different films.
ANNOUNCING

A

WIDOW’S MINISTRY

Purpose:

To meet the spiritual needs of women who have lost their husband to death.

Mission/Vision:

To find purpose & meaning to life as a widow.

To develop & grow in a personal relationship with God.

To establish a strong support system of widows seeking new avenues of Christian service.

PHASE I    FINDING WIDOWS

PHASE II    MINISTER TO THE WIDOW

PHASE III    EMPOWER THE WIDOW TO MINISTER

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION

!COMING SOON!

(Sponsored by the Lovington First Church of God)
Do you know a widow in this congregation? 

We want to honor these wonderful women that have lost so much. Please help us find the widows in your life, our church, our community.

Do you have a mother, a sister, an aunt, a grandmother that is a widow?

Widow’s Name: _____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________
Email address: ______________________________________________
Telephone Number: __________________________________________

Place this in the offering plate or give to the Senior Pastor.
April 10, 2010

Mrs. __________
Inside Address

Dear Mrs. (sister):

We are pleased to tell you that a new *Non-Denominational Widows Ministry* is beginning. We intend for it to be a warm fellowship of women who have lost their husbands to death and who might need understanding, comfort, and times of sharing – regardless of church affiliation. We know that God has a special concern for us (James 1:27) and that you are special to Him.

We are enclosing an information sheet for you to complete. Even though our church is sponsoring this new ministry, we invite all widows to have fellowship with us. After we have received your completed information form, we will contact you concerning future plans. For your convenience we are enclosing an addressed, stamped envelope.

We are planning Bible studies, outings and luncheons, as well as contacts on birthdays and anniversaries. We also hope to offer help for those of us who occasionally need transportation or assistance around our home. So let’s get on with our vision and see what great plans God has for us!

Sincerely,

Lovingston First Church of God Non-Denominational Widows Ministry
Accountability Team Members

CC: C.O.L.A Pastors (Coalition of Lovingston Area Sr. Pastors)
WIDOW’s INFORMATION
Lovington (Non-Denominational) (Widow’s Ministry)

Name________________________________________ Birthday (Month/Day Only) ______________
Address________________________________________________________________________________
Phone ___________________________ E-mail ________________________________________________
Anniversary Date __________________________ How Long married__________________________
Date of Husband’s Death____________________________
Was his death sudden? ______________________
Number of Children Married ____________________ Single ________________
Number of Grandchildren __________ Great Grandchildren __________
Do you live alone? ____________________________
Do you have children with 50 miles? ___________
What church are you a member of? ________________________________
What ministries do you participate in?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
What are some of the things you like to do? (Sewing, baking, walking, shopping, etc.)
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
We value your ideas. What suggestions do you have for our Widows’ Ministry?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
How often would you like to meet? ___monthly ___bi-monthly ___ quarterly

Date __________________________
May 18, 2010

Dear «First_Name»,

The all new **Non-Denominational Widows Ministry Kick-Off Luncheon** has been scheduled and we are excited to invite you to join us by being a part of this special event in the life of this much needed ministry.

**When:** Sunday, June 6, 2010

**Where:** Lovington Family Life Center  
N.E. Corner of Washington & W. State St.  
Lovington, IL

**Who:** Widows

**Why:** To get acquainted, to fellowship, to rejoice in The Lord!

**Time:** 1:00 p.m.

Lunch provided (salad, croissant, & dessert)

**Cost:** No Charge – just your time.

R.S.V.P. 1-217-864-2897

**Please let us know if you are planning to attend.**  
Let us know if you need transportation also.

This will give us an opportunity to meet, to get acquainted, to introduce you to our ministry and to simply have some fun together. There will be no pressure to join or to continue on. We simply want to meet the needs of widow women in our area and to become Women Living for the Lord. **PLEASE JOIN US!**

Sincerely,

Accountability Team Members Listed

CC: Cola Sr. Pastors

**Added to Sr. Pastor letters:**  
**Pastor:** You and your spouse are invited to attend the luncheon. There may or may not be widow ladies from your congregation in attendance but we thought it would be nice to have our COLA Pastors with us. This is a copy of the letter that was sent to 57 women. There will be a table for Sr. Pastors and spouses…we look forward to having you join us.