



R.F.W.M.

Reaching Faithful Women through Ministry

Volume 3, Issue 1

February 2011

Redemption Fellowship Women's Ministry

Mission - committed to helping women of all ages and stages of life to understand and proclaim God's Word, pursue Christ and His holiness, and have a passion for God's people, while developing intimate, life-transforming relationships with our Father and other women.

A Love Letter



A Love Letter

The Song of Solomon is a love letter. It's a book of poetry about the longings from the heart.

It's love, not based on human emotion or sentimentality. And when we read chapter 8 verse 6 - "Set me as a seal upon thine heart as a seal upon thine arm for love is strong as death" - it's talking about the love of GOD the heart is the seat of love and the arm is where strength lies.

It's a prayer saying, LORD, hold me close to Thine heart and sustain me with the strength of Thine arm.

Because Your love is strong unconquerable, unquenchable, unfathomable, unpurchasable, it's stronger than death. It's not our love for GOD that is strong but it's GOD's love for us.

Neither trials nor temptations, persecutions can do anything to prevent GOD's love to us. It's a love that cannot be purchased, it is a love that has no substitute.

We cannot win the love of GOD. He loves us and it's not because of our works. So that strong grip that we think we have on GOD's love is fruitless unless we acknowledge that we cannot even love if His power did not hold us.

This is GOD's love letter to us. He saved us, He called us according to His power and according to His grace and He will not let us go.

Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned. ~ Song of Solomon 8:6-7

~ Sister Renee Higgins



Upcoming Events:

- Angels Choir Rehearsal - Saturday, February 12th at 10 a.m.
- Valentine's Day Dinner with Gillem Community Church - Saturday, February 12th from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
- Mentoring's Open House Bring A Friend Day - Saturday, February 19th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- H.O.T. D.O.N.U.T.S. Delivered - Friday, February 25th at 7 p.m. at Marlam Cafe
- H.O.T. D.O.N.U.T.S. - Sunday, February 27th at 6 p.m.
- Prayer Vigil -Friday, March 4th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Women's Ministry Schedule

Our event calendar includes our fellowships, our Annual Mother's Day Tea, as well as incorporating additional outings like going to a play, visiting a museum, or going bowling. We are encouraging all ladies to come out and share your ideas, connect with other women, and be inspired during these times of encouragement, fellowship, and fun. Please mark your calendars for the following events of 2011:

2011 Event Schedule

- March 2011: Women's Fellowship
- May 7th: Mother's Day Tea
- June 19th: Father's Day Presentation
- August 13th: Women's Fellowship (New Year Kickoff)
- October 8th: Women's Fellowship
- December 3rd: Church decorating event and Christmas Fellowship

Recommended Reading: *The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman

From Publisher: Are you and your spouse speaking the same language? He sends you flowers when what you really want is time to talk. She gives you a hug when what you really need is a home-cooked meal. The problem isn't your love - it's your love language! In this international best seller, Dr. Gary Chapman reveals how different people express love in different ways. In fact, there are five specific languages of love: Quality time, words of affirmation, gifts, acts of service, and physical touch. What speaks volumes to you may be meaningless to your spouse. But here, at last, is the key to understanding each other's unique needs. Apply the right principles, learn the right language, and soon you'll know the profound satisfaction and joy of being able to express your love - and feeling truly loved in return.

Featured Recipes - Hot Fudge Brownie Dessert (*Pillsbury.com*) and **Fudge Truffle Cheesecake** (*Allrecipes.com*)

Hot Fudge Brownie Dessert

2 boxes (19.5 oz each) Pillsbury® Chocolate Fudge Brownie Mix
 1 cup butter, melted
 1/2 cup strong brewed coffee (room temperature)
 4 eggs
 3/4 cup chopped pecans
 1 can (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk
 1 jar (11.75 oz) hot fudge ice cream topping
 1 container (8 oz) frozen whipped topping, thawed



Heat oven to 350°F. Spray 13x9-inch pan with cooking spray. In large bowl, stir together brownie mixes, butter, coffee, eggs and pecans until well blended. Pour into pan. Bake 30 to 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted 2 inches from side of pan comes out almost clean. In 1-quart saucepan, heat milk and fudge topping over medium-low heat about 5 minutes, stirring constantly, until hot (mixture must be hot). Cool brownies 5 minutes; poke several times with long-tined fork, wiping fork with paper towel if necessary. Pour hot fudge mixture over brownies. Cool 35 minutes before serving. Serve warm with whipped topping.

Fudge Truffle Cheesecake

1 1/2 cups vanilla wafer crumbs
 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
 1/3 cup butter, softened
 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
 3 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese
 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
 4 eggs
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract



Preheat oven to 300 degrees F. In a large mixing bowl, mix together crushed vanilla wafers, confectioners' sugar, cocoa, and butter or margarine by hand. Press ingredients into a 9 inch springform pan. In the top of a double boiler, melt the chocolate chips, making sure that they are very smooth. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy with an electric mixer. Gradually beat in condensed milk until smooth. Mix in melted chocolate, eggs, and vanilla. Beat with electric mixer on low speed until the ingredients are thoroughly blended. Pour the filling into the prepared crust. Bake at 300 degrees F (150 degrees C) for 55 minutes. The cake will seem underbaked in the center, but will continue to cook after you remove it from the oven. Top with chocolate dipped strawberries or purchased chocolate truffles OR drizzle melted chocolate and/or white chocolate over the top.

The Gift of His Love by Edwina Cowgill

Jeremiah 31:3: "... I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son; that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

At Valentine's Day, it is customary for our husbands to give us gifts - roses, jewelry, candy or a gift he knows we have been wanting. But no matter how extravagant, how gorgeous or how expensive, our husband's gifts to us will never compare with God's gift to us - His gift of love. What an amazing gift! To think that Almighty God loved you and me so much that He sent His son to be born of a virgin, in the lowliest, most humble place possible - a stable, with a manger as His bed - is mind-boggling. Then God caused Him who knew no sin to become sin for us and to pay the ultimate price for us so when we die, if we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we will leave our temporary home here on earth to live eternally in heaven with God and all the saints. It leaves me speechless.

Over the years, I have heard many people say "I'm sure he died for your sins, but not mine." Or "I'm not good enough." Or "I just don't believe he died for me." Or some other unbelieving remark. The Bible says "God is no respecter of persons." In other words, if He did it for one person, He did it for all. If you had been the only living person on earth, He would have died for you.

What are some characteristics of God's love?

- **It shows no favorites.** God loves us equally. He loves the sinner just as much as He loves the saint. He is no respecter of persons.
- **It is unconditional.** It is not based on who we are, what we do or achieve. It is not based on whether or not we deserve it. God's love is based on the fact that He created us to be His daughters and sons. We never have to work to earn the right to be loved. No matter what we do or don't do, say or don't say, God loves us.
- **It is boundless.** There are no limitations, no constraints, no conditions that we must meet for God to love us. He loves us unreservedly. No ifs, ands, or buts. Period.
- **It is extravagant.** He pours out His love into our lives recklessly, extravagantly. Think of all the blessings He has given you. He did that because He loves you so. There have been times when He has saved you, or a loved one, from a catastrophe, even when you were not aware of it. God's blessings, His protection, are in your life because of His extravagant love.

Take some time to sit quietly and listen to the voice of Jesus as he speaks over you. Hear Him say how you have ravished His heart with just one glance (Song of Solomon 4:9) Bask in the truth when He says "This is my beloved" [son, daughter] "in whom I am well pleased." (emphasis mine). Acknowledge and receive the greatest gift of all time "... I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness."

Abba Father, You are an awesome, mighty and Holy God. How can we possibly thank you enough for your love for us? It leaves us speechless!, Humbly from hearts full of gratitude, we say thank you. May we always be aware of your love surrounding us. We love you Abba Father. Amen.

