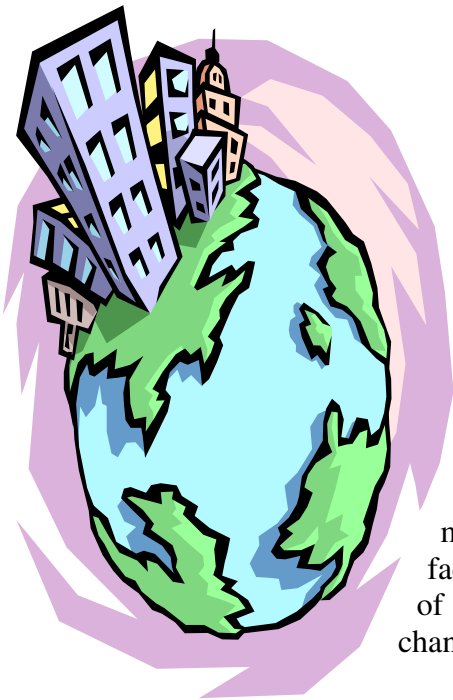


WOMEN'S NEWS LETTER

MARCH 2007



Love thy Neighbor

By JoAnn Taku

Leviticus 19:18 "...but you shall love your neighbor as yourself"

When I first became a Christian I had a deep desire and burden to tell others about what Christ did in my life, but I was reluctant because of my tainted history of a religious Christian. I did not want to be in their face about religion but needed to find my way of spreading the Good News of Jesus. I also thought I was too old and what do I have to offer. God changed my way of thinking through a Bible study *Experiencing God*.

I did not need to try so hard to find a way, I just needed to look where God is working and follow Him.

My husband and I have been on several short-term mission trips that have made a big difference in the way we see Jesus. I learned a lot about friendship evangelism. As I was approaching retirement and praying that God would use me, I was ready to follow His lead. God gave me a clear message to love thy neighbor.

We have lived in our neighborhood for twenty-three years and I did not know any of my neighbors very well except to wave once in while before shutting the door of my garage. I started to prayer walk around the court and pray for each home and told God that I wanted to be available. For three years now we have had a Ladies Tea the first week in December and through this I have been able to share about what God has done in my life. We also have a yearly family BBQ and close off the street for the kids to play games. We have a very diverse neighborhood. I now have friends that are Russian, Mexican, and Ethiopian and many different religions. We have shared our lives with them and pray that God can continue to use us.

We have an EVC small group in our home every Tuesday evening. Recently one friend that has been going through very difficult circumstances came and brought some treats for our group. The Holy Spirit prompted me to ask if she needed prayer. Our small group laid hands on her and prayed. God is working all around us, we need to listen and be available and He will do the rest.

My heart is burdened for my friends and I would love to see each of them experience Jesus in their lives. Prayer is a powerful tool to reach those that are bound by Satan.

God can use you also, if you just open the door to His calling. It might be just around the corner or next door. A book that I would recommend for those who need help in telling others about Jesus is, *Becoming a Contagious Christian* by Bill Hybels. An excerpt from the book: "In their heart of hearts, I think all true followers of Christ long to become contagious Christians. Though unsure about how to do so or the risks involved, deep down they sense that there isn't anything as rewarding as opening a person up to God's love and truth."