



MINISTRY POSSIBILITIES

- Adult literacy and learning classes
- Communication skills seminars
- Career development workshops
- Developing positive assertiveness seminars
- Spiritual gifts workshops
- Personal development and purpose classes
- *Leadership Certification* training developed by the General Conference Women's Ministries
- Leadership development programs
- Leadership training for women
- Life planning seminars
- Personal development classes
- Scholarship Our Sisters (SOS) Sponsorship

THE BENEFITS

"In a knowledge of God all true knowledge and real development have their source. Wherever we turn, in the physical, the mental, or the spiritual realm; in whatever we behold, apart from the blight of sin, this knowledge is revealed.... In this communion is found the highest education."

E. G. White, *Education*, p. 14

OUR RESPONSE

"In the Lord's plan human beings have been made necessary to one another. In this work each one is connected with the other, and all are united with Christ. It is by unselfish service that we improve and increase our talent."

E. G. White, *Mind, Character, and Personality*, Vol. 2, p. 431

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Dear God, Thank You for being our source of learning. Grant us knowledge, wisdom, and understanding so that we will be effective in our communication and outreach to others. May we be constantly learning. May we share our skills and knowledge to serve You better.
Amen



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LACK OF TRAINING,

MENTORING AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for women to lead and progress are still limited in most countries.



THE CHALLENGE

Despite societal development, equality advancements, and improved working rights, opportunities for women to lead and progress are still limited in most countries.

Major obstacles women face in countries in the grip of poverty are limited educational opportunities and lack of training. Additionally, hindrances such as the exclusion of many women from primary, secondary and higher education, poor access to health and social services, and underrepresentation in the work force further marginalize women. This severely limits their ability to develop the skills they need to advance in life.

BARRIERS

- **Primary education barriers** – In 2010, more than 72 million children were out of school, 54 percent of them girls.
- **Gender disparities in adult literacy rates** remain wide in most regions of the world.
- **Gender differences in tertiary participation** are apparent throughout the world. While women predominate in the fields of education, health and welfare, social sciences, humanities and art, they remain severely underrepresented in the fields of science and engineering. (United Nations. *The World's Women 2010: Trends and Statistics*, published 2014)

RESOURCES

Leadership Certification training is comprehensive program developed by the General Conference Women's Ministries department. It is designed to equip women for leadership positions in the church. The program has four levels and includes 64 seminars, with PowerPoints and participant hand outs. We are grateful to God for the positive outcomes and evaluations from this program and thankful for the many women across the world who have benefited from it as they minister in their churches and community.



THE OPPORTUNITY

“Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.”

E. G. White, *Education*, p. 13

- In Women's Ministries, we hold each woman in high esteem and seek to recognize and affirm her individual needs and gifts.
- To be on the cutting edge, a leader must be involved in continuing education and training.
- Our women must keep up-to-date on new leadership trends and new ways of ministering effectively to others in a way that is relevant to their specific circumstances.
- Realizing the need to support and assist the development and advancement of women, the General Conference Women's Ministries department continues to develop material to train women for positions of leadership.
- It is important that women, especially leaders, be involved in mentoring and serving not only as mentor but also as mentee. This ensures that each individual is not only receiving but also giving.

GOD'S REQUEST

“Christ discerned the possibilities in every human being. He was not turned aside by an unpromising exterior or by unfavorable surroundings.... The same personal interest, the same attention to individual development, are needed in educational work today.”

E. G. White. *Education*, p. 232

HOW TO BEGIN

- Access Train the Trainers programs or other teaching courses.
- Access mentorship seminars.
- Advocate for equal education.
- Conduct research to determine the major needs of women in your community in relation to training and leadership opportunities.
- Consult with local training organizations who may be able to offer advice and assistance.
- Develop a mentoring group and inspire them by your support and leadership.
- Encourage older women to participate as mentors to younger women.
- Engage the support of church members who may be able to help.
- Find women to mentor. You may identify younger women, new members, or women who want to develop their leadership experience.
- Look for women with leadership potential to be part of the mentoring group.
- Offer training seminars for these women to develop them further.
- Provide child care facilities during the class/seminar sessions.
- Provide career development seminars as an additional step.
- Provide spiritual leadership to the group through prayers and encouragement.
- Conduct courses in the *Leadership Certification* training program developed by the General Conference Women's Ministries department.
- Work in collaboration with the church pastor and other departments of the church such as the Education department, the Prayer Ministries team, and the Interest Coordinator, if there is one in your church.