## Women’s Needs Assessment in the Local Church

Women ministering to women is a joy. We can be actively involved in speaking words that will cheer, comfort, and encourage. Solomon tells us:

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1. **POSSIBLE BENEFITS**

 Women’s Ministries programs may help women in many areas of their lives, including:

* Personal enrichment
* Education in life skills
* Spiritual growth
* Enjoyment of friendship
* Assistance in the healing processes
* Better economical situation
* Outreach
* Nurture
* Financial security

## STEPS IN ASSESSING NEEDS IN YOUR CHURCH

* Meet with your committee
* Begin with prayer
* Make love foremost
* Get to know your church members
* Become acquainted with your neighbors
* Value every woman’s response
* Measure needs

Town meetings

Focus groups

Surveys

1. **DEVELOPING A SURVEY**
2. **A good survey will tell you:**
* Which ministries now active in your church are of interest to women
* What their needs are
* Who the women are
* The ways women are willing to minister to other women
* What their interests are

**B. Surveys should include:**

* a place for name, address, phone number and age group
* a box to check if they wish to attend anticipated seminars
* a list of anticipated seminars
* an area to indicate which of the current ministries in which they are participating
* a box to check if they wish to join current ministries
* blanks to list their special skills or interests
* box to check if they wish to help
* a place for them to list their needs
* topics or ministries for various groups of women (older, younger, married, single, widowed, etc.)
1. **SURVEYS WILL IDENTIFY LEADERS**

Look for leaders and those who have expertise in different areas. Some of your women are rich treasure houses of information and abilities. God will bless each one as they are willing to share their leadership skills. Your survey will help you identify these leaders.

**5. BE CREATIVE**

As you design your survey, be creative. Use ideas from your focus group, survey, or town meeting. Look to your own country, state/province, village or city to find programs suited to the local culture. Look for ideas suited to the budgets or time constraints of the women and the resources available to you.

1. **TIME TO SHARE (ACTIVITY)**

Distribute sample surveys and divide the women into small groups. Ask them to discuss the surveys and adapt them to their areas. Then have them return to the main group and share their ideas.

**7. BE SENSITIVE**

When evaluating the responses, be sensitive to the different needs expressed. Be friendly, accepting, and supportive. By understanding their needs, wants, and pains, you will be a source of encouragement and help. Remember when the women feel comfortable with you as leaders they will open their hearts.

**8. CONSIDER RESOURCES**

When planning your programs, look to the local community for professionals who may be willing to speak on pertinent topics. Also be aware of helpful agencies. Be knowledgeable so that you are able to utilize these experts as presenters and also to refer women to professional help when needed. Compile a list of Adventist women available in your conference or area as resources and as referrals.

**9. VALUE TEAMWORK**

Share your plans with your pastoral staff. Value their support and work together to form a cohesive team.

**10. CONCLUSION**

Women have a great work to do that only they are capable of doing. The Lord desires that each of us do the work He has given us. He will give us the talents, the resources, the time and the courage. Discover the needs in your church. Find capable helpers, and ask God to lead your plans. Pray unceasingly for His guidance and direction. Go forward in faith.

**WOMEN’S MINISTRIES SURVEY**

Your local Women’s Ministries committee would appreciate your answering the following questions. Please complete the survey and return it to the Women’s Ministries Director. (Give name and address and telephone number for the local director.)

**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Telephone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Age: \_\_\_\_ Under 30\_\_\_\_\_31-40 \_\_\_\_41-50 \_\_\_\_51-60 \_\_\_\_61-70 \_\_\_\_Over 70**

**Marital status:**

\_\_\_\_single \_\_\_\_single with dependent children

\_\_\_\_married \_\_\_\_married with dependent children

\_\_\_\_divorced \_\_\_\_divorced with dependent children

\_\_\_\_widowed \_\_\_\_widowed with dependent children

**Names and ages of children**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Work and career status:**

\_\_\_\_ work full time at home

\_\_\_\_ work part time away from home

\_\_\_\_ work full time away from home

\_\_\_\_ work full time in the family business

\_\_\_\_ student

**I currently attend the following activities of the Church:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**My special interests and skills:**

\_\_\_\_ music

\_\_\_\_ vocal

\_\_\_\_ instrumental: name of instrument \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ art

\_\_\_\_ crafts: list areas of expertise

\_\_\_\_ public speaking―list areas & topics

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\_\_\_\_ leader of Bible study groups

\_\_\_\_ ability to write and prepare press releases

\_\_\_\_ other

**I would like to attend:**

*(check all that are of interest to you)*

\_\_\_\_Prayer breakfast/brunch/lunch

\_\_\_\_24-hour Mini-Retreat

\_\_\_\_Women’s health seminars

\_\_\_\_Weight control seminars

\_\_\_\_Classes on child rearing

\_\_\_\_Nutrition classes

\_\_\_\_Craft seminars

\_\_\_\_Small business seminars

\_\_\_\_Grief recovery seminars

\_\_\_\_Financial planning seminar

\_\_\_\_Seminar on enjoying single life

\_\_\_\_Gardening seminars

\_\_\_\_Flower arranging seminars

\_\_\_\_Home decorating seminars

\_\_\_\_Seminar on keys to successful marriages

\_\_\_\_Hospitality seminars

\_\_\_\_Group Bible study

\_\_\_\_Other seminars (List suggested seminar topics)

**I would like to participate in support groups for:**

\_\_\_\_Divorce recovery

\_\_\_\_Alcoholism

\_\_\_\_Parents of children with disabilities

\_\_\_\_Stop smoking

\_\_\_\_Eating disorders

\_\_\_\_Drug addiction (including prescription drugs)

\_\_\_\_Widows

\_\_\_\_Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to help with:**

\_\_\_\_Retreats

\_\_\_\_Special dinners

\_\_\_\_Providing transportation

\_\_\_\_Prayer bands

\_\_\_\_Bible studies

\_\_\_\_Prayer ministry

\_\_\_\_Child care

\_\_\_\_Decorating

\_\_\_\_Publicity

\_\_\_\_Telephoning

\_\_\_\_Greeting

\_\_\_\_Typing, computer work

\_\_\_\_Hosting events in my home

\_\_\_\_Other: Please list \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**In order to attend, I need help with:**

\_\_\_\_Child care

\_\_\_\_Care of elderly family members

\_\_\_\_Transportation to and from events

\_\_\_\_Other: Please list\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional comments or suggestions:** *(you are welcome to write on the back of this page)*

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**Thank you for your participation. Your help is greatly appreciated.**