



## Northern Ladies Retreat

### November 2017 Newsletter

Dear precious sister... Greetings to you in our Lord Jesus Christ!

At the end of October the Northern Ladies Retreat held its third Life Conference. Many thanks are extended to Sharon Burns and Pam Burt for sharing, and to the Free Methodist church ladies for hosting this event. If you did not attend, you were missed!

Kathryne shared her thoughts... "The Life Conference was a refreshing way to spend a Saturday afternoon. It's wonderful to join in prayer with women from different denominations, coming together as one for Christ. We could feel the strength in unity as we shared and prayed together. Being Sisters in Christ, the sense of caring was very present. It was wonderful to have teachings that were based on the Word of God. I went home uplifted, challenged, strengthened and encouraged. We need each other. Together we are definitely stronger."

A warm welcome is extended to Gail Davies who has joined our Retreat committee.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDERS!** **March 2 & 3, 2018**

The theme for the 2018 Retreat will be **Indescribable and Glorious Joy**. "...you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy..." 1 Peter 1:8-9



Our speaker at all 3 sessions will be **Lynda Schultz**. Missionary, teacher, author, passionate student of the Scriptures, and cat lover, Lynda was born and raised in Timmins, Ontario, in the heart of gold mining country. Lynda served with *Fellowship International* for most of her ministry career. She currently resides in Guelph, Ontario.

She is the author of *Divine Design for Daily Living*, a 365-day devotional journey through the Bible, published both in Spanish and English editions. Her most recent book, *Ordinary People With An Extraordinary God*, was published in 2013. Several of her short stories appear in anthologies published by FAITHWRITERS (with more on the way). She is currently working on a third book, *In the Shadow of a Cross*. Lynda is also a regular blogger. Find her at: [grainsofsand820.wordpress.com](http://grainsofsand820.wordpress.com) and [lyndasgrainsofsand.blogspot.ca](http://lyndasgrainsofsand.blogspot.ca) among several other spots!

"But no one's identity is hooked to what they do, or have done, in life. If I can say I long for any 'claim to fame' it is as a believer in Jesus Christ, and as a follower of the Way of the Cross. My desire is to wisely pour out the life of Christ that has been given to me because of His amazing grace in a way that will excite in others the desire to know Him more intimately."

## Registration Fees

Once again **pre-paid registration** for the entire weekend is \$50. (Price includes all 3 sessions.)

Registration **at the door** will be \$60 for the entire weekend. If you register **prior to February 10th** your name will be entered into a draw. PRIZE: get your registration returned. Individual sessions will be \$20/session.

For **pre-registered teens** it is \$12/session or \$30 for the full weekend (3 sessions). TEEN registration **at the door** is \$40 for the full weekend.

## SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKING

Visit our website [www.northernladiesretreat.com](http://www.northernladiesretreat.com). Stay connected through Facebook and 'Like' our page at Northern Ladies Retreat. If you have any questions, contact us through our email [northernladiesretreat@gmail.com](mailto:northernladiesretreat@gmail.com) or phone [705-360-5391](tel:705-360-5391) in the evenings.

## WATCH FOR...

Posters and brochures which will be sent to churches at the end of December. Brochures will be sent to everyone on our email list. Please note that for your convenience you can now register and pay online on our website [www.northernladiesretreat.com](http://www.northernladiesretreat.com).

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST Devotional from the Coordinator

### A Gracious & Merciful God

In the book of Jonah we read about a prophet called by God, a pagan people and nation who end up responding to the mercies of God.

Nineveh, the capital of Assyria and infamous for its cruelty and great wickedness was Israel's enemy. Jonah, an Israelite, was to preach repentance to the Gentile Ninevites. Instead, he ran from God's calling - in the opposite direction. This is the only recorded instance of a prophet refusing God's Commission. As much as we try, we cannot run from God. He knows exactly where we are. But in spite of Jonah's reaction, God was able to accomplish what He wanted done.

It was not a coincidence or a fluke that a great storm arose. This was no natural storm. God appointed the storm, just as God appointed the casting of lots to fall on Jonah. Nothing was or is by chance. There are 10 appointed miracles by God in this small book.

In this account a great fish swallows and later vomits Jonah onto shore. In God's mercy, Jonah is given a second chance and willingly goes to Nineveh to preach. Nineveh repents due to God's preparation of their hearts prior to Jonah's preaching. How gracious our God is!!

The Ninevites worshipped Dagon, the fish-god considered to be half man and half fish. As for Jonah's success in Nineveh, Orientalist Henry Clay Trumbull made a valid point when he wrote;

***"What better heralding, as a divinely sent messenger to Nineveh, could Jonah have had, than to be thrown up out of the mouth of a great fish, in the presence of witnesses, say on the coast of Phoenicia, where the fish-god was a favorite object of worship? Such an incident would have inevitably aroused the mercurial nature of Oriental observers, so that a multitude would be ready to follow the seemingly new avatar of the fish-god, proclaiming the***

**story of his uprising from the sea, as he went on his mission to the city where the fish-god had its very centre of worship.”** (H. Clay Trumbull, “Jonah in Nineveh.” Journal of Biblical Literature, Vol. 2, No.1, 1892, p. 56).

Jonah would have been bleached white from the actions of the fish’s digestive acids which would have been a great help to his cause. Can you imagine the sight? News travelled fast to Nineveh. This man who came out of the belly of their god would have caused a willing audience to pay attention to his words. We also know from history, prior to his preaching, there was an earthquake and a total eclipse. So when Jonah preached God’s judgment message, the people’s hearts were prepared by God through these appointed events.

God’s love for the people of Nineveh, whom he had created, was far different from Jonah’s indifference to their damnation. If God was willing to spare Sodom for 10 righteous people, how much more a city with approximately 600,000? And how much more our cities, nation, families? In His mercy and graciousness, God will use whatever it takes to awaken people to their sins.

Our daily prayer should be, “Do whatever it takes to bring them [our family, our neighbors, our town, our nation, our world] to You!” We must remember that no one is too far gone to be saved. In God’s mercy He will do everything possible to turn a person towards Him. “God do whatever it takes to bring Revival. Begin with me. Revive us again!”

*Christians in Revival* by J.I. Packer says;

***“Christians in Revival are accordingly found living in God’s presence, attending to His Word, feeling acute concern about sin and righteousness, rejoicing in the assurance of Christ’s Love and their own salvation, spontaneously constant in worship, and tirelessly active in witness and service, fueling these activities by praise and prayer.”***

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**Thank you** for your attendance and input each year. We look forward to seeing you in March!

Northern Ladies Retreat Committee  
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**“We are stronger together”**