
WM Day aka Founder's Day

*WM Day (Women's Ministries Day) is observed annually on the second Sunday in March. This is a day to celebrate the contribution of women to the life of the church. It is often referred to as **Founder's Day** in honor of Mrs. Lila Woodson Berry, who was instrumental in organizing intentional ministry to and for women in the Pentecostal Holiness Church. This brochure is a small introduction to Mrs. Berry.*



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A new idea... **Intentional Ministry to Women**



*An introduction to
the founder of
Women's Ministries*

Mrs. Lila Woodson Berry

One of three children, Lila Woodson Berry's mother died when she was four and, just two years later, her father also died. So, at the tender age of six, young Lila became an orphan. The three children were placed in separate homes of relatives. Lila lived with various ones until she came to the home of an uncle and aunt, who were devoted Christians. This became her home.

Lila was saved at nine years of age and was called "Little Preacher", because she loved to play church with herself as "the preacher". She enjoyed school and received her teaching degree from Furman University in Greenville, SC. She became a public school teacher.

The lovely young maiden married Rev. J.W. Berry, with whom she had seven sons and one daughter. The Berry family moved to Falcon, NC, where Mrs. Lila taught in Falcon High School, conducted prayer meetings in the community, visited the county homes, taught Sunday School, visited the sick, and always found time to maintain a beautiful flower garden. (In one year alone Mrs. Lila gave away nearly 400 bouquets from her own garden.)

Mrs. Berry loved the Pentecostal Holiness church and had a burning desire

to see the women unite for fellowship and ministry. In May 1944, she was inspired to lead the women of the North Carolina Conference in forming a conference Women's Auxiliary*.

After seeing how wonderful this new organization was working in North Carolina, she set out to organize the women on the general level. On June 14, 1945, she stood before the General Conference in Oklahoma City and read the Constitution of the Women's Auxiliary of the PH Church. The only change made was in the placement of words – instead of using "church, home, and community", it was requested that the wording read "home, church, and community." Thus the Woman's Auxiliary was organized and Mrs. Berry was elected as the first General W.A. President, a position she held from 1945 through 1953.

Drawing on her experiences as a child, her involvement with the orphanage at Falcon, NC, and her desire for children and youth to receive a good education, Mrs. Berry saw tremendous opportunity for women of the PH Church to reach beyond their own doors. Her vision for the women of the church included their involvement with Falcon Orphanage (now Falcon Children's Home), the denominational schools and its missionaries.

Mrs. Berry encouraged the women to dedicate their time and talent for service in the home, the church, and the community. She extended her efforts around the world, continually leading the women on to greater deeds of love and devotion.

Before her death on September 23, 1976, Sister Berry lived to see many of her

dreams realized and surpassed. She became the mother of thousands of women and girls who have served the Pentecostal Holiness Church through Woman's Auxiliary (now Women's Ministries) around the world.

Because of this one little woman with a big dream and compassion for the women of the Pentecostal Holiness Church, Women's Ministries today is a vibrant, organized, and world-wide ministry on the local, conference, and general levels.

As part of the annual Women's Ministries Day, we remember with gratitude Mrs. Lila W. Berry who cast vision, helped bring to birth, and organized this great ministry to and for women of the PH Church.

**Women's prayer-bands and Ladies' Aid Societies were active in some of the churches but there was no PH women's organization.*

