



WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Capetown, South Africa

On a recent trip to the United States, Muriel George, IPHC Girls' Ministries coordinator for South Africa, was overflowing with stories of women making a difference. In 2004, Muriel became leader of the Women's Development Forum, a group of women from various religious and social backgrounds who are determined to make a difference. Recently, this group teamed with local authorities, women's groups from the United States, and Microsoft to provide computers for schools in their areas.

That was just their first step. They have other plans – big plans. The group had shirts made bearing the African saying, "When you have touched a woman, you have struck a rock; you have dislodged a boulder." What happens when you dislodge a boulder? Rockslide. All the other rocks around the boulder start moving together in the same direction.

Muriel and the others have this goal for the women in their area – to start moving together toward a common goal. "It's amazing" she says, "to see women from Muslim, Christian, atheist, and other backgrounds working together to make a difference in their communities. I thank God for this opportunity."

Muriel's community work also has catapulted her to a place on PACWA, the Pan-African Christian Women Assembly, sponsored by the Association of Evangelicals of Africa and Madagascar.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Women of Worth is a joint effort by women from two local churches. Their goal: to help each woman recognize her worth in God's eyes. Their medium: a monthly luncheon on the first Saturday of the

month. Women from the two churches provide a delicious meal, worship, and a relevant speaker. The result: women inside the church and outside the congregation find deliverance, inspiration, encouragement, and relationships.

Mary Pointon of Believer's Bible Church and Eme Tima of Crosstyle Church have seen this vision grow over the past 18 months. In addition to the luncheon, Women of Worth has also provided school supplies for children, met immediate needs in the lives of women in their circle of influence, and supported the Women's Ministries/DRUSA call for care packages following Hurricane Katrina in the fall of 2005. They recently completed their annual Christmas Store, an outreach that provides new and nearly new items for purchase at low prices to help those in financial crisis be able to provide Christmas gifts for their families.

Salemburg, North Carolina

ATAM, Inc. is an excellent example of what can happen when likeminded people combine efforts to make a difference. Mary Belle Johnson, former executive director of IPHC Women's Ministries, currently serves as administrative assistant for ATAM, Inc. (Alternative to Abortion Ministries). In her travels presenting the ministry of the two Royal Homes, Mary Belle speaks to women's groups in many different denominations. Her ministry is so well received, she is frequently invited to return and speak at retreats or other special gatherings, not about ATAM, but just as a special speaker.

This opportunity to network across denominational lines has led to increased influence for Mary Belle and ATAM, Inc. The cause of life links women together across denominational, generational, socioeconomic, and ethnic lines. (For more information on ATAM, Inc. visit their website www.women.iphc.org/atam.html.)