

2023 Living Boldly Series: Bold Encounters

Precious Women of God,

My heart is so full this morning as I write. What a wonderful weekend we had in the presence of God together at The Flourish Conference last weekend! It was such a joy to see women hungry for the Lord, hungry for His presence, hungry for His Word! As I reflect on all I saw and experienced at Flourish, Hebrews 10 comes to mind.

Brothers and sisters, we are not afraid to enter the Most Holy Place. We enter boldly because of the blood of Jesus. His way is new because he lives. It has been opened for us through the curtain. I'm talking about his body. We also have a great priest over the house of God. So let us come near to God with a sincere heart. Let us come near boldly because of our faith. (Hebrews 10:19-22a NIRV)

My daily reading has recently been in Leviticus and Numbers which describe in great detail the different sacrifices, offerings, and festivals the Lord required of His people so He could dwell among them. With every passage, I found myself more and more grateful for Jesus and all that He accomplished for us at the Cross on our behalf.

Before Jesus' sacrifice, only the High Priest was able to enter the Holy Place where God's Presence was, and that only once a year. It is said that He had a rope with a bell attached to his ankle because if any sin was found in him, he would die in the presence of God's holiness. I imagine one does not enter the presence of God boldly when there is no certainty that one will come out again!

As we meditate on these verses in Hebrews, we are reminded of the wonderful gift we have been given to come boldly to the throne of grace because our sins--**every** one--has been washed clean by the blood of the Lamb!

We can come boldly, with confidence, and know we are welcomed by the King of Kings. Sadly, too often, we take for granted that we can come into His presence boldly and we do not come often or at all. The accusations of the enemy that we are not good enough hold us back. While it is true that on our own we are not nor could we ever be good enough, by the blood of the Lamb we are made clean. He is perfect, so we become perfect in the Father's eyes.

Sweet sisters, let us enter the presence of the Lord boldly. He bids us

Brothers and sisters, we are not afraid to enter the Most Holy Place. We enter boldly because of the blood of Jesus.

Hebrews 10:19



Inside this issue:

- A Bold Encounter at the Flourish Conference 2
- Reflections from Flourish 2023 3
- It Is Good to Give Thanks 4

Continued on page 5

A Bold Encounter at the Flourish Conference

By Julie Dibble

We know we are called to love God first in our lives, so I shall tell you of a significant bold encounter with Him this past weekend. God opened the door for me to lead all who would still be there Sunday morning to the Lord's table for Communion. A privilege I had not yet had in front of a larger group of His children.

In praying and researching Scripture before Flourish, I was focused on Jesus as our friend and what that meant. As someone who speaks for Him regularly, I am very careful to hear from heaven ways we apply His truth to our lives. He expects us to change, transform into the likeness of His Son.

In between my home and work responsibilities, I texted Kelly from Emmaus Road to see if they knew the song by Casting Crowns, "Jesus Friend of Sinners". The answer was a clear no. I should have known then the Lord would take this in a different direction. Kelly graciously shared the four songs the band would sing Sunday morning. However, in my flurry the week before the conference, I didn't look them up to listen.

Fast forward, Saturday's events at the conference are over. In the later evening hours, the Lord spoke to me *the wedding supper of the Lamb*. Mind you, I was just sitting down to review the message I had written about Jesus, our friend.

The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never



leave or forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged (Deuteronomy 31:8).

And again, I heard Him ... *the wedding supper of the Lamb*.

Ok, Lord, I will read Revelation 19.

How beautifully He then wove together themes from the weekend. Dr. Dave Draper talked to us about rehearsing and remembering, through trials, yes, but through our walk with Christ at any and all times. The Lord Himself uses the word remember as He led His disciples in the first Communion.

For our Lord Almighty God reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear (Revelation 19:7-8).

This picture of His Bride, all who believe in Christ, in bright clothing is one to behold.

I say, yes Lord. I lean into His whispers, His steadfast love, His wisdom and omniscience, for He knows each one who will be present Sunday. He knows them by name, and He searches their hearts.

As we worshiped Sunday morning, Holy Spirit broke open floodgates I didn't know I had in my soul. We sang, "Jesus bled and died for me. I see His wounds, His hands, His feet." The words lingered upon my tongue, His presence stationed around my heart. Overcome, I surrendered to the release He was bidding me to. Streams of living water, I pray, ran down my cheeks. His sweetness sustained me.

Only my Father in heaven could put me at a table with a full box of tissues. What love He has lavished upon us! What boundless grace covers our finicky nerves seeking comfort rather than bold opportunities ...

I believe because I allowed Him to empty me, He filled me to do His will. As I led the sisters and brothers in the

room to imagine their walk to the Cross, together we sought forgiveness and the exchange of our dirty rags for the Bride's clean linens. God spoke through me as I had no words in my flesh for teaching those who had not received Jesus and therefore could not come to this meal He prepared.

After we tarried, in spiritual unity we responded to this invitation to remember what the King of glory did for us. Every wedding, but especially the wedding supper of the Lamb, requires rehearsal.

Sisters, we do not need flashing lights and pounding drums for a bold en-

counter with the Lord. Often, gentle leading brings us to our spiritual knees. A bold encounter with Him includes, but is never limited to, entering in as we are, clothed in mud and dirt. That's all of us. Stand naked before Him. Strip down all that has burdened you and separated you from Him. Like Eve, Jesus will cover our nakedness with an outfit pleasing in His sight. As we leave the bold encounter wearing wedding white, may we pray earnestly for more boldness, more wisdom, more divine appointments.

He doesn't cleanse us to look pretty. His cleansing is meant to be multiplied.

But the word of God continued to spread and flourish (Acts 12:24).



Julie Dibble is a servant of her Lord Jesus Christ. Together with her husband Jason, they have two sons, Braedon and Jackson, and one rescued pup named Rocko. Julie preaches, writes, hikes, and prays for God to use her daily in this broken world. Currently, she is on staff at Newberytown Church of God as Director of Outreach and Evangelism.

Reflections from Flourish 2023

By Kathy Foor

My heart is full as I reflect on everything I saw, heard, and experienced at The Flourish Conference last weekend. What a glorious time we shared together in the presence of the Lord!

I could tell even during registration on Friday evening that something amazing was happening. I saw a woman who had registered at the last minute for only Friday evening. Holy Spirit nudged me to ask her if she meant to do that or if she had wanted to attend the whole weekend. Tears filled her eyes as she told me her story. Guided by the Lord, I invited her to join us for the entire weekend, and she did. I watched as God connected her to others who would confirm what He was speaking to her and I can hardly wait to hear the rest of the story!

I met another woman who was invited by a friend to come to Friday's session. This led to an invitation to come back for Friday's comedy show with Joyce



Sankey, and that led to an invitation to join us for the last session on Sunday morning. I am reminded of the power of invitation and that sometimes many baby steps can really lead to more than we anticipate.

All weekend, everywhere I looked, I saw women deep in conversation, sensing God in their connection. I saw old friendships renewed and new friendships bloom, and it was

evident Holy Spirit was orchestrating divine encounters—with Himself and with other women.

In asking women if they saw God at work through the weekend, the answer was a unanimous yes. Here are a few of the responses to my follow-up question, "How?"

"Through Dave and Linda's tes-

Continued on page 5

It Is Good to Give Thanks

Why are we talking about giving thanks in April? It is the time of year that CGWM typically collects our annual Thank Offering. So, I would like to provide some updates and resources for you to use with your church and/or women's group in the next several weeks.

Each local women's ministry is welcome to use these resources in the way that best suits them. Whether your church has a Women's Ministry Sunday when women lead the service or your women's ministry group has a Thank Offering Service at their regular meeting, there is a variety of options for you to use or you can even create your own plan.

You will find the following resources and links available for your use on our website at www.cggcwomen.org. Under the tab THANK OFFERING you can find

- a description of the history of Thank Offering
- instructions for Thank Offering
- Template for a Women's Ministry Sunday (or Women's Group Service)

Links to:

- Thank Offering Updates in PDF, PowerPoint slides, and MP4
- Printable Thank Offering Barrel Label
- Deadlines and updated list of addresses of Treasurers

It is exciting to report that our 2022 Thank Offering totaled \$23,393.43. Of that, \$14,036.06 was disbursed to the following ministries supported by CGMW:

Leadership Training	25%	\$3,509.00
Winebrenner Seminary	25%	\$3,509.00
Haiti Physical Therapy School	20%	\$2,807.00
Venezuela Bible School	15%	\$2,105.00
School for Girls in India**	15%	\$2,106.06
Total	100%	\$14,036.06

**Because the India School for Girls is currently not enrolling students these funds are being used as a scholarship for Madhumita Singha to help pay fees for her final stage of nursing school. She completed her diploma in nursing in December of



Thank Offering

Women Helping Women



For more information, visit our website at <https://www.cggcwomen.org/thank-offering>

2022 and is now enrolled at a medical facility for her practical experience.

I wrote an article for the April/May issue of the Global Advocate which also contains Thank Offering updates that could be used to share with the women in your group.

However you collect your Thank Offering, please send your offering to the your CGWM Regional Treasurer (addresses are updated on our website) by June 30. Regional Treasurers, please send your Thank Offering to Nancy Scott, our national CGWM Treasurer by July 31. Once these funds are received, they will be disbursed to the ministries listed above.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on our leadership team or email me at cgwmdirector@gmail.com.



Reflections from Flourish...

Continued from page 3

timony, the music, the hugs and prayers I received."

"I felt the Spirit at work."

"I saw how to approach God in more authentic ways."

"Holy Spirit led us to praise, pray for others, and share."

"I could feel His presence. I was at peace, and my anxiety and depression were not present."

When I asked women if they

From the Director's Desk

Continued from page 1

come. He is waiting there. He has made a way for us to come. Even more, He delights when His children delight in Him!

Our hearts have been sprinkled. Our minds have been cleansed from a sense of guilt. Our bodies have been washed with pure water. Let us hold firmly to the hope we claim to have. The God who promised is faithful. Let us consider how we can stir up one another to love. Let us help one another to do good works. And let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing

this. Instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope. Let us do this even more as you see Christ's return approaching. (Hebrews 10:22b-25 NIRV)

It is only by these bold encounters with the Lord that we experience His transforming work in us that enables us to reach out in bold encounters with others to point them to Him. We cannot, but He can.

Let us not be satisfied with less!

Living Boldly for Christ,



Kathy Foor

CGWM Director

cgwmdirector@gmail.com



would come again and why responses included:

"I was fed spiritually. Enjoyed meeting new people."

"I was blessed to meet like-minded ladies as well as gain Kingdom building skills."

"I like this conference because I feel closer to God."

"This year I have ideas and

thoughts to take home with me."

"It was awesome!"

"There were MANY women and me who felt the presence of the Lord this past weekend. I sensed women were hungry for Him...it was a beautiful privilege to gather with a widely unified group of sisters and brothers who were leaning into the One who died to save us."



Director: Kathy Foor
cgwmdirector@gmail.com

Director of Equipping: Heather Boss
cgwmequippingdirector@gmail.com

Assistant Director: Kathy Odegard
cgwmassistantdirector@gmail.com

Secretary: Kelly DeVincent
cgwmsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Nancy Scott
cgwmtreasurer@gmail.com

Website:
<https://www.cggcwomen.org/>

Facebook:
Churches of God Women's Ministries
(CGWM)

YouTube:
CGWM



If you or your women's group have not been a part of Thank Offering in the past and would like to, all you need to do is get a container and start thanking God for the many blessings he gives you each day. Look for our reminders to send in your offerings in April. We are better together! Thank Offering barrels may be obtained by contacting Kathy Foor or ordering online at [Berlin Packaging](https://www.berlinpackaging.com/).

Visit our Website

<https://www.cggcwomen.org/>

There you will find:

- ⇒ more information about CGWM and it's officers
- ⇒ CGWM Blog
- ⇒ Sign up to receive these Newsletters in your email
- ⇒ Download
 - ◆ CGWM Brochures
 - ◆ Thank Offering Brochures & Barrel Labels
 - ◆ CGWM Booklets
 - ◆ This Newsletter
 - ◆ Opportunities to Connect

CGWM is funded through donations. To donate please make check out to CGGC with WM1800 in the memo and send to:
Churches of God General Conference, P.O. Box 926, Findlay, OH 45839

Save the Date



The Flourish Conference

March 1-3, 2024

Winebrenner Seminary
Findlay, Ohio

**Boots on the
Ground:
Advancing the
Kingdom Together**

FB: CGWM March Retreat
www.theflourishconference.org

Equipping and encouraging women to live boldly for Christ